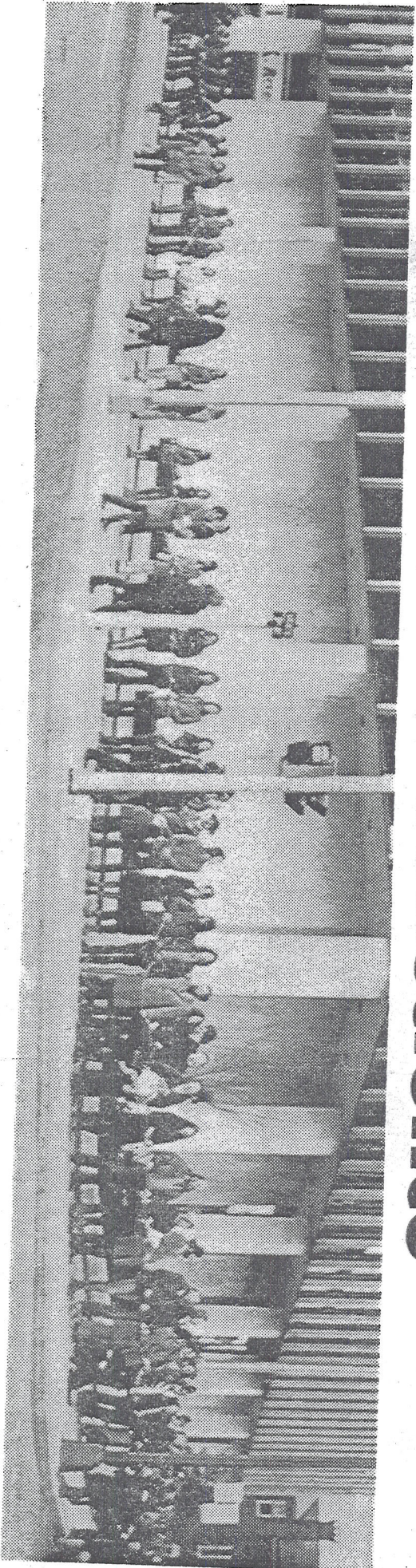


MAR 30 1972

SEChronicle

A 'Wall of Conscience'



Police arrested 166 protesters as they stretched a steel chain of 'conscience' around the Harrisburg courthouse

AP Wirephoto

Juror Cries at Clark's

Harrisburg, Pa.

In a two-hour defense argument that moved one juror to tears, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark accused the government yesterday of trying to "destroy" the seven conspiracy defendants for anti-war ideals they shared with the late President John F. Kennedy.

Afterwards, chief prosecutor William Lynch warned the jury of nine women and three men that Clark's defense of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and six other anti-war activists was so frail that he was "directing your attention to other things."

As U.S. District Judge R. Dixon Herman prepared to send the case to the jury today, police arrested 166 of 200 protesters, most of them Roman Catholic and Episcopal seminarians, who stretched a steel chain — a "wall of conscience" — around three sides of the federal building where the closing defense arguments were being presented. There was no violence.

"What distresses me most is the government's effort to paint people with an enormous passion for peace as violent," argued Clark.

About a year before his death, recalled Clark, the late President Kennedy said: "I look forward to an America that is not afraid of grace and beauty."

"That's why he was killed

— violently with a gun," said Clark, who served as attorney general under President Johnson. "These defendants say 'we look forward to a world of peace and freedom'."

Father Berrigan and the others were on trial for allegedly conspiring to kidnap presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger, to blow up heating ducts leading to federal buildings in Washington, D.C., and to raid draft board offices in nine states.

Like other defense lawyers who argued before him, Clark questioned the honesty of star government witness Boyd F. Douglas. He also said the government invaded the defendants' privacy by intercepting 24 letters exchanged by Father Berrigan and sister Elizabeth McAlister, two of which discussed Kissinger's abduction.

Responding to Clark's charge that the government was "trying to torture and twist the letters," Lynch told the jurors — one of them a woman holding a tear-stained handkerchief to her eyes — that Douglas and the letters proved the prosecution's case.

At another point, Clark told the jurors in regard to Douglas: "If you believe him, you'll go to your last day wondering if you're just the most recent in a long, long line of people he's taken in."

Clark concluded his one

hour and 46 minute summation by declaring:

"These defendants say, 'We look forward to a world not afraid of peace and freedom, and this case will seek to destroy them not with guns but with falsehoods — a much more horrible fate for those who care — because the warmakers cannot stand peace and freedom or those who seek it.

"These charges are false. There was no conspiracy. These defendants, driven as they are, have a passion

only for peace."

Another defense lawyer characterized Douglas earlier, as a "liar and a scoundrel" and an "accomplished confidence man with larceny in his heart."

"He was the one who had the bit in his teeth about illegal projects," attorney Terry F. Lenzner told the jury of nine women and three men.

"Anybody who came in contact with him was in jeopardy — in danger of being pulled into his web. This was

Plea

a street-wise confidence man . . . he had larceny in his heart from the very beginning.

"I submit you cannot believe Boyd Douglas' testimony beyond a reasonable doubt. You can't believe it at all."

Douglas, a fellow inmate with Berrigan at the Lewisburg federal penitentiary in 1970, smuggled letters in and out of the prison for the priest which suggested the alleged kidnap plot.

United Press