

PREP INF
VVAW

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Antiwar Vets Indicted On GOP Riot Charges

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted six antiwar veterans today on charges of conspiring to disrupt next month's Republican National Convention in Miami Beach with guns, bombs and other forms of violence.

The grand jury completed a week long probe by accusing the six members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) of plotting to "maliciously damage and destroy by means of explosive devices buildings and persons" at the Aug. 21-24 convention.

Indicted were Don Purdue, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Peter Mahoney, New York City; John Kniffer, Texas; William Patterson, Texas; Alton Foss, Miami and Scott Camil, Gainesville, Fla.

Camil, Florida VVAW coordinator, also was indicted on additional charges of instructing in the use and application of incendiary devices and possession of a chemical bomb.

In a rare closed-door bond hearing, bonds of \$25,000 were set for three of those indicted — Camil, Kniffer and Mahoney — by U.S. Magistrate Robert C. Dean.

U.S. marshals blocked newsmen from entering the hearing room.

An attorney for the group protested that the order "to let only lawyers into the hearing deprived the defendants of their right to a public hearing."

A group of war veterans milled around the front steps of the postoffice and a protest was scheduled for later today.

The other defendants were not immediately available for comment.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Jack Carrouth said those under indictment, who are all among the original 23 antiwar vets called here this week, will be brought before a committing magistrate sometime today for the purpose of setting bonds. He said the conspiracy charges each carry maximum penalties of five years imprisonment.

Meanwhile, the grand jury recessed until Aug. 8.

A Legal Defense Fund spokesman, Judy Peterson of Gainesville, said earlier that the alleged conspiracy charges also involved plans for the just-concluded Democratic convention, but the indictments only mentioned events allegedly planned for "Aug. 21-28 in Miami Beach."

FOUR OTHER antiwar vets were arrested Thursday night on charges of direct contempt of court levelled by U.S. Dist. Judge David L. Middlebrooks.

The indictments accuse the six of plotting to organize numerous "fire teams" armed with automatic weapons, firearms and incendiary devices.

The teams allegedly would then "attack police stations, police cars and stores in Miami Beach on various dates," said the indictments.

The indictments also accused the six of planning to "fire lead weights, fried marbles, ball bearings, cherry bombs and smoke bombs" in the city and to use "wrist rockets, sling shots and cross bows."

The indictments made use of the same anticonspiracy law which resulted in indictments following the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago and the celebrated "Chicago Seven" case.

Thursday night the Democratic National Convention condemned the Nixon Administration for attempting to "intimidate and discredit" the antiwar group.