

# Minutemen attack CNVA

A communal retreat maintained by the Committee for Non-violent Action (CNVA) was attacked August 24 by Minutemen who exchanged gunfire with Connecticut state police. The assault occurred near Voluntown, Connecticut and ended in a short close-range gun duel in which six people were injured.

One State trooper was shot in the right foot and one tied-up resident of the camp was hit by buckshot. The affair had some of the aspects of the Perils of Pauline, with state police to the rescue and the zeal-like Minutemen cast as villains. On a tip from the FBI, the police were guarding the entrance to the camp, but the Minutemen raiders came in through the back about 2:30 a.m.

There were at least six raiders, all wearing military fatigues. Four of them entered the 300-year old farmhouse. They captured two women residents, Mrs. Trask and Mrs. Little, who were up standing watch. The four men made the women sit down and tied them up, taping the eyes and mouth of each.

"Please don't hurt her," Mrs. Trask said.

"I won't hurt her," one of the Minutemen answered as he taped Mrs. Little's eyes.

Suddenly a group of policemen burst into the room, identified themselves and shots were exchanged. One of the Minutemen lunged at a trooper with his bayonet. The trooper's shotgun went off. Mrs. Trask and one of the other troopers were both hit by the pellets. Four Minutemen were injured and a total of six captured when the shooting was over.

The six Minutemen were charged with conspiracy to commit arson and assault with intent to kill and held under \$50,000 bail each.

The Voluntown camp has been used as a retreat since 1963 by the CNVA. Members would go there to live a communal life and study the problems of war and peace. It was also the base from which many peace demonstrations were launched against the atomic submarine installation at Groton, Connecticut.

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One of the injured counter-insurgents was Louis J. Rogers, 24, is chairman of the Wallace for President campaign in Lisbon, Connecticut, his home town. Frank D. Barber also captured, is chairman of Wallace for President in Norwich, Connecticut.

The Minutemen is a right-wing paramilitary organization, a Yankee version of the Ku Klux Klan. According to some reports there were Minutemen among President Kennedy's assassins.