

Bugging Protest At Vets' Trial

Gainesville, Fla

Jury selection resumed yesterday in the conspiracy trial of eight war protesters after a federal judge rejected a defence motion for an immediate hearing on an alleged FBI attempt to bug the defendants' telephones.

U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnow said he would call a recess after a jury was selected and reconsider the defense motion for a hearing.

The defense is seeking the facts surrounding the discovery Tuesday of two FBI agents in a small telephone-connection room adjoining an office set aside for defense use in the federal courthouse.

REQUEST

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Schneider told the court he had asked the FBI to check the prosecution's phone lines "to see if any of them were bugged."

Judge Arnow told the defense attorney they were "making a mountain out of a molehill" and ruled the jury selection should proceed.

Seven members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and one sympathizer with the anti-war group

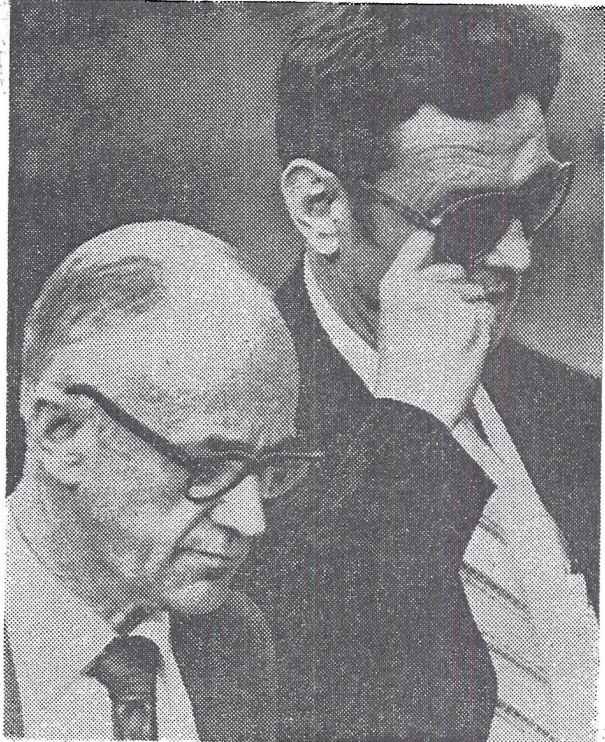
went on trial Tuesday on charges of plotting to disrupt violently the 1972 Republican National Convention at Miami Beach.

Early yesterday, six of the defendants sent a telegram to Senator Sam Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, appealing for congressional intervention in the case.

TELEGRAM

The telegram noted that Arnow had refused to grant a hearing on the presence of the FBI agents in the closet-sized room at the courthouse and had refused to impound a suitcase "full of bugging and burglary equipment" in the agents' possession.

"Knowing that the executive and judicial branches of our government appear incapable of offering any immediate relief from such abuses of justice, we turn in desperate appeal to the Congress of the United States to intervene and halt any further proceedings in this case until a full and immediate investigation into prosecutorial misconduct can be made in order to protect the constitutional rights of the American people," the telegram said. *United Press*



AP Wirephoto

These were the FBI agents found in the phone room, identified as Carl Ekblad (left) and Robert Romann.