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WILLIAM LEMMER
He chose Vietnam

Psychiatric Quiz for FBI Informer

Gainesville, Fla.

Prosecution witness William Lemmer said under cross-examination yesterday in the riot conspiracy trial of eight persons that the Army offered him the choice of a psychiatric discharge or a second tour of duty in Vietnam.

Lemmer, 24, an FBI informer and the government's key witness in the case against Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said he went back to Vietnam.

OBJECTIONS

U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnow allowed Lemmer to answer defense questions about his psychiatric record despite objections by the prosecution.

The prosecution said that if the jury of seven women and five men heard that Lemmer had been offered a psychiatric discharge "they might think he is crazy or something."

The eight are accused of plotting violent disruptions during the 1972 Republican National Convention at Miami Beach. Lemmer testified earlier that while a regional VVAW leader he was present at meetings where violent tactics were planned.

Cross-examined by the defense, Lemmer said his second Vietnam tour in 1971 lasted only a month before he was evacuated with bronchial pneumonia. He admitted he once had severe headaches and took medicine for them, as well as for asthma.

AILMENTS

The defense told the judge outside the presence of the jury it wanted to question Lemmer about his ailments to determine whether he took stimulants and depressants at the same time, possibly causing a schizophrenic personality.

Lemmer said, however, he was treated at different times for the ailments.

Questioned by defendant William J. Patterson, who is acting as his own attorney, Lemmer admitted he may have told friends at Columbus, Ga., meeting that the organization planned only peaceful activities at the political conventions and would work with police to prevent violence by others.