

NYTimes

DEFENSE IS BEGUN AT BERRIGAN TRIAL

It Seeks to Show Informer
Was Also Provocateur

By HOMER BIGART

Special to The New York Times

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 7 —The defense in the antiwar conspiracy trial of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan began today cross-examination of Boyd F. Douglas Jr., the Government's key witness in an attempt to show that he had served not only as an F.B.I. informer but also as a provocateur for the entrapment of the militant priest.

Under questioning by former Attorney General Ramsay Clark, Douglas, a 31-year-old former convict, conceded that it was he who had suggested to Father Berrigan that an alleged plot to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, an aide to President Nixon, could not be executed without a gun.

But Douglas denied that he had been the first to suggest the use of explosives in an alleged plot to disrupt the heating system of Government buildings in Washington.

He said the priest had talked of planting explosives in a computer at the Pentagon before abandoning that plan in favor of blowing up the heating tunnels.

The informer, who has been convicted of impersonation, forgery and assault, seemed unruffled when Mr. Clark pointed out discrepancies between Douglas's testimony here and that he told the grand jury a year ago.

According to the transcript, Douglas told the grand jury that he had presented himself to Father Berrigan as a former demolitions expert in the Army before the priest brought up the possible use of explosives.

'I Was Mistaken'

"If I said that, I was mistaken," said Douglas coolly when Mr. Clark confronted him with the transcript.

But Douglas conceded that he had furthered the planning by urging the use of primer cord as a detonating device, by lending textbooks on demolition to the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth, an alleged fellow conspirator of Father Berrigan's, and by telling Father Berrigan that he could provide the gun needed for the Kissinger abduction.

"You're the one who kept raising the tunnel project, weren't you?" demanded the lanky, six-foot-three-inch former Attorney General.

"No, I was not," said Douglas.

You knew Father Berrigan was in prison and couldn't do anything about such a project, didn't you?" Mr. Clark pressed.

"I knew after several months that he was highly looked upon by all members of the Catholic inner circle and that anything he said would normally be carried out in due course," Douglas replied.

Purported Plan

Father Berrigan and six other defendants are accused of conspiring to blow up the utility tunnels on Washington's Birthday, 1971, and to kidnap Mr. Kissinger the next day, demanding his ransom as an end to the bombing in Southeast Asia and the release of political prisoners at home.

Mr. Kissinger was to have been released unharmed after a week, according to the purported plan. Today Douglas testified that Father Berrigan had suggested using blank cartridges for the kidnapping gun.

Douglas had said in direct examination that Father Berrigan wanted precise information about the number and location of generator plants in the tunnel system.

"Truth is, you made up the whole thing about generators, did you not?" challenged Mr. Clark.

"I did not make it up," Douglas replied, his voice rising.

Mr. Clark then put in evidence an Esso tourist map of Washington showing, among other things, the location of "power house for Capitol" and "central heating plant."

The former Attorney General was implying that these sensitive locations were hardly secret and that Father Berrigan's purported insistent demands for "blueprints" of the system were absurd.

Earlier Mr. Clark asked, "In conversations you had with Father Berrigan, didn't you mention explosives before he did?"

"No, I did not," Douglas replied.

"In fact, you told him you were a demolitions expert in the service before there was any mention of the D.C. project or anything else," Mr. Clark continued.

"No," Douglas responded, "before this, he [Berrigan] mentioned putting an explosive device inside the computer system at the Pentagon. He also mentioned the facts about the tunnel system, that explosives might be necessary. Only after these conversations did I tell him I was a demolitions expert."

Librarian Released

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 7 (AP)—A librarian jailed for contempt in the Berrigan trial was released today pending a hearing tomorrow in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Zoia Horn, 53 years old, was ordered freed on \$5,000 bail. She had been held since Friday after being held in contempt for refusing to testify.

She declined to do so on the ground that the trial was a "black charade."