

FBI Spy Told of Supplying Seattle Weathermen

By Richard T. Cooper
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SEATTLE — The Seattle Seven trial came to an abrupt end last month when U.S. District Judge George H. Bold declared a mistrial and found that the young radical defendants had prejudiced their rights to a fair trial by their courtroom behavior.

Hardly less dramatic was the testimony of a Seattle businessman who worked under cover for the FBI in a unit of the violently radical Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society.

The witness, 33-year-old Horace L. Parker, testified that during more than a year among the Weatherman and other radicals, he was paid by the FBI and acted under its instructions or within its guidelines when he:

- Bought five pounds of potassium chlorate, a chemical used to ignite Molotov cocktails automatically.

After the FBI analyzed it, Parker said, he turned the chemical over to the Weatherman.

- Offered to supply dynamite and blasting caps to the Weatherman, purportedly through a friend who would steal the explosives from a mine in Idaho. Parker said he took \$120 from a Weatherman to buy two cases of dynamite and several hundred caps, but never delivered the material. He testified the FBI had told him to make the offer.

- Provided the leader of the Weatherman collective he was infiltrating with an illegal tear gas gun.

- Held firearms instruction, sniping discussions and target practice sessions for Weatherman members, many of whom had seldom if ever held a gun in their hands before. Parker, posing as a former Green Beret, said he held the sessions to determine the radicals' level of skill.

- Used FBI money to supply 14 cans of spray paint intended for use in a demonstration at the federal courthouse in Seattle after defendants in the Chicago Seven conspiracy case were sentenced for contempt of court last winter.

- Contributed a .22-caliber automatic rifle and tear gas to the armament of the Weatherman's collective apartment, called "the Fort," when he joined.

Bought LSD, Pot

Parker testified that the FBI also paid for the printing of stickers that said, "Serve the people, stop the pig" and that his expenses as an undercover agent had included purchases of LSD, marijuana, speed, methedrine and cocaine.

The government informer said he had distributed drugs to others and had used them extensively himself while he was among the Weatherman, both as part of their life-style and to keep himself awake during the long hours he worked.

At one point, he said, he feared he was becoming addicted.

On cross-examination by Charles C. Marshall III, one of the Seattle Seven who acted as his own attorney, Parker acknowledged that he would go to "any length"

to "get" the defendants, including lying.

Parker justified his actions in most cases as necessary to convince the Weatherman of his sincerity and to gain entrance to their quarters. He said the FBI told him "to do anything that was necessary to protect my credibility."

The Seattle Seven were being tried on charges of conspiracy and interstate activity with intent to riot arising out of their alleged roles in violent demonstrations at the Seattle federal courthouse the day after defendants in the Chicago Seven conspiracy trial were sentenced for contempt of court. Parker became an FBI informant in late July, 1969.

Visited SDS in '67

He said he had first discussed revolutionary ideology with a local leader of the Students for a Democratic Society, Robbie Stern, in 1967. Parker said he contacted Stern again in 1969, telling him "I was opposed to the war in Vietnam and wanted to do something about it." Stern was not a defendant in the trial.

Parker testified he attended an SDS meeting in July, 1969, at Stern's invitation and was "shocked" at his Marxist-Maoist tone.

"I found out they were Communist revolutionaries, rather than American revolutionaries," he said. A few days later, he said, he contacted the Central Intelligence Agency and was referred to the FBI.

Parker said he talked to FBI agents twice and was told, "You have an opportunity

to be of service to your country." He said he discussed it with his wife and then agreed to become an infiltrator.

When the SDS split into various factions, he was instructed to concentrate on the Weatherman.

The FBI paid all of his expenses and after a time began paying him a salary that ranged from \$175 to \$500 a month, he said.

Moved Nearer Commune

Parker, who moved from Idaho to Seattle in 1965 after two years in the Army and three years at Lewis and Clark College, has been employed as the sales manager for a building supply firm.

He said he held the job while acting as an informant but moved away from his wife and child in March, 1970, to become closer to the Weatherman.

He testified that he lived briefly at "the Fort," then rented an apartment nearby and visited the collective regularly for meals, meetings and other activities.

In November and December, 1969, he said, he was arrested in connection with Weatherman activities and was convicted of malicious destruction of property. Parker acknowledged he had violated his probation by returning to the University of Washington campus after the conviction.

Regarding the offer to sell dynamite, he said, "I was directed to let it be known to a member of the Weatherman that I knew a person who worked in the Bunker Hill mine in Kellogg, Idaho,

who was able to rip off some dynamite without getting caught and that he was willing to sell it for \$20 a case."

Parker said he made the offer in January or February, 1970, but got no response until July.

Didn't Buy Dynamite

He went to Idaho but did not buy explosives. He said that, following FBI instructions, he told the Weatherman he had made a purchase but had buried the material on his grandfather's farm in Idaho for safe-keeping.

Parker's account of his activities brought sharp reactions from some of the defendants. Marshall called upon Judge Bold to investigate the possibility of prosecuting the informant.

"A lot of people in the country have not taken this seriously when we say, well, the real conspiracy is in fact the federal government.

"But here you have in your own courtroom admissions of a man who was counseled by the FBI, and was in fact an employee of the FBI, to do illegal acts, and this is an outrage to the people."

During the months under cover, Parker kept a diary which the Seattle Seven sought to have admitted as evidence. Judge Bold was studying the request when the trial ended abruptly.

Thus, Parker never made his final appearance on the witness stand.

As a result, while he revealed much, many questions about his activities inside the Weatherman commune remain unanswered.