

F.B.I. Agent Says He Supplied Explosives Manuals to Informer

By HOMER BIGART

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 22 —Delmar Mayfield Jr., an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified today that he supplied explosives manuals to a paid informer who "lent" them to one of the defendants in the Berrigan conspiracy case.

But Mr. Mayfield insisted that he never told the informer, Boyd F. Douglas Jr., to provoke the alleged conspirators or abet an alleged plot to blow up heating tunnels in Washington and kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security affairs.

The agent denied ever telling Mr. Douglas to suggest to the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan, one of the defendants, that a gun might be necessary for the kidnapping of Mr. Kissinger. He denied authorizing a Douglas letter to Sister Elizabeth McAlister, another defendant, in which the informer told the nun that he could produce a gun that could not be traced.

Also unauthorized by the F.B.I., Mr. Mayfield said, were letters in which Mr. Douglas seemed to be recruiting members of the peace movement for criminal acts. He said that Mr. Douglas never showed him a letter to a girl indicted in a draft board raid in Rochester in 1970.

In that letter, Mr. Douglas was said to describe himself as "a made, totally committed violent revolutionary who believes in strategic sabotage," adding: "There may be an interesting project that would interest you after the turn of the year."

A defense lawyer, Leonard Boudin, asked Mr. Mayfield: "If you had known Douglas sent that letter and added a postscript to destroy the letter would you still retain him as an informer?"

The agent pondered for a moment and then replied: "Yes I would have retained him as an informer but would have ad-

vised him not to recruit anyone."

"If Douglas tried to recruit or criminal activities, you would regard that as highly improper?" Mr. Boudin asked.

"For him to attempt to recruit for violation of Federal laws would be in violation of F.B.I. regulations and my own personal standards," the agent replied.

Mr. Mayfield said he procured two Reserve Officers Training Corps explosives manuals for Mr. Douglas but did not learn until months later that the informer had passed them on to one of the defendants, the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth, a Baltimore priest.

Mr. Douglas had testified that he posed to the defendants as a former Army demolitions expert and wanted to read up on the subject in case someone in the group asked him about explosives.

Was it not very dangerous to give these manuals to Mr. Douglas, whose criminal record included assault with a gun? Mr. Boudin asked.

"I had no qualms whatsoever," Mr. Mayfield said emphatically. "I had complete faith in him."

Acting under the code name "Molly," Mr. Mayfield was the "handling agent" for Mr. Douglas after the latter was recruited as an informer on June 3, 1970. At that time, both Mr. Douglas and Father Berrigan were serving time at the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa.

Mr. Douglas, subsequently described by Mr. Mayfield as an "accomplished confidence man," had become a confidante of the priest. Allowed to leave the prison daily to attend classes at Bucknell University, Mr. Douglas became a conduit for messages between Father Berrigan and a group of activists of the Catholic left.