

INFORMER CITES VETERANS' MEMO

But Convention Plan Had No
Scheme on Provocation

By JOHN KIFNER

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— A Government informer, a onetime chief confidant of the alleged ringleader of a plot to disrupt the Republican National Convention last summer, testified today that the only plans he knew of were in a letter urging peaceful demonstrations with some provisions for "self-defense."

Under cross examination, the F.B.I. informer, Emerson L. Poe, said the only convention plans he heard from Scott Camel, a defendant, were laid out in a newsletter of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War that made no mention of a scheme to provide the police with slingshots while simultaneously launching rifle and homemade bomb attacks in Miami, as the Government charges.

That newsletter mentions the possible use of powerful slingshots, homemade bolo's and ammonia-filled balloons, saying that these would be "defensive" measures against an attack by the police. But the rest of the newsletter is filled with cautions that violence would play into the hands of the Nixon Administration.

About Democrats

The newsletter, which was read to members of the jury, was written about the Democratic, not the Republican convention. Seven antiwar veterans and a supporter are accused of plotting to disrupt the Republican convention.

Mr. Poe, who was the Florida state coordinator of the Vietnam veterans organization and thought by Mr. Camil to be his "best friend," testified that he took the original newsletter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which then ran off 75 copies for distribution to the veterans.

He was chairman of a meeting of Florida veterans to discuss the newsletter's suggestions on June 15, 1972, two weeks after the Memorial Day meeting at which the Government charges the alleged plot was hatched.

The defense also succeeded in introducing into evidence two forms, signed by Mr. Poe, authorizing two of the defense attorneys, Nancy Stearns and Doris Peterson, to represent him during the grand jury hearings on the case in July, 1972.

Mr. Poe had at first denied signing any authorization, but then said he remembered signing one paper after he was released from the subpoena, making him party to a suit against the grand jury procedure.

'Invasion' Charged

The defense has charged that Mr. Poe, an F.B.I. informer since January, 1972, had "invaded" the defense camp, first at the grand jury hearings, then through his supposed friendship with Mr. Cahill. The Government has denied the allegations.

During a court hearing at the time of the grand jury, Guy L. Goodwin, the Justice Department prosecutor who brought the indictment, swore that a list of clients, including Mr. Poe, represented by a group of the victims' lawyers, contained no Government agents or informers.

As he completed his cross-examination, Morton Stavis, a defense attorney, tracing Mr. Poe's relationship with Mr. Camil in his office in the V.V.A.W., asked "Wasn't it clear to you that the only plans for Miami is the plan that appeared in prosecution exhibit 4 [the newsletter]?"

"Yes sir, I believe it is," Mr. Poe replied.

Regarding slingshots, the memo says:

"We also recognize the right of collective self-defense if we are placed in a position of receiving extreme or unlawful physical danger to ourselves or have proven their worth in deterring offensive police brutality. We have a supply of some extremely well-made slingshots that have proven themselves. It is best to send for them now, or send in your orders and money and we will be able to give them to you when you come down. Marbles, ballbearings and lead weights are extremely effective defensive projectiles."

More Witnesses

Late this afternoon, the prosecution put on in succession a Midwestern slingshot manufacturer, a shipping clerk, a United Parcel Service employe and a banker to prove that 60 slingshots had been ordered, shipped to and paid for by the Wang Dang Doodle, a hippie boutique and waterbed store manager by one of the defendants, John K. Briggs.

Charles A. Saunders, president of Saunders Archery Company in Columbus, Neb., brought sales slips. Henry A. Shillings, a United Parcel Service division manager, brought delivery forms. Albert A. Barnhart, a vice president of the First National Bank of Gainesville, brought a canceled check.

Leonard Tarnick, a Saunders shipping clerk, came with three cardboard boxes, which he said the F.B.I. had requested him to make up as similar to those in which the slingshots were packed.

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