

NEW YORK TIMES, Saturday, November 11, 1961, page 9

Title: Minutemen's Leader Cleared BELLEVILLE, ILL. Nov. 10 (AP) - "A magistrate

dismissed charges of illegal possession of weapons today against Richard Lauchli, regional director of the Minutemen.

"The case, which involved the possession of four fully operative automatic and semi-automatic weapons, was dismissed by Magistrate A.J. Malacarne. The weapons were seized by St. Clair County authorities on Oct. 21 at Shiloh, Ill., where a squad of Minutemen was attending a training session conducted by their national leader, Robert B. DePugh.

"Mr. Lauchli, who operates a machine shop in Collinsville, Ill., is a firearms dealer. The Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax unit of the Treasury Department, the agency charged with enforcing firearms laws, had refused to arrest Mr. Lauchli on the ground that he was licensed to deal in weapons.

NEW YORK TIMES, Wednesday, May 20, 1964, page 57

Title: Tax Agents Seize Midwest Arsenal, Pose as Foreign Buyers and Held 2 After Sale of Cache

"CLINTON, Ill., May 19 (AP) -- Treasury agents posed as agents of a foreign power today to seize two men and enough weapons to outfit a small army.

"Agents of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit here said an incomplete inventory of the weapons showed more than 100 submachine guns, five 50-caliber machine guns, a flame thrower, a 75-MM. recoilless cannon, several 25-pound aerial bombs, several mortars with shells, automatic pistols and rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

"The agents, representing themselves as agents of an unnamed country, said they had paid \$17,000 for the arms in an abandoned barn about 3 1/2 miles east of Wapella.

"David Eaton, a DeWitt County deputy sheriff, said the undercover agents demanded and were permitted to try out the submachine guns with live ammunition before closing the deal.

"In custody in Clinton were Richard Lauchli, 37 years old, of Collinsville and Donald Sturgis 36, of Fairmont City.

"Authorities said Mr. Lauchli was a regional leader in 1961 of a militantly anti-Communist group that called itself the Minutemen.

"The group used surplus weapons in carrying out guerrilla warfare maneuvers.

"Mr. Eaton gave this story of the arrests:

"A Government agent, posing as a buyer, helped load the weapons aboard a pickup truck in Collinsville this morning.

"The weapons were driven to the abandoned barn for the final sale. When it was completed, the agents let the sellers drive away, then alerted by radio nearly 20 other agents in the vicinity.

"The undercover agents joined in the chase through back country roads. The pair surrendered when their car skidded to a halt at a sharp intersection surrounded by ~~XXXXX~~ Treasury agents.

"Mr. Eaton said the weapons had been purchased as scrap and then put back into condition by Mr. Lauchli.

"Mr. Lauchli and Mr. Sturgis were to be taken to the United States attorney's office in Springfield.

NEW YORK TIMES, Tuesday, November 30, 1965, page 25

Title: Illinois Minuteman Receives 2 1/2 Years for Gun Sales

"SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Nov. 29 (AP) -- Richard Lauchli Jr., once a leader of the Illinois Minutemen, was sentenced in United States district court today to two and one-half years in prison for the illegal sale, shipment and manufacture of guns.

"Lauchli, 38 years old, of Collinsville, was convicted last month. The Minutemen is an anti-Communist organization.

"Judge Omer Poes told Lauchli he was denying an appeal for probation because 'you ought to have it driven home to you that you can't take the law into your own hands.'"

"The judge noted that Lauchli had twice earlier been convicted of violating the firearms act and had in recent weeks attempted to order guns through the mail under an assumed name.

"Lauchli was given 10 days in which to file notice of appeal. Bond was continued at \$ 20,000.