

## Ex-FBI Operative Tells of Vets' Plans

By Timothy S. Robinson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 15—A former leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War testified today that he had been an FBI "intelligence operative" for the past two years, with the agency paying him on a regular basis for attending VVAW meetings across the country.

Charles Henry Becker III, now a department store detective in New Orleans, made the disclosure in the trial of eight VVAW members charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

Today's testimony and cross-examination was marked by frequent comments directed at defense attorneys by U. S. District Court Judge Winston E. Arnow, who threatened all of them with contempt citations at one point because they participated with defendants in a standing, minute-long observation of silence after the jury was called in this morning to draw attention to the end of the bombing in Cambodia.

As the day progressed, Arnow refused to allow the defense attorneys to question Becker about any agreements that were made at planning sessions during which the riot plans were allegedly discussed. The defense contends that such agreements would have to be formal, "more than just a bull session," for the defendants to be convicted on a conspiracy count.

"This is the heart of the charge," said defense attorney Morton Stavis.

"If we can't defend ourselves against the indictment—" began defendant William Patterson, before he was ordered by the judge to "sit down." The judge then told Patterson and Sta-

vis that he may be forced to take "further action" if they persisted in arguing with him.

The defense attorneys were called to the bench by Judge Arnow at a mid-morning recess concerning their participation in the demonstration. He told marshals to "use force, if necessary" to make sure that the attorneys came forward.

The judge asked the attorneys to explain why they participated in the silent 60-second demonstration, and to tell him whether they had advance knowledge of the protest.

"The court is suggesting that if I answer that question, I should be prepared for a contempt citation," defense attorney Larry Turner

said. Turner and others said they would refuse to answer the question, based upon their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

"This is a question of contempt, not the Fifth Amendment," Arnow snapped back. However, after upbraiding the attorneys for what he considered unprofessional conduct, Arnow said he would "let the matter drop." Becker, without a bushy beard that he wore while a VVAW member, calmly recounted the various sessions at which he said the defendants proposed illegal, violent acts. Much of his testimony was in narrative form, interrupted only by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Carrouth asking, "What next?"