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2 Seized in Plot to Bomb Union Square Bookstore

By MARTIN GANSBERG

Federal agents thwarted early yesterday morning an alleged plot by two men, described as right-wing extremists, to blow up a Union Square bookstore that specializes in left-wing literature.

The men were seized moments after they had placed a home-made bomb of three sticks of dynamite and a fuse in the doorway of the Jefferson Book Shop, 100 East 16th Street, at about 2:15 A.M.

They were identified as Kevin S. O'Brien, 21 years old, of 125-16 Newport Avenue, Belle Harbor, Queens, and Geroge J. Garrys, 30, of 1449 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn.

The Federal agent and members of the Police Department's bomb squad and safe and loft squad, some of them disguised as derelicts, said they had watched as the two suspects placed the bomb in the doorway. The two men were followed by several detectives as they walked away.

As soon as the suspects were out of sight, a team from the bomb squad deactivated the device.

A few minutes later, Federal agents seized O'Brien and Garrys as they reached the corner of Third Avenue and 19th Street. They were taken to the police station on East 21 Street and booked on a charge of conspiracy to commit arson.

Watched for a Month

Thomas D. Buckley, chief of the Treasury Department unit here that enforces Federal laws governing alcohol, tobacco and firearms, said that undercover agents from his division had had the men under surveillance for more than a month.

He explained that his department became involved after O'Brien and Garrys had been heard talking about weapons,

U.S. Agents and Police Step in After Explosives Are Placed in Doorway

particularly at meetings of the American Patriots for Freedom, 10 Avenue P. Brooklyn. The organization has been described by the Justice Department as a right-wing extremist group.

Mr. Buckley said his agents also had seen the two suspects at Minutemen meetings here.

A dozen men from the Treasury Department had worked with the New York police in recent weeks checking on the activities of O'Brien and Garrys, Mr. Buckley said, and this was how they had learned of the plan to bomb the bookstore.

Daniel Rubel, secretary of the company that runs the bookstore, said that it "specializes in left-wing publications, The National Guardian and books of a progressive nature." He said that none of the owners had been told about the alleged bomb plot, which he described as the first attempt of its kind.

"We've had windows broken several times in the 10 years we've been here," Mr. Rubel said, "but we have never been threatened with anything like this before."

The bookstore is on the ground floor of a two-story building. Above the shop is a beauty-training school, the Grace Beauty Parlor.

Mr. Buckley said a search of O'Brien's home had uncovered a .32-caliber revolver with 10 cartridges, a collection of hate literature, Nazi arm-bands and a large picture of Adolf Hitler.

O'Brien was charged with violation of the weapons law after it was learned he did not have a permit for the revolver.

The police said that neither O'Brien nor Garrys had any previous record of arrest. They said that O'Brien was unmarried and lived with his mother and that Garrys operated a luncheonette at Fifth Avenue and 58th Street, Brooklyn.

In Criminal Court, Judge Herman Weinkrantz ordered the men held on \$5,000 bail each and set a hearing for next Tuesday.

Garvis