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WITNESS DENIES HE AIDED ARRESTS

Tells Veterans' Trial About
Trip to Pick Marijuana

By JOHN KIFNER

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 10

—The Government's star witness, William L. Lemmer, told the Gainesville Eight trial today that people he had known for only a few hours had offered him \$5,000 to drive his car on a weekend expedition to pick marijuana, that he turned in "one of my closest friends" for a bomb threat and that a teen-ager he had encountered at a football bonfire had announced that he planned to burn a campus landmark.

But he denied that he had been acting as an agent provocateur to obtain arrests in these incidents.

The testimony came as defense attorneys for the seven antiwar veterans and a supporter on trial here for allegedly plotting to disrupt the Republican National Convention with slingshots, crossbows and automatic weapons got a chance to press their questions before the jury about Mr. Lemmer's activities for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The lawyers were blocked

yesterday in this line of questioning, which they regard as central to their defense, when Federal District Judge Winston E. Arnow ruled that their questions were straying too far afield.

But the lawyers contended that misconduct by undercover agents and informers had been ruled a valid line of inquiry in other cases. The judge recessed the session yesterday afternoon while both sides filed briefs.

Eight Incidents Cited

At a hearing in his chambers early this morning, he announced that, as he had originally planned, he would allow the questions to be asked outside the jury's hearing.

Defense attorneys said at the hearing that they intended to ask about eight incidents they contended involved Mr. Lemmer.

The incidents included the seizure of a U-Haul trailer full of wild marijuana in Kansas, an attempt by a teen-ager to burn the Old Main Building at the University of Arkansas, a bomb threat letter protesting a visit of former Secretary of State Dean Rusk at that university, and a suggestion that guns be sent to embattled blacks in Cairo, Ill.

Also, two bomb threats in Columbus, Ga.; the trespass arrests of demonstrators at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, a suggestion that the Johnson Library in Austin or the Alamo be seized and a plan to close down the Washington Monument.