

# U.S. Defends FBI Informer Role in 'Plot'

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 28—FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr. was an uneducated convict whose criminal character was "used" selfishly by the seven "intellectual" antiwar activists on trial here, the government said today in the summation of its case.

"You might wonder why didn't we bring before you some leading member of the community," assistant prosecutor William M. Connelly, said to the jury, "someone with no criminal record, someone with a flawless character, someone who made detailed notes of these events."

"Well, I say to you, we didn't pick the witness. Phil Berrigan picked the witness."

Connelly abandoned his podium for the first time near the end of his nearly four-hour summation and moved to face the defendants. He named each one, contrasting the education of each with what he called the seven years of "penitentiary education" of Douglas, who was the government's chief witness against the defendants.

Moving toward the Rev. Philip Berrigan, who was seated with Sister Elizabeth McAllister, another defendant, against the wall opposite the jury, Connelly said:

"And then, finally, there's Phillip Berrigan, the priest of peace, whose most famous letter is his kidnap letter—a disparagement of true peace, and obliteration of the distinction between violence and non-violence."

When Connelly paused before defendant Eqbal Ahmad, he said, "Eqbal Ahmad, a scholar, a Ph.D., a teacher

and," his voice getting louder, "a planner."

The summation included at least eight references to Ahmad's being the "man behind the scenes" in the alleged conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger, bomb tunnels under federal buildings and raid draft offices.

"These people found good in Boyd Douglas," said Connelly, an assistant U.S. attorney from Toledo who was reassigned temporarily to prosecute this case.

"But they didn't use the good in him. They wanted to use his criminal background. And now they come before you and say, 'Oh, find us innocent. Damn Boyd Douglas.'

"I say to you, don't be a part of that," concluded Connelly.

During the summation, Connelly read again portions of the 25 letters exchanged by Father Berrigan and Sister McAllister during the summer of 1970 after Father Berrigan went to prison to begin a six-year sentence for destruction of Selective Service records. The letters were smuggled by Douglas, who was on a study-release program at nearby Bucknell University, and he turned over copies of the letters to the FBI.

The government argued that the letters, plus Douglas' reports of conversations he says he had with the defendants, make up a conspiracy.

Upon introducing each part of the conspiracy, Connelly would state that Douglas was not responsible for initiating it. The defense has contended that the informer was an agent provocateur.

"For the first time on June 3, (1970)," said Connelly, "long

after Philadelphia graft raids, long after Delaware (draft board raids) was being planned, long after the tunnel had been entered, the FBI first heard of the situation."

It was on June 3 that Douglas, who had been saving copies of the Berrigan-McAllister smuggled correspondence, was introduced to the FBI by Lewisburg prison officials, who had found one of the letters in Father Berrigan's cell.

The defense maintains that there was no conspiracy to kidnap or blow up tunnels. Describing the two letters that the government says are the key to the kidnap conspiracy—about which no one except Douglas has testified—defense attorney Paul O'Dwyer said in his summation today, "There it was born and there it died, except in the newspapers." The latter phrase was a reference to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's public announcement Nov. 27, 1970, that a plot existed.

The defense also argued that each of the draft office raids was an individual action and was not part of a conspiracy.

Connelly stressed that Douglas was not the first person to suggest that the group use explosives. Twice, he suggested to the jury that a sentence in a letter written by Sister McAllister indicated an intention to use explosives.

The sentence he referred to was: "The four of us also thought (and this is just for yer ears) of hitting the remaining eagle a day or two later in an explosive manner without letting anyone know before or after."