

Issue Slows Vets' Trial

By Timothy Robinson
 Washington Post Staff Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 1—The federal judge presiding at the trial of eight persons charged with conspiracy to cause a riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention today stopped telephone company workers from entering a wire room in the federal courthouse here in which two FBI agents were found with electronic equipment last night.

The work cannot continue until an electronics expert chosen by the defendants accompanies the telephone employees into the room, probably in two days, U.S. District Court Judge Winston E. Arnow said.

Prosecutor Jack Carrouth had asked that the phone workers be allowed into the room so additional phone lines to his office could be installed. Defense Attorney Larry Turner, who is representing one of the eight defendants, objected strenuously, indicating he felt the move might be a ploy to cover alleged government eavesdropping.

Turner was one of the defense attorneys using an office adjacent to the phone closet in which the two FBI agents were found at the end of Tuesday's session of the trial. The agents said they had been "checking out" FBI lines when discovered by defense attorneys.

Among the items in a briefcase carried by the FBI agent in the room were two amplifiers, earphones, a transmitter, a blow torch, and other tools and equipment. One of the agents held a telephone hand set.

The discovery was made at 6:15 p.m. by defense attorneys who were using the adjacent room for a staff conference. The agents were seen through a knee-high grating in the wall between the two rooms and were brought out of the room by U.S. marshals under the direction of Judge Arnow.

Arnow held an impromptu hearing in his chambers about the incident but refused to impound the equipment, allow detailed ques-



Associated Press

Morton Stavis (center), chief attorney for "Gainesville 8," who are charged with trying to disrupt the 1972 GOP convention, discusses FBI electronic procedures with newsmen after judge denied motion to suspend the trial.

tioning of the agents, or take any action against them.

Earlier today, Judge Arnow denied a motion by defendant William Patterson, who is representing himself, that the trial be delayed until the court holds a full hearing on the FBI agent incident. Patterson also has requested the Senate Water-gate Committee to probe alleged government misconduct in the case against seven Vietnam Veterans Against the War and one supporter.

In a telegram to Sen. Sam Ervin (D-NC), Patterson and five other defendants said they were asking for the congressional probe because "the executive and judicial-branches of our government appear incapable of offering any immediate relief from such abuses of justice."

There was no immediate response from the committee.

While Arnow denied today's defense motions for an immediate delay in the trial while the alleged bugging incident is probed, the judge said he would reconsider that ruling after a jury is selected.

When the U.S. attorney asked today that the phone company be allowed to install the additional lines, Arnow said at first that the work could proceed. When the defense objected, Arnow said a marshal and a representative of the defense staff could stay with the phone company employees while the work was in progress.

After the defense objected to that and asked for the phone work to be halted while the electronics expert was called in, Judge Arnow stood up, threw his pen on to his desk and exclaimed: "Somebody has to believe in somebody. I'm tired of having to handle these kinds of problems."