

# AP Photographer Suspended for Talking to FBI

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**ST. PAUL, Minn., April 15**—A photographer for the Associated Press testified today that he had given information on one occasion to FBI agents at a roadblock outside Wounded Knee during the village's 71-day occupation.

James Mone, a photographer in the AP's Minneapolis bureau, testified at an evidentiary hearing which has interrupted the trial of two American Indian Movement leaders in St. Paul. He said he had responded to questions about how many people were inside Wounded Knee and had given details of statements made at a press conference by Indian leaders.

After his testimony, Mone was suspended from duty by Wes Gallagher, president and general manager of the AP, who issued this statement:

"It is apparent from his own testimony in court today that AP photographer Jim Mone acted improperly as an impartial newsman. It is against Associated Press policy for any AP man to be involved in any way in any news story. Under the circumstances, Mone has been suspended from all further duties with the Associated Press."

Mone testified that an FBI agent had asked him at a government roadblock on March 12, 1973 about how many persons were inside the besieged village.

"I'm quite sure I discussed an estimate," Mone said, adding he believed he said there were about 350 to 400 persons in Wounded Knee that day.

"And I believe there was the usual conversation 'did you see any guns?' Mone said.

Mark Lane, defense attorney for two AIM leaders, asked Mone, "You felt it was a stupid question?"

"Oh sure," answered Mone. "I believe they asked numbers and I may have given them a figure." Mone said that if he had answered the question, he probably would have estimated about 60 weapons.

An FBI teletype report entered in evidence last week quoted an unidentified source who had left Wounded Knee March 12, 1973 as saying he had observed 200 to 300 weapons, including rifles with scopes and an estimated 350 to 400 persons in the village.

The message also said — and Mone conceded telling agents this — that he Mone was increasingly concerned about the increased percentage of non-Indians inside the village.

Mone said he told agents he had observed that Means and other AIM leaders were having increasing difficulties in controlling non-Indians.

Mone testified that he relayed to agents other statements about use of liquor and drugs in the village, which Indian leaders had made at a press conference. Mone said he had added personal observations about problems of control in the village.

The special hearing before U.S. District Judge Fred Nichol is about defense charges of an illegal wiretap at the main roadblock where Mone said today he had talked from time to time with FBI agents during the occupation which began Feb. 27 and last until May 8.

The trial of Russell Means and Dennis Banks has been in recess since March 15, with the jury absent.

Means and Banks are

changed in 10-count indictments in the takeover. The charges include larceny, burglary, assault on federal officers. ca Ti tw

The special hearing entered its fifth week today. The hearing followed a defense motion that the charges be dismissed, alleging that the government had placed an illegal wiretap on the one telephone in the village.

The government, however, claims a special monitor telephone at the main federal roadblock had not been used to overhear conversations. The government claims its information from the village had been learned from persons leaving Wounded Knee.

Mone testified he gave the information to one agent, who asked him to repeat it to another, which Mone said he did.

Mone testified that when the agents became intensely interested in his account, he cautioned them, "Now I don't want my name used." He explained: "My reaction was that, 'now you've opened your mouth and you'll get stuck in court.' My employers don't particularly like to have us testify."

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