

Around the Nation

FBI Man Recounts Plotting Of GOP Convention Violence

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GAINESVILLE, Fla.—An FBI informer testified yesterday that he used FBI funds to purchase a slingshot and smoked marijuana at an attic planning session here where eight persons allegedly conspired to cause violence at the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach last fall.

William M. Lemmer, continuing to testify for the government, also contradicted part of the prosecution's opening statement by denying that he had suggested the slingshots could be concealed "around the ankles of bellbottom trousers . . . (and) in your groins."

In fact, according to a taped interview that an FBI agent held with Lemmer, the agent himself made that suggestion after Lemmer said the slingshots were "just impossible to conceal."

The testimony came as defense attorneys for the eight members of Vietnam Veterans against the War charged with riot conspiracy began their third day of attempting to discredit Lemmer's testimony about the alleged violence plans. Lemmer is believed to be a key government informer in the case, and much of the indictment is based upon the attic meeting at which Lemmer testified he smoked marijuana.

Three of the defendants are representing themselves and spent much of the morning questioning the informer about his role in meetings they attended together.