



Associated Press

Byron de la Beckwith, in custody in New Orleans, faces federal charges in connection with a time bomb he was carrying, left, and state charges for carrying weapons, right, which legally were termed "concealed."

Evers Case Figure Held in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 27 (AP)—Byron De La Beckwith, 52, tried twice but never convicted in the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Jackson, Miss., was arrested today as he drove into New Orleans with a time bomb that was set to go off later in the day.

Acting on a tip, New Or-

leans police intelligence officers were waiting for Beckwith and stopped him as he drove into the city limits at about 3 a.m. In addition to the dynamite time bomb, police said Beckwith carried three rifles, a pistol, several boxes of ammunition and the barrel from a .50-caliber machine gun.

Officers said the bomb, con-

taining "a large amount" of dynamite, was pre-set to explode some time within 12 hours of when it was found. They would not place an exact time.

Beckwith was ordered held for U.S. marshals while federal officials prepared a charge in connection with the time bomb.

Asked about the dynamite in the time bomb, Beckwith said: "I'll just say a lot of dynamite is used in the Delta to blow up stumps." He would not say if he planned to blow up any stumps in New Orleans.

Police said Beckwith was driving a car equipped with a two-way radio and had a Mississippi license plate belonged

... another car.

At a bond hearing in Criminal District Court, Beckwith was booked on state charges of aggravated assault, carrying a concealed weapon and attempted aggravated arson.

As Beckwith looked on, Magistrate Robert Collins asked the basis of the arson charge. A spokesman for the district attorney's office said he did not know, but it must be valid since intelligence officers "very, very rarely make arrests."

Beckwith was ordered held on \$8,500 bond on the state charges. However, before he could post the necessary \$850 to get a bonding company to bail him out, federal officials asked the state to hold Beckwith for them in connection with the explosives.