

Radicals Wary of Emerging

By William Greider
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Weathermen, underground New Left radicals who preached violence as a form of political protest, can come in from the cold now. But don't count on seeing any of them soon.

The revolutionary offshoot of Students for a Democratic Society disappeared underground four years ago when the federal government stacked up bombing conspiracy and interstate riot indictments against them. Now the U.S. prosecutors have dropped the last of these cases pending against the nucleus of "Weather people," as they sometimes called themselves.

But 10 of them are still at large, presumably hiding in the United States somewhere. And political bombing, while it has declined dramatically, is still an occasional weapon.

"I have no knowledge, no facts, only hopes," said Leonard Boudin, the criminal lawyer for radical defendants whose own daughter, Kathy, disappeared with the other Weathermen in 1970.

"My hope, very frankly," Boudin said, "is, as the revelations of official lawlessness develop further, that there will be a nationwide campaign of amnesty for these young people." Boudin lumps together all of the antiwar protesters from Weathermen to draft evaders as "young people who were the first to recognize the official lawlessness."

Gerald Lefcourt, a radical lawyer in New York who represented the Weathermen successfully against the government's major conspiracy indictment, thinks it is unlikely that any of the ex-defendants will turn up soon. In part, he suspects the FBI would charge them with something else—perhaps such unsolved bombings as that at the Capitol in March, 1971, the Pentagon in May, 1972, and various corporate offices all have been attributed to the Weathermen underground. The most recent occurred only three months ago at International Telephone and Telegraph headquarters in New York City.

"My feeling is," said Lefcourt, "that if Kathie Boudin and Bernadine Dornh and Mark Rudd walked into my office tomorrow and said call the

FBI, the FBI would come down here and arrest them for something. They would be charged with those bombings or something. I don't know if the government could prove anything or if they're guilty of anything, but it's so obvious that the government is still looking for these people."

The Weathermen became a New Left sensation in 1969, after splintering from SDS, when violent tactics were in vogue among some radicals. They formally banded under the name Weatherman from the line in a Bob Dylan song, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

Rudd and Dornh and other prominent figures in the Weathermen faction spoke enthusiastically about bombing, bank robbery, even murder, as methods of political expression against the government and capitalism.

The group staged a wild melee in Chicago, called "Days of Rage," in the fall of 1969 and there were other violent confrontations.

By the following spring, they faced federal charges in Chicago and Detroit, plus assorted local charges scattered around the country. Two of them died that winter in an explosion at a Greenwich Village townhouse where the Weathermen were presumed to be making bombs.

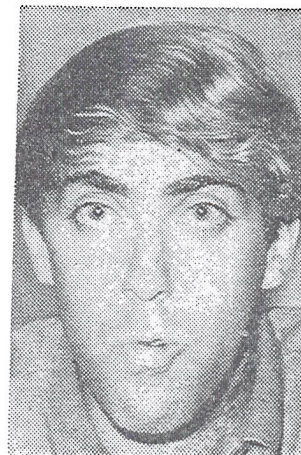
The main federal charges against them were dropped by federal prosecutors in October and last week. The issue was government surveillance of the defendants and, rather than allow defense lawyers to explore what federal officials had done, the government decided to forfeit the cases.

In the Chicago case, only two of the 12 defendants—Linda Evans and Judy Clark—have been apprehended. They were tried on state charges and served 90 days in jail. The others are still at large and several of them also face local charges brought by state authorities in Illinois and elsewhere.

Lefcourt said he believes the Weathermen could defend themselves successfully against those local charges, based again on the defense allegation of official misconduct. "It would be a struggle, but I don't think we would have a major problem," he said. Boudin said the outstanding charges



BERNADINE DOHRN



MARK RUDD

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against his daughter, for instance, are minor.

If the fugitives surfaced, however, Lefcourt believes they would be indicted anew for other incidents. Following a number of bombings, newspaper offices or police have received anonymous letters or phone calls allegedly from the "Weatherman under" claiming credit for the belongings.

Within the last month, Lefcourt said, he had heard

from four people who were contacted by FBI agents in search of the Weatherman fugitives, suggesting that federal authorities are still interested in prosecuting them.

An FBI spokesman said the Capitol, Pentagon and ITT bombings, among others, are unsolved but still under "intensive investigation." The spokesman noted that no definitive evidence linked these incidents to the

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Weatherman fugitives, but that the phone calls or anonymous letters did.

"The possibility exists they may be named in future indictments," the FBI spokesman said. "This, of course, would heat up the investigation."

The New Left activities that produced a string of government conspiracy trials have subsided, of course, but the Justice Department still has a number of unsettled cases involving various New Left figures and violent crimes.

A Justice spokesman estimated that about 35 New Left people are still fugitives, including six who are on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List."

They are:

- Cameron Bishop, a Colorado college student accused of dynamiting microwave stations in the West.

- David Fine, Dwight Armstrong, and Lee Burt, wanted for the bombing of the math research center at the University of Wisconsin where a graduate student was killed. Armstrong's brother, Karleton, was arrested in Canada and con-

victed on seven charges in Madison, Wis. He will be eligible for parole in five years.

- Susan Saxe and Katherine Ann Power, charged with the murder of a Boston police officer following a bank robbery. They also are accused of a raid on a National Guard Armory.

The FBI presumes that some of all of these "most wanted" fugitives have left the country. The Weathermen, on the other hand, are presumed to be somewhere in the United States, employing elaborately constructed false identities with fake birth certificates, driver's licenses and so forth.

The two Weatherman women who were arrested—Miss Evans and Miss Clark—were in New York. A third underground Weatherman was also caught in New York City last fall—but he went underground again after a judge released him on bail.

Howard Machtinger, one of the 12 Chicago defendants, was arrested on East 86th Street in September, then jumped his \$2,500 bail in October.