

Right-Wing Plot to Kill a Judge

Times-Post Service

Los Angeles

Judge Alfred Gitelson, author of the Los Angeles school desegregation decision, was identified yesterday as the target of an assassination plot broken up 24 hours earlier with the arrest of five men described by police as members of a right-wing extremist group.

Gitelson handed down the

controversial decision ordering an end to de facto racial segregation in the Los Angeles city school system from his seat on the county Superior court in February.

The Los Angeles county Grand Jury began a secret inquiry yesterday which could lead to indictments of the five suspects.

Los Angeles Police Chief Edward M. Davis, who announced the arrests Tuesday,

had withheld the name of the intended victim "so the grand jury might be able to hear the case without prior public reaction."

But Davis said after word of the plot was out of his office was deluged with telephone calls from local, state and Federal officials and "felt it was necessary to relieve (their) minds."

Around - the - clock police protection was ordered for

Gitelson and his family.

In an interview, the judge said he "would not be surprised that a political figure would be made the target of some plot such as this but I am shocked that a member of the judiciary should be singled out in this way."

He said that since his desegregation decision, he had received about 200 letters, many of them unsigned. He

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UPI Telephoto

JUDGE GITELSON
Integration order

Judge: Death Plot Uncovered

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said about 25 per cent of them were abusive and included "considerable reference" to the fact that he is Jewish.

The judge, appearing relaxed and untroubled, was on the bench yesterday to hear a civil contract case.

Police said the assassination plot was uncovered when a man "tried to bribe an un-

dercover agent for the purpose of murdering a prominent citizen of Los Angeles."

More than 250 weapons, including an arsenal of sub-machine guns and a grenade launcher, and 10,000 rounds of ammunition cached in the suburban San Fernando Valley area, were seized by police.

Robert Schurman, 50, a retired gunshop owner, was booked on suspicion of soliciting to commit murder and possession of a machine gun.

WEAPONS

Most of the weapons were seized at his home, police said.

Also arrested were:

Marco Hanson, 44, a railroad switchman, booked on suspicion of receiving stolen property;

George Ross Clemens, 33, a market manager, suspicion of possession of a machine gun;

Bill Mezey, 33, owner of a Canoga Park gun shop, suspicion of possession of a machine gun;

Darrell James Tatman, 36, a contractor, suspicion of possession of a machine gun.

All five live in the San Fernando Valley sections of Los Angeles.

Clemens and Tatman were freed yesterday on \$12,500 bail each and Hanson was out on \$3125 bail. Schurman and Mezey remained in jail.

All were described in search warrants as members of a right-wing extremist group and police said literature from a paramilitary group, the Minutemen, was found in some of their homes.