

Gainesville 8 Defense Gets Key Paper

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 3—

The prosecutors and their first witness found themselves in a maze of contradictions this afternoon as testimony began in the trial of the Gainesville Eight.

The tangle began with the discovery of a document that the defense lawyers contended the prosecution was required to turn over to them, and quickly spread to a spiraling series of contradictory statements by the witness and the prosecution team.

Late this afternoon Federal District Judge Winston E. Arnou ordered the document turned over to the defense. The witness, a former local private detective who had managed an apartment building here where one of the defendants lived, will return to the stand in the morning.

Earlier, in opening statements, Jack Carrouth, senior assistant United States Attorney, portrayed the alleged conspirators—seven antiwar Vietnam veterans and a supporter—as a well organized “splinter group of radicals” who plotted to disrupt violently the Republican National Convention in

Miami Beach last year with automatic weapons, slingshots and crossbows.

The defendants, in turn, contended that the Government, to discredit their antiwar activities, had planted agents provocateur among them and had made up the alleged conspiracy.

Charge Planted Agents

The Government's first witness, Charles R. Marshall Jr., a one-time private detective who managed an old frame house in Gainesville where Scott Camil a defendant, lived, testified that Mr. Camil had showed him “wrist rocket slingshots,” along with steel balls and “fried” marbles heated so they would shatter on impact. He also said that Mr. Camil told him that members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War planned to disrupt the Republican convention violently.

The defense asked, after the examination ended, if the prosecution had any “Jencks material” to turn over to them. These were official written documents pertaining to that, under the Jencks Act, the prosecution is required to make available.

The prosecution said that no such material existed.

A defense attorney, Larry Turner, elicited information from Mr. Marshall that he had Meadow, the head of the office of the Fdral Burau of Investigation here.

“He transcribed what I said and he asked me to read it and sign it and I did,” Mr. Marshall testified.

The defense protested that the statement fell under the Jencks Act.

The prosecution denied the existence of any document in their files. Mr. Carrouth said, “We do not have any signed statement.”

Mr. Meadow, the F.B.I. agent, was ordered to search the files by Judge Arnou. He returned shortly, carrying a three-page document he testified was a transcript of his dictated notes of an interview ith Mr. Marshall last Aug. 17.

William J. Patterson, a defendant who was acting as his own lawyer, then leaped up, waving his arms and shouting, “Mr. Schneider is shaking his head at the witness. Make him stop.”

At that point, Mr. Marshall appeared to be attempting to amend his remarks.

Dismissing Mr. Patterson's outburst with a wave of the hand, the judge told Mr. Schneider sternly, “Now, if you're shaking your head at the witness, you stop.”



Associated Press

Members of the jury in the trial of the Gainesville 8, accompanied by Federal marshals, arriving at court in Gainesville, Fla. Testimony in the trial began yesterday.