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## Sedition Trial Witness Links Father Coughlin To Christian Front

### Says Priest Appointed One Defendant, Who Merged New York Units

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, April 24.—A "voluntary statement" made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by John A. Viebrock, one of 16 men on trial for seditious conspiracy, today named the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Mich., radio priest, as having appointed one of the defendants a national director of the Christian Front.

In the statement, read into the Federal Court trial record, Viebrock declared:

"I have known John F. Cassidy (a defendant) since 1926. During the last eight years I have kept company with his sister, Margaret. He was recognized as a national director of the Christian Front, to which he was appointed by Father Coughlin.

"In the summer of 1939, Cassidy merged all Brooklyn units of the Christian Front into one central organization. Before I became a member, the Christian Front started a sport club, which was chartered by the National Rifle Association. Its membership was about 150."

Viebrock's statement said William Gerald Bishop, leader of the alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government by violence, proposed that the sport club be mobilized into squads and given military training "and that the squads be distributed throughout Brooklyn so they could be mobilized if a state of alarm arose."

Christian Front leaders turned down Bishop's proposal, however, and early last October Bishop organized a group called the "Country Gentlemen," the statement continued.

"Bishop predicted that in case of an emergency, the National Guard would take orders from the 'Country Gentlemen' rather than from officers of the National Guard," Viebrock said.

The statement also asserted that

Bishop had instructed him how to make cordite bombs—"not to kill, but just powerful enough to smash a window or blow a door"—to be used against the Daily Worker, a Communist newspaper, and also planned to flood the Cameo Theater in New

York, where Soviet films were shown.

Arthur M. Thurston, F. B. I. agent, said Viebrock made the statement following his arrest. It was read without protest from Viebrock's counsel.