

The 'Christian Front' Stands Exposed to the Public, Cut to the Pattern of Coughlin's Drive for Pogroms

An amazing plot of widespread violence, cut to the Father Coughlin pattern of anti-Semitism and anti-Communism, complete with some 3,300 rounds of ammunition, a dozen cans of the powerful explosive cordite, and about twenty home-made bombs, has been slowly unfolding in a Brooklyn court since April 3.

Charged with conspiring to overthrow the government and to steal munitions from government armories, the fourteen Christian Front defendants have admitted that they talked about bombing the "Soviet Star" at the World's Fair and a "Communist book shop," and that they possessed floor plans of the offices of the Daily Worker as another target for their violence.

GUARD OFFICER AIDED

They indulged in rifle practice regularly and they secured their ammunition and explosives directly from the Armory of the 165th Infantry of the New York National Guard through Captain John T. Froot, Jr., a commander of a machine gun unit and a defendant in the trial.

The government took nearly five

weeks to present its case and called a total of 59 witnesses, including 46 special agents and one inspector of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

William H. D. Bushnell, Jr., an 18-year-old defendant and until recently a Boy Scout, admitted on the stand that he drew the floor plans of the Daily Worker offices and constructed a bomb at the direction of the mysterious William Gerald Bishop, named as leader of the plot. Under direct examination, Bushnell refused to give a "yes" or "no" answer when asked if he would obey an order from Bishop to bomb the Daily Worker offices.

Bushnell also admitted that he applied for work at three different plane factories, but said he could remember no discussion of sabotage.

PRESS VIRTUALLY SILENT

But despite the sensational nature of the disclosures made during the trial, and the admissions of the witnesses themselves, the metropolitan press has not seen fit to become excited about this conspiracy. Many of the New York City newspapers have not reported the trial

at all, others have done it in a perfunctory, routine manner, playing down the case entirely.

The press is not excited because the ramifications of this plot go too high and too deep into the most reactionary circles of American life—and because the Christian Front and its so-called "Action Committee" aimed its violence against progressivism generally under the broad guise of being "anti-Communist." This is the technique of the press itself and of the active inspirers of the Christian Front movement.

COUGHLIN PAPER IN COURT

In the hall of the court in Brooklyn the paper of Father Coughlin, "Social Justice," is hawked loudly and blatantly. One of the witnesses on the stand admitted that he praised the paper as the "only one in the country not controlled by the Jews." Documents seized in Bishop's apartment declare his organization to be based on Father Coughlin's sixteen principles.

Another witness has revealed on the stand that all members were instructed by Bishop to read "Jewish Activities in the United States," a collection of articles from Henry

Ford's old "Dearborn Independent."

One of the defendants, Claus Gunther Ernecke, openly known as a Nazi agent, committed suicide early in the trial. Bishop himself has been named by witnesses as a Nazi agent. One witness on the stand admitted that he was convinced Fritz Kuhn had been persecuted on a "false charge." Another refused to answer directly when asked if he had not proclaimed his sympathy for Adolf Hitler.

The Christian Front defendants do not excite the press because they stand admittedly for "the Franco way." They represent the same forces of reaction symbolized by Martin Dies, by Father Coughlin, by Father Edward Lodge Curran, by Rep. Jacob Thorkelson who defended them openly when first arrested, and by Henry Ford.