

Informer On Stand 14 Days

HARRISBURG (Pa.) — (UPI) — The government was blocked today in an attempt to show that FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr., led an exemplary life of "sterling character" since he stopped reporting on the Harrisburg Seven antiwar activities in 1970.

Douglas' testimony ended at mid-morning of his 14th day on the witness stand as the key government witness in its attempt to prove that the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and six other opponents of the Vietnam War plotted to kidnap Henry Kissinger and sabotage Washington heating systems.

Defense objections prevented William S. Lynch, chief prosecutor, from a line of questions which would have taken Douglas into talking of the allegedly "hard working, dependable" life he has led in the last 18 months — after a career of forgery, con man activities, and impersonations that began in 1958.

Turns Informer

On cross-examination, defense attorneys had implied that Douglas began copying letters to and from Berrigan in prison because he originally had the idea of using them to extort money from donors to the Catholic left peace movement, including Berrigan himself.

After copying a few letters, Douglas on June 3, 1970, became an FBI informer and turned over more than a score of allegedly criminally conspiratory letters to the FBI.

"You were asked if you had a corrupt economic motive in copying the letters," Lynch said. "Did you have an extortionate intent?"

"I did not," Douglas replied.

Commendation

Lynch brought out that after his testimony helped indict the seven here in January, 1971, Douglas had gone to Phoenix, Ariz., and had been employed and then settled in Des Moines, Iowa,

where he worked as a salesman in the mens' clothing department of a large store.

"Were you given a letter of commendation?" Lynch asked, referring to the store.

"I was," Douglas replied.

He produced the letter and handed it to Lynch. Defense attorney Paul O'Dwyer objected that this was not a proper line of redirect examination.

"We have had extensive attacks on Mr. Douglas prior to 1970," Lynch said. "I'd like to establish the sterling character of Mr. Douglas since 1970."

4 Credit Cards

O'Dwyer replied that Lynch already had produced the testimony that Douglas now has four credit cards and objected that Lynch was attempting to "start his case all over again."

Lynch said it was possible the defense was objecting because "it's possible they know he's been hard working and dependable."

"Oh, c'mon, Mr. Lynch," O'Dwyer shouted. "You've been hiding him for a year and a half."

The FBI paid Douglas to inform on the Berrigan antiwar activists three years before tabbing him as a bad-check artist who had made thousands by fraud and who "certainly has many attributes of a confidence man," the defense said in its parting shot yesterday.

Defense attorney Leonard B. Boudin got Douglas to identify an FBI parole report about him dated Jan. 6, 1967, after Douglas had been arrested for trying to defraud a bank and had pulled a gun on the arresting officer.

Boudin read from the report to the nine-woman, three-man jury.

"The defendant thus far has made a poor social adjustment after going AWOL from the military service (in 1962). He maintains himself with bad checks and certainly has many attributes of a confidence man.