

16 ARE INDICTED IN RIGHTIST CASE

Alleged Minutemen Accused of Arson Conspiracy

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

A Queens grand jury indicted 16 alleged members of the paramilitary rightist Minutemen yesterday on charges ranging from unlawful possession of firearms to conspiracy to commit arson.

Fifteen of the defendants were among 19 men arrested by local and state policemen on Oct. 30 as they were allegedly planning to place firebombs at three camps considered left-wing oriented by the Minutemen. Arsenals of ammunition and weapons were also seized by the police.

The grand jury did not indict the four other men who were arrested in October, and District Attorney Nat H. Hentel dropped charges against them. Mr. Hentel said there was a "jurisdictional situation" in their cases.

The 16th man indicted was not arraigned and his name was not made public, because he was not in custody yesterday.

All Plead Not Guilty

Supreme Court Justice Edward Thompson set Feb. 6 for further action on the indictments and continued the 15 men in the bail on which they had been freed after their arrest on Oct. 30. All 15 pleaded not guilty.

The 15 defendants, attired in business suits, stood quietly at the sides of their attorneys as they were being arraigned. One

of the defendants had a red, white and blue handkerchief in the breast pocket of his suit jacket.

The original charges on which the 15 had been arrested Oct. 30 were dismissed yesterday by Criminal Court Judge Abraham M. Roth. The men were then re-arrested on the new charge.

The original arrests on charges similar to those in yesterday's indictments had ended six-month investigations by District Attorney Hentel and the state police. Mr. Hentel said at the time that the prisoners had been on their way to place bombs at the former Camp Unity at Wingdale, N. Y.; Camp Midvale, near the Wannaque Reservoir in Midvale, N. J., and a pacifist camp at Voluntown, Conn.

He said they were also planning to bomb the Brooklyn campaign headquarters of Herbert Apetheker, a Communist running for Congress as the Peace and Freedom party's candidate.

List of Those Arraigned

The 15 men arraigned yesterday were:

- Richard Asaro, 18 years old, of 76-21 49th Avenue, Middle Village, Queens.
- Jack Boyce, 40, chief communications officer of the Westchester County Department of Civil Defense, of Sunny Ridge Road, Katonah, who was charged with conspiracy to commit arson.
- Lawrence Conklin, 27, a horse groom, of 50-06 14th Avenue, Whitestone, Queens.
- Frank Ferraro, 29, a milkman, of 150-27 115th Street, Richmond Hills, Queens.
- Lebro Ferraro, his brother, 24, also a milkman, of 194-33 168th Street, Ozone Park, Queens.
- William Gerrett, 34, a landscape artist, of 21-18 Pousel Street, Bellmore, L. I.
- Edward Frier, 24, a travel Authority conductor, of 910 Dinsmore Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens.
- William Wirsawer, 29, a New York City fireman, of 135-12 139th Street, Ozone Park, Queens.
- John Knopfen, 44, a milkmaker, of 20 Bailey Avenue, Bayshore, L. I.
- Vincent Prestigiacomo, 34, a draftsman, of 76 River Heights Drive, Seaford, L. I.
- Joseph Russa, 28, a truck driver, of 20 Henry Street, Bethpage, L. I.
- Salvatore Russo, 30, his brother, a truck driver, of 1575 Fisher Lane, Bethpage, L. I.
- Matthew Satter, 29, a heavy equipment

operator, of 649 Sabro Avenue, Franklin Square, L. I.

Martha Skiffington, 26, a mechanic, of 60-12 47th Avenue, Ridgewood, Queens.

Andrew Zame, 24, a taxi driver, of 2016 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn.

All of the defendants except Mr. Kieswer and Mr. Skiffington were charged with felonies. Mr. Kieswer and Mr. Skiffington were charged only with misdemeanors, minor offenses that carry lesser penalties than felonies.

The four men arrested on Oct. 30 against whom charges were dismissed yesterday were:

- Robert Bagwell, 25, a gardener, of 98 Whitehouse Avenue, Roosevelt, L. I.
- Warren T. Baldwin, 31, a plasterer, of 672 Sylvan Avenue, Bayport, L. I.
- Daniel Byrne, 24, a mechanic, of 35 Lathering Avenue, Franklin Square, L. I.
- John Deutch, 30, a part steward, of 1101 Marlinsara Avenue, Bayshore, L. I.

total, 19.