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Indian Trial Upset by 2 FBI Agents

St. Paul

The Wounded Knee trial was abruptly recessed yesterday when two FBI agents were discovered behind a door adjacent to the court-room while another FBI agent was on the witness stand.

FBI Agent Ronald A. Williams was called as a defense witness in the trial of American Indian Movement leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means. He was being questioned when defense attorney William Kunstler strode across the courtroom and opened a side door.

"Are you marshals?"
Kunstler asked the two men
behind the door. Kunstler
then turned to U.S. District
Judge Fred Nichol and said,
"The door has been opening
and closing. They are FBI
agents and they've been listening."

Nichols declared a recess and said, "This is a serious matter if what has been represented to me is true."

Assistant U.S. Attorney R. D. Hurd, the chief government prosecutor, later teld newsmen the two men were FBI agents and they were "listening because they were curious. They apologized for any disturbance they created," Hurd said.

Kunstler identified the agents as Patrick Flynn and Dennis O'Callahan, both stationed in St. Paul. He said the two agents "had no permission to be there, the judge has ordered them out. He doesn't want them eavesdropping."

Means, 35. of Porcupine, S.D., and Banks, 42, of St. Paul, are charged with three counts of assault and one count each of larceny and conspiracy in connection with the occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D., last year.

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