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Police Undercover Unit Kept Tabs on Minutemen

Agent Infiltrated Rightists and Told of Weapons Build-Up

By BERNARD WEINRAUB
The men from Bossy should have been delighted yesterday—but they weren't.

After months of undercover work into what the police called a conspiracy of right-wing extremists, the Bureau of Special Services was thrust into the limelight once again. The members didn't like it at all.

"Every time a case like this breaks, their value is diminished that much more," one police source said.

As undercover agents, the 70 men and women in Bossy, as the bureau is known to policemen, work as quietly as possible. The Police Department treats them, in effect, as invisible persons. There are no formal histories, no announcements and very little public information about the bureau.

'We're Not Talking'

A visitor to Bossy headquarters at 56 Worth Street, near Church Street, was given a chilly reception yesterday. As soon as the visitor stepped out of the elevator on the fourth floor, a sign—"Restricted Area"—greeted him. A detective unlocked the office door, stepped outside and said: "We're not talking."

Evidence pieced together yesterday indicated that the Bureau of Special Services played a major role in breaking up



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what the police described as a plot by the Minutemen, right-wing extremists, to "devastate" three private camps.

In arresting the 20 right-wingers, the police seized arsenals that included mortars, bazookas, machine-guns, semi-automatic rifles, homemade bombs and more than a million rounds of ammunition.

It was learned that an undercover policeman had infiltrated the Minutemen months ago and was steadily supplying the department and the Queen's Dis-

200 New Yorkers Found to Belong to Extreme Group

trict Attorney with news of the vast weapons build-up. The police closed in in Sunday, when the Minutemen were reportedly ready to begin attacks on the camps.

The undercover man also found that about 200 New Yorkers, mostly from Queens, were members of the Minutemen. The high figure surprised the Police Department.

"The other far-right groups are very small," said one of the highest officers in the department. "The National Renaissance party, for example, has 15, maybe 20 members."

"The main reason for the high Minuteman figure is apparently that as the left groups become more extreme, so does the right. This is part of the white backlash, too."

The Police Department also found that "a couple" of policemen may be linked with the Minutemen.

"So far," a high police official said, "there's no evidence of any criminal activity on the part of any policemen. Some of them may be associated with them in ideology, but not actively."

According to the Corporation Counsel, a policeman may join the John Birch Society. It is believed that there is a check being made into whether policemen who belong to the Birch Society also belong to the Minutemen.