

2,000 at Christian Front Rally Shout 'Thanks' To U. S. for Whitewash of Bomb Plotters

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By Lawrence Emery

More than two thousand persons Wednesday night crowded Brooklyn's Prospect Hall at 50 cents a head and cheered themselves hoarse in a noisy demonstration for 14 members of the Christian Front who confessed in court that they had constructed bombs and plotted to set them off in a reign of terror under the twin fascist slogans: "eradicate Jews" and "destroy Communism."

Ex-magistrate Leo Healy, chief defense counsel for the accused, whipped his audience on its feet with lusty cheers for Harold M.

Kennedy, United States Attorney whose meek and apologetic "prosecution" of the bombers has earned him their lavish praise. Healy eulogized what he called Kennedy's "fair" conduct of the case while the crowd, standing, roared its approval.

The meeting itself was the clearest expression of the mock trial in its true light—a go-ahead signal for every band of terrorists who plot against the peoples' rights and the democratic institutions of America.

The meeting was the first flesh and blood fulfillment of Father Coughlin's proud boast

after the acquittal of nine of the defendants: "The general Christian Front movement will emerge more vigorous and potent than ever. . . . The resentment on the part of the victims is liable to increase the wave of anti-Semitism throughout the country. . . ."

Prosecutor Kennedy was "blameless" for his part in the trial, Healy shouted, because the case "was dropped in his lap" and he had no choice but to go through the motions of a trial.

But he even disavowed the motions by lauding the "good, sound American principles" of

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the Christian Front in the very face of admissions from the men on trial that they plotted armed violence against the people.

These men, five of them still under indictment and free on bail, openly admitted on the witness stand that they possessed 18 cans of cordite, a powerful explosive, and that they had used it to construct innumerable home-made bombs and that the Daily Worker building was one of their targets.

Thirteen of them (the fourteenth is still in jail) graced the platform of the hall and were loudly acclaimed.

ANTI-SEMITE SPEAKS

Earlier in the meeting, which was tagged an "Independence Day" rally, Father Edward F. Brophy, pastor of Precious Blood Church in Long Island City and a specialist on "Jewish plots against Christians," also won a standing ovation when he declaimed that the "Declaration of Independence was framed by Christians for a Christian people exclusively. The founders of our nation were all Christians."

When they wrote the Declaration, he asserted, they meant "the right to Christian life, Christian liberty and the pursuit of Christian happiness."

Ex-Judge Healy predicted freely and confidently that the five will be released on September 4 when government attorneys are scheduled to move either for their retrial or for dismissal of charges against them. But until they are freed, the ex-judge told his listeners to "keep your mouths shut."

The gathering, with its halo of what was interpreted as official governmental blessing for its terrorist aims, was a genuine Fifth Column in action. A group, casting off all restraint and with its terrorist program hailed by an agent of the government as "sound Americanism," is a dangerous menace to the peace and order of the land. It boastfully parades its fascist program of violence and bloodshed.

It was well after nine o'clock when the rally finally got under way with Thomas Ryan, Christian Front leader of Queens, serving as chairman. He brought the audience to its feet as he introduced one by one 13 of the men who had stood trial. The 14th, William Gerald Bishop, is in a federal prison cell, unable to post his bail.

First speaker was short, round, baldish Father Brophy, "theoretician" for the Christian Front and one of its chief publicists. After reworking the Declaration of Independence into a foul anti-Semitic document, he boasted of his appearance last week as a character witness for Joseph E. McWilliams, head of the "Christian Mobilizers" now standing trial on criminal charge

for anti-Semitic incitement to violence at a street corner meeting. Mention of McWilliams' name brought the audience to its feet with lusty cheers.

Trial of the Christian Fronters was a "Jewish plot," he declared as he launched into an eulogy of Father Charles E. Coughlin who "heroically took his stand with the defendants."

John F. Cassidy, national director of the Christian Front, and one of those acquitted, was accorded a standing ovation when he was introduced as a "modern Christian martyr."

But he lacked his usual fire. He was obeying strictly and to the letter ex-Judge Healy's caution against "contempt of court."

SCANLON A HERO

Patrick F. Scanlon, managing editor of the Tablet, official organ of the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, was hailed as a hero as he boasted loudly of his paper's role as the official defender of the Christian Front and its members. Tall, thin and bald as a button, he heaped lavish praise on Cassidy and the "other boys."

Scanlon predicted rapid growth

for the Front and a revival of its brawling activities, but he too was careful to caution against any wide-scale movement as long as the five are still held on bail.

Ex-Judge Healy is a big man with a big voice. His oratory runs to flowery eloquence and he so overtaxed the loudspeakers that the walls shook with his thunderous phrases. He was more frankly anti-Semitic in his speech than any of the others, and roared a warning of reprisal against "the Jews" who "engineered" the "persecution" of his clients.

It was past midnight when the ex-judge finally wound up his address, and the hall was given over from then on to a "birthday ball" in his honor.

As they drank and sang, one could hear the echoes of ex-judge Healy's summation to a jury in which he justified every one of the Christian Front's plots by picturing them as "foes of Communism" — it is the new technique: bombers may conduct any assault upon democracy and get away with it on the grounds of fighting a "red menace."

The nicknamed Christian Front is out for blood. Wednesday's rally was a small start in that direction.