

Warren Group to Study Any Ties Of Minutemen to Kennedy Death

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — The commission investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy plans to inquire into any connection between the killing and the Minutemen, a militant right-wing organization with headquarters at Norborne, Mo.

Representative Henry B. Gonzales (Dem.), Texas, told the commission that a statement in the Minutemen publication, On Target, was "gruesomely reminiscent" of the assassination.

He inclosed an issue dated March 15 warning "Communists and fellow travelers" that Minutemen members were preparing

to use a variety of weapons, including target rifles, against them. It said:

"Traitors beware! Even now the cross-hairs are on the back of your necks."

20 in Congress Denounced

The same issue denounced 20 members of Congress who had voted last year against an appropriation for the House committee on Un-American Activities Committee. The Representatives' names, including that of Gonzales, were outlined with a black border and headed "In Memoriam."

Gonzalez was riding in the motorcade in downtown Dallas Nov. 22 when the President was fatally shot. Lee Harvey Oswald was charged with the murder but was shot and killed in the Dallas

police station before being brought to trial.

The Texas Representative recalled the Minutemen publication and learned later that there had been indications last August that the organization was active in Dallas. Posters bearing the name Minuteman and pictures of Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev appeared mysteriously one morning on downtown business houses. Imitating police and Federal Bureau of Investigation notices, they said Khrushchev was "wanted for murder."

Guerrilla Boast

Police Lt. Jack Revill, head of the intelligence bureau, said at the time that he knew of no Minuteman organization in Dallas.

In On Target, the Minutemen said they had learned the lessons of Communist experts on guerrilla warfare and had added "a few home-grown Yankee tricks."

"Before you start your next smear campaign, before you murder again, before you railroad another patriot into a mental institution . . . better think it over," the publication said.

"See the old man at the corner where you buy your papers? He may have a silencer - equipped pistol under his coat. That extra fountain pen in the pocket of the insurance salesman that calls on you might be a cyanide gas gun. What about your milk man? Arsenic works slow but sure. Your auto mechanic may stay up

light traps.

"Those patriots are not going to let you take their freedom away from them. They have learned the silent knife, the strangler's cord, the target rifle that hits sparrows at 200 yards. Only their leaders restrain them.

"Traitors beware! Even now cross-hairs are on the backs of your necks."

Writes Warren

Gonzales wrote to Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission investigating the assassination, that it should be of interest to the commission that "the Minutemen claim to be an organization of armed guerrilla bands preparing for what they say is the imminent Soviet takeover of the United States, that they encourage the widespread possession of firearms, and that the 'cross-hairs'

statement quoted above is gruesomely reminiscent of the assassination itself."

J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the commission, replied: "I share your feelings regarding this type of literature and I can assure you that any relationship between the Minutemen and the assassination of President Kennedy will be carefully explored by the commission."

The Minutemen's national leader, Robert Bolivar DePugh, of Norborne, in a speech at the University of Kansas last April, avoided calling Mr. Kennedy a Communist but accused some of his advisers of having what DePugh called Communist connections.

DePugh's appearance led a faculty member at the university to write to a staff member at the White House that the

Minutemen leader should be regarded as a "polished and dangerous demagogue." The faculty member reported that DePugh called Mr. Kennedy soft on Communism.

The faculty member wrote: "I found this sort of thing rather frightening, because the man is just possibly fanatical enough to launch a series of assassinations of Government leaders, which could be most harmful to the cause of freedom everywhere."

DePugh conducted a class in guerrilla warfare in October 1961 in the community center at Shiloh, Ill., east of Belleville. Sheriff's deputies seized a variety of weapons, including recoil rifles, mortars and machine guns, and arrested Rich Lauch, who operates a machine shop at

2010 Keebler street, Collinsville, identified as regional director of the Minutemen.

DePugh said at the time that the organization had held earlier guerrilla warfare seminars in San Antonio, Tex., Omaha, Nebr., Philadelphia, Columbus, O., Kansas City and Newark, N.J. Representative Gonzalez's district includes San Antonio.