War Foes Deny Charges By Hoover, Weigh Lawsuit

of plotting to disrupt capital cipal leaders of the group. utility lines and kidnap a high federal official, denied both both priests and many of the charges yesterday and said a lawsuit is being considered.

Roman Catholic priests, nuns them over the years in such and laymen of the East Coast endeavors as church social Conspiracy to Save Lives continually stressed the group's nonviolent character and said Hoover was attempting to set the stage for repression of all leftist groups.

Dominican Sister Susan Cordes, 32, said the group would welcome an official investigation which, she hoped, "would uncover what is happening in this country."

Jesuit priest Peter Fordi, 32, of Jersey City, said "as a group we have never met with the Berrigans"-Daniel and

Philip, both priests held in a Hoover's testimony in advance An antiwar group, accused Connecticut federal prison nor that it would be made by FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover and said by Hoover to be prin- public. Mitchell replied to

group members have read "no comment.") their writings, met socially In a news conference, with them, and worked with work.

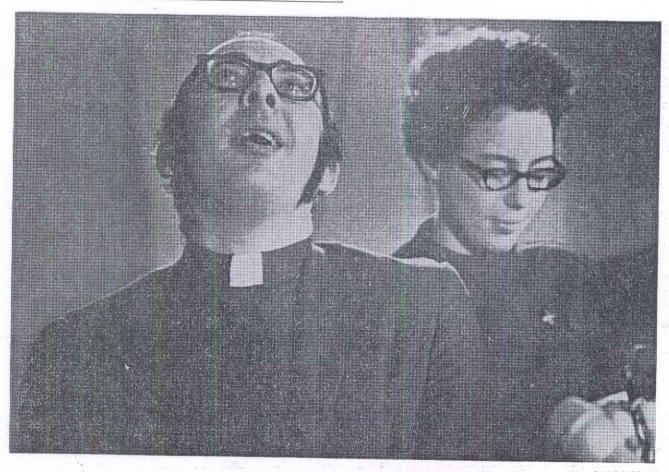
Father Joe R. Wenderoth, 34, of Baltimore, said the Berrigans "have no connection whatsoever with us."

The Berrigans earlier issued a statement through their lawyers also denying Hoover's charge and declaring the FBI chief should "either . . . prosecute us or publicly retract the charges he made."

(Afterwards, Attorney General John N. Mitchell was asked through an whether Hoover's allegations violated Justice Department policy of refusing to discuss criminal cases that are under investigation. Mitchell was also asked about liaison with the FBI director before he made his charges last week before a Senate appropriations subcommittee.

(A Justice spokesman said that Mitchell did not know of

questions concerning the testi-Fordi said he has known mony representing a policy change and whether indictments were planned with a



Associated Press
Father Peter Fordi and Sister Susan Davis deny charge that antiwar group plotted to kidnap federal official.