

BERRIGANS HAILED BY REP. ANDERSON

Called Heroes of Nonviolence
in Speech to Churchmen

By **GEORGE DUGAN**

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LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 24—

Representative William R. Anderson, Democrat of Tennessee, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, hailed the Berrigan brothers today as heroes in the non-violent struggle for peace.

The Rev. Philip Berrigan and the Rev. Daniel Berrigan are Roman Catholic priests serving prison sentences for destroying draft records. Both are under Federal indictment charged with conspiracy.

The brothers are accused of having conspired to blow up the heating systems of several Government buildings and to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's assistant for national security affairs.

Standing Ovation

Representative Anderson, a Protestant, received a standing ovation after he addressed the general board of the National Council of Churches meeting here in the Seelbach Hotel. The Representative had been critical of the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, since the charges against the Berrigans were first made public and had demanded "an explanation and a retraction" if they could not be proved.

Mr. Anderson described the forthcoming trial of the Berrigans as "the climatic point of all dissent in America."

He warned that potential trouble would come as pro-Berrigan demonstrations erupted over the nation and called upon the church leaders to become "Christian activists" in a nonviolent struggle for peace and justice.

"Father Dan and Phil destroyed draft records—all illegal act—and now are sentenced in Federal detention, deprived of many rights," Congressman Anderson said. "Their act was the frustrating finale of years of prodding an unreceptive society to the needs of justice and peace. They are peace mongers, waging a peace campaign as their nation wages war."

Representative Anderson said that Mr. Hoover's accusation "slandered men without presenting any evidence."

"It was a departure from the American tradition that no man is guilty until proven so in a court of law," Mr. Anderson said.

Turning to the possibility of demonstrations supporting the two priests, Mr. Anderson said: "At no time in our 200-year history has the United States needed so desperately the calm wisdom, the demeanor and the message of the spiritual leaders in our society that your group represents. Demonstrations for the cause of the Berrigan brothers, who have become the symbol of all the accused in this case, are almost inevitable."