

NOV 20 1972

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MO

WITNESS ACCUSED IN ANTIWAR CASE

Veteran Contends Informer
Wrote a Bomb Threat

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Nov. 19—A Vietnam veteran who is charged with sending a bomb threat here has said that William Lemmer, who has been identified as a key witness in a grand jury investigation of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, wrote the bomb threat and told him to mail it.

Eight members of the veterans' group were indicted last July in Tallahassee, Fla., for an alleged plot to disrupt the Republican National Convention with bombs, rifles, crossbows and slingshots. The veterans' group has charged that Mr. Lemmer is an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that the indictment was based on his false testimony.

The veteran charged in the Arkansas case is Mike Damron, 26 years old, of Springdale. He said Mr. Lemmer had persuaded him that the bomb threat, which was made last January, was necessary to divert potential bad publicity from the veterans' group.

3 Cities Threatened

The note, signed "Student Socialist Movement by any Means Necessary," a fictitious group, threatened bombings in three Arkansas cities "if the war criminal Dean Rusk is permitted on the U. A. campus." The note was found on the front steps of the local newspaper the day before former Secretary of State Dean Rusk spoke at the University of Arkansas here.

Mr. Damron said that Mr. Lemmer had convinced him that the veterans' group would be blamed for disruptions that other campus activists were thought to be planning for Mr. Rusk's appearance. He said he had told Mr. Lemmer that their group should issue a statement disclaiming responsibility for any disruptions but that Mr. Lemmer insisted that they should send the bomb threat.

"I thought if I strung along with him, going only so far, I'd have control of the situation," Mr. Damron said.

He said that the two met at a Fayetteville bar a few days before M. Rusk's speech and that Mr. Lemmer gave him a handwritten copy of the bomb threat.

Change in Plans

The original plan was for Mr. Lemmer to cut out words from newspapers and magazines and paste them together for him to mail, Mr. Damron said. "But at the time Bill was an officer of the V.V.A.W. and I felt that, should anything go wrong, it would look bad for a V.V.A.W. officer to be part of it."

So, he said, he took the handwritten note home pasted up the final copy and took it to the newspaper office.

Two months later, on March 17, Mr. Damron and Mr. Lemmer were on an organizing tour of Arkansas for the veterans' group. He called home and was told there was a warrant out for his arrest.

Mr. Damron said that he then told his companion that they should return to Fayetteville. Mr. Lemmer stopped at a pay telephone "to make a phone call to his uncle, he told me," Mr. Damron said. "It was a phone call to Uncle Sam," Mr. Damron now believes.

The two men were met by three police cars when they entered Fayetteville.