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A Congressman Doubts Hoover

DANBURY (Conn.) — (AP) — Rep. William Anderson (D-Tenn.) says he thinks two Roman Catholic priests imprisoned at the federal penitentiary here are innocent of involvement in a bombing-kidnaping plot which FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has said they planned to lead.

Anderson declared yesterday the two priests should be allowed to testify about the matter before a federal grand jury and hinted he may ask for a congressional investigation of Hoover's charges.

Seeking Funds

Hoover said Friday the priests, the Revs. Daniel and Philip Berrigan, were the principal leaders of a conspiracy to bomb underground power lines and kidnap an unnamed high government official. The Berrigans are brothers.

Hoover made the accusations while testifying before

a Senate subcommittee considering appropriations for the FBI.

Anderson said he had met with the priests for two hours yesterday and that the conference confirmed "my initial belief that they are not plotters; that they're not involved in this alleged possibly very violent act."

Anderson said he didn't think the Berrigans had "any knowledge" of the alleged conspiracy.

Investigation

"I plan tomorrow to discuss this matter with several of my colleagues," Anderson said, "to see if there might be indicated a type of congressional investigation by the appropriate committee of the House into this incident."

The brothers are serving sentences for destroying draft records. They have issued a statement through their lawyers saying Hoover ought "either to prosecute us or publicly retract the charges he made."