

# ANTI-C. I. O. FUNDS PAID TO 'PATRIOTS' SUPPLY GAS GUNS

**Du Pont Admits Contributing  
to Group—Leader Out on  
Bail in Philadelphia**

**Special Dispatch to New York Post**  
PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—The Philadelphia Record in a copy-righted article today revealed that money contributed to a so-called patriotic organization by prominent Philadelphians and Eastern industrialists, including Pierre S. du Pont, is being used to buy tear gas guns for use against C. I. O. union members here.

The campaign against the C. I. O. was revealed after The Record in- was revealed after The Record in- the "Minute Men and Women of To- day," which armed its members with tear gas guns in the recent Apex Hosiery Mill strike.

Benjamin Waite Blanchard, fifty-three, is president of the outfit. He, his wife, Bobbie, fifty, and four members are under bail pending hearings tomorrow. They were arrested after a union member was nearly blinded by tear gas while making a speech.

## Has Police Record

Blanchard says his purpose is "to preserve and protect our Constitution and our American institutions." Police say he has a record as a suspected swindler.

Blanchard says he has 60,000 members here. Detectives say it is doubtful if he has 600. His organization is kept alive by wealthy contributors rather than by dues from members. He managed to get imposing names for his letterheads and lists of contributors.

Du Pont's name was revealed when police searched Blanchard after his arrest. In addition to tear gas weapons, they found a letter addressed to A. Atwater Kent, multi-millionaire manufacturer here, and bearing the name of du Pont. Police recollection of the letter is that it said du Pont contributed to Blanchard's outfit and suggested that Kent do likewise.

Du Pont told a reporter he contributed to Blanchard's outfit, but said he remembered no letter to Kent.

"I have heard of this man Blanchard," said du Pont, "but I do not know him. However, his wife has solicited funds for the organization and I have been approached by her. I gave a comparatively small amount—I don't know how much—over a great period of time.

"But I am not one of the founders of the organization, I have nothing to do with the organization and am not behind its expansion."

He added that he was told that the purpose of the outfit was "preserving the Constitution."

## Listed as Officers

Kent said he recently returned from Bar Harbor, Me., and had not been approached by Blanchard.

Letterheads of the "Minute Men and Women of Today" list the following among its officers:

Russell Duane, "honorary president."

Mrs. Lillian Boericke, "honorary vice-president."

Walter Godley, "vice-president general."

The letterheads also declare that the outfit is "sponsored by the National Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence."

This was denied by the secretary of the Society of the Descendants

of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Duane, head of the prominent law firm of Duane, Heckscher and Morris, has been ill and away from his office. But his son, Morris Duane, was surprised when told his father's name was on the letterheads and said he was anxious to have it removed.

"I believe my father knows the Blanchards," he said, "but I feel certain he did not authorize use of his name."

Blanchard and his attorney, John Patrick Walsh, say that Duane drew up the articles of association for the outfit in 1934.

Morris Duane said he had not heard of it.

Mrs. Boericke, listed as "honorary vice president," could not be reached. But Godley, listed as "vice president general," was quite upset.

## Godley Explains Connection

Godley, who is secretary of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and socially prominent, explained his connection thus:

"I was nominally a vice president of the organization but took no active part in it and knew nothing of its affairs. I knew Mrs. Blanchard fairly well, and I met Blanchard once or twice."

Blanchard's first arrest here was a week ago, when he walked into Police Headquarters to obtain the release of Martin Rossman, twenty-five. Rossman was arrested for using a tear gas gun on Nicholas Kowatz, who was making a speech urging Apex workers to join the C. I. O.

Police, informed Blanchard armed his members with tear gas guns, searched the president of the "Minute Men." They found six tear gas guns in his pockets. In his car outside they found his wife, Bobbie, a Springfield 410-shotgun with tear gas shells, a 9½-inch tear gas gun and several smaller tear gas weapons.

He was held in jail without bail until Monday, when he was released in \$2,500 bond.

## Arrested Again

His latest arrest came when police here got a telegram from police at Contra Costa, Cal., saying he was wanted there for larceny. Local police picked him up on a fugitive warrant.

Magistrate Atkinson Costello first held Blanchard without bail pending further word from California, then let him go under \$1,000 bail.

Blanchard equipped his members with badges as well as tear gas weapons.

The badges, one-and-a-half inches by one inch, are made of bronze and remotely resemble badges worn by Federal men. They read: "Member Minute Men and Women" and have an identifying number on the back.

Blanchard's attorney said that Blanchard told him he only charged members \$1 for the weapons, though they cost him \$2.48.

In the Apex disturbances, the attorney said, Blanchard gave anti-C. I. O. men who joined up both the badge and the gun for \$1.

719 Post  
10/7/37