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Houghton

SAN DIEGO AP -The wife of Troy Houghton, California Minuteman leader, said Monday she believes her husband has been slain.

Houghton, 34, was convicted in Kansas City for a firearms act violation and sentenced Jan. 17, 1967 to three years in prison. He was freed on bail pending an appeal. The Minutemen is an underground guerrilla organization.

Mrs. Bettie Houghton, who lives in the College Grove area with her three sons, said she has not heard from her husband since May 20, 1967, when she said he telephoned from Independence, Mo.

The only logical explanation," she said, is that he has been killed.

I'd rather not go into who might have done it because there are so many possibilities - he was a controversial figure-it is hard to tell," she said.

We came to the conclusion that something had happened to him, that he was not acting of his own free will," she said.

We are certain he would have contacted us if he had been able to do so."

She said Houghton's disappearance has been investigated by personal friends" who located the car he was driving in the Midwest. But I can't say anything more than that."

Houghton was convicted along with Robert DePugh, Minute-man founder, and Walter Pe-track Peyson, both of Norborne, Mo., who also were released pending appeals.

But U.S. Atty. Cal Hamilton of Kansas City filed a motion Monday to dismiss the appeals.

DePugh and Peyson, besides the firearms act convictions, are sought on warrants charging conspiracy to commit bank robbery in Seattle.

Hamilton said a fugitive warrant has not been issued for Houghton.

Houghton's family thinks he's dead and his court-appointed attorney hasn't seen him in almost a year," Hamilton said.

Based on the information we have, we believe DePugh and Peyson have fled to Canada," he said.