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Plot to Blow Up 158 'Leftists' Is Charged to Two Men Here

By MORRIS KAPLAN

A Brooklyn machinist and a Queens electrician were indicted here yesterday on charges of plotting to murder 158 persons they were said to have labeled "active leftists" in civil rights and left-wing groups.

The two allegedly made homemade bombs out of large orange-juice cans and dynamite to "injure, intimidate and terrorize" the leaders, members and sympathizers of the Congress of Racial Equality, Students for a Democratic Society, Progressive Labor party, Socialist Workers party, the Draft Resistance Movement and other antiwar and civil-rights organizations.

A nine-count indictment also accused them of conspiring to commit arson and of soliciting a person—a police undercover agent—to commit murder by detonating explosive devices.

Both Plead Not Guilty

The accused are William Hoff, 33 years old, of 277 Warren Street, Brooklyn, and Paul Dommer, 29, of 25-89 36th Avenue, Astoria, Queens. They pleaded not guilty before Supreme Court Justice Mitchell D. Schweitzer, and were held in bail of \$15,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

Samuel Yasgur, Assistant District Attorney, said both men had police records. He said that Mr. Hoff, who is unmarried, was arrested for larceny in 1954 in New Hampshire, on a gun charge in Brooklyn in 1960 and for burglary in 1966 but that he did not know the disposition of the charges. Mr. Dommer, who is married and has a child, was arrested in 1957 for assault and robbery, and was adjudged a youthful offender.

The indictment said the events that led to the charges began last June 18, when the two men were said to have met with the undercover officer, who was not identified. On Aug. 10, they assertedly went to Reading, Pa., "to receive in-

struction in the manufacture and use of explosives."

On Aug. 25, the indictment said, the two men arranged to meet "a certain individual." The indictment added that Mr. Hoff had in his possession a bomb containing one and one-half pounds of T.N.T., into which he inserted a detonator.

List of 'Active Leftists'

He was also said to have had a list entitled "Active Leftists," containing 153 names of individuals associated with "certain racial, political and economic groups."

He allegedly instructed the undercover agent to detonate the bomb at the door of an apartment occupied by a member of Draft Resistance Movement, whose name was on the list.

The undercover agent dismantled the bomb instead, the indictment said. The next night, he assertedly met with Hoff and Dommer near 86th Street and West End Avenue, and, according to authorities, told them the bomb had failed to detonate. The agent was said to have had with him the names of two other prospective victims, mentioned in the list.

The police closed in and arrested both men on charges of illegal possession of explosives. They were released in bail.

The following day, a police search of Mr. Hoff's apartment was said to have uncovered "numerous weapons and other explosives." Their bail was revoked and Mr. Hoff was jailed. Mr. Dommer was arrested yesterday morning.

Other counts in the indictment charge conspiracy to use dangerous instruments, soliciting a person to commit murder and criminal solicitations in the second degree. Six of the nine counts are felonies.

If convicted on all of these counts, the defendants could receive a total of 56 years in prison.

The investigation is continuing, Mr. Yasgur said.