

DW 6/20/40

'Front' Case Goes to Jury In Brooklyn

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**Summations Are Marked
By Red-Baiting of
Plotters' Lawyers**

Elderly Judge Marcus Campbell yesterday placed the fate of 14 Christian Front terrorists in the hands of a jury of eleven men and one woman after a two-and-a-half hour charge.

The fourteen were charged with conspiring to overthrow the United States Government, and to steal government munitions, and have been standing trial for the past eleven weeks.

Defense lawyers in their summations ranted and blared in an orgy of red-baiting, hoping to stampede the jury into the belief that the Christian Fronters were concerned solely with staving off an imminent "Communist revolution."

Judge Campbell in his charge, however, made the following statement of the case: "The whole question was whether the action group (of the Front) conspired to incite the Communists to riot so they (the action group) could then step in and take over the government. Was that what they planned to do, and was that why they armed themselves? That's the case, plain and simple."

"If the agreement," the judge said, "was to incite other classes—the Communists or the Jews—to revolt and then in the hour of emergency to come in and overthrow, that would be a violation of the law."

Discussing the defense assertion that Christian Front meetings attended by the defendants were simply lecture clubs, the Judge said: "Were those meetings held solely for the purpose of combatting Communism? That's for you to decide. Were the lectures directed against the United States by calling it a Jew Government and attacking the Federal Reserve system? Was that done for the purpose of defeating Communism?"

The judge defined the law governing conspiracies, and in concluding said emphatically: "We are not trying the Christian Front, which was only used as a recruiting grounds for the group."

The Judge began his charge at 10:30 A. M. and concluded at 1 P. M., when the jury retired to weigh its verdict.