

Thorkelson Linked To 'Action Committee' By Seditious Defendant

Leader Claimed Close Contact With Other Members, Statement Says

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Government introduced a statement today at the trial of 16 men charged with seditious conspiracy in which one defendant was represented as quoting another as saying that Representative Jacob Thorkelson, Republican, of Montana was a member of their "Action Committee."

The statement was presented as having been given "voluntarily" to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Macklin Boettger, 32.

In it Boettger was quoted as saying William Gerald Bishop, a defendant and alleged leader of the Action Committee, had told him he stumped in Montana for the election of Mr. Thorkelson to Congress and had assured him of the Representative's membership in the Action Committee.

Others Named in Statement.

The statement continued:

"Bishop said that Congressmen and Senators eventually would be drawn from Action Committee groups all over the country, as was Congressman Thorkelson, whom he claimed he put into office.

"Bishop also claimed a personal friendship with Senator Reynolds and that he knew Senator Vandenberg very intimately and that he is on intimate terms with Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana.

Strike-Breaking Claimed.

"Bishop said that the Communist strike at Hershey, Pa., was broken up by a group of A. C. (Action Committee) citizen soldiers; also the cement mill at Martinsburg, Md., was closed down by the Communist, Mr. Mossberger, who was head of the C. I. O. union.

"Bishop also claimed that the Boulder Dam in Colorado was taken over by the Communist-controlled C. I. O. and that here again groups of citizen soldiery formed an A. C. unit and forced the C. I. O. men at gun point to reopen the water supply valve of the dam for the city and held the C. I. O. men until the National Guard arrived to take over.

The statement was obtained in the F. B. I. offices last January after the defendants were rounded up and accused of plotting to overthrow the Government by force.

Gen. Moseley Named.

Boettger said the Brooklyn Action Committee met regularly at his home for "discussions," led by Bishop, who has been described by the F. B. I. as having been deported previously from both the United States and Great Britain.

The Boettger statement quoted Bishop as having said that "after the Communist upheaval a 100 per cent Christian platform would have to be created and that the Jews would then necessarily become wards of the republic," and named Gen. Van Horn Moseley as, in his opinion, "a temporary dictator." (Gen. Moseley, retired Army officer, has disclaimed any connection with the group.)

"Bishop said the Communists would strike against the city police, murdering them in ones and twos, then taking over the police precincts and then taking over the armories and arsenals. In the morning, when the people all went out to work, they would find that everything was stopped. In that case, pillaging of homes would begin and that is where the Action Committee units would go into action.

Would 'Aid Army.'

"Bishop said the next Communist plan was to cripple communications, transportations, water systems via the medium of a national general strike, at which time all the Action Committee units throughout the United States in groups of 10 to 12

would be able to assist the Army to recapture those systems.

"During the weekly discussions held at my apartment Bishop made various statements, among which was a statement to the effect that if the United States ever entered a world conflict he (Bishop) had certain organized units of the Action Committee who would resort to a strenuous program of sabotage throughout the United States.

"Bishop also made a statement at one of the meetings that he was attempting to interest and secure financial assistance from businessmen, and he also wanted to organize women's auxiliaries for the same purpose.

"Bishop said it would not take five years to smash the Communist movement in this country. He said he was not at liberty to divulge the strength of the Action Committee, but it was very active all over the United States, especially in Virginia

and the Western part of the United States."

Thorkelson Brands Claim a 'Fabrication'

By the Associated Press.

Representative Thorkelson, Republican, of Montana described as "pure fabrication" today a statement placed in a New York court record that he was a member of the "Action Committee" of a group now on trial on charges of seditious conspiracy.

Mr. Thorkelson said he did not know either of the men, that no one had stumped the State for him, and that he was a member of no organizations except the United States Naval Reserve and Association of Anatomists.

"I don't know anything about this Action Committee and I don't care anything about it," he said.

"I'd like to see anybody prove any such statement."