

Student Called Agent Provocateur For FBI Is Located in Minneapolis

By Jack Nelson
Los Angeles Times

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Sept. 14—A former University of Alabama student, accused of being an agent provocateur for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has been located in Minneapolis, where he said he moved because of death threats.

Charles R. Grimm Jr., 21, of San Diego, Calif., said he had worked for the FBI as an "undercover political agent" at the university and helped identify "agitators."

Grimm denied he was an agent provocateur and said the FBI had specifically instructed him to stay out of trouble.

George Dean and Jack Drake, American Civil Liberties Union attorneys, have accused Grimm of being the chief agitator and of committing arson and other violence that led to some 150 arrests during disturbances at the university last May.

Dean, representing a student during a trial here on an unlawful assembly charge growing out of the disturbances, also accused the FBI,

the Tuscaloosa police and state investigators of making Grimm unavailable to testify and of concealing his whereabouts. Dean charged that police authorities told Grimm to leave town and stay out of Alabama.

The Los Angeles Times located Grimm in Minneapolis where he is a bread truck driver and his wife Sharon is a dietetic intern at the University of Minnesota hospital. Both he and his wife, 21, also a former Alabama student, were arrested during the disturbances, which began May 6 and ended May 18.

Grimm said he expected several warrants to be issued based on undercover information he gathered at the university. He said he was recruited for the FBI role by an agent who was a friend. He said he also worked for the Tuscaloosa police.

He began working for the FBI just before the May 4 shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, he said.

Grimm acknowledged that he had witnessed the burning of four buildings at the uni-

versity and in Tuscaloosa during the disturbances but he denied participating in the arson. Dean accused him of committing all of the violent acts that police cited as a basis for declaring unlawful assemblies. The violence included hurling missiles at officers.

Grimm, interviewed by telephone, said that at the university he was elected to a student-faculty coalition. During meetings of the coalition, he said, his role as an undercover agent was to "criticize the university administration for repressive actions" while trying to learn the identity of "agitators."

He and his wife moved to Minneapolis last month. Grimm said his wife had "opportunities to go to numerous hospitals elsewhere" but wanted to go as far away from the South as possible because she felt her life was in danger from persons arrested on drug charges on the basis of his investigations. Grimm said his work figured in the arrest of 13 persons on drug charges in Tuscaloosa.