

Court Hears U.S. Agent In Arms Trial

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A Collinsville man being tried here on charges he illegally made and sold firearms told an undercover agent he supplied guns to Fidel Castro and others, the agent testified Tuesday.

Thomas Mosely, a driver for the Chicago Transit Authority who does undercover work for the Federal Secret Service, testified Richard Lauchli Jr. said he had also sold arms to anti-Castro groups, the John Birch Society and the anti-Communist Minuteman Organization.

Lauchli is on trial in U.S. District Court here.

Mosely said he posed as a general of an unnamed foreign country and paid Lauchli \$17,000 for a stockpile of weapons. Federal agents arrested Lauchli when he turned over armaments to Mosely.

Lauchli was once a regional leader of the Minuteman organization.

Springfield (Illinois) REGISTER

Trial Begins On Firearms Counts

1985
A man identified as a member of the Minutemen, a Southern Illinois militant anti-Communist organization, went on trial in Federal Court here today on a charge of illegal interstate transportation of firearms.

Richard Lauchli, 38, of Collinsville, the defendant, is also being tried on charges of receipt of firearms by a convicted felon, illegal manufacture of firearms and failure to register and pay a federal tax as an interstate dealer in guns.

The jury to hear the case was selected this morning and opening arguments for the government were presented by First Asst. U.S. Atty. Leon Scroggins.

Lauchli was arrested in May 1964 by U.S. Treasury Department agents near a farm in DeWitt County. He was indicted by a federal grand jury in September 1964.

Lauchli is represented by attorney Robert Oxtoby.

Firearms Trial Here Ready For Jury

1985
The government and the defense rested their cases today in the trial of Richard Lauchli Jr., 38, of Collinsville on illegal transportation of firearms.

Summary arguments were scheduled for this afternoon, after which the case would be turned over to the jury.

Lauchli denied today that his purchase and sale of weapons violated the National Firearms Act.

Lauchli testified that gun parts he bought from Provo, Utah were unserviceable and did not constitute weapons as defined in the firearms act.

Lauchli is on trial in U. S. District Court on charges of illegal manufacture, shipment and sale of guns and explosives. He has been convicted twice before of violating federal regulations.

Lauchli and a companion, Donald Sturgis of Fairmont City, were arrested in May 1964 at a farm near Clinton after they allegedly turned over to federal agents more than 100 machine guns.

Sturgis was named in the indictment as a co-conspirator but not as a defendant.

Lauchli said he was a gun collector and repaired weapons as a hobby in his machine shop in Collinsville. He said he purchased weapon parts from a scrap dealer in Utah.

Lauchli formerly was a leader of the Illinois "Minutemen," an anti-Communist organization.