

10 Sep 69

WOS1 Fled fire through window. 10 Sept 69

EX-KKK CHIEF JAILED

Trio Held as Death Plot Against Evers Is Probed

FAYETTE, Miss. (AP) — Three men, one identified as a former top officer of two Ku Klux Klan organizations, were in custody today as authorities investigated a reported assassination plot against Fayette Negro Mayor Charles Evers.

Dale Walton, 44, a Tupelo merchant, was arrested by Fayette police last night after officers staked out Evers' office following a telephone tip that an attempt was planned on the civil rights leader's life. He was charged with speeding and carrying concealed weapons after a search of his automobile turned up two shotguns, a rifle, a carbine and a .38-caliber pistol.

In nearby Natchez, authorities said Bobby Haywood, 18, of Nettleton was arrested in a motel room registered to Walton. Officers said he had a .45-caliber submachine gun and was held at the request of federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division agents.

AND, IN Hattiesburg, Pat Massengale, 50, was arrested at his home by ATF agents and lodged in the Forrest County jail. Walter Kelly, ATF acting chief special investigator, said Massengale was taken into custody in connection with the submachine gun found in Haywood's pos-

See EVERS— Page 4

Evers--

Continued from Page 1

session.

Walton, who was a civilian colonel on the staff of Gov. Ross Barnett, is the admitted founder and former imperial wizard of the Knights of the Green Forest, a splinter Ku Klux Klan organization which authorities said ceased operations in 1966. He also is a former exalted cyclops of the United Klans of America.

Massengale was charged in 1968 with obstructing justice in an alleged attempt to tamper with a jury called to hear the murder trial of William Thomas Smith, accused of killing Hattiesburg Negro leader Vernon F. Dahmer.

Massengale was tried under the indictment, but the case ended in a mistrial when the jury reported it was hopelessly deadlocked. The case has not been retried.

EVERS SAID he summoned officers after he received a telephone tip that three men were going to kill him.

"I often get these calls and don't pay much attention to them," Evers said. "But the last call made more sense than most. The lady identified the car . . . and said it was full of guns and they had been hired to kill me."

When the car later passed his office, he said, "I just threw up my hand and the police stopped them."

EVERS REPORTED the arresting officers asked Walton why he had the weapons in his car and he replied, "None of your business."

Walton probably will receive a hearing in Mayor's Court tomorrow, Evers said.

Fayette Police Chief Robert Vanderson said Walton had been reported in the area for several days and had been seen in the County Park, site of a marble monument commemorating Evers' brother Medgar, a state Negro leader who was the victim of an assassin's bullets.

11 Sep 69

Klan Ex-Leader Charged in Plot Against Evers

FAYETTE, Miss. (AP)—

A city official here said today that charges of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder have been filed against former Klan leader Dale Walton, one of three men arrested in connection with an alleged plot to kill Negro Mayor Charles Evers.

Walton, 44, was arrested near Evers' office Tuesday night on charges of speeding and carrying concealed weapons. He was held in county jail without bond.

City Atty. Martha Wood said before Walton's scheduled court appearance today that conspiracy and attempted murder charges also were filed and bonds totaling \$11,044 were set on the four charges.

MISS WOOD said the purpose of the hearing is to determine whether there is enough evidence to turn over to a grand jury.

Evers, because of his position in the case, said he would not preside at the hearing today in Mayor's Court for Walton, the operator of a general merchandise and sporting goods store at Tupelo.

From his jail cell in Fayette this morning, Walton told a reporter: "On the advice of counsel and in the light of re-

See EVERS— Page 4

Evers--

Continued from Page 1

cent court rulings I decline any other statement other than the simple truth of the matter that I am not guilty of any of these charges."

POLICE Chief Robert Vanderson said two shotguns, two rifles and a pistol were found in Walton's car.

Bobby Haywood, 18, of Tupelo was arrested a few hours later at Natchez, southwest of here, in a motel room registered to Walton. Officers said he had a .45-caliber submachine gun.

ATF agents said the submachine gun was traced to Pat Massengale, 50, of Hattiesburg. He was arrested in Hattiesburg, charged with illegally transferring the weapon to Haywood and released on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond.