

1

December 22, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO: Milan Miskovsky  
FROM: Harold Hair  
SUBJECT: Minutemen

In my visit on December 21, 1967 with Lt. George Fenil, Chief of the Civil Disobedience Squad, Philadelphia Police Department, I asked him about a newspaper report that members of the Minutemen had infiltrated the Philadelphia Police Department and had given tips to the police about riots planned in Philadelphia.

Lt. Fenil said he is aware of the story and does not believe there is any substance to it. He does not know of any Philadelphia police being members of the Minutemen. As for "tips", Fenil said he and his 30-man squad are on the streets in the potentially troublesome neighborhoods continually, talking with people, and getting more tips than they can run out. He does not know of any tips coming from Minutemen sources.

HHH: pd.

1- HHH Chan

✓ 1- Organization

December 13, 1967

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert H. Haynes  
Special Agent  
FBI Liaison Section

From: M. C. Miskovsky  
Director of Investigations

Subject: Minutemen

It will be appreciated if you will furnish this office with reports or other documents concerning the activities of the Minutemen--as an organization and as individual members--which may be useful in evaluating the possible influence on past or future riots by this group.

We would particularly like to verify--or expose as not true--recent statements by Edward Haas, a 42-year old Camden County, New Jersey resident who is described as New Jersey leader of the Minutemen. He is reported as claiming (1) that members of Minutemen gave Philadelphia Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo tips about riots planned in Philadelphia; (2) that some Minutemen took part in the Newark riot, either as police or as hastily sworn in special deputies, and he is quoted as saying the Minutemen have expanded their training programs in "city resistance warfare" because of the summer rioting.

HHH/raf  
12/12/67

Distribution:

- 1 - HHH Chron.
- ✓ 1 - MCM Chron.
- 1 - FBI Liaison Req for Info.

*Minutemen*

M. C. Miskovsky

Dec. 12, 1967

Harold H. Hair

**Allegations of Minutemen Infiltration of Philadelphia  
and New Jersey Police**

The attached newspaper item presents a challenge to us which must be met somehow.

I have drafted a requirement on the FBI concerning the claims, but it would appear essential that we make some independent investigations including personal interviews with Haas and officials of the police agencies claimed to have been infiltrated. Proving the negative of this situation may be impossible. It is hardly likely that Haas would identify his members, but the police officials should be given the opportunity to deny the allegations and describe whatever means they have for screening out such people.

If Mr. Perry and Mr. Scales go back to New Jersey, I suggest that they be asked to look into this story.

Attachment

HHH/raf

Dec. 12, 1967

Distribution:

- 1 - HHH Chron.
- X - Minutemen (Organizations)
- 1 - Newark - Gen
- 1 - Hb Phila



December 12, 1967

Mr. Donald W. Bacon  
Assistant Commissioner (Compliance)  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Mr. Bacon:

The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders has received information indicating the possession of firearms by some extremist groups in violation of the National Firearms Act. For example, Robert DePugh, leader of the Minutemen, and some of his associates were convicted in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Missouri in November, 1966.

I would appreciate the benefit of any information developed by the Alcohol and Tobacco Division of Internal Revenue Service concerning the possession of firearms by extremist groups -- with special emphasis on their use or possible use in connection with the riots which occurred in 1967 or any riots in the future.

For the completion of your records, I enclose a copy of the document by which Chairman Kerner delegated authority to me to make specific requests of various

departments and agencies for information and assistance deemed necessary to carry out Commission functions as set forth in Executive Order 11365.

Sincerely,

M. C. Miskovsky  
Director of Investigations

Enclosure

HHH:MCM:ka

Distribution:

- 1 - HHH Chrono.
- 1 - MCM Chrono.
- 1 - Liaison - IRS - Requests

✓ - *Missiterman*

5  
Copies

MINUTEMEN

HOOPER  
TESTIMONY  
BEFORE  
APPROX  
COMMITTEE  
OF HOUSE  
2-16-67  
p 624

The Minutemen organization is a far right group which claims its primary purpose is to prepare members to overthrow the Government of the United States in the event the Government is taken over by communists. To accomplish this, the organization and its individual members have acquired large stores of arms and engaged in organized guerilla warfare training.

Robert DePugh, Norborne, Missouri, the head of the Minutemen, has estimated the membership at 25,000, but others state it has approximately 500 members. DePugh claims that the organization itself does not buy or store firearms, this being the responsibility of the individuals. However, stores of arms uncovered by authorities are too large and sophisticated for individual ownership.

HOOPER  
(ABOVE)

Three events uncovered by investigative authorities illustrate the potential danger of this vigilante-type group. In June 1965, Virginia police seized a dynamite cache 25 miles southwest of Washington. The site had bullet-riddled evidence of extensive firearms activity. An Alexandria, Virginia judo instructor was a member of the 12 to 15 member Minutemen cell and taught guerilla warfare tactics to the group.

HOOPER  
(ABOVE)

On October 30, 1966, New York police arrested 24 persons--said to be Minutemen--preparing to assault alleged left-wing camps in the three-state area. Large stores of arms were recovered by the police at the time of the arrests.

HOOPER  
(ABOVE)

In August 1966, DePugh and four associates were charged with violation of the National Firearms Act, following recovery of a supply of automatic weapons and explosives buried by DePugh and others in Missouri. DePugh and two associates were convicted and given prison sentences, but are free on bond pending appeal.

HOOPER  
(ABOVE)

Following his conviction, DePugh announced his resignation as leader of the Minutemen and said the organization would go underground and be run by a secret executive council. However, DePugh is believed to continue to be the dominant force of the Minutemen.

WASH  
POST  
7-5-66

NY  
TIMES  
7-5-67

Earlier in 1966, DePugh got together a gathering of an estimated 400 persons at Kansas City, Missouri, and announced formation of the Patriotic Party, an ultraconservative political organization to rid the nation of what members called the communist conspiracy. DePugh nominated former Governor George C. Wallace as its Presidential candidate contingent on his approval of William Penn Patrick, a businessman of San Rafael, California, for Vice President. The Patriotic Party has received little attention from the press since the first announcement.

No information has been received indicating a connection between Minutemen and causes of riots. However, there is a newspaper report that one alleged member claimed infiltration by Minutemen into the Philadelphia Police Department, the Newark Police Department and the New Jersey National Guard. He is quoted as saying, "Some of our members took part in the Newark riot, either as police or as hastily sworn in special deputies."

— PHILA. INQUIRER

9-29-67

HHH/raf

12/8/67

(retype P. 2, 12/11/67)

Distribution: 1 - HHH Chron.

1 - Organizations



HOOPER MAR 4, 1965

6

ADD

325

sanction was unconstitutional; that the right to travel is protected by the due process clause of the fifth amendment; and that the passport sanction "sweeps too broadly and indiscriminately over this liberty."

As a result, there is no restriction on the issuance of passports to the party and the Department has declined prosecution on approximately 75 cases which had been referred as possible violations under the passport sanction. Two indictments previously obtained will undoubtedly be dismissed.

As a further result of this decision, several leading Communist Party officials have obtained U.S. passports for foreign travel. Most of them proceeded directly to the Soviet Union.

#### DEFENSE EMPLOYMENT SANCTION

Another section of the act prohibits the employment and the like of a party member in a defense facility designated by the Secretary of Defense. The Bureau referred approximately 30 cases to the Department as possible violations.

On May 21, 1963, Eugene Frank Robel, of Seattle, Wash., was indicted under this section. Robel returned to his job following his release on bond. Further prosecutive steps have not been taken, it being noted that recent court decisions such as the Supreme Court decision on the passport sanction will have a bearing on whether or not the Robel case ever goes to trial.

Mr. HOOVER. I hand to the chairman several additional pages.

Mr. ROONEY. We shall insert these pages at this point in the record.

(The pages follow:)

#### MINUTEMEN ORGANIZATION

We have long been aware of the Minutemen organization and our investigation is continuing. The headquarters of this organization is located at Norborne, Mo., and it is headed by Robert DePugh. Our investigation aims to determine the locations of units of the organization; the identities and backgrounds of the officers of each unit as well as the principal active members of each unit; whether the activities of the organization are in violation of any Federal statutes over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction; and whether the organization or its members pose a threat to the life of the President or other Government officials.

Minutemen claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the Government of the United States in the event the Government is taken over by the Communists. DePugh has said that members of his organization are reading each issue of various "leftwing" periodicals to obtain names of suspected Communists and fellow travelers.

He also has advised special agents of the FBI that the prime purpose of the Minutemen is intelligence gathering, in order that they can alert the American people to the efforts being made to socialize the United States. He has stated that many Minutemen are infiltrating "liberal and leftwing" organizations for this purpose.

DePugh has also said that the Minutemen as an organization does not buy or store arms, but individual members maintain whatever arms and ammunition they purchase with their own personal funds "which is their constitutional right." He has stated that his organization will stress "infiltration" of opposing groups, and turn to armed revolt only as a last resort. He has said that "we feel that with the use of intelligence, security, propaganda, and infiltration we can turn our enemies weapons against themselves." He has stated that the Minutemen advocate "armed resistance only when it has become very apparent to all the people that Communists or Fascists have overtaken the Government and all the people themselves are willing to support an armed revolution."

In March 1963 the monthly newsletter of the Minutemen organization entitled "On Target" referred to 20 U.S. Representatives in Congress as Judases and traitors because they had voted against increasing funds for the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

This newsletter repeatedly employs a rhetoric of violence. For example, another portion of this newsletter carried the statement "Traitors beware! Even now the crosshairs are on the back of your necks."

Our investigation indicates this organization is a loose federation, with each unit acting independently and lacking any real central control. Its numerical strength is probably greatly exaggerated. DePugh is the only known leader of the group. He is, therefore, its sole spokesman and some of the things he says are, indeed, hard to believe.

Hearings before Subcomm of House  
Appropriations Comm on Justice Dept.  
Appropriations for 1966 - 189th - 1st Session  
3-4-65



DePugh, for example, avoids the responsibility of trying to prove that all he says of the Minutemen, their activities, or their size is true. While he has placed the membership in the Minutemen at "more than 25,000," there is little real evidence that the Minutemen are anything more than essentially a paper organization, with just enough followers over the country so they can occasionally attract a headline, usually because of their preoccupation with violence, or weapons of war.

We have penetrated this organization, and our sources are keeping us advised of developments.

The results of our investigation are being furnished on a continuing basis to the Department of Justice, the military intelligence agencies, and the Secret Service.

#### CONCLUSION

The Communists work untiringly to change our form of government while, at the same time, they attempt to be accepted as legitimate partners in our society and to achieve respectability. Not only young people, but all Americans should be cognizant of the party's propagandizing and should be alert to the falsities of the Communist claims. Nothing can defeat this Communist propaganda offensive more quickly than the truth. This does not mean that we must merely counter communism. We must at the same time deepen and enrich our own heritage of freedom.

Party leaders would hope that this country would consider the party strength here to be insignificant. It would be fateful to so consider it. The party in this country is operated by a corps of hardened, disciplined Communists who feel that Moscow represents the final goal of all mankind's hopes. The influence of the party is far greater than its size would indicate and the small band of openly admitted Communists is bulwarked by the innumerable inactive party members who are patiently waiting for such events as the complete defeat of the Internal Security Act of 1950. These individuals have not disclaimed the party and, as legal restrictions are removed, many of those now sitting on the sidelines can be expected to move back into action.

The reaction of the Communist Party in this country to the recent retaliatory airstrikes in North Vietnam by U.S. Navy aircraft for mortar attacks on U.S. bases in South Vietnam is a most timely example of the unification of the Communist movement in this country. Within minutes after the attacks were announced, Arnold Johnson, the party's public relations director, issued a press release which bitterly condemned the airstrike as "an act of brutal aggression which horrifies the world." The American people were urged to speak out and demand that the U.S. withdraw all troops from South Vietnam. Telegram campaigns were organized and protest demonstrations were urged. Other groups, such as the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs, the youth group formed by the party, supported the party in the protest action.

The devious hand of the Communists also appeared on the turbulent campus of the University of California at Berkeley, which has been constantly disrupted with "student demonstrations" over the past months. On February 8, 1965, about 1,300 demonstrators protested U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Speakers, condemning the United States for starting the war in Vietnam, included Herbert Aptheker, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and other party members who "just happened to be there." All speakers urged their listeners to more direct action and called for a demonstration at the New Federal Building in San Francisco.

At Madison, Wis., at the University of Wisconsin, a similar protest meeting held by students and faculty members was led by individual students and faculty members, some of whom have Communist backgrounds. One of these was Daniel Friedlander, who is active in the DuBois Clubs in Madison.

The major lesson to be learned from all this is that the Communists and their supporters in this country are not a weak, insignificant element on the American scene. The wave of demonstrations which erupted on a national scale immediately following news of the U.S. counterstrike against Communist forces in Vietnam demonstrates how unified, organized, and powerful an element the Communist movement in the United States is today. While many of the demonstrations were organized by legitimate, sincere pacifist groups, Communists and their supporters also organized a number of demonstrations and are attempting to exploit to their own benefit the activities of the legitimate organizations.

*Minutemen  
Jocai*

7

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

MD.-D. C. REGIONAL OFFICE • 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036 • [202] 393-5284

M E M O R A N D U M

To: FILES

From: Jason R. Silverman

Date: January 11, 1967

Subject:

*not for  
attribution!  
J.R.S. 1/28/67*

In a meeting today with Officer Charles W. Tenney of the Baltimore County (Md.) Police Bureau, Special Service Unit, Intelligence Section, he relayed the following information:

Re a THOMAS FRANCIS WOOD; Told me confidentially they are reasonably sure Wood is the guy who has been doing the defacing of Chizuk Amuno Synagogue in Baltimore. Information came from Wood's wife who separated from her husband as a result of a violent experience in which she was shot. Wood has for a long time been connected with Rockwell and the ANP. He left the Baltimore area within the past few weeks and went to Norfolk, Va. Tenney went to Norfolk. Police there advised him that Woods was consorting with Klansmen there and recently he left for Florida. Police can't pick him up because they have no evidence that will hold up in court. Tenney says further they have a sample of his handwriting and it is reasonably sure that it matches the synagogue jobs.

*this report  
filed in  
H.S. Document*

JOHN L. FENWICK, Jr., according to Tenney, is a wealthy gun dealer dealing in all kinds of weapons, tremendous quantity, vast volume sales all over the country and to Canada. That he is believed to be supplying the Minutemen; that he does all his business in cash. That they know of deals where guns in the value amount of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per deal are made and Fenwick pays strictly in cash; that in the Whitehall area of Baltimore County, Fenwick paid \$45,000 for two former bank properties (former Whitehall and former Parkton Bank buildings) complete with vaults, security, etc. Police investigation reveals literally thousands of firearms from light to heavy calibre, helmets, etc., and further that there is located a range on the Harford-Baltimore County line, quite large, new, heavily frequented by people traveling distances of 30-50 miles for weekly firearms practices which, according to Tenney, appears to be Minutemen activity rather than bonafide target practice. This is evidenced by the fact that on a few occasions when targeteers think they are under surveillance they will take great pains to evade and avoid contact with police. One such situation involved a station wagon, Maryland plates, registered to RONALD KINGLEY GEIGAN, 455 Whitridge Ave., Baltimore 18, Md. (20 miles from the range -- there are shooting ranges closer to Geigan's home).

GEIGAN is a barber (one of the last few whites in a rapidly changing to Negro ~~area~~ area) who participated last summer on the side of extremists anent Negro demonstrations. About a week ago, Geigan jumped in his car and sped off at speeds in excess of 100 mph in order to evade Tenney.

According to Tenney, large trees have been shot down and damage to trees with holes 6-10 inches in diameter indicating that large bore ammunition has been used; also ~~they~~ thick steel plate at a highway bridge being perforated indicates the use of armor-piercing bullets.

Maryland's Cecil County Klavern formerly attached to Delaware is now moved to Maryland jurisdiction under NAIMASTER who now has 8 Klans he supervises in the area.

Discussion revealed the fact that the WILLIAM N. WAGGONER III who testified at the HUAC hearings re Shelton as a government witness and a person calling himself DONALD N. WAGNER of Baltimore who was arrested and later charged in Lebanon, Ohio with carrying concealed ~~weapons~~ weapons near the farm where a 4-day Klan rally was being held in late May 1965 are one and the same.

JRS:rsg

YAS.



ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

OF B'NAI B'RITH

315 Lexington Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10016

8

*Minutemen*

MEMORANDUM

To: ADL Regional Offices  
From: Jerome Bakst  
Date: July 29, 1966  
Subject: The Patriotic Party (The Minutemen)

AUG 1 1966

*not for attribution*  
*H. H. Hargis*  
*11/28/67*

This is to advise you that the Patriotic Party, a new far-rightist political organization that seeks to unite right-wingers under one banner and win national election posts by 1968, has been founded under the aegis of the para-military Minutemen organization. The acting chairman of the new political party is Robert B. DePugh, national coordinator and guiding spirit of The Minutemen. The party headquarters will be located at the national office of The Minutemen in Independence, Mo. DePugh has acknowledged that The Minutemen organization needs a political, as well as a "militant underground arm" and thus it appears that the Patriotic Party will serve as the "above-surface" political arm of the secret and clandestine Minutemen.

The founding convention of the Patriotic Party was held July 3 and 4, 1966 at Kansas City, Mo., with almost 400 persons attending the opening session and some 150 persons in attendance at the closing session. The convention was called by DePugh who said that until now, finances for the new political party have come mainly from The Minutemen treasury.

DePugh said that Patriotic Party members will be working anonymously this year inside the Democratic and Republican parties to gain experience in practical politics. A party spokesman claimed that two-thirds of the approximately 400 persons who attended the convention became members of the Patriotic Party whose annual dues are \$5.

The gathering included a variety of rightists, ranging from extreme conservatives to some anti-Semites. Literature available at the convention included anti-Negro propaganda. A featured speaker was long-time and notorious anti-Semite Kenneth Goff, former lieutenant of Gerald Smith and in recent years head of his own organization, "Soldiers of the Cross."

Among the delegates were reported members of Billy James Hargis' Christian Crusade; Dr. Fred Schwarz's Christian Anti-Communism Crusade; Carl McIntire's Twentieth Century Reformation Hour; The John Birch Society; Young Americans for Freedom; the Constitution Party; the American Party; the Farmers Liberty League; the Spirit of '76 Committee, and Goff's Soldiers of the Cross. Many of those present were merely "observers", and there was no evidence that the others attended as official representatives of their organizations. DePugh, in fact, said that the Patriotic Party had the support of "many" members of The John Birch Society, but not of the Society itself which, he added, "seems to feel we are a competitive influence."

The convention served as a first step toward setting up regional, state and county organizations for the new far-rightist party. Regional conventions are scheduled for August 6 and 7, 1966, in New York City, Birmingham and Phoenix. Several state conventions are reportedly scheduled for September 10 and 11, 1966. Everett Moore, acting chairman of the Patriotic Party in Arizona, said after the convention that 1,000 delegates from the states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and California are expected at the party's Southwestern regional convention, scheduled for August 6 at Phoenix. The featured speaker scheduled for the Phoenix convention, which will be held to form state organizations aimed at getting the party on the ballot in 1968, will be Kenneth Goff.

At the founding convention in Kansas City, the blessing was delivered by Rev. Robert LeRoy, superintendent of the Kansas City Christian School. The audience was requested to use a military hand salute in giving the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Opening remarks were delivered by Moore, and the main speakers were DePugh, Goff and Walter P. Payson, a young Chicagoan who for the last 18 months has lived at DePugh's Norborne, Mo., home and who has served as DePugh's lieutenant.

DePugh told the convention that "dead patriots of many wars are troubled by the knowledge that the nation for which they died is led by traitors and infested by parasites." In calling for support for the Patriotic Party, the Minutemen leader said that many conservatives feel "a common frustration" over the present political situation because, as he concluded, "the Democrat and Republican parties are simply sections A and B of the pro-Socialist party." As the motto of the new party, DePugh paraphrased the pledge of the signers of the Declaration of Independence: "To the restoration of our constitutional republic, to the defense of individual freedom, and to the protection of our American heritage we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

In his speech, Goff declared that the United States was headed for entangling bureaucracy and domination by a world Communist government and attacked the United Nations as an un-Godly organization. Underscoring the leading role that Goff, whose record as a professional bigot dates back more than 15 years, appears to be playing in the Patriotic Party is the fact that he was the only individual representing another organization who was personally introduced to the press by DePugh at a news conference during the convention. At the news conference, Goff said his own organization was particularly strong in California and that members were supporting Ronald Reagan for Governor.

Payson told the convention audience that they were all "executives" and "leader of the Patriotic Party. He called on them to return home and enlist in the cause the 27,000,000 Americans who voted in 1964 for former Sen. Barry Goldwater for President. "you've got to get out there and find these 27 million people who voted for Goldwater," he said. He added that among the "good, sound programs" the Patriotic Party would sponsor "when we elect a national government" would be the abolition of the personal income tax.

The history of third party movements in America does not indicate any prospect of substantial success by the Patriotic Party, but you should be alert to manifestations of its activity in your respective areas and to possible anti-Semitic as well as racist activity and propaganda by it. Naturally its existence and activities are a matter of interest and concern to our agency.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS



# Minutemen's Cache Of Dynamite Found



Army demolition experts from Ft. McNair inspect sticks of dynamite discovered in a woods in Prince William County, Va., used as a training camp by area "Minutemen."—Star Staff Photo by Joseph Silverman.

## FBI Tip Leads To Rifle Range In Virginia

Copyright, 1965.  
The Evening Star Newspaper Co.

By JACK KELSO  
Star Staff Writer

A guerrilla warfare training school built by the super-patriot Minutemen and a cache of dynamite big enough to destroy a multi-story building have been uncovered a little over 20 miles from Washington in Prince William County, Va.

The discovery was made yesterday by Prince William County authorities and the Virginia State Police, based on information supplied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI had no comment other than to say that it had furnished the information, which came from long and intensive investigation of the organization.

But government sources would say that the close combat course was used by a newly-formed unit of the Minutemen, and that the dynamite was hidden there by them.

The Minutemen are organized guerrilla groups pledged to spring into action in the event of what they fear is a Communist takeover of the United States.

### Chiefly in West

Activities of the group have centered chiefly in California and the Midwest, where heavily armed bands hold almost full scale military maneuvers. Many of these groups have armed themselves with anti-tank guns, heavy mortars, machine guns and similar weapons of war.

This Washington area unit, the first uncovered in this part of the country, was formed at the end of February and got underway fully by mid-March, sources said. It is believed to have 12 to 15 members.

The unit since has been training in deep woods, not far from heavily traveled Route 1 and, with another Minuteman unit, in mountains near Reading, Pa.

The Prince William site was raided yesterday by County Sheriff Ralph G. Mumate, Sheriff's Deputy Bobby Cornell and Virginia State Police Lt. Charles E. Nicholls.

These authorities found the training site on 3,000 acres of second-growth hardwood timber on what is known as Bridge Road, just west of Occoquan.

Virginia Electric Power Co. power transmission lines cut through the forest nearby. Not far away is the new dam of the Occoquan Reservoir used by the Alexandria Water Co.

Just off Bridge Road, a dirt

See MINUTEMAN, Page B-1

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1965

# Army Ordnance Team Removes Cache of Dynamite

## Expend M-1, Carbine Shells Litter Ground

Continued From Page A-1

lane about one and a half lanes wide, the guerrilla warfare training course starts. Empty cartridges and ammunition boxes litter the ground.

Beer cans and trash cover the sides of what once was a logging road. The cans and the trash have been transformed into targets for combat drills.

Sources said the combat course is set up and used just as such courses are used in the U.S. Army.

### Shoot at Old Cans

The unit sets out down the old dirt logging road. The only other living things in the immediate area are deer, squirrels and a few birds.

When the members of the unit spot a target—possibly an old can set on a stick, an old car door, a discarded refrigerator—they open fire. Half the trash along the road is torn apart by bullets. Some of the trees along the road are chewed half to pieces.

The Minutemen also have conducted exercises in surprise attacks, one man guarding a position on a hill while others attempt to sneak up and overpower him.

It was explained by sources familiar with the organization that each member must supply



Sgt. Lawrence Crawford carries away tons of dynamite.



This "dynamite" cache was removed from the ground.



This old car door, riddled with holes from rifle bullets.



that each member must supply his own weapons—an M-1 Garand rifle and either a .38 or .45-caliber pistol—along with his own ammunition.

The M-1 rifle was the basic United States infantry arm during World War II and the Korean War. It is gradually being replaced by the M-14.

#### Carbines Fired Also

Among the spent cartridges found along the logging road were some fired from carbines, another military weapon. Both the carbine and the Garand rifle can be purchased from many outlets around the country.

It was obvious to the investigators that much "training" had gone on in the woods in the few weeks the local Minuteman unit has been in operation. It was explained that the training schedule calls for drills every weekend.

Sometimes the unit uses the Prince William County location and, now and then, travels to the mountainous country outside Reading, Pa., for their exercises, sources said.

The land that was being used by the Minutemen is private property and the use to which it was being put was not known to the owners.

#### 36 Sticks of Dynamite

Deep in the woods, off a series of weed-grown logging trails, the investigators found the cache of dynamite. A thin layer of dirt, tree limbs, leaves and branches covered it.

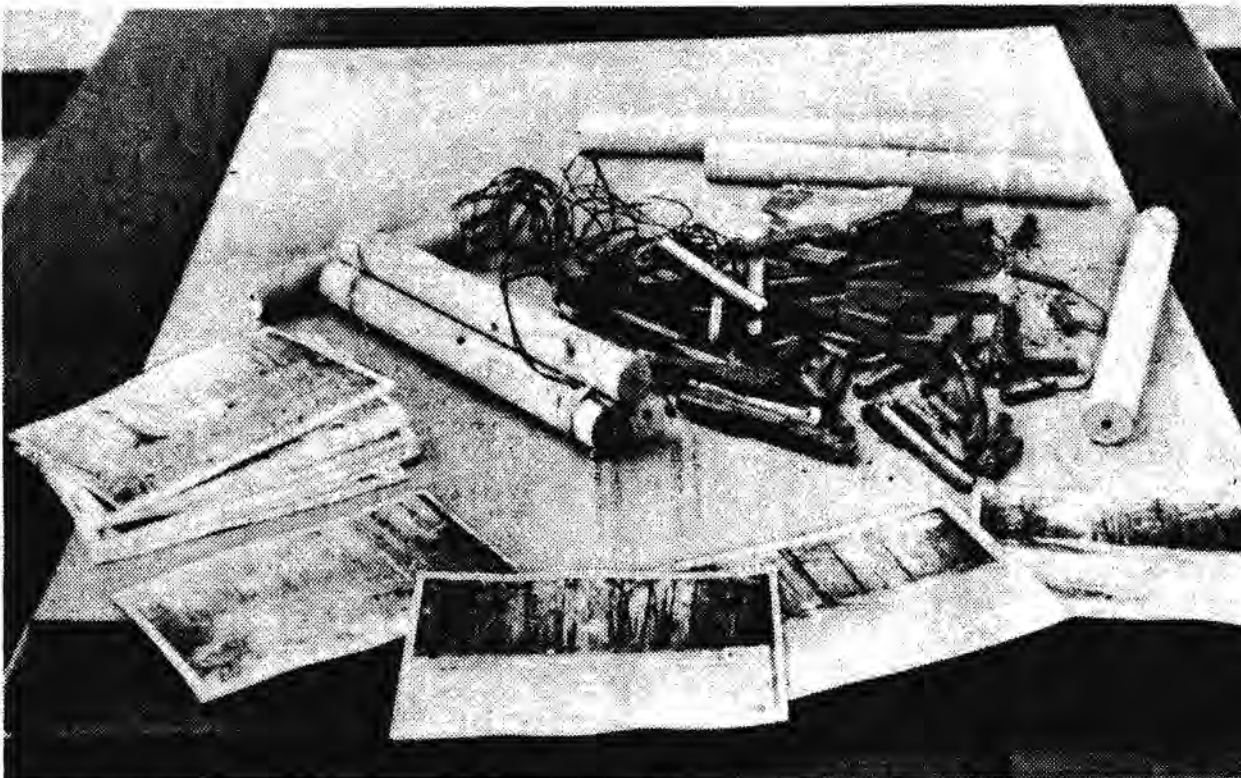
There was a two-pound coffee can, closed with a plastic lid, containing yards of fuse, 19 ordinary blasting caps and six electric caps used to set off the explosive.

Two one-gallon plastic jugs and a plastic-wrapped cigar box containing a total of 36 sticks of dynamite were nestled in the hole in the ground.

The investigators called for a team of Army explosives experts from Ft. McNair. It could not be determined immediately how volatile the dynamite was—whether it had deteriorated to a dangerous state.

When they arrived the four demolition men, Sgt. 1. C. H. Lee, Spec. 5 Lawrence Crawford and Spec. 5 H. E. Jackson, all of the 67th Ordnance Detachment of Ft. McNair and S. Set

Spec. 5 Lawrence Crawford carries away jars of dynamite found in the Minutemen guerrilla organization's cache in a Prince William County woods.



Part of the training gear uncovered by investigators included dummy dynamite sticks made of wood, for practice in wiring and capping.

The expended .30-caliber shells were picked up at the scene. The photographs were taken by authorities.

sive was bought over the counter in West Virginia, where such purchases are common, and carried, along with the blasting caps, in the saddlebags of a motorcycle to the Washington area.

The dynamite was carried to the training site itself in a panel truck used by the Minutemen, sources said.

Many authorities have been aware of the existence of the Minutemen, as evidenced by recent testimony by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Hoover noted that the headquarters of the organization is situated at Norborne, Mo., and is headed by a man named Robert DePugh.

"Our investigation," Hoover said, "aims to determine the

active members of each unit, whether the activities of the organization are in violation of any federal statutes over which the bureau has investigative jurisdiction, and whether the organization or its members pose a threat to the life of the President or other government officials."

#### Purpose Explained

Hoover explained that the Minuteman organization "claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the government of the United States in the event the government is taken over by the Communists."

"DePugh has said that members of his organization are reading each issue of various 'leftwing' periodicals to obtain names of suspected Communists

referred to 20 U.S. Representatives in Congress as Judases and traitors because they had voted against increasing funds for the House Committee on un-American Activities."

Commenting that some of the things DePugh says "are, indeed, hard to believe," Hoover pointed out that the Minuteman leader "avoids the responsibility of trying to prove that all he says of the Minutemen, their activities, or their size is true."

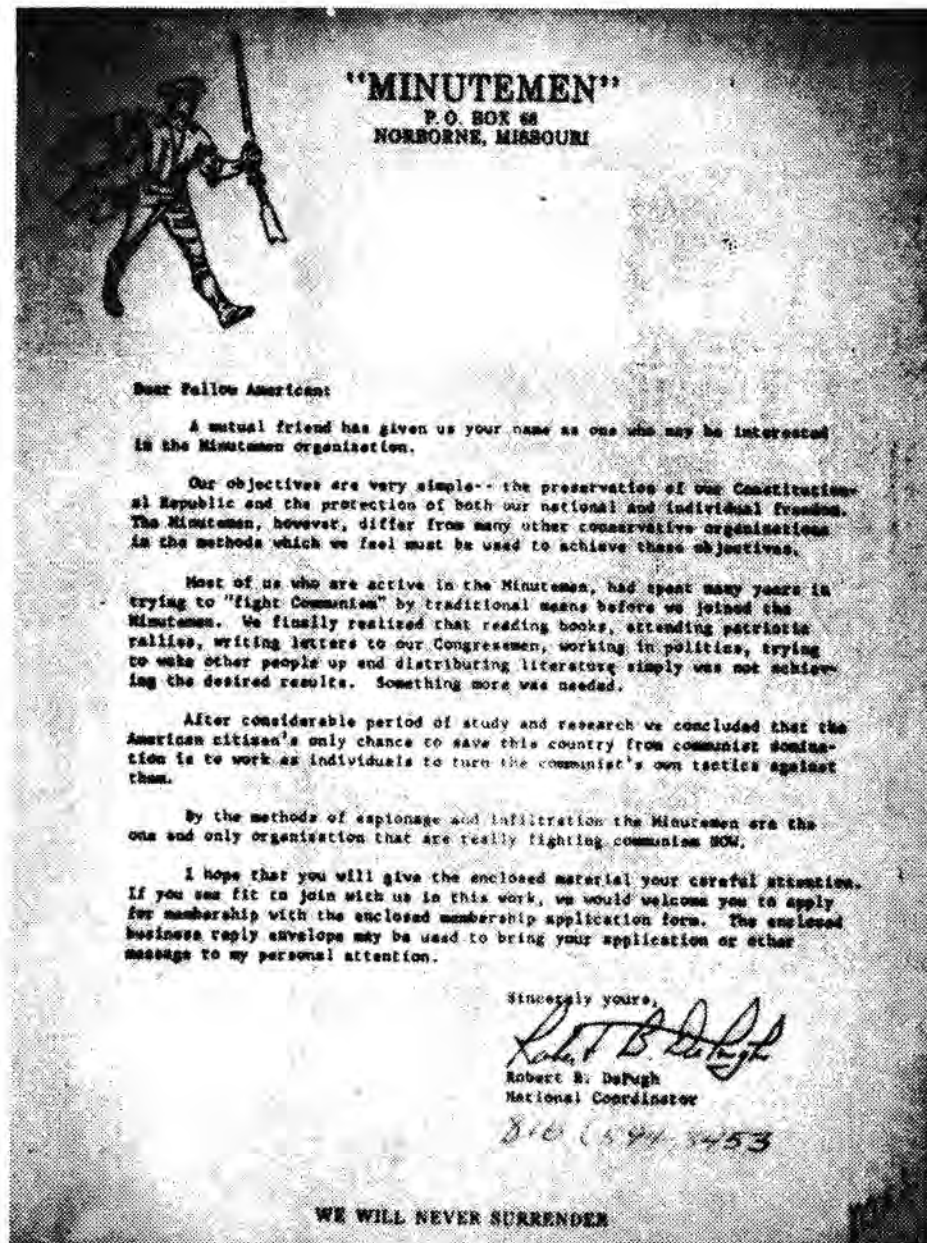
DePugh has placed the membership of the Minutemen at "more than 25,000," Hoover said. He told the subcommittee that "we have penetrated this organization, and our sources are keeping us advised of developments..."

#### Literature Obtained

Copies of actual recruiting

This "40%" stick of dynamite was part of the hoard buried in glass jars at the cache site. Other sticks were of greater strength.

This old car door, peppered with holes from rifle bullets, was part of the Army-style "infiltration course" where the Minutemen practiced guerrilla warfare.



This is one of the recruiting letters sent out by the Minutemen organization to prospective members in the Washington area. How many of these were circulated is not known.—Star Photos by Joseph Silverman.

Dear Fellow American:

A mutual friend has given us your name as one who may be interested in the Minutemen organization.

Our objectives are very simple-- the preservation of our Constitutional Republic and the protection of both our national and individual freedom. The Minutemen, however, differ from many other conservative organizations in the methods which we feel must be used to achieve these objectives.

Most of us who are active in the Minutemen, had spent many years in trying to "fight Communism" by traditional means before we joined the Minutemen. We finally realized that reading books, attending patriotic rallies, writing letters to our Congressmen, working in politics, trying to wake other people up and distributing literature simply was not achieving the desired results. Something more was needed.

After considerable period of study and research we concluded that the American citizen's only chance to save this country from communist domination is to work as individuals to turn the communist's own tactics against them.

By the methods of espionage and infiltration the Minutemen are the one and only organization that are really fighting communism NOW.

I hope that you will give the enclosed material your careful attention. If you are fit to join with us in this work, we would welcome you to apply for membership with the enclosed membership application form. The enclosed business reply envelope may be used to bring your application or other message to my personal attention.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. DePugh  
National Coordinator

810 (594) 453

WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER

such as putting some opaque material like tin foil or carbon to prospective Minutemen advises that "the newspapers and television have pictured the Minutemen as a bunch of people is exactly the type of person we don't want in our organization. "We cannot emphasize this point too strongly. The Minutemen are a bunch of people



covered it.

There was a two-pound coffee can, closed with a plastic lid, containing yards of fuse, 19 ordinary blasting caps and six electric caps used to set off the explosive.

Two one-gallon plastic jugs and a plastic-wrapped cigar box containing a total of 36 sticks of dynamite were nestled in the hole in the ground.

The investigators called for a team of Army explosives experts from Ft. McNair. It could not be determined immediately how volatile the dynamite was—whether it had deteriorated to a dangerous state.

When they arrived the four demolition men, Sgt. 1. C. H. H. Lee, Spec. 5 Lawrence Crawford and Spec. 5 H. E. Jackson, all of the 67th Orndance Detachment of Ft. McNair, and S. Sgt. Alexander Kaczmarek of the 57th Orndance Detachment at Ft. Belvoir, scraped carefully around the containers. They first removed the can containing the fuse and blasting caps.

#### 40 to 65 Percent

Then they gingerly removed the containers of dynamite, carefully unscrewing the caps of the wide-mouthed jugs and tearing away the plastic covering on the cigar box.

Some of the dynamite, they found, was of the standard 40 percent strength. Some was even more potent, a full 65 percent.

The demolition men looked over the brown sticks of explosive and made sure that dangerous crystals had not formed on the outside and that none of the nitroglycerine was leaking out.

When they were sure that the dynamite was safe to move, they carried it out in their hands over the deeply-rutted paths, under tree limbs, around bushes, to their Army carryall truck. They planned to take it to a safe place and blow it up.

#### Legal Status Not Known

The authorities were continuing their investigation into what, if any laws were broken in connection with the dynamite.

It was known that the explo-

sive was bought over the counter in West Virginia, where such purchases are common, and carried, along with the blasting caps, in the saddlebags of a motorcycle to the Washington area.

The dynamite was carried to the training site itself in a panel truck used by the Minutemen, sources said.

Many authorities have been aware of the existence of the Minutemen, as evidenced by recent testimony by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Hoover noted that the headquarters of the organization is situated at Norborne, Mo., and is headed by a man named Robert DePugh.

"Our investigation," Hoover said, "aims to determine the locations of units of the organization, the identities and backgrounds of the officers of each unit as well as the principal

active members of each unit, whether the activities of the organization are in violation of any federal statutes over which the bureau has investigative jurisdiction, and whether the organization or its members pose a threat to the life of the President or other government officials."

#### Purpose Explained

Hoover explained that the Minuteman organization "claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the government of the United States in the event the government is taken over by the Communists."

"DePugh has said that members of his organization are reading each issue of various 'leftwing' periodicals to obtain names of suspected Communists and fellow travelers. . . .

"In March, 1963, the monthly newsletter of the Minutemen organization entitled 'On Target'

referred to 20 U.S. Representatives in Congress as Judases and traitors because they had voted against increasing funds for the House Committee on un-American Activities."

Commenting that some of the things DePugh says "are, indeed, hard to believe," Hoover pointed out that the Minuteman leader "avoids the responsibility of trying to prove that all he says of the Minutemen, their activities, or their size is true."

DePugh has placed the membership of the Minutemen at "more than 25,000," Hoover said. He told the subcommittee that "we have penetrated this organization, and our sources are keeping us advised of developments. . . ."

#### Literature Obtained

Copies of actual recruiting literature used by the Minutemen in the Washington area have been obtained by The Star. These include a letter signed

by DePugh, explaining the Minutemen's desire to work as individuals to turn the communist's (sic) own tactics against them."

The enclosed business reply envelope for the application for membership was addressed to "Biolab Corporation, Norborne, Missouri."

Two single-space typewritten pages enclosed contained what was headed: "A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MINUTEMEN." The "history" explained how the organization started in June, 1960, with a group of "ten sportsmen" who were organizing a duck hunting club. Then, the history goes on, "someone mentioned the current international crisis and another man said jokingly, 'Well, if the Russians invade us, we can come up here and fight on as a guerilla band.'" The "joke" became serious.

Another of the documents is two pages of "practical security measures," advising members to "use deceptive measures,"

I hope that you will give the enclosed material your careful attention. If you see fit to join with us in this work, we would welcome you to apply for membership with the enclosed membership application form. The enclosed business reply envelope may be used to bring your application or other message to my personal attention.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. DePugh  
National Coordinator

816 594-7453

WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER

This is one of the recruiting letters sent out by the Minutemen organization to prospective members in the Washington area. How many of these were circulated is not known.—Star Photos by Joseph Silverman.

such as putting some opaque material like tin foil or carbon paper inside an envelope to "prevent your mail from being read by infra-red cameras."

One of the security strictures urges members to "prepare telephone codes ahead of time for future protection."

Finally, literature addressed to prospective Minutemen advises that "the newspapers and television have pictured the Minutemen as a bunch of crackpots running around shooting off their guns without any idea of why they were doing it."

"This," the document says,

"is exactly the type of person we don't want in our organization."

"We cannot emphasize this point too strongly. The Minutemen are the most active, the most completely dedicated and most selective in their membership of all the many patriotic organizations in America."

"We are willing to make any sacrifice for our country. We fully expect that we will have to fight in one way or another before victory is achieved. Our very lives depend on each other."

"There is no place in this organization for bunglers, playboys or lukewarm conservatives. . . ."

## The Rambler . . . Finds It Buttoned Up

By JOHN McKELWAY

Huzza! Hurrah! Exultation!

For the first time—to the Rambler's knowledge—a step has been taken to close a loophole in any law and the credit belongs exclusively to the House of Representatives.

All hail Mills, and Byrnes and Dow.

Involved are certain tariff laws that are concerned with the importation of something called "button blanks."

The Rambler does not fully understand what has been going on, but it seems safe to say it can be described as "wide open."

Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., can, perhaps, explain it best. As he said in the House the other day when this precedent shattering legislation was introduced:

"The purpose of H.R. 7621 is to close a tariff loophole that has developed through the importation of virtually finished buttons which are assessed for duty purposes as button blanks at a substantially lower rate of duty than the one applicable to finished buttons."

★ ★ ★ ★

IN OTHER WORDS, what has been going on is that, well, again from Mills:

"The practice that the bill is particularly designed to frustrate relates to certain discs of polyester resin having a circumference and finish of buttons and to which finishing operations

have been applied to make them into finished buttons except that the drilling of holes is not accomplished until after importation."

Rep. John Byrnes, R-Wisc., may have come a bit closer to a clearer explanation of what the bill does. At any rate, he said:

"There is a differential in the rate of duty applicable to buttons and the rate of duty applicable to button blanks. In order of the lower rate of duty, a practice has grown up whereby finished or polished buttons, complete in all respects except for the drilling of the holes, have been imported under the classification of 'button blanks.' This clearly was not the intention of Congress when separate rates were proved for buttons and button blanks dating back to the original Tariff Schedules of the Tariff Act of 1930. . . ."

In going over this material, one of the first thoughts the Rambler had was that, maybe, we can get along with foreign countries. They too have people who sit back and look for loopholes.

Byrnes went further in his explanation:

"(The new law) means that the true button blank, which must be subjected to finishing, polishing, beveling, or other operations, will be admitted as a 'button blank' However, the finished piece which requires only the drilling of holes, would no longer be admitted under the category of a 'button blank' "

The congressmen who spoke on the measure—it passed

easily on a voice vote—were careful not to mention the country, or countries, which have been doing this to the United States and we have to guess that it was probably France. The French don't seem to like us anymore.

★ ★ ★ ★

NEXT TO SPEAK on the subject was Rep. John G. Dow, D-N.Y., who refused to fog the issue. As he said:

"Before this House today is a measure to close what is known as the 'buttons-without-holes loophole.' For a long time one of the most notorious of these loopholes in U.S. tariffs has been the absence of effective protection for U.S. fabricators of polyester buttons."

So it came to pass that the House placed almost-finished button blanks in the same category as buttons.

It seems odd that as the House was closing up a loophole, it had to do with buttons.

And it may be the same measure will be used for similar purposes in many other fields. Nothing can do the job better.

Up until now, it was just that the button had been missing and we all had become infatuated with the zipper.

Incidentally, count the number of buttons on you at the moment, multiply that by the number of people in the United States, and you will immediately see the importance of the legislation.

Obviously, there is a market for buttons.

## Lankford Named Judge in Virginia

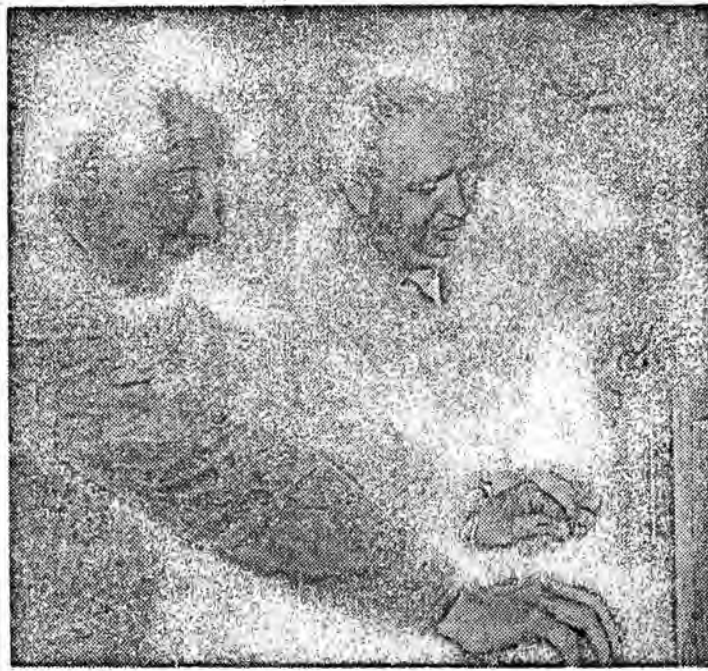
RICHMOND (AP)—Charles M. Lankford Jr., retired state fisheries commissioner, has been named judge of the 31st judicial circuit.

The appointment, made by Gov. Albertis S. Harrison Jr., is effective today.

Lankford succeeds Judge Jefferson F. Walter of Onley, who will retire June 10 after 23 years as judge of the circuit, which embraces the Eastern Shore counties of Accomack and Northampton.



# Why Rightist Plot Failed



At the precinct—John Knoetgen (l), Joseph Russo and Jack Lynn Boyce (c) and William Kieswer (r).

Post Photos by DeLucia

## Her Son Was the

## Inside Man

She was a short, stocky woman shivering in the cold outside the Queens County Criminal Courthouse.

Every now and then she would murmur a *sotto voce* curse at one of the Negro policemen escorting a prisoner up the steps.

The prisoners were Minutemen, arrested in an alleged plot to blow up three privately owned camps. Her 19-year-old son was among them. He reportedly sympathized with the group but had co-operated with the authorities.

Now she was waiting for him to emerge.

"I know many of the boys," she said. "I never thought they meant anything harmful. When I learned about I was shocked."

And her son? "Thank God, he's not really involved. He has a career to think about. My son is going to be a doctor."

Nearby stood Lawrence Conklin of 150-06 14th Av., Whitestone, Queens, whose son, Lawrence Jr., was one of the arrested Minutemen.

Conklin, a wiry man with a weather-beaten face, is by occupation a storm-window installer, but his passion is hunting.

"I'm pretty indignant about this," he said. "The Cosa Nostra and the Commies ride roughshod over this country. And the sportsmen like myself and my son get routed out of bed at 7 o'clock."

"I have to work pretty hard to get \$125 or \$150 I pay for a gun. They've got \$2,000 worth of my guns in there. I don't think that's fair."

Conklin wore hunting garb—a cap and plain jacket, his field trousers tucked into boots. He was asked if his son was a Minuteman.

"I don't know," he answered. "But what's wrong if he is? There's not a thing wrong with the Minutemen. They're not a radical organization. As far as I can tell they're anti-Communist."

By KENNETH GROSS and PAUL HOFFMAN

A Minuteman who got "cold feet" played a key role in breaking up the right-wing extremist plot to "devastate" three nearby camps with reputed leftwing links, the New York Post learned today.

The reluctant guerrilla was a 19-year-old college student who provided the underground organization with explosives for its home-made incendiary grenades. The chemicals were stolen from his college science laboratory.

At the time he stole them, the youth thought the explosives would be used only in training sessions. Then he learned the truth—they were weapons for actual attack.

He discussed the situation with his mother and she advised him to go to the authorities. He did—and from that point on played an undercover role among the plotters.

The authorities had been tipped off about their activities in January.

They knew there were three separate teams—one headquartered in Queens, another in Brooklyn, the third in suburban Nassau. The members of each team were not known to the others—only to an unknown "link."

Four months ago, the authorities succeeded in infiltrating undercover agents into the Queens group. They kept tabs on the other teams with concealed movie cameras and telephone taps. They also used the old stand-by, the man-on-man "tail" with the policemen working in teams of two—one shadowing the suspect, the other guarding the tail.

### Risky Business

"It was pretty dangerous stuff," one of the shadowers told the Post. "We knew we were working with armed, determined people and we never could tell what might set them off."

"It was mad, totally mad," said one of the undercover agents. "But they were serious. These guys really intended to attack what they considered dangerous left-wingers."

The Post learned that one of the key meeting places for the plotters was the Brooklyn headquarters of a Young Americans for Freedom chapter. The YAF—a group of Goldwater type Republicans—was not involved in the bomb plot, but some of its members were.

And the guerrilla-turned informer spent hours with Hentel's investigators combing through the YAF roster for names of the Minutemen. He reportedly gave the authorities

vital information on the Brooklyn team.

Meanwhile, the undercover detectives were proceeding with their tasks—accompanying the plotters on "field maneuvers" to Suffolk and to the woods near Ellenville, in Ulster County, where some of the bombs were tested.

According to Hentel, whose aides will start presenting the case to a grand jury today, the Minutemen planned to attack three educational camps—one in New Jersey, another in New York, the third in Connecticut. The Minutemen evidently had classified all three as left-wing operations.

Hentel declined to name the camps. The Daily News identified two of them as Camp Webatuck at Wingdale, N.Y., and Camp Midvale near Ringwood, N.J. Both were subjects of News stories last summer.

According to the undercover detectives, the plotters planned to raze the camps and, if necessary, kill anyone there.

### Disguised as Hunters

It was known that the plotters planned to attack during the hunting season, which started Oct. 25, and travel in the guise of hunters so they could carry their weapons openly.

Late last week, Hentel's men learned that Sunday, Oct. 30 was the Minutemen's D-Day.

It also became D-Day for the long-planned police Operation Minuteman.

More than 110 detectives and policemen from New York City, Hentel's office, the state police and the Nassau and Suffolk police departments went into action, staging pre-dawn raids



Post Photo by DeLucia

Queens District Attorney Hentel (r) looks over a rocket and machine gun confiscated in the Minuteman raids while Asst. DA Robert Schwartz grips a crossbow.

from Long Island and Westchester to Upstate Syracuse.

Twenty men were arrested and more than a ton of weapons and explosives were seized.

More arrests are expected.

As the Minutemen were rounded up and booked—on various charges of Sullivan Law violations, conspiracy to commit arson, unlawful assembly and inciting to riot—at the Fresh Meadows and Ozone Park police stations—other aspects of their alleged activities came to light.

It was learned that the right-wing extremist group attempted to infiltrate a Special Forces reserve unit which trains at Miller Field, S. I. They hoped to get training, training manuals and possibly weapons of war, courtesy of the U. S. Army. One of the arrested men was a reserve master sergeant with the Green Berets. The Minutemen also used a reserve training grounds in Suffolk and

a police pistol range.

It was disclosed that the group had "cased" the offices of The Worker, the Communist Party newspaper, at 23 W. 26th St., for "destructive action" later this year. Among other things, they timed the traffic lights in the area in order to perfect a getaway. A black powder bomb was exploded outside the paper's office last month the bombers have not been caught.

### Hate Literature

Hentel said he is investigating the possibility that one of the Minuteman groups was involved in the bombing.

Members of the group also fanned racial strife in the suburbs. They distributed leaflets saying "Kill the white devils," hoping local residents would think they came from Negro racists. In this way, they hoped to organize suburbanites into vigilante groups. The typewriter

Continued on Page 32



# How the Minuteman Plot Was Broken

Continued from Page 3

used on the stencils was seized in the predawn raids and identified by the police crime laboratory.

The main "bag" in the raids came at Goldy's Diner, 130th St. and N. Conduit Av., South Ozone Park, Queens, where six men in hunting cloths were arrested.

Detectives dressed as cabbies and truckers had fanned through the area and surrounded the restaurant—in case of trouble. But the six offered no resistance.

The total cache included: 150 rifles, more than 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition, two home-made incendiary grenades, three blackpowder pipe-bombs, three Molotov cocktails, 11 30-caliber machine guns, two 80-mm. mortars and two bazookas.

## More Armaments

The police also seized: 10 cans of black powder, 200 test tubes of picric acid used as a bomb detonator, four machetes, an assortment of brass-knuckles and trenchknives as well as camouflage suits and four walkie talkie radios—even crossbows and garottes.

Authorities are still searching for one mortar known to be in the gang's possession.

The bombs were taken to Fort Tilden, the army base on Rockaway Peninsula, and defused.

Some of the rifles bore the Minuteman slogan: "Liberty or Death."

Also seized in the raids were a number of messages in code, which police cryptographers are trying to decipher.

Police had carefully drawn lists of the Minutemen's equipment and appeared to know exactly what they sought in the raids.

## Father's Account

"They had six detectives and they took my apartment apart," said Lawrence Conklin Sr., father of one of the arrested men. "They had big folders with lists of stuff. They got all 16 of my rifles and they took all my maps which I use in my work."

He presumably used the maps in his work as an installer of storm-window.

The Minutemen, according to one source, are so right-wing they consider the John Birch Society moderate. The group was founded in 1959 by Robert Bolivar DePugh, 42, owner of a veterinary drug business in Norborne, Mo.

DePugh could not be reached for comment on the raids.

The Minutemen train to go underground should the Communists take over the United



Post Photo by DeLucia  
Chief Inspector Garelik telephones at 107th Precinct, Queens, as Salvatore Russo (r), wearing hooded jacket, awaits booking in Minuteman raids.

States—an event DePugh expects in the next decade. Then they would conduct guerrilla warfare. Individual members—in the manner of James Bond—are supposed to be experts in sabotage and assassination.

## Meeting Places

Headquarters of the local unit reportedly was in South Ozone Park, though other meetings were held in Freeport and Riverhead, L. I., at Lake Kotonah in Westchester, and in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Authorities are searching for the group's Eastern regional director, who was not identified. His headquarters are in an upstate city.

After their arrest, each of the prisoners was taken to a jail in a different precinct, so that they could not exchange information.

Those arrested included:

Edward James Foley, 24, of 910 Dinmore Av., Bronx, Transit Authority conductor; Richard Asaro, 18; of 78-21 69th Av., Middle Village, Queens, clerk; Lebbo Ferraro, 24, of 104-33 108th St., Ozone Park, Queens, milkman; Andre W. Zum, 24 of 2015 Foster Av., Brooklyn, cab driver.

Matthew Sarter, 29, of Franklin Square, L.I., heavy equipment operator; Lawrence Conklin, 27, of 150-06 14th Av., White-

Salvatore, of Bethpage, truck driver;

Jack Lynn Boyce, 40, of Katonah, a former ad man who has returned to college at Danbury State College, Danbury, Conn;

Robert Bagwell, 25, of Roosevelt, L. I., gardener.

Vincent Prestigiacomo, 34, of Smithtown, L. I., draftsman. The name of the 20th man was not immediately available.

stone, Queens (occupation not given); Frank Ferraro, 29, of 150-27 115th St., Ozone Park, milkman; John Knotgen, 44, of Bayshore, L.I., moldmaker; Daniel Byrne, 24, of 6012 67th Square, L.I., mechanic; Martin Skiffington, 26, of 60-12 67th Av., Maspeth, Queens, mechanic; William Garrett, 34, of Bellmore, L.I., landscaper; Warren Baldwin, 31, of Bayport, L.I., plasterer; Salvatore Russo, 30, of Bethpage, L.I., truckman; John Deptuch, 30, of Bayshore, port steward.

William D. Kieswer, 20, of 135-12 130th St., Ozone Park, New York City firman;

Joseph Russo, 28, brother of



*Infiltration  
in P.D. ?*

*Handled  
11/21/67 with  
Lt. Jencil  
Patil of D.  
18 X 18*

# Minutemen Hint City Police Role

*Philadelphia 9-29-67*  
The Philadelphia Police Department has been infiltrated by right-wing, gun-toting Minutemen, the group's New Jersey leader said Thursday. He said Minutemen gave Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo tips about riots planned for the city this summer.

According to Edward Haas, a 42-year-old Camden county resident, there are also Minutemen in the New Jersey National Guard and on the Newark Police Force, despite efforts to dislodge them.

## TRAINING STEPPED UP

Haas, who refused to give his address, said the Minutemen have vastly expanded their training programs, especially in what he called "city resistance warfare," because of summer rioting.

He is currently attending training sessions in Independence, Mo., at headquarters of the Patriotic Party. It's a Minuteman group; the national leader is Robert B. dePugh, a Missouri drug manufacturer.

## AIDED NEWARK POLICE

Haas said in a telephone interview from Independence that maneuvers by Minutemen groups were held throughout New Jersey this summer, especially in Salem county, and in Pennsylvania. He would not reveal the number of Minutemen involved.

"In fact," said Haas, "some of our members took part in the Newark riot, either as police or as hastily sworn in special deputies." He said New Jersey Minuteman cells had "survived" despite State-level attempts to root them out.



organization to interpose itself between Negro groups and civic government resembles too closely a vigilante operation—the self-determination of right and wrong as opposed to the due process of law and order.

#### MINUTEMEN

In prior appearances before you, I have gone into some detail regarding the Minutemen organization which is headquartered at Norborne, Mo., and is headed by Robert DePugh. This is an organization of about 500 members. DePugh is the leader and acts as their sole spokesman.

This is the organization which claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the Government of the United States in the event the Government is taken over by Communists. The danger of this position, of course, is DePugh will decide when the Communist takeover has occurred.

DePugh has said that the Minutemen as an organization does not buy or store arms but individual members maintain whatever arms and ammunition they purchase with their own funds. Despite DePugh's beguiling statement, our investigation has disclosed an obsession with armaments including machineguns, rocket launchers, explosives and the like. Possession of such equipment hardly fits within DePugh's statement.

We have closely followed the activities of this group. We have penetrated the organization so as to be aware of its activities. We disseminate the results of our investigations on a continuing basis to pertinent agencies, including the Secret Service. This has enabled action of various types to be taken against the organization. In June 1965, for example, as a result of information furnished by the FBI, local authorities located 36 sticks of dynamite and other blasting equipment in Prince William County, Va., which had been stored by a local Minutemen group using the area for a training site.

More recently, we received information that DePugh had buried a cache of automatic weapons and explosives in Missouri. This information was immediately made available to the Treasury Department, enabling representatives of the agency to locate the arms. This led to the subsequent indictment and arrest of DePugh and four cohorts on August 20, 1966, at Kansas City, Mo., on charges of conspiracy to violate the National Firearms Act, which is under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department.

The source of our information concerning the cache of arms was an individual named Raithby B. Husted. He had become associated with the Minutemen organization and subsequently came to us voluntarily to tell us of their activities and their arms.

Prior to testifying before a Federal grand jury on the matter, Husted furnished DePugh a fabricated story about Husted's relationship with the FBI. He told DePugh the FBI had drugged and coerced him to get him to cooperate. This, of course, was an outright lie. Husted subsequently furnished the FBI a signed statement in which he said the statement he gave DePugh was totally false. He explained that he had done so in an effort to obtain additional information from DePugh.

DePugh, utilizing the letterhead of the Patriotic Party, the police arm of the Minutemen, then began circulating Husted's fabricated

statement in an effort to obtain funds for his defense, to destroy Husted's credibility as a witness and to discredit the FBI. DePugh gave the lying statement the widest possible circulation. This placed the FBI in a most embarrassing and difficult position because we were unable to take immediate steps to refute these lies. We were prevented from doing so because Husted was to be a witness the prosecution planned to use at DePugh's trial. The Department of Justice instructed us to take no action which would jeopardize the case. As a result, even though it was not even an FBI case, we bore the brunt of the slanderous attack in silence until the trial could be held.

On November 14, 1966, DePugh and two others of those arrested earlier in connection with the National Firearms Act charges were found guilty in Federal Court. They were sentenced on January 17, 1967. DePugh was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment to be followed by 5 years on probation. One of his cohorts was sentenced to 2 years in prison and 3 years on probation, while another was sentenced to 3 years in prison. All remain free on bond pending an appeal. The charges remain outstanding as to the other two individuals.

DePugh publicly announced on January 23, 1967, that he is resigning as leader of the Minutemen and that the group will go underground and be run by a secret executive council. DePugh said he has been answerable to the "executive council" since the founding of the organization in 1960. In this regard, he has never offered any tangible evidence to show that such a council actually existed, but we are following this closely.

On October 30, 1966, New York police officers arrested 24 persons who were allegedly Minutemen en route to "assault left-wing camps in a three state area." Our New York office had furnished local authorities information that Minutemen groups in that area were planning military-type maneuvers on that date.

On November 1, 1966, the caretaker of Camp Webatuck, Wingdale, N.Y., reported to local authorities he had located incendiary devices on the premises. A subsequent search located nine such devices. All had been activated; however, none functioned. Whether these devices were placed by extremists prior to the intended maneuvers and subsequent arrests of the Minutemen, or by subversives for publicity purposes has not been determined by local authorities.

On December 14, 1966, the Queens County, N.Y., grand jury returned indictments against 16 individuals and failed to return indictments against four of the alleged Minutemen. Of the original 24 persons arrested, four were arrested as material witnesses and therefore were not charged by the grand jury. No Federal violation existed in this incident; however, we are following this matter very closely with the local authorities.

The obsession with violence and expressed intent to make the determination as to the occurrence of a Communist takeover are indicative of the dangerous nature of such extremist groups as the Minutemen. They would act as vigilantes, a law unto themselves.

#### NUMERICAL STRENGTH, COMMUNIST PARTY—U.S.A.

Last February, party leader Gus Hall told a press conference that party membership had risen from "10,000 to perhaps 12,000 members

*J. Edgar Hoover  
before House  
Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Feb 16, 1967*



# Minuteman Trial Illuminates Tactics

By Harry Jones Jr.  
Special to The Washington Post

Post  
11-13-66

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 12 — Testimony on hidden weapons caches, secret training drills, and home-made gun silencers provided new glimpses this week into the inner workings of the Minutemen.

The secretive para-military organization came into an unusual public spotlight when its national coordinator, Robert Bolivar De Pugh, and two associates went on trial on charges of violating the National Firearms Act. The testimony is to resume Monday.

One of the Government's talkative witnesses, Al Sommerford, a former Hutchinson, Kansas, salesman, testified he quit his \$115-a-week job with the Minutemen because, among other reasons, "... I refused to train a bunch of nuts and kooks into being assassins."

Another ex-Minuteman told under cross-examination of suggesting to DePugh and others the idea of putting cyanide gas in the air conditioning vent of the United Nations building. Asked by U.S. Attorney Russell Millin what happened after he made the suggestion, the witness, Jerry Brooks of East St. Louis, said, "I was moved to Norborne (Mo.) to work for the Minutemen."

Norborne, 70 miles from Kansas City, is headquarters for the right-wing group, which says it is dedicated to resisting communism, if necessary by resorting to guerrilla warfare.

Testimony on two weapons caches uncovered by Federal agents in rural Missouri occupied a large part of the trial.

A .50-caliber Browning machine gun and ammunition were unearthed in one large hole dug beneath the closet floor of a small farmhouse that testimony has indicated was rented by Walter Patrick Peyson, one of the three defendants.

Peyson and Raithby Roosevelt Husted of San Bruno, Calif., spent a week digging

the hole, according to Husted's testimony. Husted, an Air Force cook, wrote the FBI a letter after digging that hole and later led agents to another weapons cache in a ravine beside a cemetery. Four sub-machine guns were found.

Husted said DePugh brought food to him and Peyson while they were digging.

The testimony also ranged over demonstrations of pistols with silencers at Minutemen training sessions in Independence and Wentzville, Mo., and near the Mexican border in California.

One thrust of the Minutemen's defense was to assert that the organization's pamphlet on self-made silencers was identical to instructions found in an issue of "Gun Digest," a magazine available to the public.

Kenneth L. Templeton, a middle-aged heavy equipment operator from the San Diego area, was asked why he had joined the Minutemen.

"I guess I've always had right-wing leanings," Templeton replied, "and I thought this was a good, militant right-wing group."

Templeton then read from an application to join the Minutemen.

The application, which Templeton had signed, said:

"I am a right-wing conservative who believes our wonderful country is becoming socialistic. The next step down is communism. I am a member of the John Birch Society and we're doing a good job but not good enough. I believe the last Jew administration started selling us down the tube and the present one will complete the job. I think our foreign policy stinks."

Other defense witnesses testified that although they had attended Minutemen training sessions they had never seen any automatic weapons or pistol silencers in the possession of the defendants.

Mrs. DePugh, another defense witness, attempted to discredit Brooks' testimony by saying he had threatened "big trouble" if he was not given some money.



ADL

## 20 SEIZED IN STATE AS RIGHT-WINGERS IN WEAPONS PLOT

**Police Say 3 Private Camps  
Were Marked for Attack  
by Leaders in Queens**

### 'TONS' OF ARMS FOUND

**Conspiracy Laid to Bands of  
Minutemen—Evidence to**

**Go Before Grand Jury**

*NAT 10/31/66*

**By MURRAY SCHUMACH**

Twenty men and "tons" of weapons and ammunition were seized yesterday to break up what the police called a conspiracy by right-wing extremists in the metropolitan area to "devastate" three privately owned camps in New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In a series of raids that began in Queens shortly before dawn and was still spreading across the state late in the day, the police seized arsenals that included mortars, bazookas, machine guns, semi-automatic rifles, homemade bombs, more than a million rounds of ammunition, machetes, crossbows and garroting nooses.

According to District Attorney Nat H. Hentel, of Queens, the prisoners and weapons belonged to bands of Minutemen, a right-wing group that believes a Communist uprising or invasion is imminent.

He said, with nodding agreement from Chief of Detectives Frederick M. Lussen, that three of the bands were about to begin attacks on the camps when the police closed in.

### Camps Not Named

Mr. Hentel refused to identify the camps, but he did say that the Minutemen were dedicated to "destroying and demolishing Communist, left-wing and liberal installations."

Under questioning he repeatedly refused to give details about the camps, on the grounds that the entire matter was subject to "continuing investigation" and had not yet gone before the grand jury. It was only after a reporter asked him if the targets were Boy Scout camps that he said they were privately owned.

"This is the biggest haul of weapons and death-dealing material seized in this area in the memory of veteran law-enforcement officers," Mr. Hentel said at a news conference in his office.

"We have effectively broken up the secret organization in this area and have removed literally tons of death-inflicting weapons, ending the possibility of great loss of life and property."

Mr. Hentel displayed on his desk some of the weapons reported taken in the raids—a bazooka, bazooka shell, mortar

Continued on Page 40, Column 1



# 20 Seized in State in Reported Plot by

## 'TONS' OF WEAPONS FOUND BY POLICE

Minutemen Bands Accused of Conspiracy—Evidence Will Go to Grand Jury

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

shell and two semi-automatic rifles. Around him were detectives, police officials and bomb experts—part of the 110 men who worked on the case under the supervision of Chief Inspector Sanford D. Garelik and the immediate command of Chief of Detectives Lussen.

The arrest of the Minutemen yesterday was the climax of an investigation that began last January, when the police received "confidential information" that they passed along to Mr. Hentel.

When Mr. Hentel, who is running for election as District Attorney, was asked why the raids had occurred so closed to Election Day—which is a week from tomorrow—he explained that the police had learned the attacks on the three camps were to take place yesterday.

"Once we learned they were making their move," he said, "we had to make ours."

### Weapons Fill a Truck

The weapon seizures grew as the raids went on. The police said that in arresting Jack Lynn Boyce, 40 years old, at his home, at Sunny Ridge Road, Katonah, N. Y., they found so many weapons that a truck was filled. The arsenal included 10 machine guns, "a number of" bazookas. The arrested man said he was a student at Danbury State College, Danbury, Conn.

Another prisoner, when booked as Frank Ferraro, turned to reporters and said: "We've got a statement for you—there was no police brutality. They were very polite." Then he added that his nickname was "Nathan Hale." On the stock of one of the semi-automatic rifles was stamped: "Liberty or Death."

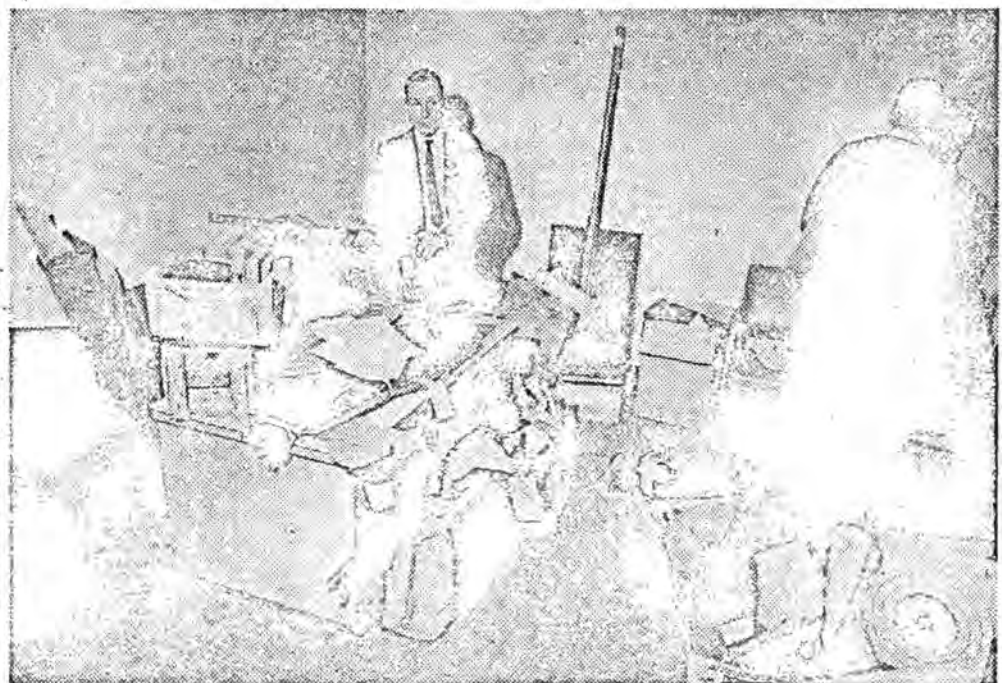
A third prisoner, charged with conspiracy to commit arson, as well as violation of the Sullivan Law, was a New York City fireman. He was booked as William Kleswer, 29, of 135-12 130th Street, Ozone Park, Queens.

In Milford, Conn., Thomas Hart, Connecticut state chairman of the Patriotic party, which was founded by the Minutemen, refused to believe the police version of the raids. He called it "an apparent hoax" or mixup of organizations.

But Governor Rockefeller did not share this disbelief. When informed of the raids, he said:



SUSPECTS: Men arrested in raids hide faces approaching Fresh Meadow station in Queens



The New York Times

ARSENAL: Detectives inspect and tag weapons and ammunition uncovered in sweeps

## Minutemen Idea Grew Out of Duck Hunt in 1959

By MAURICE CARROLL

Ten men went duck hunting in 1959, and somewhere along the way, they came up with the

Siracuseless Concept Seems

Founded on Secrecy and

train themselves in guerrilla warfare so that they can carry on the fight if the country is



not share this disbelief. When informed of the raids, he said: "These people are misguided in their patriotism."

During their long investigation, the police said, they learned these things:

"The Minutemen had tried to infiltrate the reserve unit of the 11th Special Forces of the Army—the 'Green Berets'—at Miller Field, S. I., to learn guerrilla tactics they could use against Communists."

"Members of the group distributed racist literature in Roosevelt, L. I., and Laurelton, Queens, purporting to be from Negro extremists and urging Negroes 'to kill white devils' and have the white women for our pleasure."

"Field maneuvers were held in Suffolk County and in the vicinity of Ellenville, N. Y., with homemade bombs."

"The Minutemen made a careful study of the area around the headquarters of The Daily Worker, the Communist paper including the traffic-signal system. The building, at 23 West 26th Street, was subsequently bombed with a smoke bomb similar to those found in yesterday's raids. Mr. Hentel said he was looking into the possibility that the Minutemen had been responsible for the bombing."

#### Conflict Reported Averted

The District Attorney said the hate leaflets had been distributed from speeding cars at night and had nearly created a race conflict. He said any clash was averted because the police obtained the agreement of "local papers" to avoid publicizing the incident until it could be presented to the public in perspective. Mr. Hentel did not name the papers.

As the police were booking prisoners yesterday on charges ranging from possession of deadly weapons to unlawful assembly, inciting to riot and conspiracy to commit arson, Chief Garelik arrived at the Fresh Meadows station house to confer with police officials.

Today, according to Mr. Hentel, two assistant district attorneys—Robert Hill Schwartz and Robert P. Leighton—will go before the grand jury to seek the indictment of the prisoners. Since not all the prisoners were booked on the same charges, it was assumed there would be differences in the indictments sought.

An extraordinary precaution was taken after the prisoners were booked. Each was assigned to the jail of a different precinct, so that they would be unable to exchange information during the night.

One of the most important of yesterday's police raids was reported to have taken place between 5 and 6 A.M. at Goldy's Diner, at 130th Street and North Conduit Avenue South Ozone, Queens. There the raiders picked up six men who were having coffee. Mr. Hentel said the suspects were among the Minutemen planning to use a hunting trip as a cover to destroy the camps.

In the car of one of these men, according to the prosecutor, the police, who had

in 1959, and somewhere along the way, they came up with the idea for the Minutemen.

"I got to talking," Robert L. DePugh recalled later, "about how bad off the country would be in case of invasion and how such a group as ours could become a guerrilla band."

Mr. DePugh went on to head the organization—or, more properly, the concept—that resulted.

The Minutemen operate with such secrecy and absence of administration that they keep no rosters and have no command structure. There is no apparent way for one Minuteman to recognize another Minuteman, unless they should happen to be members of the same band.

The first sign of the movement in the New York area was an advertisement published in The New York Times in October, 1961.

#### Flurry of Publicity

"Join the Minutemen," it read. "An organization of loyal Americans dedicated to the preservation of both national and individual freedom. Help put real strength in civilian defense. Pledge yourself and your rifle to a free America."

It was about this time that the Minutemen's field maneuvers with bazookas, camouflage uniforms, Jeeps and other such military paraphernalia got a flurry of publicity across the nation.

The subsequent investigation indicated that there was more sound than substance to the Minutemen.

Some of them put on a highly publicized field maneuver in California in 1963, but otherwise they seemed more often sensed than sighted. A week or so be-

search warrants, found three pipe bombs, two grenades and "a number of rifles."

At about the same time the city police, sometimes accompanied by state troopers and policemen from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, began other raids. One of these, in Syracuse, led to the seizure of firearms and field equipment.

The police, according to Mr. Hentel, have obtained many search warrants and are looking for files and records as well as weapons.

The District Attorney said that the reason the investigation was centered in Queens was that the police had discovered that the "focus of leadership" in the plans by the Minutemen seemed to be there.

#### Investigation Continuing

The prosecutor refused to say how the prisoners had obtained the guns or whether they had admitted they were Minutemen. He said he could not discuss such matters because the investigation was continuing and had not yet gone before the grand jury.

The reserve Special Force outfit on Staten Island that the Minutemen were said to have tried to infiltrate is airborne and trained some 800 men last year. It is headed by Lieut. Col. Joseph McCrane of Rancocas, N. J.

The prisoners booked yester-

## Founded on Secrecy and More Sound Than Fury

fore last year's New Jersey elections, for instance, the State Attorney General ordered an investigation of what he said was an armed group "similar" to the Minutemen. But if his investigators ever came upon a rifle-toting extremist, the fact has never come out in public.

#### Manufacturer of Compounds

Mr. DePugh himself proved a willing and articulate subject for interviews. He heads his own company, Biolab Products, a manufacturer of compounds for animals, in Norborne, Mo. The way he told it, the shadowy nature of the Minuteman structure was deliberate.

"A definite chain of command is a weakness in a strictly underground movement," he said once.

And, on another occasion: "All we ask is the name and address of the unit leader—and that can be a pseudonym. I have no way of knowing exactly how many members we have, except that each group is supposed to have a minimum of five and a maximum of 15. So I strike an average of eight."

He claimed in 1961 that total membership was about 25,000, in 40 states. But in California, where a Minuteman spokesman said there were 2,000 on call, state investigators said there were a few hundred at best.

Still, the California Attorney General, Thomas C. Lynch, issued a report in 1963 calling the Minutemen and four other extremist groups "a threat to the peace and security" of the state. Minutemen are expected to

in the light in the country is taken over.

"We are making good use of the proven military axiom that the best defense is a good offense," says a pamphlet, to prospective recruits. "The bomb shelters, which we are building, are not merely holes to hide in. Each one is being well camouflaged, stocked and fortified to serve as a 'center of resistance' for a future underground army."

The pamphlet also suggests that the Minutemen hope to forestall a take-over instead of simply keeping in trim to overthrow the overtakers.

#### Mao's Book Quoted

Among their aims, according to the pamphlet, are:

"... To resist and expose the spread of Communist influence and propaganda within our own national boundaries... to investigate by means of our own secret memberships the possible infiltration of Communist sympathizers into American organizations of government, business, labor, religion and education... to detect and expose waste, corruption or disloyalty in any American enterprise or activity that might subvert the defense effort... to resist by all legal means the passage of laws which regulate the private ownership of firearms or which detract from the individual's ability to defend his own family and personal property..."

Mr. DePugh quoted Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese Communist leader, in a copyrighted 1961 essay on "The Guerrilla."

Mao, he said, had put it this way: "Enemy attacks, we retreat; enemy halts, we harass; enemy tires, we attack; enemy retreats, we pursue."

Bayshore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Joseph Russo, 20, brother of Salvatore, truck driver, of 20 Henry Street, Bethpage, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson and Sullivan Law violation.

Frank Ferraro, 29, milkman, 150-27 115th Street, Ozone Park; conspiracy to commit arson and Sullivan Law violation.

John Knoetgen, 44, a mold maker, 20 Bailey Avenue, Bay Shore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Daniel P. Byrne, 24, mechanic, 35 Catherine Avenue, Franklin Square, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

Martin Skiffington, 26, mechanic, 60-12 67th Avenue, Flushing, Queens; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

William Garrett, 34, a landscape artist, 2118 Howell Street, Bellmore, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson, Sullivan Law violation.

Warren T. Baldwin, 31, plasterer, 672 Sylvan Avenue, Bayport, L. I.; conspiracy to commit arson.

#### World War II Mines Dug Up

KNOKKE, Belgium (UPI)—Belgian Army engineers have removed four German World War II antitank mines in a wood near this popular seaside resort. The engineers estimate that hundreds of thousands of people must have walked over the mines.



ARK TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1966.

## by Rightists to 'Devastate' 3 Private Camps



1 Queens



# New Party Breaks Ground for 1968

By Gene Kozicharow  
Special to The Washington Post

KANSAS CITY, July 4 — The Patriotic Party, a new ultraconservative political organization, ended its first national convention today with the appointment of regional and state chairmen who will lay groundwork for the 1968 and 1972 elections.

About 400 persons representing 47 states and about 30 militant anti-Communist groups responded to the convention call by Robert Bolivar DePugh, leader of the militant Minutemen and self-styled national chairman of the Party. About 350 reportedly signed up in the new party.

DePugh, who has been investigated by a grand jury in Jackson County, Mo., is awaiting trial on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and illegal possession of bombs and bombshells discovered by police in the Minutemen's headquarters in Independence, Mo.

He is free on \$2000 bond.

The convention is the first step in the creation of a party to rid the nation of what members call "the Communist conspiracy." DePugh explained the Party and its platform in a pamphlet called "Blueprint for Victory."

Flanked by two bodyguards, DePugh addressed the convention in a conference hall of the U-Smile Motor Hotel. He welcomed the shirtsleeved crowd then called for a united conservative political front against the "traitors" and "parasites" that control the Nation.

"Dead patriots from many wars are troubled by the knowledge that the Nation for which they died is led by

traitors and infested by parasites," he said.

DePugh was interrupted several times by standing ovations, rebel yells and loud "amens."

He announced the motto of the new party: "To the restoration of our constitutional Republic, to the defense of individual freedom and to protection of our American heritage, we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

It is the same pledge taken by the signers of the Declaration of Independence, he said.

The Rev. Kenneth Goff, Denver, Colo., a self-proclaimed turncoat Communist and now leader of the militant Soldiers of the Cross, said he would shoulder arms if the country was invaded. He also received a standing ovation.

A representative of the Committee of the Spirit of '76, who wished to remain anonymous, expounded for over an hour about "the international Communist conspiracy" and the destructive activity of "near-sighted Fabians" who wish to destroy the American way of life.

In a move reminiscent of the American Communist Party's convention last week in New York, DePugh asked

press photographers from taking pictures of individuals and confine themselves to overall shots of the audience.

Representatives of the Rev. Billy James Hargis's Christian Crusade, Fred Schwartz's Anti-Communist Crusade and the Rev. Carl C. McIntyre's Twentieth Century Reformation Hour attended the convention.

Members of the John Birch Society, Young Americans for Freedom and various other

conservative groups were also permit more than a token resistance," DePugh said. spokesman said.

On both days of the solemn, no-ballyhoo convention, the sessions were opened with a blessing asked by the Rev. Robert P. Le Roy, head of the Kansas City (Kan.) Christian School, which has purposes similar to those of the Minutemen.

He also led the audience in singing the National Anthem and "America the Beautiful" and in the pledge to the Flag. During the pledge, he asked those present to use a military hand salute, rather than the civilian hand-over-heart style.

The party aims primarily to elect state and Federal officials by 1972.

"I think I'm on safe ground when I say that beyond 1972 the social apparatus that now controls our country will not

## New Tokyo Airport

Reuters

TOKYO, July 4.—Tokyo announced plans today to build a new international airport, three times larger than the present one. It will cost 130 billion yen (\$364 million) and be located 30 miles from Tokyo. Work will start within five years.

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Wash. City - 6/15/65

## From The Work Bench

By Clarence Mitchell

### Dynamite Not Needed For Deer

The discovery of dynamite and weapons that have a military potential in Prince William County, Va., means that the pawn shop operators who once were content to peddle their forty-five automatics and switch blade knives in the neighborhoods of the poor have gone big time. Why waste effort making a sales pitch to a two-bit punk, when larger operators are in the market for bigger and more expensive killing devices.

Almost a stone's throw from the capital the police found enough explosives to blow up the Senate and House. Apparently, some one was giving special instructions on how to put bullets through the doors and windows of passenger automobiles. It is not shocking to discover that all of the military hardware was cached on a quiet rural site, but it is disturbing to know that all of this kind of lethal equipment is being disposed of over the counter.

This particular find was supposed to be the property of the so-called Minute Men. They are publicized as an upright group citizens who want to be ready to spring to the defense of our country if the Communists take over. Just who is a Communist and what constitutes taking over is not clear. There is a strong suspicion that in an emergency the Minute Men would be so uncertain about identities that the toll of friends killed by them would be greater than the number of enemies eliminated by them.

### Many like to play soldier

For as long as I can remember there have been groups that prided themselves on being skilled in warfare. Most of them do not do anything more harmful than carry shining swords and out-moded rifles. Some like to ride majestically on prancing horses, others get their kicks out of gorgeous uniforms with dozens of medals. Thus it seems evident that we will always be plagued with those who like to play soldier.

Very little can be done to stamp out groups with military inclinations, but much can be done to halt the

sale of destructive weapons which any idiot would know could be used by gangsters, revolutionaries or just plain kooks. Why should it be possible for anyone to buy machine guns, mortars and dynamite without being able to explain what will be done with such weapons.

Congress has been considering legislation that would restrict the free flow of deadly weapons, but powerful lobbies have worked to prevent its enactment. Those who have opposed this legislation have been loosely classified as sportsmen, who do not want to give up their right to buy various kinds of hunting equipment.

### Lethal weapons on display

When one walks down the main street of almost any tough neighborhood in a big city, the sight of weapons that can be used to inflict wounds or kill humans is appalling. Huge knives are supposed to be on display as Boy Scout equipment.

Brass knuckles, black jacks, other types of skull crushers are attractively arranged in windows.

It would seem elementary that at some point an otherwise harmless fellow would take a look at these displays and decide that he should purchase a nice pair of brass knuckles for his birthday or a pocket sized revolver "just for protection".

In time the purchaser decides he will get a little practice by cracking the jaw of someone during an argument or he may be a little short of cash and decide to use the revolver to stage a hold-up.

When the crime takes place the police make an arrest, the accused is put on trial, the weapons are confiscated and the offender goes to jail. Nothing happens to the fellow who made the sale. He is free to go right on dispensing his deadly merchandise.

### Congress has duty to act

Now this same pattern appears in the handling of the big weapons that can be used to blast away the front of a man's house or to terrorize whole communities with full-scale mock battles or maybe the real thing. Congress cannot afford to be as lenient with this problem as most cities cannot afford to be as lenient with this problem as most cities have been in controlling the sale of smaller weapons.

There is no mystery about where military weapons can be purchased and there is no doubt that those who sell them make a handsome profit. Congress should forbid such sales and there should be rigid enforcement of the law. Nobody needs a machine gun or a stick of dynamite to hunt ducks or deer.



# Member Reports Minutemen Now Peddling Race Hatred

By JACK KELSO

Star Staff Writer

Evidence is growing that the super patriot Minutemen are beginning to attract race haters as well as ultra right-wing anti-Communists.

A report of this twist on the target of the would-be guerrilla organization came yesterday from a member of the Washington area unit of the Minutemen.

Similar reports have circulated in government quarters that the Minutemen movement was starting to attract the traditional "haters."

The member of the local group said the leader has told his followers of the threat of a "black United Nations" that would join forces with American Negroes to "take over" the United States.

## Fear Red Takeover

The stated objective of the National Minutemen Organization is to form small guerrilla warfare units that would spring into action in the event of what they fear is a future Communist takeover of this country.

The discovery of a guerrilla warfare training site set up by the Washington area unit was disclosed in The Star on Thursday.

Local authorities, working on information supplied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, confiscated a large cache of dynamite at the site, situated in deep woods in Prince William County, Va., a little over 20 miles from Washington.

The group member who described the leader's philosophy said he personally had

made four training expeditions to the area for instruction in close combat and guerrilla warfare.

## Guards Carry Carbines

During these training sessions and at all meetings, he said, the leader is always protected by two carbine-carrying bodyguards—"one in front of him and one in back" because "no-body trusts anybody."

The "chief bodyguard" was described by the member as a 21-year-old who threatened to kill his mother, moved out of the family home and "punched his father in the stomach" before he left.

The member said that the youth, since joining the organization has "lost about 30 pounds," been extremely nervous and irritable and unable to sustain a conversation for more than a few seconds—symptoms commonly associated with the use of narcotics.

## Narcotics Use Claimed

The member said he personally has seen a few other members of the unit under the influence of drugs, and that the leader has shown him what he said were narcotics to be used by trusted followers "in an emergency."

The nature of such an "emergency" was never spelled out by the leader, the member said.

The "chief bodyguard's" arsenal, the member said, consists of two carbines, a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, a .357 magnum rifle and two Springfield rifles, with about 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

According to the member, the

leader has brainwashed his bodyguard and other members of the band about the threat he says the black race poses.

## Mixes Literature

The leader has done this by mixing articles clipped from reputable newspapers and magazines with inflammatory and racist literature, the member said.

"Trustworthiness" is stressed by the leader, the member said, adding that proof of this is tested with something the leader calls an "E-meter."

"He puts an attachment on your head to measure brain wave impulses. It's something like a lie detector test," the member explained.

Any skills that members have are utilized, the member said, no matter how illegal they might be.

The member cited the case of a convicted car thief who was assigned to steal equipment needed by the unit and said a service man was told to steal military goods.

He said also that the leader's personal stock of weapons includes a Thompson sub-machine gun.

Federal authorities were checking to determine whether there was any violation of federal statutes on ownership of automatic weapons.

## Judo Classes Held

Another member of the organization is an Alexandria judo instructor who said he has been teaching guerrilla warfare tactics to the Minutemen group.

The judo instructor is Mario Garcia Kohly Jr. of the 1100 block of South 18th Street, Arlington. His judo-karate school is in the 3900 block of Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria.

Kohly first denied knowledge of the Minutemen but later admitted membership during an interview.

But Kohly insisted he was not the leader of the unit, which boasts 12 to 15 members. The group started at the end of February and got fully underway by mid-March.

## Mountain Exercises

Their "military exercises" have been conducted in the woods of Prince William County, near Occoquan, and in the mountains of Reading, Pa.

Kohly said he conducts his "classes" in "wooded areas where guerrilla warfare could go on." He said the instruction is in target practice, hand-to-hand combat and techniques for disarming a man holding a gun or a knife.

As for the 36 sticks of dynamite removed from the Prince William woods, Kohly said: "I don't know what use the dynamite may have or why the Minutemen would want it."

An American-born Cuban citizen, Kohly said he became interested in the Minutemen while teaching judo to Cuban rebels in Miami. He joined the organization, he said, to "teach them what I knew and to learn what they knew."

*Minutemen* 18

# He Trained Minutemen, Judo Instructor Says

By JAMES M. CORAM  
Star Staff Writer

An Alexandria judo instructor said he has been teaching guerrilla warfare tactics to the first known unit of Minutemen in this part of the country.

Mario Garcia Kohly Jr. said that as recently as two weeks ago, he conducted maneuvers for Minutemen at a close-combat course, which he said "may have been south of Washington."

He would not say whether this was the site in Prince William County, Va., where authorities uncovered a guerrilla warfare training school and a cache of dynamite Thursday.

Prince William County Deputy Sheriff Bobby Cornell said "there are no further leads to be investigated at this time" in connection with the discovery of the training site, and the FBI added that it did not plan to pursue the case further.

Cornell said that if any new leads should turn up "the investigation would be resumed." He also said that there are no grounds at present for filing criminal charges against anyone in the case.

## Admits Membership

Kohly first denied knowledge of the Minutemen, a right-wing extremist group which encourages private ownership of firearms for possible use against Communists, saying the only Minutemen he knew of were those in 1776.

Later, however, he admitted membership but insisted he was



MARIO G. KOHLY Jr.  
—Star Staff Photo

not the leader of the 12 to 15 member cell which has been holding field exercises in deep woods near Occoquan, Va., and in the mountains near Reading, Pa.

A Reading newspaper editor, Jerry Kobrin of the Berks County Record, said contingents of Minutemen train every Sunday at three sites near the city. His paper published a story about the training locations Thursday.

But Pennsylvania state police refused to confirm or deny the story or to answer any questions about it. "This is intelligence information," said Sgt. Robert Schuck. "What we know we're not at liberty to reveal."

Kobrin said the Minutemen

have been training with mortars, bazookas, hand grenades, and dynamite.

An FBI spokesman said that it is not illegal to possess such weapons as bazookas, hand grenades and mortars.

He said they are not covered in Federal firearms statutes, which do, however, prohibit private ownership of machine guns and any sawed-off firearm which could be concealed on the person.

## Convoy Reported

According to Kobrin, the Minutemen unit in Reading includes at least two members of the American Nazi Party. He said the men assemble on Sunday mornings at a suburban shopping center, then drive in convoys to the Blue Mountains, to an old limestone quarry within a mile of the city or to an abandoned strip-mining location in adjoining Schuylkill County.

Kohly opened his Alexandria judo school in February. The Minuteman unit was formed at the end of that month, government sources said.

He said he taught hand-to-hand combat at both the Virginia and Pennsylvania sites to "interested young men." He said not everyone present was a member of the Minutemen, but "there may have been some Minutemen among them."

Asked about the dynamite removed from Prince William County, he said, "I don't know what use the dynamite may have or why Minutemen would want it."

Kohly said he conducts his "classes" in "wooded areas where guerrilla warfare could go on." He said the instruction consists of target practice, hand-to-hand combat, and techniques for disarming a man holding a knife or gun.

## "Sort of Picnic"

He said there was no need for the public to get alarmed about the "combat" outings. He described a recent one as "sort of a picnic" in which five or six men went to a National Park near Quantico, Va., for training.

"The only thing we had along was a rubber knife," Kohly said.

An American-born Cuban citizen, Kohly said he became interested in the Minutemen while teaching judo to Cuban rebels in Miami. He joined the organization, he said, "to teach them what I knew and to learn what they knew."

Kohly said he does not offer free judo lessons to Minutemen who attend his judo-karate school at 3925 Mount Vernon Ave. in Alexandria, nor does he attempt to influence his customers about joining.

He lives with his Cuban wife and two sons at 1121 S. 18th St. in Arlington.

Minutemen  
19



# The Far-Right Groups Pl

By BERNARD GAVZER  
AP Staff Writer

NORBORNE, MO. — Today in the United States there are hundreds of people—perhaps thousands—who say they are ready at a minute's notice to take up arms as guerrillas.

They aren't really worried about an invasion but a Communist take-over from within, without a foreign soldier so much as setting a toe on American soil.

These people—grocers, mechanics, salesmen, laborers, shop owners, housewives—are theoretically action-ready. At the proper signal, they supposedly would be able to:

- Round up potential enemies. They already have secret lists of "subversives" — a classification which might include the most ordinary citizen if, for example, he was publicly known to support the United Nations.

- Go underground and bear arms. This could mean going into the trenches against an invasion force, but most likely being a soldier in a guerrilla force opposing a Communist take-over.

- Assassinate Communist leaders or any powerful figures working with Communists.

- Form a care-taker government (if victorious against insurrections) or an underground government (a sort of government-in-exile) until a constitutional government could re-establish the United States as a constitutional republic.

## Collect Weapons

To be able to do these things, they now go on field maneuvers, have regular target practice, collect stocks of weapons and ammunition, watch neighbors and strangers and get instruction in such techniques as karate.

These are the self-styled soldiers of the paramilitary right. Paramilitary means they profess to be nonmilitary but nevertheless have an underlying military pattern.

Fitting this description are such organizations as The Minutemen, with headquarters in Norborne, Mo.; the California Rangers, operating in the Los Angeles metropolitan area; the National States Rights Party, Birmingham, Ala.; the Paul Revere Associated Yeomen, Inc., New Orleans, and the Counter-Insurgency Council, Collinsville, Ill. All describe themselves as patriot groups.

These organizations have been dismissed by their critics as havens for malcontents. But to their supporters, these citizens are the spiritual heirs of the men at Lexington and Concord—the citizen militiamen of the American Revolution.

## Infiltrated by FBI

Figures as to strength, details as to effectiveness, information as to activities are difficult to come by and open to argument.

The FBI has reported, for example, that it has infiltrated extremist groups, including The Minutemen, which reportedly is the largest of the right wing activists. Says the FBI:

"We have penetrated this organization and our sources are keeping us advised of developments. Its numerical strength is probably greatly exaggerated."

Whatever the numerical strength, in California it was considered sufficient enough to be opposed. The state enacted a law banning private armies.

"These organizations—embracing violent and political doctrines—are not content to merely advocate their ideas. Rather, they purposefully accumulate stores of military weapons and materiel. They train to engage in guerrilla warfare and sabotage—at a time, in a place, and in a manner chosen by them," said California Atty. Gen. Thomas C. Lynch in supporting anti-paramilitary legislation. He said such a law was needed to protect the state from "the threat . . . posed by private armies."

## Described as Hoax

To the American Rifleman, published by the National Rifle Assn., reports of a private army are all a hoax. In a September editorial, it said:

"By lies and insinuations, coupled with exaggerated presentations of minor incidents involving firearms, the American public has been led to believe that private armies are being formed by 'fanatics' and 'extremists.' It is alleged that these people are being supplied with guns and ammunition by the U.S. government through the director of civilian marksmanship. This is not true."

In an effort to take some measure of these groups, Rep. Charles Joelson of Paterson, N.J., has been gathering data, reportedly with the possibility of launching a congressional investigation. One investigation, directed by Atty. Gen. Arthur Sills, already is under way in New Jersey. It started following reports of a secret firing range in the hill region in the northwest section of the state.

Stores of weapons and explosives, as well as evidence of field encampments, have been uncovered from the San Diego area, to Shiloh, Ill., to Virginia, to New Jersey.

## Includes Other Groups

The paramilitary, of course, takes in a number of groups other than those already mentioned. The Fruit of Islam, an arm of the Black Muslims, is among them. So is the American Nazi Party.

But perhaps the best organized, and certainly the best known, is The Minutemen, which admits its brand of conservatism is so special that the John Birch Society advises conservatives to stay away because it is too extreme.

To view The Minutemen, it is necessary to visit Norborne, a dusty little farm town of 950 that is about 70 miles east of Kansas City.

It is here that Robert Bolivar DePugh, 42, has his veterinary drug business, Biolab Corp., and where Bob DePugh goes, so goes the business of The Minutemen.

He is a founder and the national leader and philosopher and strategist of the movement.

## Already Underground

"The Minutemen is unique," he says, "because it is one of the few patriot groups in history to go underground before the enemy takes over."

"Most of the others in history formed after a take-over. This is when it is difficult to gather supplies, get weapons, identify sympathizers, recruit members, establish communications, get transport and set up headquarters."

What need is there for such groups since the nation already has the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, National Guard, as well as state, county



ROBERT BOLIVAR  
Founder of T

and municipal police, and such investigative agencies as the FBI and CIA?

Bob DePugh answers:

"I do not believe there will be open and conventional warfare. The armed forces might be adequate in such an event and we could supply help by identifying enemy sympathizers and conspirators. But the Communists have long been at work gaining control over the men who will say how and when atom bombs will be used, the men who would press the buttons to put the armed forces into action. Since World War II, the Communists have taken over 20 nations and only one by military conquest."

"By developing a strong underground movement such as The Minutemen we eliminate the idea of a peaceful surrender to the Communists. By doing this now, we are putting our government on notice that we will not tolerate a peaceful surrender and if such a thing is attempted, our government will be caught right in the middle."

## Already in World War III

By DePugh's reckoning, America already is in World War III. Instead of Soviet troops warring over American soil, he sees a

sinister take-over claiming that I velt, Truman, Kennedy and John contributed to the Communists open take-over years.

On what does diction?

"On the information gathered and analyzed," answers The Minutemen confidential and secret cause "we have major agencies: the government, and CIA."

The FBI dismisses as fantasies.

But the FBI organizations such as men and others. ment people are basically on the are not merely out political power with a potential chaos.

## The Time for A

How will the know the time would The Minutemen hands, for exact time to take



# Man to Save the Nation



—Associated Press

ROBERT BOLIVAR DEPUGH  
of the Minutemen

er from within, Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. He expects an attack from 6 to 10

the base this pre-

mation we have analysis of this man, DePugh. He says he has access to concrete material being infiltrated every department of government, including the FBI

issues such claims

keeps an eye on such as The Minute-So do law enforcement across the country, premise that these people with a far-point of view, but ideal for triggering

action

paramilitary groups for action? How Minutemen teams and people, recognize the the trenches, to

zero in on some alleged subversive, to take command of a radio station? Would DePugh give the signal?

"No," he says. "Our coordinators and band leaders are so well-trained they would not need to be told. We don't want people who need to be instructed. They would know just as a master chess player knows what to do. When there are certain positions and situations, there can be only one move. Of course, in the event of an invasion, it would be obvious. But that wouldn't mean that we would immediately take up arms. There is the principle of deliberate delay. An open move too soon could be disastrous."

## Sabotage Technique

In The Minutemen order of things, a correspondence training course and field training ultimately brings assignments from the movement leaders. Some of these are described in Minutemen literature. An undercover agent of the California State Department of Justice, according to Atty. Gen. Lynch, reported some of the things discussed during Minutemen field exercises in the San Diego countryside last Aug. 28-29.

Harassment of leftwingers, Communist sympathizers and Commu-

nists, the agent reported, was to be accomplished by pouring gasoline in their swimming pools, making middle-of-the-night telephone calls, sowing roofing tacks in parking areas of Communist meetings, placing prankster-type bombs (which smoke and whistle) in automobiles, and joining in leftwing-inspired peace marches as a sympathizer while wearing dirty clothing and behaving as obnoxiously as possible.

The agent also reported that sabotage and assassination techniques were on the agenda. These included the planting of dynamite in an automobile exhaust pipe so that it would explode in about six minutes after the car was started, and using a bow and arrow to send explosives into otherwise inaccessible areas.

As for security and survival of individual Minutemen, the agent said one field leader strongly recommended keeping a footlocker ready for any emergency. The man was quoted as saying that at the time of President Kennedy's assassination he was awakened by his wife, got dressed, burned some items, took some items with him, had the telephone company disconnect his telephone and was gone within 12 minutes. There was no explanation of why he felt he had to take to the hills.

All these things certainly fit into the grand plan as conceived by Robert Bolivar DePugh. During some recent interviews at his business headquarters in Norborne, at one of the Minutemen houses in the town, and at the Minutemen's first headquarters in Independence, Mo., DePugh spoke of the founding of the organization, its membership and some of its views.

## Family Helps Out

There was nothing in his manner or voice, whether he spoke of assassination or of disenchantment with political parties, to betray passion or emotion. He has been described as Lincolnian, an illusion which does not displease him but also does not flatter him. With certain shadows on his face, he fits the description because of the brooding depth of his brown eyes, his slightly aquiline nose, and the peninsulas of baldness stretching up from his forehead.

The warehouse-like one story building housing Biolab Corp. also doubles as a Minutemen office. Much of the organization's correspondence comes here, in pre-posted envelopes addressed to Biolab, not to The Minutemen. The office is very modest in furnishings. Though there are modern grille light fixtures, bare bulbs connected by a wire light the front office. DePugh's office is behind this, with a small desk in the center of the book-lined room. One of his six children was present for a while, doing some chores, and DePugh says his family helps out in many ways in the business of The Minutemen. "They are 100 percent behind me," he states.

DePugh asserts his Minutemen activity has impaired his veterinary drug business.

"I've neglected the business," he says, "and it has dropped from \$400,000 volume a year to \$200,000. But I would not do different than I have."

There was a wide range of material covered in two days of in-

terviews with DePugh. Here are his comments on some of the main topics:

## Started in 1960

How it began—"In June 1960 there were 10 sportsmen, myself included, who were at a small lake in Missouri. We were organizing a duck hunting club. At the time, someone mentioned the international crisis, and one of the men said jokingly, 'Well, if the Russians invade us, we can come up here and fight on as a guerrilla band.' Later we did think seriously about what we could do. And that is how we began."

Recruiting—"For example, we might circulate a petition calling for House Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Kansas City. We'd then use the names to invite people to attend a karate course. No one would know that it was under our sponsorship. We'd observe the people at the course for several weeks and spot potential members. We also get potential members from such organizations as the Paul Revere Associated Yeomen."

Screening of members—"A new member pays an initiation fee of \$5 which includes a subscription to 'On Target' (the organization's monthly publication). For the first four months, he goes through a correspondence course, in which he has to do selected reading and answer test questions. It is rather tedious work. It takes a person with patience and persistence. But this helps weed out crackpots who might go off half-cocked and shoot someone. The nuts usually don't finish the program."

## Own Their Weapons

Membership strength—"I do not know the exact figure at this moment. The reason is that membership cards are distributed to our coordinators in blocks of from 10 to 100. A coordinator may have 100 cards but have actually signed on only one member. The cards are now in the 68,000 range. To the question if it is correct that I have previously estimated 25,000, yes. There are probably more."

Weapons stockpiling—"Minutemen are urged to own their own weapons and equipment. Nothing is owned by the organization. What we are interested in now is not stockpiling machine guns but in getting the tools to make the weapons. It is better to buy one lathe than a dozen machine guns. Do you know how easy it is to make a submachine gun? It is very simple. We want to be able to make every nut and screw for everything we need."

Political philosophy—"There is no political group on the right which has the answer to the battle between individualism and collectivism. The conservatives who say that the answer is to take over the Republican Party are wrong because they also have a vested interest in bureaucracy. This is why the Birch Society is wrong. The Birch Society opposes The Minutemen and says that we are extreme. We think a new order is needed, that it cannot be done by capturing an existing political party. Without the Republican Party, Barry Goldwater (who was indirectly supported by The Minutemen in the 1964 elections) would have been just another storekeeper."

STARTED  
IN  
1960



ADL

21

## Arms Cache Found

# Minutemen Maneuvers News to Landowner

MANASSAS—A Prince William County landowner was unaware that the Minutemen were operating a guerilla warfare training school on his property, County Sheriff Ralph G. Shumate said Friday.

The secret training base and a cache of dynamite were found Thursday by authorities of Prince William County, on information furnished by the FBI. The base was found in a wooded area west of Occoquan, near a reservoir of the Alexandria Water Co.

Shumate refused to release the name of the landowner.

**THE MINUTEMEN**, self-styled patriots who say they fear a Communist takeover in the country, have stirred considerable controversy by training armed guerrilla units.

Some of the Minutemen groups, notably in the Western states, are armed with automatic weapons, morars and other heavy weapons in addition to rifles.

The site included a close combat course where trainees could learn combat tactics and maneuvers. Sources said the course recently was used by Minutemen and that the dynamite was hidden at that time. There was enough of the high explosive in the dump to destroy a large building the sources said.

It was understood that the Washington area Minutemen unit was formed in February and has from 12 to 15 members.

The training area showed evidence of intensive rifle fire. It (See GUERRILLAS, Page 3)

## Guerrillas

(Continued from Page One)

was littered with beer cans and trash peppered with bullet holes.

**THE SITE** was raided by Prince William County Sheriff Ralph G. Shumate, a deputy and Virginia State Police Lt. Charles E. Nicholls. When the explosives were discovered, Army demolition experts were called from Ft. McNair in Washington.

Thirty-six sticks of dynamite were found in containers buried in the ground. After determining that it was safe to remove the explosives, the demolition men took them away to be blown up at a safe ground.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover testified recently at a congressional hearing that the Minutemen organization "claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the government of the United States in the event the government is taken over by the Communists."

The training at the combat course included exercises in guerrilla-type tactics.

No Va. Sun  
6-12-65

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# Minutemen Dynamite Seized In Virginia

## FBI And Police Find 'Guerrilla Warfare' Site; Violation Of Federal Law Doubted

By ADAM CLYMER  
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, June 11—FBI agents and Virginia police seized a dynamite cache at a bullet-riddled Minutemen training camp 25 miles southwest of here yesterday afternoon.

No arrests were made in connection with the raid on the right-wing organization's "guerrilla warfare" site. An FBI spokesman said it appeared no Federal law had been violated. Both the FBI investigation and an inquiry by Prince William county police were reported continuing, however. The raid was announced today.

### Demolition Experts Called

The site was used by a local chapter of the organization which says it is dedicated to counter-revolution against a possible Communist takeover of the United States Government. This chapter, apparently the first publicized in the East, is said to have about fifteen members from Virginia and Washington.

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, recently told a House appropriations subcommittee the FBI had penetrated the Minutemen. Sources indicated the local chapter had been infiltrated by the FBI. They called in local police because there was no evidence of Federal law violation, it was said.

Some 36 sticks of dynamite, 54 nonelectric firing caps and 6 electric caps, along with 50 feet of safety fuse, were found shallowly

buried in deep woods, Ralph G. Shumate, Prince William county sheriff, announced. He was accompanied on the raid by a deputy, two FBI agents and a Virginia State policeman.

After finding the dynamite, they summoned Army explosives demolition experts from nearby Fort Belvoir and from Fort McNair in Washington, military personnel identified some of the dynamite as more volatile than standard strength, and estimated it was enough to blow up a large building. The dynamite was taken to Fort Belvoir and exploded.

### On Private Property

The site itself was located west of Occoquan, about three quarters of a mile off Route 641. Beer cans and trash litter the sides of a logging road in the hardwood timber forest, and have been shattered in target practice. Many trees along the road have been splintered in the weekend drills.

The land, near a reservoir, is private property. Its owner was reported unaware of the use that had been made of it.

Sources reported the Minutemen, who supply their own small arms, move up the logging road and open fire when they see any of their improvised targets. They also are said to simulate other military training operations, such as trying to sneak up on one of

(Continued, Page 5, Column 6)



MINUTEMEN DYNAMITE CACHE—Army demolition experts from Fort McNair inspect a cache of Minutemen dynamite discovered in the woods in northern Virginia's Prince William County. The cache area was reported to be a guerrilla warfare training site.

## Minutemen Dynamite Hoard Seized By FBI In Virginia

By ADAM CLYMER  
(Continued from Page 1)

their group and overpower him as he guards an outpost.

The FBI apparently brought in local police to get rid of the explosives after its own inquiry failed to indicate any Federal law violation. There is a Federal statute barring interstate transportation of high explosives when they are used or intended to be used to blow up schools, churches or businesses.

### Strongest In The West

This statute has brought the FBI into civil rights bombings cases, but apparently there was no indication that any such use was planned of the Minutemen's stock.

The organization is reported to be strongest in the West, and there have been accounts of stocks of arms built up by its members including mortars and other moderate-sized World War II surplus weapons. Besides the FBI's probe, a study by the House Un-American Activities Committee of the Minutemen is under way.

Hoover told the appropriations subcommittee in March that the group's head, Robert DePugh, "has advised special agents of the FBI that the prime purpose of the Minutemen is intelligence gatherings, in order that they can alert the American people to the efforts being made to socialize the United States. He has stated that many

Minutemen are infiltrating 'Liberal and left-wing' organizations for this purpose."

The FBI director reported that "DePugh has also said that the Minutemen as an organization do not buy or store arms, but individual members maintain whatever arms and ammunition they purchase with their own personal funds 'which is their constitutional right.' He has stated that his organization will stress 'infiltration' of opposing groups, and turn to armed revolt only as a last resort."

Hoover did not indicate very serious concern over the group.

"Our investigation indicates this organization is a loose federation with each unit acting independently and lacking any real central control. Its numerical strength is probably greatly exaggerated. DePugh is the only known leader of the group. He is, therefore, its sole spokesman and some of the things he says are, indeed, hard to believe," Hoover said, adding: "There is little real evidence that the Minutemen are anything more than essentially a paper organization with just enough followers over the country so they can occasionally attract a headline, usually because of their preoccupation with violence, or weapons of war."

Balto. Sun  
6-12-65



# Minutemen Could Give Lessons To James Bond in Super Secrecy

By James C. Hyatt  
Special to The Washington Post

HOUSTON—For techniques of super secrecy, James Bond might take lessons from the "Minutemen," the ultra-rightists training for the day "when Americans will once again fight in the streets for their lives and their liberty."

A recent letter to their home office, P.O. Box 68, Norborne, Mo., brought this packet:

- A plain outer envelope, postmarked from Richmond, Mo., with no return address.
- An inner assortment of material wrapped in a heavy gray sheet of mimeograph paper to prevent "your mail from being read by infrared cameras."

A membership application form, "Classification: SECRET," and a return stamped envelope addressed to "Biolab Corporation, Norborne, Mo."

On a letterhead marked with the outline of a 1776 Minuteman with long rifle in one hand, Robert B. DePugh, National Coordinator, advised by form letter:

"... Our members have long ago learned the futility of trying to 'wake people up' and of writing to disinterested Congressmen. We are the only organization in America that is actively fighting communism right now.

"This is not a job for amateurs. It requires not only dedication to the cause of liberty but the willingness to study and train until we reach a degree of skill by which our members can compete with the Communists on their own terms."

By sending in the application and \$5, applicants may expect to be accepted as "provisional members." Full members must complete a "correspondence training course in the scientific principles of underground warfare."

In a separate notice to prospective members the Minutemen advise:

"Newspapers and television have pictured the Minutemen as a bunch of crackpots running around shooting off their guns without any idea of why they were doing it. This is exactly the type of person we don't want in our organization.

"We fully expect that we will have to fight in one way or another before victory is achieved... There is no place in this organization for bunglers, playboys or lukewarm conservatives. If you join the Minutemen, there might easily come a time that your life would depend on how completely some other member had learned his job."

Dues are \$2 per month. "Every member will be expected to buy his own gun, ammunition and other equipment."

In "practical security measures," new applicants are told:

- "Use deceptive measures," by subscribing to left wing periodicals or getting on "peace movement" mailing lists. "This will keep the postal inspectors guessing as to which side you are really on." Search this left-wing literature "for names and addresses of fellow travelers and forwarding this information for our Central Intelligence files."

- Use two envelopes in sending mail. Avoid a return address on the outer envelope. Use opaque material between envelopes to avoid infrared cameras.

- Use mail boxes or post offices "where you are not known."

- Avoid telephone calls to headquarters or other members. "Prepare telephone codes ahead of time for future protection."

- In recruiting new members, "make sure he is not an infiltrator, before you identify yourself as a member of the organization."

A "short history" of the group says:

"Our diplomatic war against communism has already been lost by bunglers or traitors within our own Government..."

"... A pro-American Government could no longer be established by normal political means.

"... the minority vote blocks (sic), controlled labor unions, and corrupt political machines so completely monopolize the American political scene that there is no chance for the average American citizen to regain control of his own destiny at the ballot box."

They turned to guerrilla training, the history said, because guerrillas "can fight on for years, even for generations. Guerrilla bands can fight in the cities, country, forests, swamps, deserts or mountains. They are everywhere and yet nowhere. They strike without warning and vanish without a trace. They take away with them the arms, food and ammunition they will need to fight again another day."

Wash. Post  
6-12-65



# Minutemen Seem to Be Bad Shots

By JULIAN MORRISON

If a target picked up by newsmen yesterday in a Prince William County trash dump was used by a unit of the Minutemen as a firing range is any indication, the self-styled guerillas are pretty bad shots.

The target, made of part of a cardboard shipping carton, was found in a dump not far from the spot where FBI agents and Virginia police uncovered a cache of dynamite yesterday.

## HIDDEN DYNAMITE

The FBI said the dynamite was hidden there by members of a Minuteman unit the Bureau had infiltrated and that it had been brought there from West Virginia.

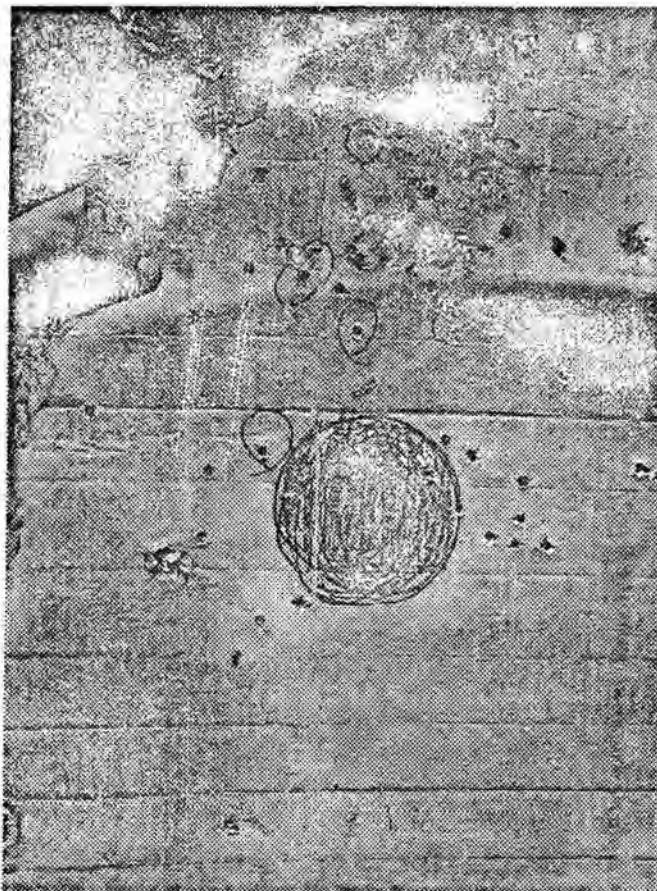
The 3000-acre tract of woods was said to be used by the Minutemen as a maneuver and training area but none of the residents of the area reached yesterday had heard of any unusual military-type activity in the vicinity.

Mrs. Margaret Lynn, who lives within a mile of the dynamite cache, said men and boys have been using the trash dump for years as a target range.

The only other shooting she ever heard, she said, was from the Quantico Marine Corps base several miles away in a different direction.

## SAW NOTHING

Other residents said they had never even heard of the Minuteman organization, had



A piece of cardboard with a black center used as a target. Most of the bullet holes are wide of the mark.

—News Photos by Lou Hollis

were made by that caliber of bullet.

The cardboard target contains 87 bullet holes, only five of which were inside a six-inch diameter circle marking the aiming point of the target.

The position of the target indicated that those who used it were firing from about 60 feet away.

## NO PLANS

A spokesman for the Prince William Real Estate Co., which owns the 3000-acre tract, knew nothing of the alleged Minutemen activity there. He said he had no plans to press charges of trespassing against the group, primarily, he said, because nobody has told him the

instances of trespassing and dumping on the property but nothing ever seems to be done about it," he said.



The bottom half of a discarded refrigerator riddled by marksmen. Beer cans nearby are also full of holes.

See following page  
for continuation  
of columns 1 and 2

Wash. Daily News  
6-12-65



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#### SAW NOTHING

Other residents said they had never even heard of the Minuteman organization, had never seen any organized armed group in the area, and confirmed Mrs. Lynn's account of target practice in the dump.

The area around the dump contains a number of empty boxes of .22 caliber ammunition and most of the bullet holes in the targets found yesterday

The cardboard target contains 87 bullet holes, only five of which were inside a six-inch diameter circle marking the aiming point of the target.

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He said he hoped the dynamite discovery would spur "a little more co-operation from the authorities" in policing the land in the future.

"We've had a number of knifing scrapes and many

nothing ever happened about it," he said.

JUNE 12, 1965

# Minutemen Explosives Found Here

## Dynamite Cache Buried in Woods In Prince William

A cache of dynamite has been found on a rural Virginia tract believed to have served as firing range and combat training range for a Washington area unit of the Minutemen.

Virginia State police and Prince William County authorities were directed to the wooded spot 20 miles from Washington by the FBI.

The FBI was reported to have infiltrated the right-wing, paramilitary group. An FBI spokesman said yesterday no violation of Federal law was found, so the matter was turned over to local officials.

FBI, State and County officers went to the 3000-acre tract, west of Occoquan and ¾ mile off Rte. 641 (Bridge Road), on Thursday and found the dynamite, shallowly buried and thinly covered with earth and brush.

### Dynamite Blown-up

Army demolition experts from Fort McNair and Fort Belvoir were called in. They removed 36 half-pound sticks of dynamite, 60 blasting caps and 50 feet of fuse from plastic-covered jars and boxes and blew up the lot later in the day at Fort Belvoir.

The investigators also found "some evidence at the scene of small-arms target practice," County Sheriff Ralph G. Shumate said. This evidence included spent cartridges, bullet-punctured refuse such as a car door and ripped tree trunks.

No sign of heavy weapon use was found, Shumate said. In other parts of the country the Minutemen have been known to gather weapons like machineguns, mortars and recoilless rifles. Headquartered in Norborne, Mo., and particularly active in California, the Minutemen claim to be readying for guerrilla warfare in event of a Communist "take-over" attempt.

### Corporation Property

Shumate said the tract on which the dynamite was discovered is owned privately by a corporation outside the County, but he would not identify the firm. He said the owners apparently were unaware of the cache or shooting.

The dynamite was said to have been purchased in West Virginia and Pennsylvania communities where the explosive is commonly sold for mining operations.

According to Army Capt. Frank W. Hackley of Fort McNair, some of the dynamite

See CACHE, A3, Col. 1

CACHE—From Page A1

# Minutemen Explosives Found Buried in Area

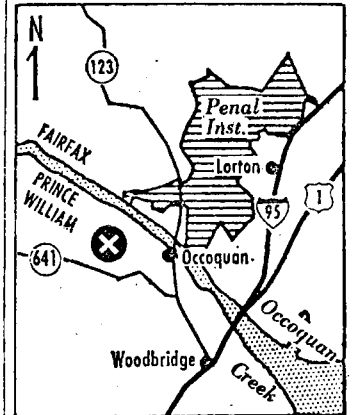
was 40 per cent filled with nitroglycerin and some 50 per cent—both what he called "medium velocity." He said the dynamite was in good shape and would have to have been detonated with caps. The 18 pounds of sticks would have been sufficient to demolish a frame building or a reinforced concrete or brick wall, he added.

The Washington area unit of Minutemen was reported to have 15 to 18 members who allegedly divide training time between the Virginia site and another near Reading, Pa.

An FBI spokesman said interstate transportation of dynamite alone does not amount to a Federal offense. The transportation must be shown to be for the purpose of destroying a religious or educational institution, he said.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), chairman of a Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee which has been investigating weapons traffic, said although activities of the Minutemen "have been thought to be concentrated on the West Coast, our investigation has shown they exist nationwide and within 15 miles of the White House."

He said the Minutemen "have also been recruiting members from college groups in the East and also in this area . . ." The subcommittee has scheduled further hearings next week, and a spokesman said the Minutemen will be discussed then.



The Washington Post

The cross locates the area in Prince William County, Va., where a cache of Minuteman weapons was found.

He added that the subcommittee consultant previously reported to have infiltrated the Minutemen is in the Washington area unit. This consultant recently bought an assortment of heavy arms "with no questions asked" within 100 miles of Washington, Dodd reported.

The House Un-American Activities Committee also is investigating the Minutemen among other right-wing groups.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover told a House Appropriations subcommittee last March the size of more than 25,000 members estimated by Minutemen leader Robert B. DePugh "is probably greatly exaggerated."

Wash. Post  
6-12-65