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Why Sister Elizabeth Became Suspicious

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Berrigan Case Informer Tells of Phone Foul-up

Harrisburg, Pa.

FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr. said yesterday that one of the seven defendants in the Harrisburg case became "highly suspicious" of his undercover role just days before the Berrigan group was indicted on charges of plotting to kidnap Henry

A. Kissinger.

Douglas, 31, a forger befriended by the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan while the two were in federal prison, said sister Elizabeth McAlister accused him of being an informant when he met with her in a New York City hotel in the first week of January, 1971.

Father Berrigan, sister Elizabeth and the other defendants were indicted on Jan. 12, 1971, on charges of plotting to kidnap presidential adviser Kissinger, blow up steam heating ducts of Washington buildings and raid draft boards to dramatize their opposition to the Vietnam war.

But certain details of the alleged plot were made public six weeks earlier, in testimony to a congressional committee by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Douglas, the chief prosecution witness, testified that while he was free to leave the Lewisburg, Pa., penitentiary under a study release

program, he smuggled letters and otherwise served as a go-between for Father Berrigan and other defendants. At the same time, however, he informed federal agents of activities of the group.

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He said Sister Elizabeth suspected his undercover

role when a telephone conversation he had with her was played back on a recording once he hung up the receiver. She heard the playback and confronted him with this at the meeting in New York.

"Elizabeth McAlister was highly suspicious that I was the leak, Douglas testified.

"She was quite paranoid in her references to me.

"Did you deny to her that you were the leak?" Judge R. Dixon Herman asked. "Yes," Douglas replied. "I told her she was wrong."

Douglas also testified that the FBI paid him twice for being an informant while he was imprisoned with Father Berrigan. But he said the bureau refused to give him another \$50,000 he requested as reward payment.

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