Father Groppi Among 13 Seized At Speech of Ex-F.B.I. Informer

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MILWAUKEE, Nov. 20 — Thirteen persons, including the Rev. James E. Groppi, were arrested last night as they protested the speaking appearance of a former informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had posed as an Indian to infiltrate the American Indian movement. Those arrested were charged with unlawful assembly. Father Groppi, a civil rights activist, said he attended the rally at the Milwaukee Memorial Center to protest alleged F.B.I. infiltration of civil rights groups.

Speaking at the center last night was Douglass Durham, 38 years old who has been identified by Dennis Banks, a leader of the American Movement, as an informer for the F.B.I. during the Indian movement's 1973 occupation of the Village of Wounded Knee on the Oglala Sioux Reservation at Pine Ridge, S.D.

Mr. Durham, a former police officer in Des Moines, Iowa, was the security director at the 1974 trial of Mr. Banks and other leaders of the Indian movement accused of staging the takeover. Those charges were eventually dropped.

For the last several weeks, Mr. Durham has been on a Midwest speaking tour, during which he has been critical of the Indian movement, associating it with Communist groups.

A spokesman for the John Birch Society's speaker's bureau in Belmont, Mass., said that the organization was happy to have Mr. Duham as a speaker.

During his association with the Indian movement, Mr. Durham wore Indian jewelry, grew his hair to shoulder length and used makeup to darken his skin. Now he has a neatly trimmed beard and wears a sports jacket and tie.

In Wisconsin, where he has drawn crowds of up to 300 in small towns, Mr. Durham has talked about what he calls the movement's revolutionary contracts and use of violence.

"I knew of no legally owned weapons within the American Indian Movement," he said last night.

Mr. Durham said that he was sympathetic to the cause of Indian people but that the American Indian Movement did not represent all Indians.

He has also accused the group of squandering thousands of dollars donated by church groups, including the National Council of Churches.