

FBI Informer Off Stand

Harrisburg, Pa.

FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas Jr. left the witness stand yesterday after 14 consecutive days of testimony against the Rev. Philip Berrigan and six other antiwar activists charged in a kidnap-bomb plot.

The government attempted to close out Douglas' appearance on the witness stand by showing that the former convict has possessed "sterling character" since he became a government informant two years ago after a career of forgery and confidence man activities that began in 1958.

Judge R. Dixon Herman upheld a defense objection to the government move and halted the questioning of Douglas, who was on the stand for redirect examination.

Douglas had testified that he received a letter of commendation in 1971 from a Des Moines department store where he had worked as a clothing salesman after he completed his informant duties for the FBI in 1970.

The defense objection came when chief prosecutor William S. Lynch attempted to have the letter included in the court record.

Lynch said the defense was objecting to the letter of commendation "because they know he (Douglas) has been hard working, dependable . . ."

"Oh, c'mon Mr. Lynch," defense attorney Paul O'Dwyer snapped. "you've been hiding him for a year and a half."

Herman then halted the questioning of Douglas but ordered him to remain in central Pennsylvania until the trial was completed in the event either side wanted to call him back.

Douglas was the government's key witness against the seven defendants, who are charged with a plot to kidnap presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger, bomb heating tunnels in Washington and raid draft boards in nine states.

Lynch called eight more witnesses, three of them FBI agents and two federal

marshals, after Douglas was excused and said he would call about 32 more before resting the government's case "in about a week."

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