

9 Acquitted, U. S. May Free 5 Accused of Plot



NEW YORK—Dorothy Cassidy congratulates her brother, John, after a Federal court jury absolved him of guilt

By United Press

NEW YORK, June 25—Government attorneys today debated whether to drop charges against five remaining defendants in an alleged plot to steal National Guard guns and ammunition and overthrow the United States Government. Nine defendants were acquitted late yesterday. The jury failed to agree on the cases of the other five.

The Federal jurors had debated the case since Wednesday. Mrs. Helen Titus, foreman, said all but one juror wanted to acquit the other five.

ORIGINALLY 17

All defendants had been represented by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents as members of an "action committee"—the defendants called it a rifle club—of one of the so-called Christian Front groups. Originally there were 17 defendants.

They were seized by Federal agents Jan. 14. Chief witness against them was Denis A. Healy, F. B. I. employe who had won the 17 men's confidence and had planted F. B. I. agents in his home to hear the group discuss advisability of "eliminating" Jews, bombing Communist headquarters and "bumping off" a number of congressmen.

Two defendants later were discharged by Judge Marcus B. Campbell and a third committed suicide during the trial.

The indictments contained two counts, one charging conspiracy to overthrow the Government and the other conspiracy to steal guns and ammunition from a National Guard armory.

THOSE ACQUITTED

Those acquitted on both counts were John F. Cassidy, 30; John A. Graf, 23 a clerk; John F. Cook, 19, U. S. navy reservist; Leroy Keegan, 38, pressman; Michael Vill, 35, a bus driver born in Germany and a naturalized United States citizen; Michael J. Beirne, 32 telephone lineman; Andrew Buckley 34, sergeant in the 165th Infantry, Na-

tional Guard, and Francis M. J. Malone, 23, department store employe. The charge against Alfred J. Quinlan 27, of conspiracy to overthrow the Government had been dismissed by Judge Campbell and the jury acquitted him of the other count.

William Gerald Bishop, 39, alleged organizer of the "action group" and the only one unable to make bail, was

returned to the Federal House of Detention to await the Government's decision on a new trial. The jury disagreed on both counts against him. The jury also disagreed on both counts against John A. Viebrock, 34, elevator mechanic, and Macklin Boettger, 32, traveling salesman.