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Reds Still a Danger, Says Freed Minuteman

By MARGARET P. RICHARDS

Norborne, Mo. (UPI) — Robert Bolivar Depugh is a man with a cause — anticommunism — that three years in a federal prison have done little to temper.

"I think there is more danger from communism now than there used to be," the former head of the right-wing Minutemen organization said in an interview.

Depugh, who was released from prison April 30 on parole which restricts his travel to western Missouri, said President Nixon's trips to Moscow and Peking only confirm the Communist plan for takeover of the United States.

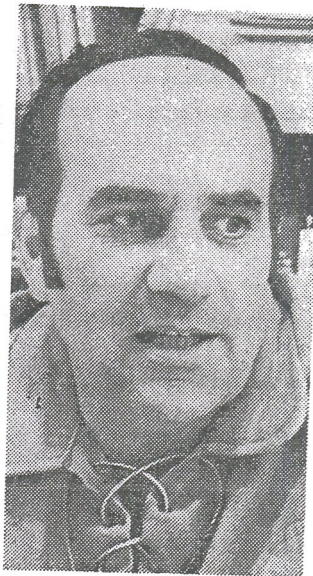
'Lulled To Sleep'

"Khrushchev once said, 'We must lull the Western world to sleep.' We are being lulled to sleep," Depugh said.

Despite his fears, Depugh is uncertain whether he will attempt to revive the Minutemen, an organization that received much publicity in the 1960s, but whose membership was generally conceded to be small.

The organization has been without leadership since Depugh and his second, in command, Walter Patrick Peyson, were apprehended July 12, 1968, near Truth or Consequences, N.M., where authorities seized an arsenal of weapons at a house allegedly used by the Minutemen.

The two had gone underground after nine Minutemen were indicted in Seattle in April, 1968, on charges of con-



UPI Telephoto

Robert Bolivar Depugh

spirating to rob three banks. Depugh never was brought to trial on the charge but was sentenced to four years in 1970 for bond-jumping and nine concurrent 10-year terms for federal gun law violations.

Wrote Prison Book

Depugh, 50, appeared relaxed, happy and friendly as he sat behind his desk in an inner room of the warehouse-like structure that serves as plant and office for Biolab, Inc., his veterinary pharmaceutical concern.

He revealed no plans for contact with Minutemen except for a mailing list he intends to use for the sale of a book he has written on prison reform.