

U.S. AGENT SHOOTS ANTIWAR FIGURE

Camil, of Gainesville 8, Held
in Reported Drug Sale

By JOHN KIFNER

Scott Camil, a central figure in the Gainesville Eight trial of antiwar veterans was in fair condition yesterday after being shot by a Federal narcotics agent on a Gainesville street.

Mr. Camil, 29 years old, who had served as a Marine sergeant in Vietnam, was shot yesterday afternoon in the Florida city by an undercover officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A spokesman for the Federal narcotics agency said that the shooting had occurred when the agent's gun went off as Mr. Camil struggled in a car with two officers, who had identified themselves after purchasing two and a half ounces of cocaine.

Mr. Camil was shot in the back, according to the hospital.

1973 Trial Recalled

Mr. Camil was a key figure in the 1973 trial of seven members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and a supporter who were accused of plotting an attack on the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, using slingshots, crossbows and automatic weapons.

All were acquitted.

The trial was one of a series of unsuccessful Federal cases brought against radicals and dissenters by the Justice Department's Internal Security Division during the Nixon Administration.

Ted Swift, a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Miami, said that agents from the Orlando office had been investigating Mr. Camil for three weeks.

Mr. Swift said that Mr. Camil got into a car with two undercover officers about 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, near his downtown Gainesville home.

\$2,300 Payment Reported

He said that after the agents had paid him \$2,300, Mr. Camil directed them several blocks away to a corner where another person passed them the cocaine.

then, Mr. Swift said, the agent in the back seat displayed his badge and drew his pistol.

Mr. Camil struggled, Mr. Swift said, and this caused "the accidental discharge of the weapon."

Mr. Swift said late this afternoon that he was not certain of the details of the struggle. Earlier, officials of the Drug Enforcement Administration had said that Mr. Camil had knocked the badge to the floor, attacked the officer with karate chops and grabbed his arm above the wrist.

Mr. Camil was listed in fair condition at the Alachua County Hospital with a bullet wound "below the left shoulder blade." Asked to describe the wound's location further the nurse on duty said that it was "in the back." The ambulance driver described it as to the left of the spine.

The officials of the Drug Enforcement Administration had at first described the wound as in the left armpit.

After the shooting, two of the Drug Enforcement Administration agents sat for nearly three hours on the locked, screened-in porch of Mr. Camil's home, holding newspapers over their heads in an apparent attempt to avoid recognition, until a third agent arrived with a search warrant.

They then searched the house for several hours. Observers said they emerged, apparently with some marijuana, scales and measuring devices, and several shotguns.

Bonnie Lott, the proprietress of Bonnie's Restaurant on 10th Street in downtown Gainesville, said that she had noticed a white Chrysler parked outside her window, heard the noise of the discharge and saw Mr. Camil fall from the car door.

"He opened the car door or tried to open it," and that's when the gun went off," she said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Swift said that drug charges against Mr. Camil would be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's office in Tallahassee, headed by Jack Carrouth, who was the prosecutor in the conspiracy trial.