

Witness Against Berrigan Says He Weighed Career as Informer

By HOMER BIGART
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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 8 — Boyd F. Douglas Jr., the Government's star witness against the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and six other antiwar activists, said today that he considered making a career out of betraying "radicals and leftists" soon after he began informing on the Berrigan group to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Under cross-examination by a defense lawyer, Paul O'Dwyer, Douglas said he had been given more than \$9,000 for "expenses" by the F.B.I.

He asked the bureau for \$50,000 more tax-free because, he said, he "felt threatened by the Panthers, the S.D.S. [Students for a Democratic Society] and all the nuts in this country."

He never got the \$50,000, he said, but the bureau provided him briefly with a rented car and a Master Charge card made out to a "Robert Dunn" whose address was an F.B.I. post office box in Omaha.

Douglas said he kept the credit card three months, returning it to the bureau in March, 1971, after he got a job in Phoenix, Ariz. Since last December the Government has been paying him \$36 a day for witness fee and subsistence, he said.

\$50,000 in Bad Checks

Douglas admitted cashing worthless checks that totaled \$50,000 to \$60,000 in 1963 but said he spent it all in one year of rich living.

Douglas and Father Berrigan were fellow prisoners at Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in the spring and summer of 1970 when, according to the Government, the priest began conspiring with militants of the Roman Catholic left to blow up heating tunnels to Government buildings in Washington and to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser.

Douglas was allowed to leave the prison daily to attend classes Bucknell University.

Mr. O'Dwyer, the white-haired lawyer and Democratic reform leader from New York, clashed frequently with William S.

Lynch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, as he tried to show that Douglas served the F.B.I. as a provocateur who tried to push a group of priests and nuns into acts of violence.

Douglas conceded that one of his first acts at Buncknell was to ingratiate himself with campus "leftists."

Friendship With Professor

Even before Father Berrigan arrived at Lewisburg, Douglas had cultivated the friendship of Prof. Richard Drinnon, chairman of the history department. He said he had told Professor Drinnon that he was angry because the Government had renegeed on a promise to parole.

"I told him that so I could get in his good graces," Douglas said. "I understood he knew most of the radicals and activists on the campus, people who were antigovernment."

Douglas said he wanted to "get in with the activists" because he craved personal freedom on the campus and felt that they would be less apt to tell prison authorities of his behavior.

The notion of informing on them for a living did not develop, he said, until the F.B.I. gave him a lump sum of \$1,500 "for information received" about a draft board rid in Rochester, which allegedly was master-minded by the Berrigan group.

So he informed on Professor Drinnon who had befriended him, he admitted, and also told the bureau about "activists" on a campus notably free of demonstrations.

He admitted asking a coed to participate in a rally protesting the prison treatment of Father Berrigan and then promptly identified her for the F.B.I. when agents showed him pictures of the demonstrators.

He said he had also asked the girl, Betsy Sandel, to transcribe into his notebook letters from a New York nun, Sister Elizabeth McAlister, which he was supposed to deliver to Father Berrigan. In one of these purported letters Sister Elizabeth is said to have described the scheme to kidnap Mr. Kissinger.