



**Rich Lauchli (right), a regional leader of the Minutemen, fires a 60 mm mortar during maneuvers in Illinois.**

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

# **THE HATERS**

## **Their Call to Arms Causes New Concern in Washington**

By **MIRIAM OTTENBERG**  
Star Staff Writer

Unmasked hate is showing itself in many ways across the United States.

In California, a liberal member of Congress opened a letter and stared down at an implied threat of assassination by rifle.

In New York, a band of gunmen pumped 13 shots from a shotgun and two pistols into Black Nationalist Leader Malcolm X.

In Mississippi, a cache of Russian-made rifles turned up among Ku Klux Klansmen accused of bombing Negro homes.

In Louisiana, a newsletter addressed "to all patriots" urged, "Arm, Americans, Arm! It's now or never!"

These are symptoms of the gun-hate syndrome causing increasing concern in official Washington.

President Johnson showed his awareness of the gun-loving haters when he included in yesterday's crime

message some bold new measures for controlling the flow of guns to fanatics as well as criminals.

By banning interstate mail-order sales of guns to individuals and putting strict limitations on the import of foreign guns and armaments, the President proposes to help the states keep "lethal weapons out of the wrong hands," as he put it.

On Capitol Hill, a number of concerned legislators have pushed for gun control legislation, proposed investigations of the gun-toting hate groups or called on the military to do some investigating of recipients before selling surplus small arms or handing out free ammunition.

The federal investigative agencies have stepped up their surveillance of the haters, particularly alert for rumors of gun caches.

### **FBI Investigating**

The threat to the California legisla-

tor — and similarly worded messages to close to a dozen prominent Americans — are now under intensive investigation by the FBI.

These mailed threats, were hand-printed with a marking pen and stamped with a symbolic trident of supremacy. The message: "Traitor beware! Even now the cross-hairs are on the back of your neck."

This reference to a target sighted through a rifle scope also was used in the March, 1963, issue of "On Target," the publication of the extremist group called the Minutemen. The "targets" then were the 20 members of Congress who voted against continuation of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

That "warning" with its accompanying list of names caused hardly a stir. But now the Justice Department considers the individually mailed messages as specific threats of bodily harm and the instigators are liable to prosecution.

A Star survey showed why the President, some members of Congress and the investigative agencies are beginning to take seriously what used to be regarded as crackpot maunderings and publicity-minded posturing:

- Gun caches discovered in at least seven states have been undeniably linked to a hater or hate group. Several different caches have been uncovered in California and Illinois. Others were found in Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Indiana and Virginia.

- Weapons of war ranging from a single illegal machine gun to arsenals of rifles, bazookas, anti-tank guns and bayonets have been found in the possession of Minutemen, California Rangers, the American Nazi Party, the National Renaissance Party, the KKK, the Counter-Insurgency Council and the Christian Defense League. All these groups hate Communists, Negroes, Jews or Catholics — or all of them.

- Some groups are notoriously trigger-happy. Typically, the self-styled California leader of the Minutemen fired 10 rifle shots into a girl's car because he thought she was stealing his jeep. On Long Island, an 18-year-old boasting that he belonged to the American Nazi Party was charged with firing a machine gun into a high school and into the home of a teacher. A "survival unit" leader

of the Soldiers of the Cross was accidentally shot and killed by his brother-in-law.

- Promoters of so-called survival bands, are playing to fear as well as hate. Individuals and groups who are sure — or say they're sure — that the Communists are coming exhort their followers to pay up and join now for mutual protection in the bleak future

when they must take to the hills.

## Capitalizing on Fear

Capitalizing on this fear, publishers advertise "guerrilla warfare" books in The American Rifleman. Other advertisements offer bargains in guns, jungle machetes, Army sniper scopes and rare Swiss sawtooth bayonets. One gun dealer's catalogue advertises a "hard-hitting" anti-tank rifle — "ideal for long-range shots at deer and bear or at cars and trucks and even a tank if you happen to see one."

In the current resurgence of the hate groups, some long dormant persons and groups have reappeared. Among them is Gerald I. K. Smith, 1944 America First candidate for President, and the National Renaissance Party, castigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1954 as neo-Fascist, clearly subversive and un-American.

A sinister element now bothering investigators is the current vogue for secrecy — to go underground. The Minutemen particularly are emphasizing "security" to such a point that areas are referred to by code names and the self-appointed national coordinator insists he has intentionally divested himself of all operating responsibility so that he can honestly say he doesn't know what his fellow Minutemen are doing.

A strong pitch is being made to enlist youth in hate groups. A vicious anti-Semitic campaign is being waged on college campuses by an outfit of would-be guerrilla warriors calling itself the Christian Youth Corps.

The paranoid conviction that Communist invaders will take over the country if Communists in government do not do it first has been stimulated by the haters since the election.

A case in point for this post-election hysteria is the Missouri-born organization known as the Minutemen, initiated in 1960, attacked sporadically on Capitol Hill since 1963 and now the object of demands for a congressional investigation.

Some federal investigators are inclined to dismiss the Minutemen as more shadowy than substantial. Others read the Minutemen's bulletins and monthly publication "On Target" with some concern, fearing the effect on fanatics of printed lists of prominent people whose moderate views make them the natural enemies of the Minutemen.

## 'On Target' Lists

To aid the fanatics, "On Target" helpfully lists the business and home addresses as well as the families of these "traitors."

One official, noting "On Target's"

constant exhortation to minutemen to buy guns and more guns, commented, "You give a nut a gun and mention a name and it doesn't take much for him to fire."

The closest to an official view of the Minutemen in Washington is that their danger is not as a force with the potential for political overthrow but as individual buyers and users of guns.

The Star acquired a secret bulletin headed "D & E Sections Minutemen by 1212 (Temporary Director of D-Section)." The use of code for reasons of "security" and these excerpts are typical of most of the outfits now playing soldier:

"Psychological Warfare — Our members must realize that certain statements made by Minutemen leaders are designed for their propaganda value. Some of our statements may be made to confuse or misdirect the enemy. If the membership of the

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Minutemen demand that their Executive Council fully explain everything we say or do, then the propaganda value of such statements will be lost. . . .

"You Need the Minutemen— If you are captured or held prisoner, it will be important for you to know that others are aware of your situation and that they will help you to escape if at all possible.

"To defeat your enemies you must know all you can about them. It is not enough simply to say the enemy are Communists. We must know what kind of cars they drive, where they live, their physical appearance, their strong and weak points, their habits and travel patterns. The Minutemen organization has already compiled more information in its files than any one of us could accumulate in a lifetime.

"Each member is expected to own his own gun, ammunition and other combat gear. These things are just the beginning of what an underground resistance fighter must have. The time may come that your life will depend on counterfeit identification papers. The lives of your family may depend on counterfeit food ration stamps. Few individual members have the equipment necessary to engrave and print such documents.

"Suppose you succeed in capturing a number of enemy demolition charges but your band does not include an expert that knows how to use them safely. There will be many times that your individual group will need the help of outside specialists which the organization can

supply.

"Without coordination the anti-Communists will be almost as dangerous to each other as to the enemy. We must have coordination.

"And The Organization Needs You — Our intelligence branch has recently sent an urgent alert to the Executive Council. This report contains alarming information as to the rapid increase of Communist control within this country. The Communists are moving into position from which they can launch an offensive at most any time."

### Plea for Money

An urgent plea for money follows. The Communists, it is contended, get their money through "stealing money entrusted to them by elderly people who fall victim to Communist lawyers" or through "using sex perverts and teen-aged girls for black mail or through selling narcotics supplied by Castro or peddling \$25,000 worth of pornography a week."

Meanwhile, according to the secret bulletin, the poor but honest Minutemen must spend countless hours filing and indexing intelligence data, developing new equipment, working full-time within the enemy apparatus, traveling as underground couriers or working on "grey and black propaganda projects which no one outside of their own secret group would ever connect with the Minutemen organization."

The instigator of all this, Robert Bolivar DePugh of Norborne, Mo., acknowledged in an interview that he doesn't exactly believe the Communist takeover is scheduled for tomorrow but he's got to consider the morale of his people.

"A lot of people find it hard to understand a slow, insidious takeover," he explained. "It's easier to rally people to the cause of an outside invader. It's not important when this is going to happen. It's more important to decide when we will have reached the point of no return beyond which social means will not avail."

### DePugh Answers

As DePugh willingly and lengthily answered questions, the questioner privately recalled the Minutemen's vaunted "psychological warfare" technique of confusing the enemy. But here, for what they're worth, are some of his answers:

He was asked what he meant

when he sent "an important notice to all gun dealers" warning of "a new multi-million dollar drive against civilian ownership of firearms that may put you out of business within the next two years." It turned out he was referring to an International Arms Control Symposium discussing disarmament.

Asked about his "intelligence files," he reported that his members "monitor" 600 publications and assemble their indexed findings in eight major areas.

When he was asked how many

members he had, he started employing his special brand of psychological warfare.

"I have no idea how many members and that's the gospel truth. Recognizing that someday I would be investigated, I began two years ago to divest myself of personal contact with other members of the organization. I have been properly left in ignorance. A calculated guess would be between 20,000 and 60,000."

### 'Gone Underground'

He repeatedly asserted, "I'm not trying to build an organization. I look on it more as a concept than an organization."

But every "On Target" since the election has focused on recruiting because "the hopes of millions of Americans that the Communist tide could be stopped with ballots instead of bullets have turned to dust."

On other points; De Pugh said:

"Yes, I would say we've gone underground. We maintain the appearance of an above ground organization but the real strength of the organization has disassociated itself from us so you'll never find me talking to a secret member.

The field maneuvers that startled some Midwestern folk and brought out police in Illinois a few years back have been virtually abandoned because it was impossible to keep the membership secret when a sizeable group was shooting up a stretch of farmland.

So, they join gun clubs and their fellow shooters have no idea they are actually Minutemen practicing for their private army.

De Pugh recognizes his organization just might attract some "nuts" but, he said, they are now being weeded out through a "five-phase corre-

spondence course training program."

"It takes patience to finish this course," he explained. "The nuts want to grab a gun and do something right now."

The "Traitor beware" list of 20 congressmen in his "On Target" was "probably a mistake," he acknowledged. He denied that he had anything to do with the specific "Traitor beware" threats mailed recently.

Repeatedly, during the interview, DePugh emphasized that he's too busy running his chemical drug business to spend much time with these things now. This might have been more psychological warfare, but DePugh almost sounded like a man bored with playing soldier.

### Rallying Point

Nevertheless, his organization — however phantom — has become a rallying point for other groups of "super-patriots."

One of them, a Louisiana-based outfit known as Paul Revere Associated Yeomen, Inc., (P-R-A-Y) included this advice in its "action program" for 1965:

"Join the Minutemen ... for survival instructions. Join the Citizens Council in your area. Learn where your nearest KKK unit is located. They might come in handy some day. Invest in the above security now! If you don't have the money — borrow it! Your very lives are in the balance."

Another group, the Christian Youth Corps of St. Petersburg, Fla., printed this roll call of guerrilla warriors:

"We are brothers-in-arms with the U.S. Rangers, the California Rangers, the Minutemen, the Texas Rangers, the Green Mountain boys in New England and many other smaller localized organizations all of which comprise a vast national Christian Army of over 10 million patriotic men who are ready to defend this nation against the Red hordes that will soon attack the United States."

All these prophets of doom accompany their warnings with a call to arms. The Minutemen literature lists the proper gun for each member of the family including the children.

The Paul Revere crowd urges buying a 12-gauge shotgun and a high-powered rifle now and predicts that "they will soon be worth more than their weight in gold."

The Christian Youth Corps list of basic equipment begins with

a FILE AND CHISEL WITH A SNAKE-bite kit and a mosquito bar — presumably because these warriors are planning to repel invasion in the tropics.

### Violence Stressed

The emphasis on violence runs through interviews, broadcasts and brochures of the hate-and-fear crowd.

A reference to "physical terror" is dropped casually into a new pamphlet entitled "Death to the Traitors. It's time for old-fashioned American justice." The cover is decorated with a picture of a man hanging from a tree and a cadre of men walking away with their rifles. Mission accomplished.

The pamphlet, issued by the Sam Adams Committee of Public Safety, promises to assign speakers to any group "for detailed exposition of our plans and methods, at no obligation, and in complete confidence." The author of the pamphlet is Max Nelson of Chicago, a long-time hater closely associated with organizers of the National States Rights Party.

Violence with religious

overtones also enjoys a vogue among the haters. The pastor of the Soldiers of the Cross tabernacle in Denver wrote a survival manual entitled "Get ye up into the high mountains" and hied himself and followers to California to start what he called a survival school.

He promoted a rumor that thousands of armed Chinese troops were poised in Mexico awaiting the signal to attack California. The invaders, he told his flock, would attack on horseback and the most effective way to repel them was to scalp them. He's the one who was shot by his brother-in-law during a playful sequence.

### Fight Gun Curbs

By word and deed, the hate-and-fear crowd has strenuously opposed legal curbs on guns. A similar line has been taken by a number of right wing groups which do not espouse the violent doctrine of the extremist haters. The theme that legislative controls on gun sales are the first step in the Communist takeover has been expressed in literature and radio broadcasts by:

The Dan Smoot Report, guaranteed to "give only one side in presenting documented truth about important issues" in

a newsletter and radio broadcasts.

Life Line owned by H. L. Hunt, the Texas oil millionaire, with regular broadcasts over more than 350 stations.

The Rev. Carl McIntire of New Jersey, founder of the American Council of Christian Churches with broadcasts on 617 radio stations and publishes the "Christian Beacon." He talks about Communist infiltration in the churches, calls the United Nations morally bankrupt and views gun legislation as the means to "render the people helpless against violent revolution and dictatorship."

The National Economic Council whose board, contributors and newsletter all reflect the views of the radical right. The Economic Council Letter opined that any congressman favoring gun registration, "knowing its real purpose, would disqualify himself from ever again expecting to be called an American."

### Legislation Urged

There are, of course, groups and individuals who oppose the gun laws on grounds that have nothing to do with hate or political extremism.

The preoccupation of the haters with guns has prompted a number of legislators, led by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., to call for legislation to curb the flow of guns into the country, across state lines and into the hands of haters as well as criminals.

Other legislators are demanding that the military assume more responsibility in assuring that surplus weapons don't wind up with potential killers.

And some state officials have seen enough to propose tighter state gun laws. In California, where the hate groups seem to thrive, a bill has been introduced in the state legislature to outlaw private armies.

The incidents that follow show the sources of some private arsenals and the reason why informed legislators are demanding action to minimize the opportunities of the haters to acquire guns:

Last October, when three Klansmen were charged with bombing Negro homes near McComb, Miss., an FBI search of the men's cars and homes turned up four high-powered Russian rifles, a foreign-made pistol and thousands of rounds of ammunition. The rifles were among a collection of 18 Russian M-4 Tokarev rifles sent to

Waveland, Miss., along with 10,000 rounds of Russian ammunition.

The Senate Juvenile Delinquency sub-committee headed by Dodd, which has been investigating the gun traffic since 1959, now has the voucher showing that the supplier of the Russian rifles was Hunters Lodge, the mail order outlet for Interarmco in Alexandria, Va.

### Virginia Warehouse

Hunters Lodge regularly buys the last page of the American Rifleman to advertise its Virginia warehouse full of bargains mostly in foreign rifles and pistols. Advertising itself as the "world's biggest gunhouse," the firm would be hard-hit — and so would its more questionable customers — if legislation proposed by Dodd or the administration's even sterner measure gets through Congress.

Dodd cited the case of the Russian rifles last month when he introduced his bill to bar importation of all military surplus firearms from Europe and most of the cheap, foreign-made, small-caliber pistols. President Kennedy, who as a Senator had sponsored legislation to curb the import of cheap foreign firearms, was assassinated with an Italian rifle which cost the importer \$1.12.

Among the haters, George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party had shown in brochures and public appearances that all good Nazis know a thing or two about guns. Some Nazis, particularly young ones, have taken the propaganda

seriously and wound up in prison.

Of close to two-score incidents cited by B'Nai B'Rith's Anti-Defamation League in petitioning to oust the Nazis from Arlington, a number of the offenses involved guns.

A 20-year-old who carried Nazi arm bands in his car was arrested in Virginia for possessing a German made sub-machine gun. A Nazi jailed for beating up a 13-year-old at the Arlington Nazi headquarters also was convicted of owning a machine gun. A financial angel for the Nazi pleaded guilty to hoarding unregistered machine guns at his summer cottage in New Hampshire.

### California Cache

Another neo-Fascist group, the National Renaissance Party, became embroiled in two melees in New York. After the

second one, police found they had added something to their hate show — a truck stocked with a crossbow rifle and a supply of steel-tipped arrows, a loaded .22 caliber revolver, an air pistol, flare gun, loaded Derringer, tear gas pen and pencil, box of cartridges and assorted knives. At the home of one of the crew, police found 12 rifles, a bayonet, a machete and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Another gun cache was found in the home of a jittery hater last October. A Cucamonga, Calif., egg rancher, he had exchanged his gun collector's treasures for machine guns to repel the expected Negro "invasion" of Cucamonga and environs. When the right moment came, he intended to sell his machine guns to "any patriot" for \$1.85.

Treasury agents and local police found nearly 100 weapons in the egg rancher's house, including machine guns, rifles, pistols and revolvers. In the barn, he had stored 105 mm. anti-tank rockets, dozens of incendiary bombs, gas bombs, smoke bombs, flares, blasting caps, piles of ammunition, 30 bullet-proof vests and barracks bags fitted out as survival kits.

The rancher was identified as a member of the Christian Defense League, an extreme right-wing organization headed by a well-known West Coast hater named Wesley Swift. According to the rancher, Swift's organization opposed Negroes, Jews and Communists and was arming for protection.

Swift came to Washington in 1954 to testify against the confirmation of Chief Justice Earl Warren, a popular target with all the haters. At the time, Swift said he represented the Christian Nationalist Crusade, headed by Gerald L. K. Smith.

One of Swift's long-time associates is Col. William Gale, who helped Swift form the Christian Defense League and now heads the sub rosa guerrilla outfit known as the California Rangers.

Gale's business partner and associate in the California Rangers figured in another California gun cache. The fellow Ranger, George Joseph King Jr., Annapolis graduate and son of a retired admiral, was arrested after he sold a machine gun and a British Sten gun to undercovermen he thought were interested in joining the Rangers.

Agents said he promised to sell them 1,000 machine guns, automatic rifles and bazookas but wouldn't tell them where he had his arsenal hidden. In his

case, agents found several thousand rounds of ammunition, two loaded automatic pistols, a night stick, carbine, machete and an Army field pack stuffed with supplies — in underground guerrilla parlance, a "panic pack."

### 'Shotgun News'

On April 15, 1964, the "Shotgun News," which offers everything from cheap guns to Nazi mementoes, carried this advertisement:

"Rightist & Guerrilla Warfare Groups: If you are a recognized and responsible group (burden of proof is on you), then I have a special grade of Thompson 1928 A1 'Demil' available to your group at regular price. Absolutely no sale of these to individuals."

A little over a month later, the author of the advertisement

sold his machine guns to a Gen. Camillo from an unnamed South American country who turned out to be a Treasury agent.

A Collinsville (Ill.) arms cache included 100 Thompson sub-machine guns along with 75 mm. recoilless cannon, mortars, flame-throwers, 25-pound aerial bombs, five .50 caliber machine guns, automatic pistols, rifles,

mortar shells and other ammunition.

The source of the machine guns shook the authorities considerably. Back in 1959, a pile of military surplus was sold as junk and rusted in a Utah yard for years until some enterprising gunsmith discovered that the demilitarized guns could be made operable again. By the time officials realized the possibilities and changed the disposal regulations, a number of the guns were gone.

Recently, three gun caches have turned up that can be traced to that Utah pile. Officials acknowledge there may be others.

In the Illinois case, the gun-peddler was linked with the Minutemen and an outfit called the Counter Insurgency Council although officials were privately convinced that he was motivated more by super-profit than super-patriotism.

Last December a gun cache traced to the Utah pile showed up in Indiana. Treasury agents seized 10 Thompson sub-machine guns, seven of them operable, and crates of parts constituting as many as 100



Mrs. Robert DePugh, wife of the national leader of the Minutemen, watches one of the group's maneuvers.—AP Wirephoto.

more guns.

After the seizure, the United States attorney in Indianapolis received a typed postcard which said in part:

"This is the way you dirty devils are building up a big push for disarming this country. If and when any traitors try to take over this country, there will be enough guns and patriots

left to get a hell of a lot of the traitors that the Russians have passed up."

The Star's survey indicated enough characters like this postcard writer are around to be troublesome — if not dangerous.

They are not the only haters, of course. Some groups in the radical right—including several with active cells around Washington — shy away from a suggestion of violence. They prefer to do the talking and leave the shooting to others.

### Control Proposals

Because talk can lead to action and gun collecting by fanatics can lead to assassination, knowledgeable legislators and law enforcement officers variously propose:

1. Control of mail order guns and a ban, as proposed by the President, on sales to teenagers.

2. A substantial increase in the present \$1 license fee for a gun dealer. Now, gun buyers can get a dealer's discount simply by spending \$1 for a license.

3. A ban on importation of foreign military surplus, heavy armaments such as bazookas and the cheap but deadly small pistols — in fact, all gun imports except those genuinely sought by sportsmen.

4. Adoption of a requirement that American surplus machine guns should be melted down by the military before sale as

scrap. The Army is now satisfied that if its disposal officers follow directions, guns can no longer be reconstituted as were those in the Utah pile because the same key parts are missing from all of them. Disagreeing, some gun experts contend that any experienced gunsmith can replace missing parts.

5. Some check by the military before sales of small firearms to the public. Rep. Charles S. Joelson, D-N.J., protested when he found no prior investigation was made, declaring that members of extremist groups are "unstable personalities to begin with and are constantly being infused by their leaders with poisonous hate. I consider them dangerous when armed." He will ask the House Armed Forces Committee to investigate surplus gun sales.

6. Further tightening of surveillance over membership in gun clubs receiving free ammunition from the Army. The National Rifle Association has vigorously disowned the haters and the Office of Civilian Marksmanship has revised its rules to get membership rosters of gun clubs. But the hate and fear crowd still urge super-patriots to join gun clubs and Rep. Henry Gonzales, D-Tex., charges extremists are being subsidized with free ammunition.

7. A congressional investigation of the hate groups to determine if law enforcement needs more weapons against them — that is, legal weapons.