

A Stanford Ph.D. Is Sought by FBI

SFChronicle *By George Draper*

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A doctor of psychology from Stanford University with a penchant for wearing hard hats and long capes was being sought by the FBI yesterday as the ingenious bomber of safe deposit boxes in nine banks.

The FBI said Ronald Kaufman, 33, had been linked by fingerprints and handwriting to time bombs discovered last week in safe deposit boxes in San Francisco, Chicago and New York.

A warrant for Kaufman's arrest was signed early yesterday by U.S. Magistrate Owen E. Woodruff Jr. set bail at \$500,000.

Kaufman, currently an army deserter under an assumed name, was active in the voter registration drive in Mississippi in 1964. According to the FBI, he served as Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman's chauffeur during the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago.

The nine time bombs that he allegedly planted in safe

deposit boxes last July were hooked up to electric watches that had a cycle of seven months or 217 days.

According to a warning letter that was sent to newsmen in the three cities, the black powder bombs were merely a warning.

More powerful bombs made with superior timing devices, the letter warned, would eventually be planted in hotels, buildings under construction and highway roadbeds.

Object of the time bombs, according to the letter, would be to obtain the release of so-called political prisoners.

Authorities and the public, according to the letter, would be told who is to be freed in exchange for the exact location of the explosive devices.

FBI

The FBI said Kaufman, who once experimented with the reaction of pigeons to reward and punishment, should be considered armed and dangerous. He is the son of Russian immigrant parents who prospered in Milwaukee.

Somehow their son managed to collect four aliases. He served in the army from 1956 through 1958, according to the FBI, under his real name of Ronald Kaufman.

However, he re-enlisted in the army last August 10 in St. Louis under the assumed name of James Edward Jensen.

The FBI said he left Fort Polk, La., on a 30-day leave last December with orders to report for overseas duty at Ft. Jackson, S.C., on January 9 this year.

The FBI said there is no record that Private Jensen ever showed up at Ft. Jackson but two days later the bombs were found in the safety deposit boxes.

The most important of
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Kaufman's many aliases are those of Christopher Curtis Mohr and Christopher Charles Mohr, according to the FBI.

These are the names that he used to rent safety deposit boxes in three New York banks, three Chicago banks and three banks in San Francisco last July.

One of the bombs planted in San Francisco exploded prematurely last September 7 at the Bank of America at Market and New Montgomery streets.

As a result of this explosion, which caused only minor damage, FBI agents began searching for Mohr, the name under which the box was rented.

CHICAGO

Mohr had given a Chicago address but a check there only produced a slim and confusing lead — the possibility that a straight-looking physicist had visited the place briefly.

After the unsigned warning letter was received last week, bombs were found in eight different banks.

In San Francisco, live time bombs were extracted from safety deposit boxes at Crocker-Citizens National Bank at No. 1 Montgomery and at the Wells Fargo Bank at No. 44 Montgomery street.

The FBI complaint yesterday described these devices as:

"A destructive device consisting of an altered calendar cordless electric clock, a battery charger casing containing four batteries, two flash bulbs and smokeless powder plus various wiring and components."

FINGERPRINTS

The FBI found two latent fingerprints on the interior of the cordless electric clock connected to the bomb at the Wells Fargo bank.

Agents also found one latent fingerprint on a rental contract slip at the Continental Illinois National Bank in Chicago.

Two more latent fingerprints were found on a safe deposit access application at

the Crocker National Bank here.

And in New York, agents found one latent print on an access slip to a safety deposit box at the Marine Midland Bank.

All of these fingerprints, according to the FBI, were the prints of Ronald Kaufman.

HANDWRITING

The FBI also compared the handwriting on the warning letter sent to newsmen with the writing on the various safe deposit application forms and access slips.

The handwriting of these various documents matched

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the handwriting of Ronald Kaufman, according to the FBI.

The FBI released a recent photograph of Kaufman and described him as being 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighing 168 pounds and having brown hair and brown eyes.

His Social Security number was given as 398-34-8220.

Kaufman's whereabouts are unknown. His last address in the Bay Area was at 1314 Poe street, Berkeley.

Gloria Zeff, who lives at that address, said he left there in late July.

"I can't see how anybody would have termed Ron dangerous," she told a reporter. And that's all she cared to say.