

Minutemen Ranks Thin, Says Hoover

Washington

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover says there are fewer than 50 persons in the ultra right wing Minutemen organization upon whom its leaders can call for overt action.

Hoover, in testimony before a House appropriations subcommittee last February and made public only recently, recalled Minutemen claims that its primary purpose is to overthrow the government in the event of a Communist takeover.

"Although boasting of thousands of members, there are actually less than 500 persons in the group, and recent information indicates that there are less than 50 persons upon whom Minutemen leaders can call for overt action," Hoover said.

The Minutemen, headquartered at Norborne, Mo., remain under the self-proclaimed leadership of Robert Depugh, Hoover said, despite Depugh's statement last year that he was turning the operation of the organization over to a secret executive council.

Hoover noted that while Depugh says the Minutemen do not buy and store arms, persons who donate \$20 or more to the organization are furnished plans for the manufacture and assembly of a machine gun.

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