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Camden Antiwar Activists Say Trusted Member Was Informer

By LINDA CHARLTON

CAMDEN, N. J., Aug. 25 —

The antiwar activists arrested last weekened for allegedly trying to steal draft files here acknowledged today that one of their members had betrayed them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but they did not name him publicly.

"It is widely understood that we are in jail because a trusted and loved member of our group was an informant for the government's police, the F.B.I.," the group said in a statement sent out from the Atlantic County Jail in Mays Landing, where 11 of the men among the group of 20 are still being held in bail.

Earlier, at a Camden news conference, the Rev. Joseph Daourst, a Philadelphia priest, said that the group did not want to "get into the game of accusing a specific person."

But it is widely believed that the informant, described in the Government's complaint as having been a reliable source in the past, was Robert W. Hardy, 32 years old, who runs a small general contracting business out of his home in East Camden.

Jr. Hardy, on first being asked Tuesday night about the reports that he was the informant seemed unruffled by the accusation, more nearly amused than angry.

He said he had been told by his lawyers to say nothing, in view of his appearance tomorrow morning before a grand jury here.

Hardy Plans Statement

"We do not know why our brother decided to inform. We can only hope that some higher purpose was sought other than money," te group's statement continued.

Yesterday, Mr. Hardy said he would make available "a written statement as to what my involvement was" with the antiwar group after his grand jury appearance.

Taking a coffee break on the sunny back steps of a house he was painting around the corner from isohwn, he smiled as he talked and occasionally called out to ne fo his five children.

He said he had "nothing to hide" from the grand jurv. "I'll tell the truth as I see it," he added. "I won't lie for nobody."



The New York Times
Robert W. Hardy

He continued to refuse to talk about his own role—whatever it was—but was willing to discuss the problems raised by the accusation in generalities.

"You have to be able to justify to yourself what you're doing," he said. "It doesn't matter what the world thinks of you."

As for the motives that could lead a man to become an informer, he said: "If he done it for money, he's got a problem. If the cause is just?" He stretched his legs, though a moment and said, "that's a heavy question, a hard question to answer," and did not answer it.

Another "heavy" one was whether he personally condoned civil disobedience. He declined to answer, saying, "No comment, if you don't mind."

His heroes, he said, were the John F. and Robert F. Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez—people who "truly work" for others "but also respect the rights of others."

As for Vietnam: "I got four sons—I think it's lousy war,"

said Mr. Hardy, a burly six-foot three-inch tall man who had volunteered for the Marines

Mr. Hardy, who has twice run for the Camden City Council is fluent in the phrases of the movement. He talked of seeing a Puerto Rican baby in a Camden slum covered with bedbug bites, of that being "where true change in the system would start."

Does the accusation bother him? "A little bit," he said. "I'd like to answer it, if indeed I am what you say I am."

Asked again about hypothetical motives, he said: "How many people understand what they're doing or why?"

Raid Suspect Identified

BUFFALO, Aug. 25 (AP) — One of five young persons arrested during a weekend raid of Selective Service and military intelligence files has been identified as a son of an executive of the Buffalo Bills football team.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that the 21-year-old suspect, who originally identified himself as Joseph Hill, is actually Jeremiah D. Horrigan of the nearby Town of Tonawanda.

Mr. Horrigan's father is John P. Horrigan, vice president for public relations for the National Football League team.

Of his son, the elder Horrigan told a newsmen:

NO CONTINUATION

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SEE 21 MAY 73
SFC 27 Jan 76,
TV column on CBS
program, "Inside
the FBI," on which
Hardy appeared;
filed FBI-II.