

3 Suspects in Nixon Assassination Plot Go to Trial

By JOHN SIBLEY

Did a Yemeni Arab and his two sons, talking in the kitchen of their Brooklyn apartment last Nov. 7, conspire to assassinate President-elect Nixon?

Or is this a fiction narrated by a disgruntled fellow Yemeni who seeks revenge?

The father and sons say that a month earlier they ejected their accuser from the apartment because he had become intoxicated — in violation of Muslim religious precepts — and set fire to a bed with his cigarette.

The case against the father and sons went to trial yesterday before Justice Louis B. Heller and an all-male jury in State Supreme Court, Brooklyn. The outcome hinges solely on the credibility of the lone accusing witness.

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

The Namers are charged with

conspiracy to commit murder, solicitation of a co-assassin and illegal possession of two rifles and two knives. If convicted, each faces a maximum sentence of 24 years.

Lived With Namer

Their accuser is Mohammed Hazan Aljamal, who lived in the Namer apartment from May to October last year. He now lives at 602 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn.

After opening statements by prosecution and defense attorneys, Mr. Aljamal took the stand as the first witness.

Questioned by Assistant District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, Mr. Aljamal testified that he had returned to the Namer apartment Nov. 7 to see whether any mail had been sent to him there.

When he walked into the Namers' kitchen, Mr. Aljamal said, Abdo Namer was holding a carbine and another rifle an M-1, was leaning against the wall.

When he asked about the weapons, Mr. Aljamal replied,

"One of the boys said, 'We're going to kill Nixon.'"

He said the father then promised him "lots of travel money" if he would join in the plot. Mr. Aljamal said that he declined but that as he left the apartment the father said:

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

Still under direct examination by Mr. Hynes, which is to continue today, Mr. Aljamal acknowledged that he was convicted of burglary in 1958.

At 9:30 P.M. on Nov. 7—soon after leaving the Namer apartment—Mr. Aljamal walked into the local police station and told his story. The Namers were arrested soon afterward.

The Namers' version of the incident was related yesterday in the opening statement of their attorney, David F. Price.

Mr. Price readily acknowledged that the rifles had been in the Namers' possession. He said, however, that they were

unassembled and packed in a suitcase.

The defense lawyer said the Namers were devout Muslims — the reason for their anger at Mr. Aljamal's drinking — and that their employers would testify during the trial that all three were conscientious workers.

"This case," said Mr. Price, "is a complete frame-up on the part of this man Aljamal, who wants to get even because they kicked him out."