Around The Nation

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DETROIT—The Justice Department has dropped bomb conspiracy charges against Lawrence (Pun) Plamondon—suject of a landmark Supreme Court ruling on governmental eavesdropping—rather than disclose wiretap evidence it had gathered in the case.

The 26-year-old co-founder of the radical but now defunct White Panther Party had spent most of the 3½ years since he was indicted either in hiding or in jail. He had been on the FBI's "ten most wanted" list.

Charges against two other former White Panther leaders—John Sinclair, 29, and Jack W. Forrest, 22—also were dropped.

The case was the third abandoned by the government since the June 20 Supreme Court ruling that wiretaps against domestic subversive groups without court authorization are illegal. Earlier, charges stemming from the 1971 May Day anti-leader Abbie Hoffman and Bradford Lyttle.

The high cout ruling upheld an order issued by U.S. District Judge Damon Keith of Detroit, who had directed the government to either disclose the wiretap evidence in the Plamondon case or drop the charges.