

FBI Informer Says He Won't Tell Lie

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By Betty Medsger

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 13—Undercover informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr., who has testified that he lied numerous times during his investigation of the seven antiwar activists on trial here, said today he would not lie in order to convict them.

Asked by defense attorney William Cunningham if he believed it was necessary for double agents to "handle the truth carelessly," Douglas, the government's principal witness, said, "Yes, when you're working under cover."

In another attempt to prove the charge of defense attorney Ramsey Clark at the outset of the trial—that Douglas is a "liar"—defense attorney Leonard Boudin revealed an apparent contradiction in Douglas' testimony on why he was carrying a Biretta automatic pistol in 1966 in Milwaukee when he was arrested for forgery, interstate transportation of stolen securities and assaulting a federal agent.

"I was scared . . . I was afraid . . . I was scared and w
afraid . . . I was scared and
was trying to scare anyone try
ing to apprehend me," Douglas
testified today. He said he
drew the pistol and ran with it
at his side, not shooting it dur
ing the chase that ensued.

However, Boudin read from
the official record of the Wis-

consin sentencing, in which
Douglas told a federal judge
he was carrying the gun "so
that if I was apprehended I
would shoot myself in order to
gain leniency from the court."

After hearing the Wisconsin
federal court record today,
Douglas, prompted by chief
prosecutor William S. Lynch,
said he was carrying the gun
then, both to scare those who
might try to apprehend him
and to injure himself in order
to plea for leniency.

The informer was serving
time for the Milwaukee con-
victions when he met one of
the defendants in the present
case, the Rev. Philip Berrigan,
in late April 1970. Both
were inmates at Lewisburg,
Pa., Federal Penitentiary.

Douglas maintains that as a
"favor" to the Catholic priest
he carried contraband letters
in and out of the prison from
late April through August
1970, when the priest was
transferred from Lewisburg to
Danbury, Conn. He was able
to carry the letters because he
was a fulltime student at
nearby Bucknell University as
part of a study-release pro-
gram and traveled between
penitentiary and campus six
days a week.

During the summer of 1970
Douglas copied more than 20
letters exchanged by Father
Berrigan and another defend-
ant, Sister Elizabeth Mc-
Alister, a New York nun. The
letters plus Douglas' accounts
of conversations he relayed to
the FBI are the basis of the
conspiracy charges against the
seven, all but one of them for-
mer or present Catholic nuns
and priests.

They are charged with conspi-
racy to kidnap presidential
adviser Henry A. Kissinger, to
bomb tunnels under federal
buildings in Washington and
to raid draft offices.

Defense lawyers maintain
that Douglas was an informer
against peace sympathizers
from the outset of his student
days at Bucknell in February
1970. Douglas said today that
was not true but he said that
before he went to the campus
he was opposed to protest of
the war, even peaceful protest.

As in earlier testimony,
Douglas said today his first
reason for becoming friendly
with campus peace advocates
was that he assumed their
"anti-government" sentiments
would guarantee that they
would not report his activities
phoning his step-brother.

having a drink now and then
and having an apartment—to
prison authorities.

Soon after his first inroads
into the campus peace move-
ment, though, he informed the
FBI on professors and stu-
dents, some of whom have tes-
tified that he urged them to
participate in illegal protest.

After lunch today, Douglas
testified that he spent the one
and one-half hours between to-
day's morning and afternoon
sessions conversing with his
wife in a Federal Building
room where eight or nine FBI
agents were present.

Douglas insisted that the
agents did not talk to him
about the case or about his
testimony. But in the presence
of the agents, Douglas said, "I
said that as far as I was con-
cerned during all of my cross-
examination you had not
changed the basis of my testi-
mony . . . I told her you (Bau-
din) had spent an hour on a
gun issue that had no irrelev-
ancy (sic) to this case."

Today was Douglas' 11th
day on the stand, his fifth day
of cross-examination.

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