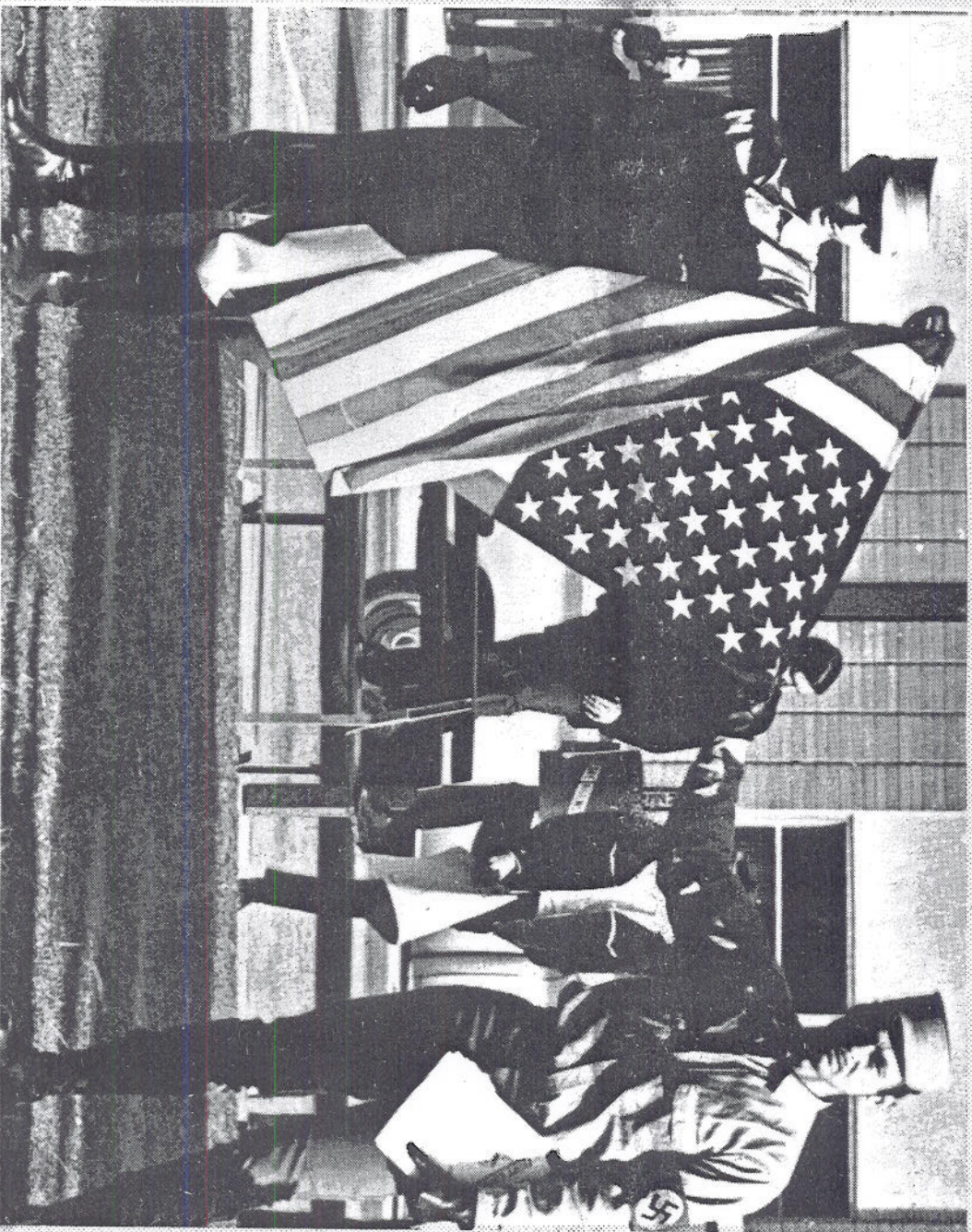


DRESS REHEARSAL FOR ASSASSINATION: AN INTERVIEW WITH A MINUTEMAN

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The Minutemen

"...within a time period of one hour...100 of the top, prominent politicians in the country would be liquidated..."

PAUL EBERLE
(Last week, Dean Morris, ex-Minuteman, and a former organizer for the Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan, came to our office, wanting to tell his story. Why? Because, he said, he believes the paramilitary right is far more dangerous than the communists ever dreamed of being. It was his first interview in Los Angeles. Since then, he has been scheduled to appear on several television and radio programs.)

PE: First of all, how long were you in the Minutemen?
MORRIS: Three years, 1966, 1967 and 1968. I was also involved in the United Klans of America, in Pennsylvania. And I was public relations officer for the Grand Dragon of Pennsylvania. I was a propaganda officer in the propaganda section, also involved in recruiting, and I was chairman of the Wallace headquarters in Pennsylvania. I was an intelligence officer with the rank of Major in the Minuteman organization.

PE: Does everyone have a military rank in the Minutemen?
MORRIS: Right.

PE: And it is virtually a military organization...
MORRIS: It is a military organization.

PE: What kind of structure does the Minuteman organization have —by that I mean that surely there are different levels, or echelons, some more elite and more secret than the others...
MORRIS: Layer one, or "phase one" as they call it, is the typical paranoid who believes that the world is going down the road to Communism and ruin. This is the level that the FBI and the other federal agencies have penetrated, but they have not penetrated beyond this phase one of the security of the organization. Phase Two if your middle class, white anglo-saxon protestant American. They help keep the thing together by paying their dues and furnishing material, and training the guerilla war session in the summer and the fall... and they also keep surveillance on known liberals and communists in various geographic areas, across the country. Phase Three is the national leadership, and this is composed of ex-military officers, many of whom are retired now and feel that our country is becoming saturated with communists every day... and feel that the only thing we can do to save our country is to have the Minuteman organization infiltrate the different movements and also prepare for physical confrontation with the point of a gun. And the tactics they are studying are guerilla warfare.

PE: And you were an instructor in guerilla warfare?
MORRIS: Right.

PE: Here in California?
MORRIS: Right, I trained several groups of people right here in the high Sierras, 135 miles out from San Francisco, and I trained people in the Rocky Mountains, 65 miles north-by-northwest of Denver, Colorado, and I also trained men in the Appalachian Mountains in Pennsylvania—for the Klan, the American Nazi Party, AND the Minutemen. All three groups.

PE: At one time, there was a great deal of internecine feuding between the ultra-rightist organizations. Are they burying their differences and getting together now?
MORRIS: Since 1968—in the past year—these three groups have merged together in a coalition. The militant right has come together and is seeing eye to eye since Robert De Pugh went underground, and if the time ever arises, I'm sure that the national leadership under Mr. De Pugh and his associates will strike out—and the other groups will follow.

PE: What happened to stop the feuding among the ultra-right?
MORRIS: These differences have been ironed out since the Wallace campaign. Governor Wallace has acted as a mediator and has brought them together.

PE: And he actively set out to do

"Phase one would be assassination. And mass chaos. And they would take control. Communications centers have been under surveillance for a long time. They know where the power lines are. In fact there have been some dress rehearsals of this recently in California."

that? To put together a rightist coalition?
MORRIS: Right, A hidden coalition.

PE: And you are an expert in guerilla warfare, explosives, assassination, etc.?
MORRIS: Yes, I'm familiar with all these techniques. As I've said, I trained people for three years, and I know these people are deadly people and they're not kidding when they say that if they feel you are a threat to the country, and you are on their list, or liberals and known communists, and the time arises when they do strike, I'm afraid that you are marked for liquidation.

PE: The foreword to Robert De Pugh's book, "Blueprint For Victory" says that the traditional means of political action no longer work, and that new and more directly effective means must be used. I think he makes no bones about the fact that at some point in history they intend to resort to actual physical, violent force. Violent overthrow of the government. Military takeover.
MORRIS: Right, sir. They have key people who are secret members of the Minuteman organization, right in the government, preparing for that day. Higher levels of our government.

PE: What about moderately conservative officials, like Reagan, Yorty, or Nixon? Would they be zapped too?
MORRIS: Surely, if they were in a position to get in the way of the organization, or if they were not a part of the organization, Yes.

PE: What kind of timetable do they have?
MORRIS: Before 1972.

PE: They fully intend to take control of the government, state power, by 1972?
MORRIS: Yes. They tried to do it politically with the third party movement of Governor Wallace, and that failed. They did have 10 million people who voted for Gov-

ernor Wallace. But they are now intent on using force.

PE: How many members do the Minutemen have?
MORRIS: The statement that J. Edgar Hoover made in 1968 was either stupid or knowingly erroneous. He said there were only 500 members in the entire United States, and that the FBI had penetrated the organization. This is false because with the state of California alone, there are MORE than 500 members. I would estimate it at close to 1500 or 2000. And in Missouri it is even higher. The membership for the entire United States, bringing together the other organizations that have joined with the Minuteman organization, I'm sure that you have close to 30,000 people there that would be hard core, strong, gung-ho fascist militants.

PE: What about Canada?
MORRIS: There are outposts at

underground points in Canada, in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec... where they have caches of arms and ammunition. Mexico. Prominent people in government in Mexico, I have heard through the grapevine, are responsible for keeping certain personnel in the United States under surveillance.

PE: Then it's a highly coordinated organization that would be ready to move almost on a minute's notice, hence the name.
MORRIS: Yes, sir. Sixty seconds.

PE: Then if De Pugh gave the order...
MORRIS: De Pugh AND his executive council. The executive council members are known to no one except De Pugh, and the national leadership. Even I don't know who the national executive council members are.

PE: And if they gave the order, the organization would be capable of going into concerted action immediately...
MORRIS: I have heard it stated that within a time period of an hour, if the word has gone out to the different sections of the country, that 100 of the top, prominent politicians in the country would be liquidated within one hour.

PE: That would be the first phase of the coup?
MORRIS: Phase one would be assassination. And mass chaos. And they would take control. Communications centers have been under surveillance for a long time. They know where the high power lines are. In fact there have been some dress rehearsals of this recently in California. There were two high-power stations blown up by Minutemen. They would also put cyanide in the water supply. They know the key points of the water system. And when the order is given, I'm sure they would not hesitate to do so.

PE: I'm sure you have heard underground publications like the

Free Press and the Barb discussed in the Minuteman organization.

MORRIS: Very unfavorably. I have heard conversations in the guerilla training centers, and training camps... I would not hesitate to say that you could find Minuteman involvement in the recent bombings in San Francisco and L.A. I have heard statements in the latter part of 1968 that there will be a concentrated effort to bring about action against these organizations, to make them cease to operate. Infiltration. A man posing as a liberal would go in for one to two years, to seek out information. Names, phone numbers, files... contacts... Two cyanide gas pellets could be used, and within two minutes, everybody in here would be dead. I'm amazed that you don't have any weapons or gas masks in here!

PE: What was it about the right-

ist movement that attracted you to join.

MORRIS: I was born in a racist community in Missouri. Small rural town. My parents were both racists. With a background like that, I was easily indoctrinated into the belief that the communists are taking the country over. And it took me four years to find out that I had to get away to a different environment and examine my past and my future and to see that this is not the way to go. That there should be a more flexible, more reasonable view towards humanity—not directed towards violence, and hate.

PE: At what moment did you become aware that you could no longer accept and be apart of what the Minutemen and the ultra right were doing?
MORRIS: In Pennsylvania, when I learned that if Vice President Hubert Humphrey showed strong gains in the polls, a special team would be sent out to assassinate Hubert Humphrey, from the East Coast and these were trained professional men and they knew their job, and knew how to go about doing it. And I asked myself, "What am I getting into?" and it was at this time that I felt the cutting-off point had come for me.

PE: What has been the role of the FBI with reference to the Minutemen?

MORRIS: A false one. To let the general public think that the FBI was trying to act in opposition to them, but if you take a closer look, they are very much on the same trip. They exchange information. In fact there are FBI agents who are Minutemen, here on the West Coast, as well as in other parts of the United States. I know one Minuteman who is a former FBI agent. There are some of those too, who are ultra right activists. On the whole, the FBI has SUPPORTED the Minuteman organization, while making the public think they were opposed to them, or controlling them.

PE: What about the incident in upper New York State a couple of years ago, when the Minutemen were about to attack the surfer resort full of liberals and leftists?
MORRIS: Camp Middlevale. This was just a charade for the public, to reassure the public. There was a raid on an apartment of 3 known Minutemen in Yonkers, New York last year and they found Nazi flags and various other paraphernalia, and buried on a farm outside New York, there was \$50,000 worth of arms and ammunition, Thompson machine guns, C-1 and C-2 charges. And not too far away in New Jersey, the FBI arrested two reserve army men who had been supplying the Minutemen organization with arms and ammunition, ranging all the way from hand grenades, 30-caliber ammo, all the way up to land mines, and a couple of machine guns. And in Oklahoma City three men were arrested who had over \$125,000 worth of arms and ammunition. These are just minor incidents. For every one that the FBI or some federal agency apprehends, there are 15 or 20 others who are not. Most of this material is taken out immediately after it's bought and buried in caches throughout the country, out on farms or in the country. The leadership knows where it is and when the time comes it will be taken out and cleaned and activated, by the membership.

PE: What is the relationship with the CIA?
MORRIS: The CIA knows where De Pugh is, and there has been collusion since the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

PE: Since the Minutemen are obviously advocating and planning violent overthrow of the government of the United States, has the House or Senate Un-American Activities Committee ever taken any interest in them?
MORRIS: Various people have gone to the committees, but they were not interested. They are very right-wing.

PE: Most of the extreme rightists I have met don't have any clear understanding of what a communist or a socialist actually is. Is that generally true of the Minuteman membership?
MORRIS: There is no understanding or definition. They don't know what it is. The actual ideology.

PE: What did you decide to do when you defected from the Minutemen?
MORRIS: Well, I went back home, and I became sort of a hermit, and reflected and meditated and tried to project my future, and I decided that I would try to take a broader view of life, and also that I would try to expose the activities I had been involved in because I do feel that they are a threat to humanity.

PE: A man who says, "The world is changing in a way that I don't understand, and I don't know what it is and I don't want to know what it is, I just want to destroy it, with a gun or a hand grenade..." that is a very dangerous man.
MORRIS: Yes, in my estimation this is far more dangerous than a communist, who is more flexible and takes in a great many views, including some very conservative ones. Communism means a commune, or a commu-

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nity, which is a very flexible idea. The far right gets its support from ignorant, fanatical people who listen to the radio and somebody tells them that the communist bogeyman is going to get them, and they say, "Oh, I'll send five dollars to that dear man!" Billy James Hargis made a million and a half dollars last year. And the Rev. Carl McIntyre is making, I think, on the average about a hundred thousand dollars a month.

PE: Do most of the Minutemen define themselves as believing Christians?

MORRIS: Yes.

PE: How do they reconcile their program of violence and murder with the gentle, kindly philosophy of Christianity: Thou shalt not kill, forgive thine enemies, etc.?

MORRIS: They have a form of rationalization. They say that God is for the right wing, which they say is right, of course. The country, the flag, mother. And beyond

that, there is nothing. Infinity.

PE: What is the Minutemen's attitude toward the student movement and SDS?

MORRIS: Minutemen are organizing on the campuses now. But mostly, it's a matter of father recruiting his son, and drawing him into the activities of the organization. Businessmen bring their sons along on guerilla warfare training programs, and teach them how to make explosives and silencers and things like that. In three weeks, I could take you and him out on training and teach you enough to bring the county of Los Angeles to a complete stop.

PE: Then a small group of men can create total disruption and disaster ... if they feel the time has come.

MORRIS: They WILL do it.

PE: What can be done to stop them?

MORRIS: I'm afraid we may be past the point of no return. The general public is very apathetic.

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