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Gainesville 8 Defense Denied a Hearing

By JOHN KIFNER

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GAINESVILLE, Fla., Aug. 1— Judge Winston E. Arnow again turned down this morning in Federal District Court a motion by attorneys for the Gainesville Eight for an evidentiary hearing into what two F.B.I. agents were doing when they were discovered in a broom closet next to the defense attorney offices, laden with telephone and electronic equipment.

The agents asserted at an informal hearing in the judge's chambers last night that they were "checking the F.B.I. lines."

The attorneys had tried to press questions as to whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were eavesdropping or installing electronic equipment, but the judge overruled most of their questions and said they were "making mountains out of molehills."

Judge Arnow said, however, that he might reconsider the motion for a hearing after the jury was chosen.

The eight — seven antiwar Vietnam veterans and a supporter — are being tried on charges of plotting an assault with automatic weapons, crossbows and slingshots on the Republican National Convention.

The defendants sent an "emergency plea" to Senator

Sam J. Ervin of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, asking Congress to "intervene and halt any further proceedings in this case until a full and immediate investigation into prosecutorial misconduct can be made."

Arnow Is Criticized

In a telegram sent at 2:10 this morning, the defendants charged that Judge Arnow had refused to examine issues of electronic surveillance and now "chose to ignore what could only be called Watergate II."

This evening, F.B.I. agents were reportedly looking for Robert Shaw, a reporter for The Miami Herald, and Will Corbin, a reporter for The Gainesville Sun. It was believed they were seeking statements from them about a new conference—in apparent violation of Judge Arnow's strict "gag rule"—held by the defendants' supporters at their encampment yesterday.

Jury selection continued today, amid signs of growing exasperation on the part of Judge Arnow.

This afternoon, the chief courtroom prosecutor, Assistant United States Attorney Jack Carrouth, said that the telephone company was coming to install extra telephones, which he said he had ordered a month ago, and would need

to get to the telephone terminals in the broom closet.

The defense raised objections, saying it wanted the installation delayed until it could bring in an electronics expert. The attorneys argued in the judge's chambers until the judge threw down his pencil in irritation.

"Somebody has to believe in somebody," the judge said. "I'm tired of handling these kinds of problems. There will be no more hearings and no more motions until the jury is chosen."

However, he ordered the telephone installation delayed while the defense reached their expert. The vent to the broom closet was blocked and the door locked.

Clotet Sealed

Both sides were to have representatives watching the sealing of the closet. The Government designated as its representatives Carl Ekblad and Robert Romann, the two F.B.I. agents caught there yesterday with a suitcase full of electronic gear.

The jury selection is being conducted at this point with Judge Arnow asking questions of the entire prospective panel—predominantly white, with a scattering of younger people—seated in rows in the wood-paneled courtroom.