

Berrigan

'Pessimistic,'

Witness Says

N. O. STATES-ITEM

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr. says antiwar priest Philip Berrigan was "pessimistic ... at first" about an alleged plan to kidnap White House aide Henry A. Kissinger because he thought it might set a precedent other militants would follow.

The government's chief witness at the conspiracy trial of Berrigan and six other persons denied yesterday that Berrigan ever said he opposed kidnaping a political figure as a gesture against the Vietnam war.

"He said if they did the kidnaping then everybody would be carrying them out," the 31-year-old Douglas told the jury of nine women and three men during his second day of cross-examination.

"Then he said he was against it?" asked Paul O'Dwyer, a defense lawyer.

"No. He said he was pessimistic about it at first, yes," replied Douglas.

The seven codefendants are accused of conspiring in 1970 to kidnap Kissinger, blow up tunnels that carry heat to federal buildings in Washington and vandalize draft boards.

The defense continued to peck away at Douglas' credibility, seeking to show that he was planted inside Berrigan's Catholic left peace movement by the FBI to entrap the antiwar activists. This Douglas has consistently denied.

Berrigan and Douglas were inmates at the Lewisburg, Pa., federal penitentiary in the spring and summer of 1970 when the government claims the plot was hatched.