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Misc II - KKK

Suspect Held For Grand Jury In Evers Plot

FAYETTE, Miss. (AP)—Dale Walton, 44-year-old former Ku Klux Klan leader charged with attempted murder in an alleged assassination plot against Negro Mayor Charles Evers, was held today for grand jury action.

Walton, operator of a merchandise and sporting goods store at Tupelo, was placed under $10,000 bond and returned to the Jefferson County jail after a hearing yesterday in Mayor's Court. The county grand jury was scheduled to meet Monday.

City Councilman Ferd Allen, sitting as judge after Evers recused himself, said he found probable cause to hold Walton on charges of plotting to kill the mayor.

FAYETTE City Atty. Martha Wood, the only white employe of the city administration, said Walton also faces charges of conspiracy to commit murder. A hearing on the charges was continued until Thursday.

Walton was arrested near Evers' office Tuesday night on charges of speeding and carrying concealed weapons. Police Chief Robert Vanderson, who made the arrest, testified Walton "had his hand" on a loaded pistol and that other weapons were found in the car.

Evers, who testified he had received three anonymous telephone calls Tuesday about the alleged plot, was asked by Billy Jordon of Columbus, Walton's attorney:

"DID THIS defendant make any move or threats against your life? Any motion of a threat against your life?"

"I can't say that," Evers replied.

Jordan said that it was "undoubtedly not only the weakest case I have witnessed, but this is the first case where there is no case at all."

EVERS SAID later the "mere fact that he (Walton) got a hearing was great. We've never got that kind of justice."

Federal agents have identified Walton as a former imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan Knights of the Green Forest and former exalted cyclops of the United Klans of America.

Two other men were arrested after Walton was picked up. Bobby Haywood, 18, of Tupelo was arrested in Natchez in a motel room registered to Walton. Officers said they found he had a submachine gun. FBI agents traced the weapon to Pat Massengale, 50, who was arrested at his home in Hattiesburg and charged with illegally transferring the gun to Haywood.