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Hoover Accused on Berrigan

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Two veteran reporters who covered the alleged plot of the Rev. Philip Berrigan and others to kidnap Henry Kissinger have concluded the attempt to prosecute the anti-war priest was a corruption of the American system of justice.

"The FBI and the Berrigans," a book by Los Angeles Times writers Jack Nelson and Ronald J. Ostrow, was published today. In it the newsmen contended the Nixon administration carried out the prosecution in an effort to prove FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had his facts right.

The controversial case after months of trial ended in a deadlocked jury which, the authors said, might be considered as reflecting the "justness of the American system of jurisprudence."

"But in the Berrigan case there was a special lesson: So powerful had the director of the FBI become that the president of the United States, who frequently reminded his countrymen that he was a lawyer, chose to ignore Hoover's blatant violation of the Bill of Rights," Nelson and Ostrow wrote.

"Instead the Nixon administration prosecuted in a vain attempt to show the FBI director had his facts right. When a nation that prides itself on being a system of laws — not men — permits itself to be so corrupted, the portents are ominous."