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Vigilantes in 11 Jersey Towns Give Police Unsolicited Help

By J. ANTHONY LUKAS

Special to The New York Times

NORTH BERGEN, N. J., July 9—A group of New Jersey homeowners took to the streets tonight to help hold back what they said is a "rising tide of insurrection" approaching their doorsteps.

Ernest T. Bradow, a 26-year-old former auto salesman and chairman of People's Rights Enforced Against Riots and Murder (PRE-ARM), said his group had 30 "citizens patrol cars" cruising 11 communities in Bergen and Hudson Counties.

"We think the anarchists are going to blow Newark and Jersey City sky-high this summer, but we're afraid they're not going to stop there this time," Mr. Bradow said. "If they come into the white sections, we want to be ready for them."

Mr. Bradow said the three-man crews in the patrol cars were unarmed and would use force "only if necessary to prevent somebody being killed." But he said they would act as "the eyes of the police."

Police officials and the mayors in most of the 11 communities where the organization will operate are not very happy about the unsolicited assistance. But there seems to be little they can do about it.

Chief Calls His Men Able

George Lehman, police chief of this Hudson County town, said:

"There's no way we can stop citizens driving around town, but we don't need any help. My policemen are quite able to handle any situation which develops."

Fort Lee's police chief, Theodore Grieco, put his feelings even more strongly:

"I said it before and I say it again. I do not want any type of vigilantes in Fort Lee. I'm telling them to keep out."

Guy W. Calissi, Bergen County Prosecutor, said: "Law enforcement is up to the police departments, not vigilante groups."

Mr. Bradow does not like the "vigilante" label. He feels it is an effort to link his group with "paramilitary" outfits that are

the target of a bill Gov. Richard J. Hughes has submitted to the Legislature. The bill has passed the Senate and is in a committee in the Assembly.

"We're not vigilantes," Mr. Bradow said. "We're simply there to report crimes to the police and let them act."

Most of the 30 cars, he said, are equipped with two-way radios over which the group's members will report incidents to their Jersey City "base." The base will then telephone the appropriate police department.

Member of Birch Society

Mr. Bradow is a member of the John Birch Society and state organizer for George Wallace's American Independent party. He ran last year for the New Jersey Assembly on the Conservative party ticket, placing fifth out of eight candidates.

"Sure, I'm strictly right-wing," he said today during an interview in the basement of his two-story brick house on a quiet, tree-lined North Bergen street. He asked that his address not be given—"not for me—I know I'm a walking dead man already—but for my family; we've already received so many threats."

Above him on the bookshelves were "Atlas Shrugged" and "We the Living" by Ayn Rand, "None Dare Call It Treason" by John A. Stormer and "I Was an NKVD Agent" by Anatoli Granovsky.

Mr. Bradow said PRE-ARM was organized in May and now has 319 members, who will wear dark trousers, white shirts and black armbands on duty. Among them, he said, are 13 Negroes and 21 policemen.

The group began in North Bergen and Jersey City, but Mr. Bradow said there are now chapters also in Fort Lee, Palisades Park, Ridgefield Park, Bayonne, Union City, Secaucus, Hoboken, West New York and Kearny. These are the eleven communities in which they will patrol from 8 P.M. until 2 or 3 A.M. each night.