

MINUTEMEN CHIEF CAPTURED BY F.B.I.

DePugh and Aide Had Been
Sought Year and a Half

WASHINGTON, July 13 (UPI)—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have arrested Robert Bolivar DePugh, leader of the right-wing organization called the Minutemen, on a charge of general conspiracy in connection with a series of planned bank robberies, Attorney General John N. Mitchell announced today.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the bureau, said that DePugh, 40 years old, and Walter Patrick Peyson, 27, DePugh's top assistant in the Minutemen, were heavily armed but offered no resistance when they were apprehended late last night on a highway outside Truth or Consequences, N. M.

Both men had been sought since Feb. 20, 1968.

Sent to City Jail

They were arraigned before a United States Commissioner in Albuquerque and were taken to the city jail in lieu of \$150,000 bail for DePugh and \$20,000 for Payson.

If convicted on the conspiracy charge, each man could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

DePugh and Peyson were arrested on the basis of warrants issued after their indictment by a Federal grand jury in Seattle. The two men were named in the indictment for alleged participation in plans to commit a series of four bank robberies.

Mr. Hoover said the money they planned to steal "was allegedly to be used to finance the activities of the Minutemen, a secret, militant anti-Communist organization, which reportedly planned a violent

revolution when the Communists take over this country."

Collecting Arms and Funds

The F.B.I. director asserted that Minutemen were also said to be "attempting to collect arms and funds throughout the United States" to further these plans.

The conspiracy charge against DePugh and Peyson, according to Mr. Hoover, grew out of the arrest of seven men in the Seattle area Jan. 26, 1968, after they were charged with planning to rob three banks in Redmond, Wash., and another bank in Des Moines, Wash.

DePugh and Peyson were riding in a pickup truck on a highway two and a half miles south of Truth or Consequences when they were arrested by the Federal agents. In the truck were found an automatic pistol, a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight and a .38-caliber pistol, Mr. Hoover said.

At the time of their capture, DePugh was using the name Ralph Cooper and Peyson was using the name Jim Cooper. Mr. Hoover said that both men had identification for these names, as well as a quantity of ammunition and money, when they were captured.