

Jurors Suspect Phones Are Tapped

Gainesville, Fla.

Some members of the jury in the conspiracy trial of antiwar veterans have expressed fears that their telephones are being tapped.

But U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnow, disclosing in court yesterday afternoon that he had asked the telephone company to check the jurors' home lines, told them there was "no indication of electronic surveillance."

HOLLOW

Five members of the sequestered jury had sent Arnow a letter saying, "perhaps the jury has become paranoid. But three-fourths of our home telephone numbers have been acting strangely."

The letter described strange clickings, cutoffs, anonymous phone calls inquiring as to name and number and "hollow sounds as if someone were perhaps monitoring." Arnow told the jurors to report any other telephone difficulties.

Previously telephones from the courthouse were checked after two FBI agents were discovered in a terminal room next to the defense's office with a suitcase of electronic gear.

The government's star witness, William W. Lemmer, left the stand, for the moment, late yesterday, after maintaining, in the face of strenuous, but frequently blocked cross-examination, that he had not acted as an

agent-provocateur.

The defense has reserved the right to cross-examine him further when it receives more government records and documents that have been delayed.

RECORDS

Seven anti-war veterans and a supporter are being tried on charges of plotting an assault with automatic weapons, cross-bows and slingshots on the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach last summer.

Late in the afternoon, the government brought on its fifth witness, Charles H. Becker, a former member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

He testified, over a barrage of defense objections,

that he had once heard defendant Scott Camil say that he "enjoyed killing people" and that he felt he had "dirtyed his soul in Vietnam" and would like to kill those who sent him there.

He said that members of the veterans group in New York had planned to disrupt the television Emmy awards and had planned to go to the Dick Cavett show when a government official — he believed it was Melvin Laird — was on and throw bags of blood.

Becker was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the original indictment and was one of 23 witnesses called before the grand jury in Tallahassee who refused to testify.

New York Times