

Youth Tells Fight with FBI Man

A young Hunters Point man who engaged in a bloody fight with an FBI agent at the Federal Building on Thursday insisted through his attorney yesterday that the agent first stepped on his heels and refused to apologize.

George Edward Session, 18, of 309 Northridge street, was shot during the brief encounter while FBI Agent Thomas R. Hopkins, 31, received a knife slash on the neck.

Hopkins had previously been quoted as saying Session brushed against him while entering the building and Hopkins had asked: "Can't you say, 'Excuse me?'"

Federal public defender Frank Bell visited Session at San Francisco General Hospital yesterday and then related Session's version of the incident.

Session, said Bell, was coming to work at a federal office in the building and someone, apparently Hopkins, was holding the door open for a young woman.

Bell said Session followed the woman through the door and then felt someone step on the back of his shoes.

Session turned, according to Bell, and said: "You could say you're sorry."

But the agent replied that he was not at all sorry and didn't owe anyone an apolo-

gy, Bell said Session told him.

Bell said Session thought Hopkins was making a threatening approach towards him so Session took a swing at him.

"In short," said Bell, "there were certain actions by the agent that he (Session) felt were a threat and he defended himself."

What happened, next, according to authorities, was that Hopkins was slashed by a sharp instrument and Session was hit by a bullet from Hopkins' gun.

Also hit by the same bullet was Carl Rizer, 57, a special investigator for the Senate Watergate committee.

Session, who has been attending a trade school classes at Youth for Service, was reporting for work in a Department of Labor mailroom when the fight took place.

He had been assigned to the \$1.65-an-hour job by the Neighborhood Youth Corps on Monday, after previously working for NYC at Vista Achn Corps as an office boy.

Charles W. Bates, FBI special agent in charge, denied reports that Session had taken a shot of heroin just before the fight.

"That's not true. None of our agents were told anything about him being on narcotics," Bates said.

David Bond, chief of the Neighborhood Youth Corps project, also expressed doubt that Session used narcotics.

"He reported regularly for his classes in the Youth for Service trade school. That doesn't fit with being on dope," Bond said.

Meanwhile the U.S. Attorney's office was preparing to seek an indictment of Session before the Federal grand jury next Wednesday.

The youth is now charged with assault with intent to commit murder and assault on a Federal officer and is in custody at the hospital under \$50,000 bail.

See also report of previous day, "Bizarre Battle at Doorway of Federal Building," SF Chronicle 7 Dec 73, filed Watergate.