

Arsenal Uncovered By Raids in Bronx; 4 Suspects Seized

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By MURRAY SCHUMACH

An arsenal that included an antitank gun, a submachine gun, rifles, shotguns, hand grenades, dynamite and 250,000 rounds of ammunition was uncovered here yesterday during all-night raids. Four persons were arrested, at least two of them said to be members of the rightist John Birch Society.

The raids were made by about 20 policemen, including a detail from the Bronx District Attorney's office. They followed more than two months of investigation that included the planting of undercover men.

The suspects were said to have tried to kill Herbert Aptheker, director of the American Institute of Marxist Studies, who is also a member of the national committee of the Communist party.

'Frightful,' Dollinger Says

They were also said to have planned to bomb an antipoverty group in the Bronx—made up mainly of Negroes and Puerto Ricans—that is aided by Fordham University students.

The District Attorney's office said that when the arrested men bought guns they gave the names of men connected with leftist groups and the address of the Communist paper, *The Worker*.

District Attorney Isidore Dollinger, in his office cluttered with a variety of guns and cartons of ammunition, said that he would emphasize "this frightful thing" when he went before a joint city-state hearing today in City Hall to plead for stricter gun controls.

His chief assistant, Burton B. Roberts, had been up all night while men with search warrants tracked down the men and weapons. Mr. Roberts said: "It is time we stopped worrying about sportsmen and started worrying about the great majority of the public."

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Let the sportsmen hunt with cameras."

The vanloads of guns and ammunition were carried into the Bronx County Courthouse by detectives early yesterday morning.

Last October policemen carried out raids from Queens to Syracuse and arrested 19 alleged members of the Minutemen who were said to be planning to bomb left-wing centers. Tons of weapons, including mortars, bazookas, machine guns, crossbows and garroting nooses were seized at that time.

Bail Set at \$25,000

Three of the men arrested yesterday were accused of attempted murder. All four were accused of conspiracy to commit murder and the illegal possession of guns. Arraigned in Bronx Criminal Court, they were held in \$25,000 bail each at the Bronx House of Detention for a hearing on Sept. 15.

Those arrested were George Colitto, 52 years old, of 1841 Williamsbridge Road, owner of a sporting-goods store; Peter Psyrras, 37, of 780 Pelham Parkway South, owner of two sandwich shops; Martin Kimulik, 26, of 2847 Webb Avenue, a postal employe, and Warren Hoy, 40, of 2822 Decatur Avenue, a Parks Department laborer. All live in the Bronx. Hoy was not charged with attempted murder.

Among the items seized during the raids was the Blue Book of the John Birch Society and stickers urging the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the United States, Earl Warren.

The police, under Inspector John Thompson, acting commander of Bronx detectives, said they encountered no resistance in making the arrests or in talking to persons who gave them information. They said it had not been necessary to rip up floor boards or break into walls to find the weapons.

June Explosion Recalled

According to Mr. Roberts, the investigation began June 15, when a homemade pipe bomb exploded on the roof of a two-story building at 683 Allerton Avenue, the Bronx.

A hole was broken in the skylight and there was some other damage, but no one was hurt.

As the District Attorney's office and the police dug into that explosion they learned that two days earlier Mr. Aptheker was to have addressed members of the Allerton Community and Social Center. It meets on the upper floor of the building, just under where the bomb went off.

Police experts also determined that the bomb was to have gone off during that speech but that the bomb had been made ineptly.

From then until last Tuesday night, about 40 men were involved in the investigation.

The first overt move by the police was made about 10 P.M.

on Tuesday, when they picked up Colitto shortly after he had closed his sporting-goods store at 504 East Tremont Avenue. The store is said to have been in his family for 50 years.

From then until 7 A.M. yesterday the raiders hit at least a dozen places, but conducted searches only where their warrants permitted.

According to one person in authority during the raids, some of the four men seized "seemed to think they had not done very much wrong, maybe just committed some misdemeanors — they talked of being real patriots."

District Attorney Dollinger remarked later: "I don't want to characterize this group ideologically as right or left. They are lunatics, misguided individuals who think they are saving America."

Later, a reliable source at the District Attorney's office said at least two of those arrested said they belonged to the John Birch Society.

The antipoverty group the suspects were said to have planned to bomb is called Better Organization for the Mid-Bronx (B.O.M.B.). It has a storefront office at 2255 Webster Avenue and has been given a summer-program grant of about \$10,000 by the city's Human Resources Administration.

Formed by local residents and a group of Fordham students, it sponsors recreation programs for children and teen-agers, evening classes, and block cleanup projects. It has also tried to ease friction between Negro and Italian residents in the area.

An inventory of the weapons seized in the raids yesterday was prepared by the police and District Attorney's office. It included, besides the hand-held antitank gun and the submachine gun, 18 sticks of dynamite, two 50-pound cans of explosive powder, a plastic bomb, three grenades, 45 rifles, 7 shotguns, 14 handguns and 103 blasting caps.

Also turned up in the raids were index cards with names and addresses. The authorities refused to speculate on whether they represented members of an organization. This aspect, they said, is under investigation.

District Attorney Dollinger said his office and the police had passed relevant information "to all authorities that we think would be interested."

Mr. Dollinger's office said the source of funds to buy the weapons was not clear.