

Minutemen 'Tipped Off On Raids'

ST. LOUIS — (UPI) — Robert de Pugh, the fugitive national leader of the Minuteman, says "agents within local police and government agencies" have helped the Minutemen elude federal agents, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports.

Reporter Robert Collins said De Pugh gave written replies to "various questions previously relayed by an intermediary."

De Pugh, "in a handwritten, and signed memorandum," said police departments "have tipped us off repeatedly in time for us to move to other headquarters before the authorities could move in on us," the story said.

"On a couple of occasions it has been close," De Pugh was quoted. "We left one of our headquarters just 10 minutes before the FBI agents arrived."

De Pugh and his principal lieutenant, Walter Peyson, are fugitives from justice on a federal conspiracy charge filed in Seattle.

Convictions of De Pugh, Peyson and Troy Haughton — West Coast coordinator for the Minutemen — on violations of the Federal Firearms Act were reversed Oct. 1 by the U.S. Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

The report said De Pugh wrote he has "traveled far and wide during the past six months. Couriers come and go daily at our underground headquarters. No one has turned me in. No one has revealed the location of our underground headquarters."