

# Russo Also Goes Free

## Los Angeles

Like his better-known co-defendant, Daniel Ellsberg, former government researcher Anthony J. Russo Jr. presented himself during the Pentagon Papers trial as an establishment scholar who was radicalized in Vietnam.

During the often dry and technical court sessions, Russo, 37, demonstrated both a volatile temper and a penchant for baiting the prosecution with practical jokes.

He first met Ellsberg in 1965, when both men were in Vietnam on assignment from the Rand Corp. They were co-workers again at Rand in 1969, when they copied the secret Vietnam war study.

A Virginia native, Russo

received early training in aeronautical engineering, and helped design the first space capsule. He entered Princeton University as a graduate fellow in physics, later becoming involved in public affairs and economics research. He received masters degrees both in aeronautical engineering and public affairs.

### INTERVIEWS

Russo's work with Rand began in 1964. The next year he went to Vietnam where he directed and conducted interviews in connection with the Viet Cong Motivation and Morale Project.

In the next two years, much of them spent in Vietnam, his doubts about American involvement grew.

"Suddenly a very simple thing came to me in a flash

and it changed me a great deal," he said later. "It dawned on me that we could never do things right in Vietnam because we were not doing it right at home."

### FIRED

In 1968 he tried to get assigned to the Pentagon Papers study being done by Rand, but failed. "They thought of me as a malcontent . . . I saw the war as both inhuman and imprudent." A few months later he was fired.

After the release of the Pentagon Papers to media in 1971, Russo refused at first to testify before a federal grand jury in Los Angeles and served 47 days in prison. On entering jail, he publicly announced he had helped Ellsberg copy the Papers.

Russo frequently met newsmen outside the courtroom to level blasts at the prosecution and the judge, and once angrily walked away from an attorney's conference with the judge.

### STUNT

One morning after Watergate links to the case had been revealed, prosecutor David Nissen arrived to find a chain of dominoes set up on his table. Each was marked with the name of an administration official, the last domino bearing President Nixon's name. Russo took credit for the stunt.

Russo was married in January 1972 to Katherine Barkley, an anti-war activist and feminist who has said, "I consider that I myself have been on trial."

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