

# 3 Arrested On Ration Charge

*The Record* 9/7/4

## Group Alleged To Have Sold Gas Books In Columbia

Federal authorities arrested three Columbia men Saturday as the state Office of Price Administration went into action against an alleged ring believed to have obtained gasoline ration coupon books and to have sold them for as much as \$100 each at a military supplies store on Main street.

Acting on a warrant sworn by F. Carlisle Roberts, state OPA enforcement attorney, U. S. Deputy Marshal Mullins McLeod took into custody men listed as Ray Golden, about 40, of the American Military Stores, Inc., at 1221 Main street; Elbert L. Strawbridge, 22, who was employed as a clerk in the store, and Harvey C. Dean, Strawbridge's brother-in-law, all charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States. Each was released on \$2,000 bond.

U. S. Commissioner R. Beverley Sloan issued the warrant and the arrests were authorized by Henry H. Edens, assistant U. S. district attorney.

Roberts said that the action was the first step in a state-wide campaign against what was believed to be organized and widespread traffic in gasoline ration books and coupons.

"There may be other arrests soon," he said.