

Jurors at Antiwar Veterans' Trial Fear Their Home Phones Are Being Tapped

By JOHN KIFNER

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 13 —The jury in the Gainesville Eight trial has expressed fears that its telephones are being tapped.

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

Five members of the sequestered jury had sent Judge 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 sound as if someone were perhaps monitoring." Judge Arnow told the jurors to report any other telephone difficulties.

Previously, telephones from the courthouse were checked after two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were discovered in a terminal room next to the defense's office with a suitcase of electronic gear and after the phones installed in the basement press room began acting strangely.

Denies Provocative Role

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

The defense brought out, however, that Mr. Lemmer's military medical records included a history of insomnia, headaches, blackouts, depression, nightmare, periods of unconsciousness and amnesia.

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

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

It was a day of heated courtroom wrangling, in which Judge Arnow appeared under increasing strain. In moments of stress, the judge clutches pencils in his hands, with the number increasing in proportion to the tension.

Won't Discuss It

At one of the frequent, argumentative bench conferences during the day at which Judge Arnow ruled out defense objections, Larry Turner, a defense attorney, asked, "At what time I might be heard?"

"At no time," replied the judge. "I'm not going to discuss this. I just don't understand this at all. I called this recess for that." Then he quickly left the courtroom.

Late this afternoon, the government brought on its fifth witness, Charles H. Becker, a former member of the Vietnam

Veterans Against the War, believed also to be an informer.

In the Government's examination, the prosecutor, Jack Carrouth, asked Mr. Lemmer why, according to his previous testimony, he had gone to Miami for meetings with Scott Camil, a defendant, after he himself had been unmasked.

Although he had some fears, Mr. Lemmer said, "I thought to complete — I won't say my assignment — complete my job in the Florida area, to gather as much data, as much intelligence as I possibly could before I could function no more."

Asked by Mr. Carrouth why he had become an informer, the witness replied:

"Sir, there were persons in this country and in the V.V.A.W. organization who publicly professed peace and at the same time planned violent insurrection. I could not condone violence."

When, on cross-examination, William L. Patterson, a defend-

ant acting as his own lawyer, asked him if he had experienced a list of mental problems, Mr. Lemmer at first answered "no."

But, when Mr. Patterson showed him the Army medical records, Mr. Lemmer said: "I recall everything except the amnesia or loss of memory."

In another in a series of rulings, Judge Arnow ordered that the defense no longer argue in court about his rulings. Instead, he said, they should submit their objects in the form of written memorandums.

This morning, the defense succeeded in introducing into evidence several drawings that Mr. Lemmer, a prolific artist, had drawn.

One entry consisted of three sketches. One was of a long-haired piano player, another of a man being attacked from behind. The third was of a soldier strangling another man from behind with a length of wire, with the caption, "The garotte, properly executed, leaves no clue to identity."