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Fed Contradictions in

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GAINESVILLE (Fla.) — The defense in the Gainesville Eight conspiracy trial caught the government in two apparent contradictions yesterday and continued to pound away at a star government witness with accusations that he was an "agent provocateur."

William Walter Lemmer, a former Green Beret, testified for the prosecution that he had smoked marijuana during a Gainesville planning session over how to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention with rifles, high-powered slingshots and bombs, and also admitted buying one of the slingshots with \$2.60 in FBI funds.

Lemmer's testimony about that meeting, in which he said the defendants fired off smoke bombs and a crossbow, is a crucial part of the government's riot conspiracy case against the eight members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW).

During Lemmer's third day of cross-examination, the defense produced transcripts of a 10-hour tape-recorded interview between Lemmer and Richard O'Connell, his FBI control agent. The transcript showed that:

- Alleged plans to conceal high-powered wrist rocket slingshots in the groin area and beneath bell-bottom trousers — referred to by Prosecutor Jack Carrouth in his opening statement — originated not with the defendants but with O'Connell.

- Lemmer apparently admitted to O'Connell that he never reported to the FBI after a Denver meeting in February 1972 during which, he had testified, defendant Scott Camil told him of forming "political assassination squads" armed by "trading dope for guns."

Newsmen yesterday were given copies of a photograph which VVAW members said was made of Lemmer when he was a VVAW member in the fall of 1971. It showed Lemmer, bearded and wearing sun glasses, facing the camera with a Luger-style pistol in his upraised left hand.

Vets Trial



Witness William W. Lemmer shown as VVAW member in 1971

—AP Photo

Most of the charges in the indictments stem from talk which the government says occurred at a Gainesville VVAW meeting over the 1972 Memorial Day weekend.

Defendants Scott Camil, John Kniffen and William Patterson, acting as their own attorneys, cross-examined Lemmer about his actions and statements at VVAW meetings. The witness denied instigating talk of violence at the gatherings. The trial recessed late yesterday.

The defendants are Camil, 26, Stanley K. Michelson Jr., 23, and John K. Briggs, 20, of Gainesville; Patterson, 24, of Austin; Peter J. Mahoney, 23, and Kniffen, 25, of New York City; Alton C. Foss, 25, of Hialeah, Fla.; and Donald P. Perdue, 23, of Hollywood, Fla.