

VETERAN AT TRIAL FACES INFORMER

Questions Ex-Confidant on
Their Old Associations

By JOHN KIFNER

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 20 —Scott Camil leaned rigidly against the lectern, looking at the man in the witness chair, and asked, "Would you say we were good friends?"

"No," replied Emerson L. Poe, "I don't consider myself a friend."

There was absolute silence in the courtroom as Mr. Camil, the man the Government charges was the ringleader of a plot to disrupt the Republican National Convention last summer, who is acting as his own lawyer, faced the man who, until Friday, he thought was his closest confidant and who is now on the stand as an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Camil, a wiry figure with a bushy black beard, wearing an olive marine-issue cold weather shirt against the air-conditioned chill, directed a series of questions at the bald Mr. Poe, who had a goatee.

Did you give a surprise birthday party for Nancy (McCown) (Mr. Camil's girl friend), at your house? Mr. Camil asked. Did Nancy and I come out to your farm to ride horses? Do you remember if we came out to your home to help decorate your Christmas tree?

Yes to Questions

"Yes," the witness replied to each of the questions.

"Did Nancy and I console you wife after her miscarriage?" Mr. Camil asked.

"I don't recall," Mr. Poe said, finally.

When Mr. Poe appeared as a Government witness on Friday, the defense demanded, and got, a hearing into his activities.

The defense contended that when Mr. Poe was one of a score of witnesses called before the grand jury in Tallahassee, he was represented by some of the defense attorneys and sat in on their discussions.

Displaying court transcripts, they said his name was on a list of clients that Guy L. Goodwin, the special prosecutor of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division, swore contained no agents or informers.

And, the defense charged, Mr. Camil frequently discussed the defense strategy with Mr. Poe, who had been his assistant regional coordinator in the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and went to his farm in nearby Archer to work on his case in quiet.

Motions Turned Down

Today, and on Friday, Mr. Poe swore that—although he reported "every conversation" with Mr. Camil since the indictment to the F.B.I.—he had never discussed defense strategy.

Federal District Judge Winston E. Arnow turned down defense motions to dismiss the charges or bar Mr. Poe's testimony because of Government penetration of the defense camp.

Seven antiwar veterans and a supporter are on trial here charged with plotting to assault the Republican convention in Miami Beach with automatic weapons, slingshots and cross bows.

Under Government examination this morning, Mr. Poe testified that at various times he had seen in Mr. Camil's apartment a cigar box full of homemade bolos—one of which was introduced into evidence—and several cartons of wrist ocket slingshots.

Mr. Poe said that Mr. Camil had talked of setting up 35-pound-test, fishline trip mines against the police and of filling balloons with ammonia and Clorox.

The prosecution read two V.V.A.W. pre-convention news letters, identified by Mr. Poe, aloud to the jury.

Kinds of Weapons

The first spoke of ammonia-filled balloons, bolos and powerful slingshots as weapons that might ward off the police if they attacked. But, after each mention, there was an underlined phrase such as "this is purely a defensive measure." The news letters were filled with cautions against violence: "If there is any trouble at the Dem. Conv., it will help Nixon with his genocidal, repressive administration . . . We will not allow provocateurs to endanger the safety and well-being of the people."

The second newsletter began, "There seems to be a small misunderstanding concerning the last news letter . . . First let me say that we are planning for a peaceful Convention; any trouble will only help Nixon."

As he read, Jack Carrouth, the prosecutor, had difficulty with several of the larger words in the newsletters. At one point, he began to laboriously spell out "b-o-u"

"Bourgeois," came a voice from the defense table. Nodding, Mr. Carrouth continued, "Pigs . . ."

Judge Arnow announced this morning that the sequestered jurors would be taken to Disney World in Orlando on Saturday, accompanied by marshals.

New Golden Gate Victim

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 20 (UPI) — An unidentified man about 40 years old leaped from the Golden Gate Bridge yesterday, bringing to 494 the number of known suicides from the span.