

Testifies 'Front' Plotted Violent Disorder in U.S.

Defendant Says Nucleus of 'Action Committee' Were Fronters

Michael J. Bierne, one of 14 men on trial in Brooklyn on charges of seditious conspiracy, testified yesterday that the so-called "action committee" which allegedly plotted to overthrow the government consisted of a nucleus of "Christian Front" members.

Testifying under cross-examination before a Federal Court jury, the witness said that John F. Cassidy had selected him among others to attend key meetings of the action group, then headed by William G. Bishop. Both Bishop and Cassidy are on trial.

"Did this group consist of selected men from the Christian Front?" Assistant United States Attorney James D. Saver asked.

Bierne replied that the men all were members of the Front but that he did not know if Cassidy had signaled them out. Saver then read from an earlier statement Bierne had made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in which the witness said that Cassidy selected nine men for Bishop's action committee. It was through that committee, the indictment charged, that the group hoped to foment disorders through anti-Semitic and other rioting and then seize control of key government and public centers.