

# Two Guilty of Spattering Blood in White House

San Francisco Chronicle 13  
★★ Sat., July 7, 1973

## Washington

A U.S. District Court took less than an hour yesterday to convict two young Catholic activists who admitted splattering blood in the State Dining Room of the White House, but who said they did it "as a religious act."

The two, Steven Cleghorn, 23, and his common-law wife, Claire Marie, 26, served as their own lawyers during the two-day trial on charges of destroying gov-

ernment property.

Both said they entered the White House in a line of tourists on April 28 and splashed six vials of blood over the dinner table, chairs, drapes and walls — damage which the government said cost about \$600 to clean and repair.

The defendants urged the jurors to acquit them because "human rights are higher than property rights."

Cleghorn said they threw the blood "so that the table

where the king feasts can no longer be a sanctuary from the blood and death he causes."

But U.S. Judge Gerhard Gesell told the jurors the motives the pair had in splattering the blood had "nothing to do" with the case should be decided.

"If you decide on the basis of whether or not you agree with defendants' opinions," Gesell said, "then the people you agree with can do one thing and the people you don't agree with can't do the

same thing. Then there would be no rule of law whatsoever."

Judge Gesell released both defendants on personal recognizance without a money bond. The maximum penalty each can receive is ten years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. No date was set for sentencing.

Washington Post

## Nuclear Protest

### United Nations

Mongolia circulated a protest at the United Nations yesterday over the June 27 Chinese nuclear test near its border.

Associated Press