

Berrigan Defense Rips FBI

HARRISBURG (Pa.) — (UPI) — The defense told the jury in the Harrisburg Seven trial today that no honorable government agency would enlist the services of a man like Boyd Douglas Jr., who became an FBI informant against the antiwar activists.

The assertion was made by Leonard Boudin, one of four defense attorneys to sum up before the nine women and three men trying the Rev. Philip Berrigan and six codefendants.

Douglas, 31, a slick-talking con man with a record of multiple defrauding of banks and two prison sentences, became an informer for the FBI on June 3, 1970, a few days after meeting Berrigan in prison at Lewisburg, Pa.

Peace Sign

About 200 seminarians formed a "wall of conscience" in front of two main entrances to the federal building where the trial is being held, before and during the session.

Shortly after the jury arrived, but before court convened, two of the defendants, Sister Elizabeth McAlister and Eqbal Ahmad, stood in front of one group of demonstrators, gave the peace sign and sang along with them, "Give Peace a Chance."

About 60 of the protesters, most of them Catholic or Episcopalian seminarians, were taken into custody without resistance and charged with disorderly conduct or blocking a building entrance.

"I cannot conceive of an honorable government agency or an honorable human being using a man like Boyd Douglas — knowing what kind of man he was, even if they had read only half his prison record," Boudin told the jury.

Lied on Stand

"I am ashamed for that aspect of my government."

"He lied to you repeatedly on the stand. He was the man of violence in this case. He handed explosive manuals to these people who had never used guns and offered a gun to one of them, Sister Elizabeth McAlister.

"You must consider whether this is a man whose testimony can prove that a criminal agreement was made by these defendants."

Boudin said that in order to be found guilty of conspiring the defendants would have to be shown to have made a firm commitment to action.

Second Nature

Another defense lawyer, Terry Lenzner, told the jurors it was Douglas' second nature to lie and he had led a life of "continued reckless, unheeding corruption and taint."

Douglas has testified that he smuggled letters in and out of Lewisburg Penitentiary in 1970 for Rev. Berrigan. The government contends these plus Douglas' corroboration, show that Berrigan and six other antiwar activists plotted to kidnap Henry Kissinger, blow up Washington heating tunnels and vandalize draft boards.

It was expected that Judge R. Dixon Herman would charge the jury tomorrow afternoon and that deliberations would begin near the end of this 10th week of the trial.