

Last week a trial date of July 17th was set for the Gainesville Eight, members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who allegedly plotted to disrupt last summer's Republican convention in Miami Beach. We talked today with Scott Camil, former national commander of VVAW and a Gainesville 8 defendant, about the reaction among defendants to Watergate and the Ellsberg trial.

Camil [voice]: WE've believed all the time that that Watergate thing was a lot bigger than a lot of people would admit. There were some things that came out in the Ellsberg and Russo thing that surprised us, like the psychiatrist's office being broken into, which has caused us to file a new motion because on July 8th, the day after we were subpoenaed before the Federal grand jury my attorney's office here in Gainesville was broken into and the only thing that was taken was the file that she had on me. We filed a motion about that before and it was thrown out, and in view of recent developments we've put that motion in again, dealing with that specifically

.....
And the last thing that's affected us has been the statement that Gray made concerning the fact that FBI agents and informers were in decision and policy-making positions in almost all the anti-war groups planning for the convention, and all along we've said it's been the Government provocateurs coming in and trying to start illegal actions from our organization and we've been combatting this, so that kind of helps to verify what we've been saying.

[End of excerpt from conversation with Camil, which, judging from sound quality, was by phone.]

KPFA: Camil pointed out several differences between the VVAW trial and the Pentagon Papers trial. For one thing, the Veterans have very little money to conduct their defense; the Ellsberg-Russo defense committee reportedly raised nearly a million dollars.

Another difference is that Judge Winston E. Arnou [phonetic], a retired Army major, has not yet shown the concern for defendants' rights which characterized Judge Matt Byrne's courtroom in Los Angeles. The Gainesville 8 need at least \$175,000 to conduct their defense adequately, and are threatened with a court order forbidding them from discussing their case in public, or raising funds in public, according to Camil. When their trial does take place many

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of the questions left unanswered about White House and Republican espionage and sabotage in the 1972 campaign will again be a courtroom issue as it was in the Pentagon Papers trial.

[End of item.]