

Dodd Says an Agent Spied on Minutemen To Get Data on Guns

WASHINGTON, June 2 (UPI)—A Senate subcommittee said today that one of its agents had infiltrated the Minutemen, a militant nationalist organization that says it is preparing for guerrilla warfare in this country.

Senator Thomas J. Dodd, chairman of the Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee, made the disclosure at a hearing on proposed legislation to restrict sales of guns.

The Connecticut Democrat also said he was amending the legislation, which he introduced to avoid possible hardships for antique gun collectors and some persons living in isolated rural areas. But he said the amendments would not change the major goals of the bill.

Mail-Order Curb Sought

One objective of the bill is to curb the flow into the United States of Weapons from abroad. Another is to control interstate mail-order gun sales.

Senator Dodd said he had arranged to have an undercover agent join the Minutemen. He called it an organization dedicated to the proposition that "our diplomatic war against Communism has already been lost by bungles or traitors within our own Government."

"The purpose of the Minutemen is to develop a vast underground guerrilla army that will rise to the defense of the United States to prevent a Communist takeover of this country," Mr. Dodd said.

He said the unidentified undercover agent was admitted as a Minuteman member within the last six months.

"His major activities with the Minutemen have been designated as (1) member of a combat team, and (2) an expert in weaponry," Mr. Dodd said. "He has received such educational literature as 'A handbook for Saboteurs,' 'The Principles of Guerrilla Warfare,' 'How to Organize an anti-Communist underground Army,' and so forth."

Easy Gun Purchases

In line with this activity, the Senator said, the agent within recent days had purchased an 81-millimeter Russian mortar, a 15-millimeter Finnish mortar, a 2.36-millimeter bazooka, a rifle with a grenade launcher, rifle grenades and several hand grenades, bazooka rockets and shells for the Russian mortar.

No questions were asked in connection with any of the purchases, Mr. Dodd said.

"I cite this case today to indicate the ease with which anyone in this country, no matter what his background, his motives, his affiliations, or his intentions, can purchase weapons which were designed for the mass destruction of human beings," he said.