Berrigan Trial Testimony

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'Violence' in Plot Told

Harrisburg, Pa.

The Rev. Philip Berrigan recognized that violence would be a part of a plan to kidnap presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger, FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas testified yesterday.

Douglas, a former convict, said Father Berrigan, an anti-war priest, first heard of the kidnap proposal in a secret letter written to him by Sister Elizabeth McAlister, a defendant in the Harrisburg Seven trial.

Douglas said he smuggled the nun's letter into the Lewisburg federal penitentiary for Father Berrigan, who was an inmate at the time.

He said Father Berrigan wanted the kidnaping to coincide with the destruction of underground utility tunnels in Washington, which he and other Roman Catholic activists were planning.

AGREED

"I said I didn't see how it could be done without violence," Douglas said. "Philip Berrigan agreed that he didn't see how it could be done without the use of violence.

"I said it couldn't be done without a gun. Philip Berrigan agreed that it couldn't be without a gun, but he suggested that we use blanks in the gun instead of bullets.

"I told him I was sure I could obtain a gun for use in the kidnaping if it was requested of me."

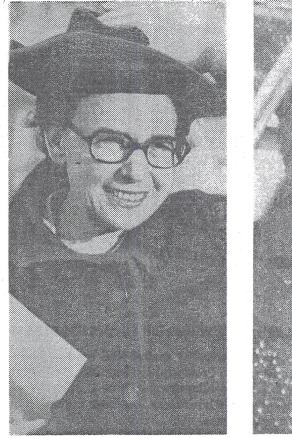
Douglas' testimony climaxed the government's case against the seven who are charged with plotting the kidnap, the Washington tunnel bombing and the destruction of draft boards in nine Eastern states.

DEVASTATION

Douglas concluded his fifth day of testimony by recounting several conversations he said he had with the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth, another codefendant, during the autumn of 1970 concerning the devastation that would be cause by the tunnel bombings.

"Joe told me we would put primer cord in approximately five locations," said Douglas, whose crossexamination likely will begin early next week. "He knew it would cost millions of dollars to rebuild the tunnel system after it was blown up."

Chief prosecutor William S. Lynch read into the court record a letter which Berrigan had written back to Sister Elizabeth terming the





AP Wirephoto

Zoia Horn entered the Harrisburg court house holding her hat (left) and departed in handcuffs (right). She was jailed for contempt for refusing to testify.

kidnap idea "brilliant."

"Why not grab the brainchild," Berrigan wrote, "treat him decently, but tell him nothing of his fate — or tell him his fate hinges on the release of political people, or cessation of air strikes in Laos.

TRICK

"The trick to pull off is to hit them very hard without giving them violence to react to . . . it can be done and brilliantly."

Douglas testified he talked to Eqbal Ahmad, another defendant, twice on the telephone about the kidnap plan. The defense attempted to have the conversations kept out of the court record because of insufficient proof that Ahmad had made the calls.

Federal Judge R. Dixon Herman overruled the objections and permitted Douglas to testify about the conversations.

REACTION

Douglas said Ahmad told him he knew of the plan and was anxious to hear Berrigan's reaction to it.

Earlier in the day, a former Bucknell University librarian, Zoia Horn, 53, was imprisoned in the Daughin coounty jail for refusing to testify despite a grant of immunity.

Douglas worked for Mrs. Horn on a part-time basis in the Bucknell library on a special-study release program while an inmate at the Lewisburg prison.

Mrs. Horn, now employed as head of public services at the Stanislaus county library in Modesto, Calif., refused to answer questions Monday, saying the government had wiretapped her telephone.

Herman cited her for contempt yesterday after she insisted she still would not testify. Her attorney said he would appeal the contempt order. United Press