

'PLOT' JURY HEARS OF AGENT'S LETTER

Berrigan Accuser Described
as a 'Confidence Man'

By HOMER BIGART

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21 — "Molly," the F.B.I. agent who "handled" the paid informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr., testified today at the Berrigan conspiratorial trial that he had written a letter to J. Edgar Hoover late in the summer of 1970 lauding Douglas as an "accomplished confidence man."

In November, 1970, Mr. Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told a Senate subcommittee that the F.B.I. had uncovered an "anarchist" plot to blow up heating tunnels in Washington and kidnap the Presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger.

"Molly" was the code name used by Delmar A. Mayfield as "handling agent" for Douglas. Douglas, then a convict at the Lewisburg, Pa. Federal Prison, was recruited by the F.B.I. on June 3, 1970, after he had won the confidence of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan, a fellow prisoner at Lewisburg and was acting as a trusted courier between the priest and other defendants outside the prison.

Tells of Payments

Mr. Mayfield, a tall, somber agent with receding black hair, said he had paid Douglas \$200 for information that helped F.B.I. agents trap Father Berrigan's brother, the Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan on Block Island, Aug. 11, 1970; \$1,500 for information concerning a raid on a Rochester, N. Y., draft board in September, 1970, and about \$7,500 for "other services and expenses."

And although Douglas's request for a minimum reward of \$50,000 tax free for informing on Philip Berrigan and the other six defendants on trial here was turned down, Mr. Mayfield said the F.B.I. favorably considered a request by Douglas that he continue serving as an informer after his release from Lewisburg in mid-December, 1970.

The catch, according to the witness, was that Douglas wanted to be "handled" by only one agent, presumably "Molly." The F.B.I., for its part, apparently wanted Douglas to travel to other "divisions" outside the Philadelphia division.

A Surprise Witness

The Government produced a surprise witness this morning as it neared the end of its case. Chief Prosecutor William S. Lynch called to the stand a young blond woman who said she heard Sister Elizabeth McAlister, one of the defendants, openly discuss, in a Schrafft's Restaurant in Westchester County, N.Y., a criminal escalation of antiwar activities.

The witness, Mrs. Carolyn M. North, a Harrisburg bank employe, said there was nothing furtive about the scene in Schrafft's at an Eastchester shopping center when Sister Elizabeth, a New York City nun, rose to speak.

More than 200 members of Westchester Women for Peace, she said, heard Sister Elizabeth disclose that an unnamed group was planning a "bigger" action that would carry the danger of "substantial jail sentences."

The tearoom meeting, open to anyone with \$3.50, was held in June, 1970, Mrs. North recalled, and there were three other speakers, including Representative Bella S. Abzug and an Irish politician whose name she could not recall but who seemed embarrassed by Sister Elizabeth's militancy.

Mrs. North said the nun spoke with such familiarity of the whereabouts of Father Daniel Berrigan, then a fugitive from the F.B.I., that she figured "these people were camping off in the woods somewhere working on this big plot."

Agent Cross-Examined

Agent Mayfield's letter to F.B.I. Director Hoover came to light under cross-examination by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, a defense attorney. At first, Mr. Mayfield denied having sent a "report" to Washington describing Douglas as an "accomplished confidence man." Later he said he had used the term in a "letter."

Mr. Mayfield confirmed Douglas's testimony that Mr. Mayfield gave the informer two Reserve Officers Training Corps manuals on explosives to pass on to the defendants in furtherance of their alleged plot to blow up utility tunnels in Washington.

Leonard Boudin, another attorney for the defense, resumed today his argument for a hearing on the issue of whether the defendants were provoked and entrapped by Douglas. Prosecutor Lynch replied that there was not a shred of evidence of entrapment. Plans to destroy tunnels and kidnap Mr. Kissinger were initiated not by Douglas but by the defendants, Mr. Lynch said.