

3 Yemenis Acquitted Of Plot to Kill Nixon

By JOHN SIBLEY

A Yemeni Arab and his two sons were acquitted yesterday of charges that they plotted last November to assassinate Richard M. Nixon, then President-elect.

An all-male State Supreme Court jury in Brooklyn found the three defendants guilty only of the least serious charge in the four-count indictment—possession of two switch-blade knives.

The defendants were Ahmed Rageh Namer, 43 years old, and his sons Hussein, 21, and Abdo, 19. All are now United States citizens and live at 496 Hinsdale Street, in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

The case against them was based solely on the testimony of a fellow Yemenite who had

Continued on Page 21, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

lived in the Namer apartment from May to October last year.

The defense attorney, David F. Price, had contended from the start that this key prosecution witness, Mohammed Hazan Aljamal, had concocted the story of an assassination conspiracy in a gnawing desire for revenge.

The Namers testified that the father threw Mr. Aljamal out of the apartment for repeated drunkenness, a serious breach of Moslem religious principles. After several warnings, the elder Mr. Namer said, he evicted Mr. Aljamal when the roomer set fire to his bed with a lighted cigarette.

Mr. Aljamal's version was that he had left the Namer apartment voluntarily and moved to 602 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn. He testified that he learned of the alleged conspiracy on the evening of Nov. 7 when he revisited the Namer apartment to see whether any mail had been sent to him there.

When he walked into the apartment, he said, Abdo was sitting in the kitchen holding a carbine. Another rifle, an M-1, was said to have been leaning against the kitchen wall.

Alleged Plot Depicted

Mr. Aljamal said that when he asked about the weapons, Abdo replied: "We're going to kill Nixon."

Questioned by Assistant District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, Mr. Aljamal said that the father had urged him to join in the asserted plot. The prosecution witness said he declined, but that as he was leaving the apartment, the father again said:

"If you want us to deal you in, let us know."

The Namers testified that Mr. Aljamal had not been in their apartment at all that evening.

On the night of Nov. 7, Mr. Aljamal telephoned the police with his account of the evening's alleged events. He was quickly taken into protective custody and has been held in a secret location ever since.

Mr. Aljamal's room rent, clothing and certain other expenses have been paid for out of public funds, and he has been guarded by two detectives.

During cross-examination, the defense brought out the fact that Mr. Aljamal had been a paid police informer in California when he was working there as a fruit picker. He acknowledged that he had been paid to inform on narcotics peddlers and prostitutes.

The police had found the two rifles, disassembled, in a suitcase in the Namer apartment. Mr. Namer testified that he had purchased them to give to relatives in Yemen, where he had planned to return last December.

Justice Louis B. Heller remanded the jury, that possession of a rifle is not a crime unless it is proved that there is intent to use it against another person.

In the case of the switch-blade knives, however, mere possession is a crime in New York. On this count, the Namers face a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment.

Justice Heller set no date for sentencing.

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