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FBI's Role in Draft Board Raid

Washington

A New Jersey contractor told the House Intelligence Committee yesterday how - as an FBI provocateur - he led a group of 30 anti-war activists into a raid on the Camden draft board and ensuing arrests by waiting agents.

Robert Hardy, a husky four-year Marine Corps veteran, said he became an FBI informant in June, 1971, after learning of plans by local war critics to stage a protest at the draft board building.

Hardy said he infiltrated the group of "college professors, clergy and students" on instructions from the FBI after informing the local bureau office of what he had learned. Eventually he took over the leadership of the protest group "to the point that it became absurd," he testified.

The witness, who now deplores his role as an FBI informant, said he provided the dissenters with ropes, ladders, drills, bits, hammers and moral encouragement. "Mr. Chairman, you could not believe what an inept band of bungling burglars

these people were," Hardy told Chairman Otis B. Pike (Dem-N.Y.).

He described them as a "loosely knit group . . . dreamers who talked a lot but did nothing."

Most of the draft board raiders, said Hardy, "couldn't even tie a knot properly. I taught them everything they knew . . . How to cut glass and open windows without making any noise . . . How to open file cabinets without a key . . . How to climb ladders easily and to walk on the edge of the roof without falling."

"My neighbors began to wonder why I have this crowd of people climbing up the side of my house and parading along the edge of my roof every day," Hardy related. "I began to feel like the Pied Piper."

He said he finally convinced the group to break into the draft board building on the morning of Aug. 22, 1971. "The rest is history," Hardy said. "In the early hours of August 22 a group of young people were caught and arrested for breakng into the

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On Robert Hardy, see
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Camden draft board . . . The FBI, again, had gotten its man."

The committee also heard testimony from a retired FBI agent With 20 years service, Arthur Murtagh, who said that while assigned to the Atlanta bureau he was asked to obtain handwriting samples of black leader Andrew Young, who was a candidate for Congress.

Murtagh said he refused the assignment because "I knew damn well it was going to be used in an unrecorded counter-intelligence operation to destroy Mr. Young's chances of getting elected to the House of Representatives."

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