

Vets Trial-- Prosecution Rests Case

SFChronicle
Gainesville, Fla.

The government tentatively rested its case yesterday in the Gainesville conspiracy trial and the judge set aside Monday for defense motions.

The prosecution has called 27 witnesses, seven of them informers who said the defendants, all members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, planned attacks with guns and bombs during the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Carrouth said, "I believe at this time we are through with our witnesses on the merits of the case." He added, however, that the government may reopen its case later to hear from two more witnesses.

Seven of the defendants are charged with plotting violence while the GOP met in Miami Beach. The eighth is charged with failing to report crimes by the others.

U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnow recessed the trial until Monday, when he said he expected defense motions would be argued. He allowed the jury, which had been sequestered, to go home until Tuesday. The trial began July 31.

The prosecution did not call two Miami area men who had done undercover work in the case — Dade County Police Sergeant Gerald Rudolph and informer Manuel Pablo Fernandez.

Dade Police Sergeant Harrison Crenshaw, Rudolph's partner admitted under cross-examination yesterday that police never found the automatic weapons and bazookas which he said two of the defendants talked about using during the GOP convention.

But Crenshaw insisted that defendants Donald P. Perdue and Alton C. Foss discussed using explosives and guns during the GOP convention.

Crenshaw testified Thursday that he infiltrated the VVAW in 1972 during convention planning. He told of a plot for massive disruptions of the GOP convention with anti-tank guns, bazookas, grenades and underwater explosives.

Associated Press