

# Berrigan Witness Widens Story

By Betty Medsger

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 7—The Rev. Philip Berrigan once considered blowing up the computer system in the Pentagon, Boyd F. Douglas Jr., the government's chief witness against the priest and six other antiwar activists, disclosed in cross-examination testimony today.

Douglas said the bombing project had been "ruled out" by the time Father Berrigan went to prison in April, 1970, to serve a six-year sentence for destruction of Selective Service records.

The bombing of Pentagon computers was mentioned by Douglas during a dispute with defense attorney Ramsey Clark over whether it was Douglas or Father Berrigan who first mentioned the use of explosives for an alleged plot to bomb heating systems under federal buildings in Washington.

In addition to conspiracy to bomb the underground systems, Berrigan and six other antiwar activists are charged with conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and raid federal offices in several states.

In Clark's attempt to pin down Douglas on the first mention of the use of explosives, the ex-convict testified that he was wrong in January, 1971, when he told a federal grand jury here that he, not Berrigan, was the first to propose in their conversations that explosives be used in antiwar actions. The priest was the first to mention explosives, he said today.

The former attorney general also placed most of Douglas's criminal record before the jury during cross-examination.

Douglas was impassive as Clark brought out in questioning that he had escaped at least twice from prisons, attempted another escape, and in one year, 1962, forged \$50,000 to \$80,000 in stolen checks in at least nine states.

While in the Army in early 1962, he was arrested in Hong Kong and a short time later

was imprisoned in the Presidio in San Francisco, from which he escaped in 1962. The next year, he was arrested for impersonating an Army captain.

The jury already knew from direct examination by chief prosecutor William S. Lynch, that Douglas' last federal prison sentence, which concluded Dec. 16, 1970, was for assaulting an FBI agent with a pistol and interstate transfer of stolen securities.

Douglas testified today that he lied to Father Berrigan the first time he met him. He said he told Berrigan that he was displeased with the \$15,000 settlement he got from the government in his law suit for injuries suffered in experiments performed on him at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda in 1966 during his first prison term. He said he told the priest that he "wanted to get even with the United States."

Asked if he carried contraband letters for any other Lewisburg prisoners, Douglas said he did for "the ones that were involved in some type of political crime." He said he told the FBI the contents of other prisoners' letters, including ones written by David Eberhardt and Robert Malecky, who also were serving sentences for destruction of Selective Service records.

Douglas said he has not been granted immunity from prosecution for carrying the letters, but that he was told by the FBI in June, 1970, that the U.S. attorney's office had declined to prosecute him "and that if I wanted to it was up to me—I could assist in the investigation of these people, of these defendants."

Douglas continued today—as he had done in six days of direct testimony—to cast Father Berrigan as a powerful pope of the Catholic left. Clark asked him if he did not know that the priest, as a pris-

oner, "could not do anything about such projects?"

"I knew after a period of several months," said Douglas, "that to my knowledge, Philip Berrigan was highly looked upon by all the Catholics of the inner circle. Anything he said, to my knowledge, would be carried out in due course."

## Librarian Released In Contempt Case

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 7 (AP)—A Bucknell University librarian jailed for contempt in the federal conspiracy trial of antiwar priest Philip Berrigan was granted release today pending a hearing Wednesday in the third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Zoia Horn, 53, was ordered freed in \$5,000 bail by Appeals Court Judge Francis L. Van Dusen.

Mrs. Horn had been held in Dauphin County prison since Friday after U.S. District Court Judge R. Dixon Herman, presiding in the Berrigan trial, found her in contempt for refusing to testify.