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Springfield Man, Cicero Gun Dealer Face Charges

# 20 Indicted For Alleged Illegal Gun Sale

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Two men were indicted here Wednesday by a federal grand jury in connection with the alleged illegal sale of \$17,000 worth of machine guns and sub machine guns.

**RICHARD A. LAUCHLI JR.**, 37, of Collinsville was charged with interstate transportation of firearms and receipt of firearms by a convicted felon, illegal manufacture of firearms, and failing to register and pay a federal tax as an interstate dealer in guns.

Lauchli and a Cicero gun dealer, Charles M. Von Kriegsfield, are charged with conspiracy in the attempted sale of the weapons.

According to Asst. U. S. Dist. Atty. Leon Scroggins, Lauchli was a third man, Donald L. Scroggins, 36, of Fairmount City, who hasn't been indicted. He owned \$17,000 worth of machine

guns and sub machine guns to a firm near Wapella on May 13 here in 1957 for illegal possession of firearms and since in Indiana for the theft in 1959 of rocket launchers owned by the government. He was fined from a South American country who wanted the guns for a revolution, according to Scroggins.

Von Kriegsfield is charged in the indictment with having purchased from a Provo, Utah, dealer 1,537 sub machine guns and 114 machine guns which were considered partially scrapped. Some of the guns later were delivered by Von Kriegsfield to a gunsmith for reconditioning, according to the indictment.

Lauchli has been named by U. S. Dist. Atty. Edward Phelps as formerly being connected with the Minutemen, a South-ern Illinois private military organization. James McKay, of Coal City, was charged with bank robbery. He was arrested recently in Kan-

men are charged with falsely reporting a construction job completed to the Federal Home Administration. They are Eugene Melster, 49, of Bloomington and Paul Gordon Jones, 35, of Bloomington Heights.

A Tokin man, Hersebel Knackmuths, 55, was indicted for attempting to bribe a U.S. Treasury agent on Sept. 2 in an attempt to influence him not to report an alleged violation of the wagering tax law. Knackmuths also is charged with failing to pay the wagering tax.

Persons accepting bets must purchase a gambling stamp and pay a 10 per cent tax on all bets accepted. **TWO BLOOMINGTON area**