

Death Squad Plan Told at Vets' Trial

Gainesville, Fla.

An FBI informer testified yesterday that one of the eight war protesters being tried here on conspiracy charges once told him of plans to organize "political assassination squads."

William W. Lemmer, 24, a key prosecution witness, told the U.S. District court jury that defendant Scott Camil told him there were "no specific" targets for the squads, but they were being "put together in case they are ever needed."

Lemmer also testified that when he asked Camil how he planned to equip the squads, Camil replied he was "trading dope for guns."

The remark brought a swift objection from the defense and a motion for a mistrial, but U.S. District Judge Winson E. Arnow denied the motion.

On trial with Camil on charges of conspiring to disrupt the Republican National Convention at Miami Beach last summer are Alton Foss, John Kniffen, Peter Mahoney, Stan Michaelson, William Patterson, Donald Perdue and John Briggs.

Lemmer, a former paratrooper who joined the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in 1971 and then agreed to become an informer for the FBI, testified as the trial began its second week.

He said Camil made the remark about "political assassination squads" at a November, 1971, meeting of the groups national steering committee in Kansas City. He said Camil told him at a party that the squads would be called "fire teams" and would train "at an unnamed place with rifles, pistols and mortars."

An earlier prosecution witness, private detective Joseph W. Funnell Sr., told the jury that Camil had once shown him a wrist sling-shot and told him that the veteran's groups marshals would be outfitted with them at the GOP convention.

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