

Revenge in Antiwar Vet Case?

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By JACK NELSON

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (LAT) — An FBI informant who vowed "vengeance" on fellow Vietnam veterans and who has testified that the Army offered him a psychiatric discharge is the chief witness against six veterans accused of conspiring to incite riots at the Republican National Convention.

He is William W. Lemmer, 24, who was known as a militant member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War until he surfaced as an informant. Colleagues in the VVAW describe him as an *agent provocateur* with a record of mental instability.

Lemmer testified before a federal grand jury in Tallahassee, Fla., on July 7. The following day he mailed to his wife, Mary, a letter warning her to stay away from his VVAW colleagues and declaring he would have vengeance on them. He blamed them for instigating a divorce suit she filed and also for causing her to file a petition to commit him as mentally ill.

On July 13 the jury indicted six VVAW members, accusing them of plotting to use bombs, crossbows, automatic weapons and "wrist rocket slingshots" to disrupt the convention in Miami Beach Aug. 21-24.

Lemmer's wife lives in Fayetteville, where he is a University of Arkansas stu-

dent. She filed a petition on June 15 to commit him for a sanity hearing. "Keeps loaded pistol with him at all times," the petition declared. "Alleges that he is going into a 'post-Vietnam syndrome.' Threatened to take own life."

Police took Lemmer into custody for a sanity hearing and confiscated two loaded weapons—a .22 pistol and a .22 semi-automatic rifle. He was released after a physician decided he was not insane, and his wife withdrew the petition.

The physician, however, recommended that Lemmer "see a psychiatrist some time in the near future."

Mrs. Lemmer says she does not know whether her

husband has seen a psychiatrist since the physician's recommendation six weeks ago. Lemmer wrote her a letter saying he was in "protective hiding," and "my identity and life will be changed."

Mrs. Lemmer said her husband told her he had been treated by a psychiatrist in the Army. While still in the Army on May 3, 1971, he testified at an informal Congressional hearing that the

Army once offered him a psychiatric discharge.

The FBI has declined to comment on the Tallahassee case or to say whether Lemmer has been examined by a psychiatrist since the physician's recommendation on June 16.

Mrs. Lemmer labeled her husband's lengthy letter of July 8 a threat to herself and several VVAW members and filed a copy of it, along with a complaint, with the Fayetteville police.