

PLAN FOR REVOLT IS LAID TO EPTON

Detective Who Infiltrated Harlem Group Testifies

By RICHARD J. H. JOHNSTON

A New York City detective who infiltrated the Progressive Labor Movement testified yesterday that William Epton, chairman of the group's Harlem branch, disclosed a plan for a "bloody" revolution.

Mr. Epton, a 33-year-old electrician of 1420 Amsterdam Avenue, is being tried in Supreme Court on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government of New York State by force and violence and of inciting to riot.

The detective, Adolph W. Hart, 27, a member of the Central Office Bureau, was a prosecution witness on the sixth day of the trial before a jury of nine women and three men.

Under questioning by Assistant District Attorney Joseph Phillips, Mr. Hart said he had been instructed by his superiors in November, 1963, to make his way into the councils of the Progressive Labor Movement in Harlem and report on his findings.

Tells of Epton's Plans

Describing how he met Mr. Epton, Detective Hart said:

"I told him I wanted to join a militant organization. He told me I came to the right place."

In subsequent meetings with Mr. Epton and other members of the movement, Mr. Hart testified, Mr. Epton told him of the group's plan to "fight and carry arms" to "defeat" the police and fight the National Guard.

Mr. Hart quoted the defendant as saying the Negro rebellion would take the form of a march from the rural areas on the "capital cities."

He also testified that he had been instructed by the movement's leaders to attend classes at least once a week to study Marxism-Leninism.

Mr. Hart said that Mr. Epton told him that "a revolution would happen in America and it would proceed along the lines Marx indicated as it happened in Cuba." However, the witness testified, Mr. Epton declared, that the revolt would follow the "Chinese Communist line" of bloody revolution rather than the Soviet brand of "peaceful transformation to Communism."

He also said that he was told by Mr. Epton that the movement's operations were "more

or less clandestine" and that a member could, if he desired, remain "incognito."

The detective explained that he attended a number of meetings and learned in the spring of 1964 that plans called for mobilization of Harlem residents "block by block" with small "terrorist" bands prepared to carry on guerrilla warfare against the police.

The prosecution has charged that Mr. Epton sought, with the outbreak of the Harlem riots on July 18, 1964, to use the disturbances to further his revolutionary plans. The riots came about after the fatal shooting of James Powell, 15, a Negro, by Police Lieut. Thomas Gilligan two days before.

Mr. Epton, an avowed Communist, is accused of anarchy, conspiring to overthrow the state and inciting to riot.

The trial will resume at 10 A.M. today before Justice Arthur Markewich.