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# War Critics Say Nixon Uses Juries to Curb Dissent

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WASHINGTON, May 25 — The antiwar movement introduced a new tactic today as leaders of the militant Mayday Collective said that they were starting a concerted attack on grand jury practices in the nation's judicial system.

Jerry Coffin and Carol Evans, both planners of the recent Mayday disruptions here, accused the Nixon Administration of turning grand juries into "star-chamber" proceedings to intimidate political dissenters.

Mr. Coffin, of New York, and Miss Evans, of Washington, said they would refuse to testify before a grand jury that has been requested by the Department of Justice's Internal Security Division. Their scheduled appearances today were put off until later this week.

Their stand was supported by Rennie Davis and John R. Froines, both of whom have been charged with conspiracy in connection with the Mayday protests, and by David Dellin-

ger, a longtime leader of antiwar activity. All three were defendants in the Chicago Seven conspiracy case.

Mr. Dellinger accused the Nixon Administration of using grand juries as "fishing expeditions" to obtain information that the Federal Bureau of Investigation could not urn up.

### Issues Called Political

Mr. Davis accused the Administration of subverting the nation's judicial system by turning the courts "into arenas to settle political questions that should be fought out in public."

He said that he was advising young people around the country not to testify in secret grand jury sessions. But Mr. Dellinger said that each person had to make the decision himself, since failure to testify could result in contempt convictions and jail sentences.

Leslie Bacon, the girl who was arrested in a Washington commune and questioned before a grand jury in Seattle in connection with the bombing of the Capitol in March, is in jail for refusing to answer ques-

tions. Several witnesses in the case of alleged conspiracy by the Rev. Philip F. Barrigan and seven others have also refused to testify before grand juries.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice noted that the antiwar comments today echoed those printed in The Berkeley Tribe, a radical underground newspaper, earlier this month. "We wouldn't dignify this material with a comment," he said.

### Brief Jury Appearances

Mr. Davis, Mr. Dellinger and the others spoke with reporters this afternoon in a series of conversations in and out of the District Court Building here where Mr. Coffin and Miss Evans made brief appearances before the grand jury.

Mr. Coffin, who edited the Mayday Tactical Manual, said, "We are not going to inform on our friends but we'd be happy to discuss Mayday in the open." Miss Evans said that everything that Mayday planned and did was out in the open and that its offices were open for anyone to come see.

Mr. Coffin said that Mayday was "a popular movement and they [the Administration] can't stop it by putting a few people in jail."

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union asked the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to enjoin the city government from further prosecution of those still facing charges as a result of the mass arrest tactics by the Metropolitan Police during the Mayday demonstrations earlier this month.

A lower court earlier refused to issue a temporary restraining order and set a hearing for next month. A spokesman for the A.C.L.U. said that even a favorable ruling then would be too late and thus the decision was appealed.