

Berrigan Witness

Describes Plot Role

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — FBI informer Boyd Douglas Jr. told the Harrisburg seven conspiracy trial jury today that he had been selected to set off the explosives in an alleged plan to destroy heating tunnels in Washington, D.C.

Douglas, the government's key witness testified the tunnel plot was hatched in the summer of 1970. It was scheduled to be carried out the following February, on Washington's birthday, he said.

At the time Douglas was a convict at the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., as was the Rev. Philip Berrigan, whom the government charges masterminded the alleged scheme.

THE government charges the defendants also plotted to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and to vandalize draft boards.

Douglas told of a campus conversation with Anthony and Mary Scoblick, two of the defendants, in which he said his role as explosives expert was laid out.

"Mary Scoblick told me 'I'm glad we've got someone who knows the use of explosives so we won't blow ourselves up'", Douglas said.

Douglas reported he met Scoblick, a former priest, in Lewisburg in mid-August and quoted him as saying the Washington project "would escalate the Catholic movement."

"**HE (SCOBlick)** felt this type of action had to be done because the U.S. government was not taking the Catholic left seriously enough in just destroying draft board records," Douglas testified.

Berrigan was in Lewisburg serving a six-year term for destroying draft board files in Maryland.

Douglas said Scoblick told him that the movement was planning to send other people into the Lewisburg area to recruit students for draft board actions, taking that task away from Douglas, so he could concentrate on the Washington project.

"He said I would teach others about explosives . . . and that I would place the primer cord (a plastic rope-like explosive) and that it was crucial that my identity remain secret," Douglas testified.

Copies of letters attributed to Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAlister, another defendant, were entered into the record yesterday. The letters, which Douglas said he copied while serving as a courier, describe plans to blow up the heating tunnels and attempts by Berrigan followers to obtain "upwards of several million" dollars from Sweden.

THE BERRIGAN letters list an attack on the Washington tunnels as the top antiwar gesture.

"Since resources appear available for the subterranean project in the District this should have priority for the winter of 1970-71," one letter reads.

Among the first nine Berrigan letters introduced was one suggesting that roving groups of peace movement people be recruited to destroy draft files in Northern, Southern and Midwestern cities.