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Veterans Widen Quiz of Informer

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 10—Attempts to link a government informer to acts ranging from a planned takeover of the Washington Monument to the bombing of a building on the University of Arkansas campus were begun today by defense attorneys for eight antiwar protesters on trial here on riot conspiracy charges.

The attorneys were armed with a ruling by U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnoff that allowed them to broaden their range of questioning beyond the conspiracy indictment to try to prove that William W. Lemmer acted as an agent-provocateur in this and previous cases.

Arnoff made the ruling after the defense questioned Lemmer out of the jury's presence during this morning's trial session. When the defense told the judge they could discredit Lemmer's testimony by presenting witnesses later, the jury was brought back into the courtroom and began hearing the informer's denials to the versions of each incident outlined by the defense.

However, Arnoff refused to allow the defense to use statements Lemmer had given a Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier probe of alleged U.S. war crimes in Southeast Asia.

Therefore, the jury will not hear Lemmer speak of atrocities that he said he committed in Vietnam, including splitting open bodies to insert the patch of his Army unit so their kills would be identified.

Defense attorneys had claimed that they could prove the testimony was largely untrue, based upon their knowledge of Lemmer's service duties in Vietnam.

According to the defense version of Lemmer's activities that were outlined to the jury, the informer was sent to several places across the country by the FBI to infiltrate VVAW meetings.

Lemmer agreed that the FBI had paid his way to some of the meetings and reimbursed him for expenses for others. But he denied that he was given orders concerning what to do at the meetings.

Occasionally saying incredulously, "I beg your pardon, sir," when asked questions by defense lawyers concerning possible provocative acts, Lemmer denied that he:

- Participated in a bomb threat at the University of Arkansas in 1971 during a visit by former Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Lemmer said his "good friend" Mike Damron was arrested and convicted in the threat, however, after Lemmer told the FBI.

- Aided and abetted the bombing of a University of Arkansas building, for which a 17-year-old youth was convicted.

- Set up the arrest of four persons near Leavenworth, Kansas, who had harvested a marijuana crop with a car that belonged to him and a trailer rented in his name. The four, whom Lemmer said he had only met twice, had told him he could make \$5,000 for using his car on the weekend trip. All five were arrested and convicted but charges against Lemmer

- Urged the VVAW to take over the Washington Monument "by any means necessary" during April, 1972, in protest against the war.

- Proposed the takeover of the ROTC building at the University of Maryland in order to get guns.

- Poured red dye in the Reflecting Pool during the same trip to Washington.

While Lemmer admitted knowledge of many events listed by the defense, his versions differed distinctly.

For example, Lemmer was asked if he lowered a flag at the Oklahoma State Capitol and ordered VVAW members to surround it.

"I lowered it to half mast and VVAW members surrounded it and saluted . . . in honor of people killed in Indochina," Lemmer said.

Once, when the defense asked Lemmer if he was the first person in a protest at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma to cross the line and get arrested for trespass, Lemmer smiled and said, "No, I was the second."

That first meeting was held at the Yellow Brick Road, a drug counseling center in Fayetteville where Lemmer said he was considering employments. "We discussed the problems of drugs in the city," Lemmer testified.

However, at the next meeting the others asked him if they could use his car to drive to Leavenworth to harvest 500 pounds of marijuana. "I told them I would maybe drive the car, but not take part in the marijuana harvesting . . . for a price . . . \$5,000, and I told them

were dropped.

- Suggested that members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War supply guns to blacks in Cairo, Ill., during racial trouble there.

- Suggested that VVAW members carry rifles on a protest march in Springdale, Ark.

- Suggested that a Sears store be bombed during the Springdale march because it refused to allow a Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair to use a restroom there.

"I'd let them know later," Lemmer said.

Lemmer said he called an FBI agent who in turn told him to call county police in Fayetteville.

Lemmer then joined the expedition.

As the harvest was ending, sheriff deputies in Kansas arrested the harvesters leading a U-Haul trailer rented in Lemmer's name and placed them in jail. Lemmer stayed in jail five days before being released on personal recognizance, and charges were later dropped. The others were convicted and sentenced.

Lemmer said the sheriff in Fayetteville said he was "sorry" that Lemmer had been arrested, and attributed it to a "lack of coordination" between the law enforcement agencies in each state. Lemmer said he received no payment for his work in the marijuana case.

In the Arkansas bombing incident, Lemmer said he was watching a bonfire on the Arkansas campus when Mark Vanceil, 17, came up to him and asked him if he had looked lately at "Old Main," a campus landmark and classroom building.

"I asked, 'Should that be burning, too?'" Lemmer testified.

Lemmer said the youth, whom he had never before met, then took him to the building and showed him two molotov cocktails that had bounced off a door before igniting.

The informer said he called the FBI that night when the youth indicated he might try to blow up the

building again the next night.

Lemmer said he walked toward the building with the youth the next night and told him he was "foolish" to try to destroy the building. "I did not want to see any destruction of government property," Lemmer said.

The youth was arrested on the scene by FBI agents that night and later convicted.

Before Lemmer began his testimony yesterday, Judge Arnoff warned him of his rights against self-incrimination if he desired not to answer any questions asked him by the defense. The judge asked Lemmer if he wanted time to consult a lawyer.

"I'll give you my answer now, sir," Lemmer replied. "I'm not afraid to answer these questions"

Meanwhile yesterday, Judge Arnoff announced that FBI agents are investigating possible violations of a "gag rule" that he imposed on lawyers, defendants and others connected with the case in an attempt to limit prejudicial publicity.

Several reporters have said that FBI agents have interviewed them in an attempt to find out about press conferences that defendants and lawyers have held.

The eight defendants here are on trial of conspiring to cause riots at the Republican Convention last summer with a bizarre arsenal of weapons ranging from cross-bows to wrist-braced sling-shots. They claim the charges are political.