

Ex-F.B.I. Agent Named To Aid the Investigation Of Reilly's Prosecution

By LAWRENCE FELLOWS

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HARTFORD, Feb. 2—A former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was sworn in today with the title of "inspector" to assist a one-man grand jury and a special prosecutor in trying to determine whether the State of Connecticut had committed any crimes against Peter Reilly in trying him in the killing of his mother.

A nationally known criminologist has also been engaged by the Connecticut state police to assist them in their own reinvestigation of the case.

The former F.B.I. agent, John A. Danner Jr., 55 years old, runs a private investigative agency in West Hartford. He said this morning only that he intended to start by looking at the modest house in Falls Village where Mr. Reilly's mother was slain on Sept. 26, 1973.

The expert taken on by the state police, Prof. Herbert L. MacDonell of Cortland, N.Y., has already started looking at the evidence, and has asked the police for some other specific help in reconstructing the case. The special prosecutor is Paul J. McQuillan.

"I haven't come to any conclusions," Professor MacDonell said last night.

Mr. Reilly, who is now 21 and employed as an ambulance attendant, was sentenced in 1974 to six to 16 years for manslaughter, largely on the strength of

a confession he made, allegedly when he was distraught and weary. A public concern led to a second trial last November. When a prosecutor said in court he had found some three-year-old evidence in the files of his predecessor that tended to clear the youth, Judge Simon S. Cohen threw out all the charges. In December, Chief Judge John A. Spozzo of Superior Court created the one-man grand jury and appointed a special prosecutor to see if the state had committed a crime against Mr. Reilly.

In the mounting confusion around the case, Gov. Ella T. Grasso ordered the state police to investigate the case again, and asked for an accounting of the matter by Joseph T. Gormley Jr., the Chief State's Attorney, who charged that the judge had dismissed the case too hastily. The first witness in the investigation will be called tomorrow before the one-man grand jury, Judge Maurice J. Spozzo of Superior Court.