

RIGHTISTS SEIZED IN A ROBBERY PLOT

Alleged Minuteman Employee
Among 7 Held on Coast

SEATTLE, Jan. 26 (UPI)—An alleged full-time employe of the right-wing Minuteman organization and six other men were arrested by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation today as they were grouping to put into action what was described as a plot that called for blowing up a city hall and power plant and robbing four banks.

Police Chief Robert Sollitto of the town of Redmond, 20 miles northeast of Seattle, said the seven had been under surveillance since Dec. 18.

"That's when the plot was formulated," he said. "And we have been living with it since then."

Chief Sollitto, whose father and grandfather were New York City policemen, said the F.B.I. moved in and arrested the plotters on charges of conspiracy "as they were grouping to put their plan into action."

The plan, he said, called for blowing up Redmond City Hall, which houses the police station, and a nearby power substation as a diversionary tactic, and then robbing three banks in Redmond and one in the town of Des Moines, which is about five miles south of Seattle.

The F.B.I. seized an arsenal of weapons that included 10 molotov cocktails, nine sticks of dynamite, two .38-caliber revolvers, a .32-caliber automatic gun, face masks and blasting caps. The F.B.I. put the arsenal on display in its Seattle office this afternoon for the benefit of photographers.

The announcement of the arrests was made in Washington by Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who said several of the men were members of the Minuteman organization.

Officials declined to say how they learned of the plot or what the men planned to do with any money they might have gotten from the banks.

Sollitto, who has been in office for five years and a police officer for 15, said that "on six or eight occasions" he or his men had even gone so far as to talk with some of the suspects when they appeared in town.

"We got pretty friendly with some of them," he said with a laugh. "We also followed their automobiles and kept them under close surveillance. In this way we knew their probable escape route. Why, they even came to town with walkie-talkies."

"We knew they were monitoring our radio, so we changed that with some different equipment for official calls."

He said that when the plot was first uncovered, he asked for the assistance of the state patrol, the Kings County sheriff's office and the F.B.I. He said arrangements had been made to have the sheriff take over any calls in case the plot was put into action.

"We kept the city hall cleared of all but police personnel and had plainclothesmen stationed at the parking lot where we knew they were going to steal their getaway cars," he said. "We had also had extra guards armed with shotguns at the banks and at the substation."

"I'll tell you one thing, now that it is over we are relieved."

The F.B.I. said the plotters had floor plans of the four banks and of the City Hall.

They were charged officially with conspiracy to rob a bank, a Federal offense, and taken before United States Commissioner Walter J. Reseburg Jr. for arraignment.

The seven were identified by the F.B.I. as:

Duane Ivan Carlson, 35 years old, the alleged employe of the Minuteman organization.

He is single and had been residing in Seattle.

Joseph David Hourie, also known as Max and Mac, 20, an employe of a Seattle grocery chain.

Ervin John White, 41, married, and living in the suburban town of Edmonds where he is a self-employed draftsman.

Jerome Nicholas Diemert, 43, married and living in Arlington, currently unemployed but worked as a ship's oiler.

Mervyn Edward Henderson Sr., 57, of suburban Bothell, a church sexton and part-time maintenance man.

Kelley E. De Lano, 24, a civilian drive rat Fort Lewis Army Base, married and living in Tacoma.

Milton James Dix, 34, Seattle, a longshoreman.

If convicted on the conspiracy charges, they could face sentences of five years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fines each.

Officials declined to disclose how many of the men were members of the Minutemen, a group described by J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. director, as "a secret anti-Communist group whose aim is to combat the Communists 'after' they take over this country."