

Three Witnesses Appear Before Grand Jury in Camden on Draft-Office Raid

By LINDA CHARLTON

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CAMDEN, N. J., Aug. 26—After testifying before a Federal grand jury today, Robert W. Hardy tacitly confirmed the widespread suspicion that he was the informer who helped the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrest 20 persons here last weekend for allegedly trying to steal draft records.

Mr. Hardy's statement, which he read aloud to newsmen on the steps of the Federal Building after testifying, said:

"I have always been opposed to violence and destruction. Camden has seen too much of this in the past week. We've had enough destruction and lawbreaking.

"I don't think anybody has the right to break the law; and as a concerned member of this community, I have willingly testified before the Federal grand jury. I have testified to the truth."

The statement added that he had been told "by the foreman not to discuss my testimony under penalty of prosecution."

At an interview at his home in East Camden later, Mr. Hardy said that he had been told "that now I am a Government witness" and that he must say nothing about his testimony.

He had arrived at the building on Market Street—which also houses the Post Office and the Selective Service offices where files were the alleged target of the antiwar activists arrested Sunday—before 9 A.M., he said.

But he and his wife, Peg, he said, had remained behind close doors in a United States Attor-



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TESTIFIES IN CAMDEN: Robert W. Hardy leaving Federal Building after court session yesterday. With him is his wife, Peg. Mr. Hardy is reported informer of an alleged plot to destroy the Selective Service records.

ney's office until between 2:30 and 3 P.M., when he had finally been called to testify. He was there no more than 10 minutes, he said.

"I told them everything I knew, as it was the truth," he said.

Others Wait in Hallway

He was asked about some of the many rumors about his role in the alleged draft raid that were circulating through the corridors were other subpoenaed witnesses and their friends waited through the day.

"A lot of people been saying a lot of things," he said with a pleased smile that broadened into a grin.

Mr. Hardy, 32 years old, was mentioned more than 25 times in the detailed account of the alleged plot to enter the office to steal files, but he was not among those named as defendants.

From the Government account, he had been present at many of the planning meetings and taken part in some of the preparatory operations, which included surveillance of

the Post Office Building from nearby rooftops and practice sessions with walkie-talkies.

The other three persons subpoenaed to appear yesterday were not sequestered as Mr. Hardy was.

Martha SHEMELEY, also mentioned in the complaint but not as a defendant, said: "Maybe he's dreading the confrontation as much as we are."

Asked why she and others sympathetic to the defendants should dread a meeting, she said: "I find it very difficult to be charitable."

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