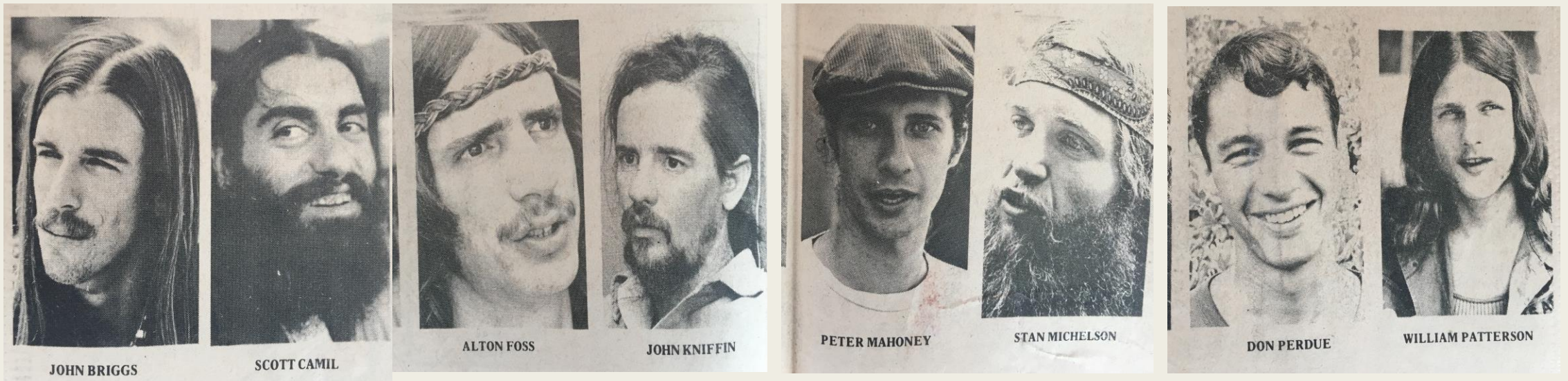




THE TRIAL OF THE GAINESVILLE 8

Adam Weiss

Defendants

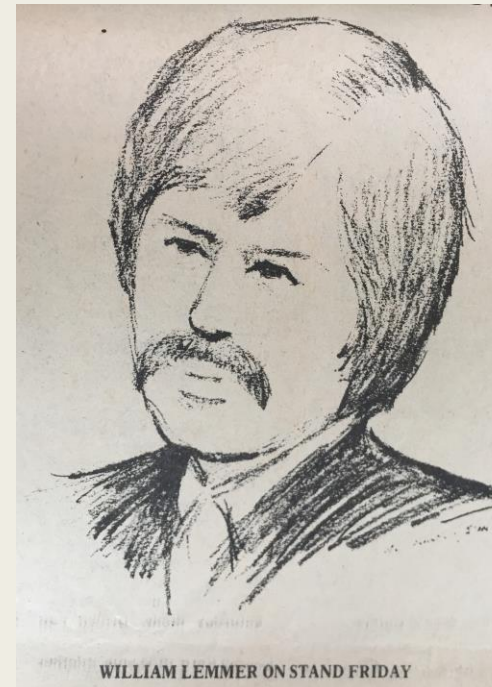


Camil, Kniffen, and Patterson acted as their own attorneys; all were VVAW members except for John Briggs, the youngest of the Eight at 20 years old

Gainesville Sun, September 1, 1973

Evidence

- “Star witness” for prosecution was William Lemmer, FBI informant within VVAW



Rolling Stone Article on Lemmer February 14th, 1974

≡ **RollingStone**

Hogtown Justice: The VVAW and the '72 Republican Convention

Hogtown Justice: The VVAW and the '72 Republican Convention

How a band of Gainesville killers broke the President's plot to overthrow the government by force and violence



A Group of Protesters, Most of Them Members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Wait on 15th St. For Police to Arrest Them, October 24th 1971 Bill Peters/The Denver Post/Getty

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Around the Web



William Lemmer joined the VVAW soon after he left the Green Berets in 1971. About the same time, he joined the employ of the FBI. Why not hold down two jobs when you never sleep anyway? Wild Bill never slept because he tended to gobble benzedrine like M&Ms. It's one reason he was called Wild Bill.

That was Wild Bill's kind of dedication; he jumped into his dual roles with all four feet. Before his performance as Hogtown's star witness, Lemmer helped bust six people for dope, led a demonstration onto an Air Force base where 32 were arrested, talked his best friend into writing a bomb threat and authored a plan for seizing the Alamo.

In response, the veterans would be put in internment camps, continued Lemmer, and all the other lefties busted. He himself planned to go into hiding if he survived. He had, he claimed, "an unlimited source of funds."

Wild Bill paused, ground a pair of green tablets between his teeth and asked Barbara Stocking if she'd like to travel around with him when he was done.

Barbara Stocking took a rain check, she later told defense attorneys. She figured Wild Bill was crazy as six or seven motherfuckers.

The plans formulated in that attic room of 25 people were summarized in the Convention Newsletter mailed out two weeks later by the Florida VVAW. The newsletter predicted "peaceful, nonviolent" actions in Miami, but also dealt with the possibility of being caught out in the open by a police assault. In a "things you will need" section, this item appeared: "We also recognize the right of collective self-defense if we are placed in a position of receiving extreme or unlawful physical danger to ourselves or our brothers. Hunting slingshots have proven their worth in deterring police brutality." The newsletter went on to recommend marbles as "defensive" projectiles. A year later, the 8 1/2" by 14" mimeod sheet was introduced as government exhibit Number Seven.

Defense Out to Discredit Lemmer Testimony

By DAVE REDDICK
Sun Staff Writer

The anticipated attempt to discredit the government's key witness in the Gainesville Eight conspiracy case got off to a slow start Thursday, but the foundation was being laid.

Attorneys for the eight had 46 hours to prepare their cross examination of William Lemmer, which they began Thursday morning.

Defendant William Patterson was the first to question Lemmer, who spoke in a voice

Analysis

considerably softer than he did Monday and Tuesday when he accused the defendants of plotting to cause violence in Miami and Miami Beach during last year's Republican National Convention.

From Patterson's questions,

Sun Inaugurates New Classified System

A "new look" classified advertising section, courtesy of modern technology, made its debut in the Gainesville Sun Thursday.

Result: The much-read classified ads are easier to read and easier to locate.

Each section heading is now labeled with a large, bold-faced numeral corresponding to the index of "Where to Find It."

And the type faces have been changed, allowing for easier reading.

Sun classified clients can now choose from several large type sizes if they so desire for a nominal additional charge.

Utilizing the Sun's 1130

UF Budgets Sent Out

University of Florida professors should have been informed by now of the size of their salary increases, Vice President of Academic Affairs Harold Hanson said Thursday.

Hanson said budgets for the various colleges and departments went out to deans and department heads on Monday. The state legislature increased faculty salaries an average of 5.34 per cent.

However, Hanson noted, the

it was obvious the defense hopes to portray Lemmer as a provocateur, who talked wildly about weapons and violence.

Patterson asked a number of very specific questions about comments Lemmer had made while in Columbus, Ga., several days after the Memorial Day weekend meeting in Gainesville, where the plan for disruption was discussed by at least some of the defendants.

To most of the questions Lemmer answered "No." It is expected the defense will put on witnesses who will testify Lemmer did make the statements, and by that have his testimony discredited if not thrown out of court.

Patterson suggested that Lemmer had participated in a pair of bomb threats in

Columbus and had once told a woman named Ann Jones how explosives could be detonated at the base of a water tower at Ft. Benning, causing it to fall. But Lemmer denied those allegations.

Lemmer also refused to tell where he was presently living and what type job he held, although he said later in his cross examination that from August of 1972 to April of this year he lived in Wyoming.

He said he worked at Memorial Hospital of Laramie County in Cheyenne as an orderly until December of 1972 and then at Ivins Memorial Hospital, Laramie, until April as an emergency medical technician.

The personnel department at the Cheyenne hospital said

Lemmer resigned his job there on Nov. 12 "due to a personal nature."

His work was termed "less than satisfactory" by his superiors, who was he "used very poor judgement."

His appearance was deemed "very good" but his physical fitness "very poor."

In his employment record, his superior made the following comment about him: "Very hard to work with," "Many up and down moods" and "Actually, he only worked with those people he really liked."

At Ivins, his employment stretched for two months, from Feb. 1 to April 1. He resigned because of ill health.

Two things which the defense hopes to be able to ask Lemmer

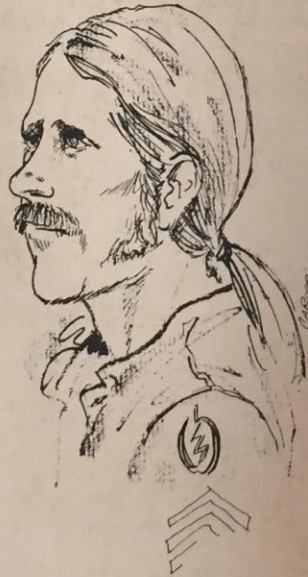
All The Banks Are A Stage

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 75 per cent of bank robbers who are caught through the use of hidden cameras are identified from the film showing them entering the bank and not during the actual hold-up or getaway.

According to Norcon Electronics, Inc., a firm which installs cameras in banks, the average bank robber hides his face during the actual holdup and often is moving too quickly when he is escaping for the camera to get a good shot of him. However, when he enters the bank he usually walks slowly and often pauses to watch the activity to determine whether the time is ripe for his crime. During this period, he is easy to catch on film.

Come by and See Our New Six Story Home

1st National Bank 104 N. Main St.



WILLIAM PATTERSON
Questions Witness William Lemmer

instructions to contact the FBI.

In a 14-hour taped "confession" he gave two Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Lemmer is reported to have admitted helping 17-year-old Mark Vanceil make a bomb

for use against the Arkansas landmark and then tipping authorities, so Vanceil was apprehended.

The attorneys claim the Vanceil incident backs their charge that Lemmer acted as

agent provocateur in the Gainesville Eight case.

But until they can get testimony which contradicts Lemmer's they must continue to chip away at him, hoping he'll crack.

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Award Night

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August 17

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and
Refreshments

2
Big Sessions
9 - 12 a.m.
or
2 - 5 p.m.

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- Judge Arnow initially barred the defense from questioning Lemmer's background as an "FBI Provocateur" in front of the jury
- On August, 10th , defense wins motion to question Lemmer about 8 specific incidents of provocation

Gainesville Sun Saturday, August 11, 1973



(This Photo by Bryan Griepner)

DEFENSE ASSISTANTS KEVIN SHEEY, TOBY HOLLANDER DANCE IN STREET
During Recess After Favorable Ruling from Judge Winston Arnow

Defense Tries to Show Lemmer as Provocateur

By DAVE REDDICK
Sun Staff Writer

The defense in the Gainesville Eight case Friday charged the government's key witness with at least eight times being the provocateur of illegal activities and laid the groundwork for an attack on his credibility in court.

The witness, William Lemmer, was Friday morning portrayed as a man who had a part in three bomb threats, firebombing of a University of Arkansas landmark and illegal trespassing onto Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City.

In all three incidents others were arrested, but he was not.

The defense contends Lemmer was an agent provocateur, a federal informer who urges others to commit a crime and then informs against them.

A noontime ruling by Federal District Court Judge Winston E. Arnow opened the way for the defense to ask Lemmer about at least eight times in which they claim he urged others to break the law.

Chief Prosecutor Jack Carruth objected to questioning about the events, because they were not directly related to the charge against the eight.

But Arnow ruled the questioning proper as a way for the defense to impeach Lemmer's testimony.

Under questioning by chief defense attorney Morton Stavis, Lemmer said he had taken part in a September 1971 marijuana harvest in Kansas as part of an attempt to discover a drug distribution center in Joplin, Mo.

But the scheme, he said, was fouled when deputies from the Leavenworth County (Kan.) Sheriff's Office arrested Lemmer and four of the five others with him.

Lemmer said he spent five days in jail before he was released on his recognizance. Even though he pleaded guilty, he said, he was never sentenced nor served any more time in jail.

Lemmer said Friday he was asked to take part in the harvest by several men he met at the Yellow Brick Road, a crisis drug counseling center in Fayetteville, Ark. He said the men offered him \$5,000 for the use of his car for a weekend.

The defense is attempting to prove Lemmer offered not only his car, but immunity from arrest, for the money.

But he denied that Friday, saying he proposed nothing and promised nothing.

He said he had contacted law enforcement officers in (See DEFENSE on Page 14A)



Inside

Weather

Partly cloudy, chance of thundershowers. Low in 70s, high in low 90s.

Turn the page for ACTION LINE

Laird Denies F

Charles Brann

Related incidents occurring in Camil's home
demonstrations of incendiary device such as glycerine
+ ~~potassium~~ ^{potassium} crystals wrapped in gauze + when placed
in plastic container - heat of two substances melted
container + briefly flamed. ^{Lemmer} implies that suggestion
was made this device could be dropped into gas tanks
of policemen in Miami
Related details of staying at home of Elton Joss
- also talking with ~~San~~ Camil brother who is ^{in Miami}
policeman

“Related incidents occurring in Camil’s home, demonstrations of incendiary devices such as glycerin and potassium crystals wrapped in gauze...

Lemmer implied that suggestion was made [that] this device could be dropped into gas tanks of policemen in Miami”

Sarcasm was sometimes used. After Crenshaw had testified to the arsenal Foss and Perdue were allegedly assembling, Turner asked, incredulously. "He was going to shoot with a Thompson tommy gun, bazooka them and then throw rancid pig blood on them?"

"Did he ever say anything about B-52 airplanes or nuclear submarines?"

Occasionally, the prosecution itself offered help. FBI Chemist basily E. Yates, for example, conceded that it was "unlikely" a homemade firebomb — drugstore chemicals in a pill jar — would blow up a car's gas tank, as Carrouth claimed Camil planned to do.

ords, Police By Prosecution

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after a day-and-half recess to give defense attorneys time to listen to 10 hours of tapes of statements of FBI informant William W. Lemmer. The government furnished the tapes to the defense at the end of Lemmer's testimony about 11 a.m. Tuesday.

LEMMER, WHO joined the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and served as original coordinator while giving information about the organization to the FBI, said he told defendant Scott Camil "I had no animosity toward him and in fact would do any thing to help him."

Lemmer said right after he admitted that he was an informer, Camil told him he had "taken out a contract on a person he had never seen and needed somebody to fill it."

Lemmer said he "declined

the offer to fill the contract."
"Taking out a contract" is slang for hiring a professional to kill someone or accepting a paid assignment to kill someone.

LEMMER ALSO testified that Camil and Camil's brother, who worked for the Miami Police Department, discussed the confrontation that was to come at the Republican National Convention and weapons that would be used.

Lemmer said that Camil told his (Camil's) brother he would use chemical Mace and his brother, working for the other side, said he would be armed with a 357 magnum.

Lemmer quoted Camil, talking to his brother, "If you use your machine guns, we'll use our hand grenades."

U. S. District Judge Winston Arnow released the jury from its total sequestration for the length of the recess.

- Lemmer keeps bringing up a story in which he overhears Camil talking to his brother who is apparently a police officer in Miami... "If you use your machine guns, we'll use our hand grenades"
- Also claims that Camil approached him asking to "take out a contract", or kill someone for pay
- Defense tries to declare a mistrial due to the irrelevance and lack of validity of the claim that Camil was planning an assassination

Thurs. Aug 2, 1973
 Selected for Jury
 Sequestered at 10:00 p.m.

Fri Aug 3
 Opening statements by Mr. Carruth for Prosecution
 of Mr. Turner
 Mr. Camil
 Mr. Kniffen for defense

First witness for prosecution Mr. Marshall
 now ^{with Pacific} pipe Co. in Newberry - formerly handling
 the renting of home to Mr. Camil.
 Remembered dates a year ago extremely well
 stated he had reported incidents to Mr. Meadows of F.B.I.
 + signed statement written down by Mr. Meadows.
 Saw box with gun 10 ft away alleged real saw other toy guns
 in attic - Mr. Marshall colorblind also seemed to have difficulty ^{of judging} distance.

Sat. Aug 4th
 Mr. Barrett of the Ranch testified of differences
 between Mr. & Mrs. Camil that Scott Camil had purchased
 balls used as wadding for loading gun #38 alleged by Mr.
 Marshall to have been used for slaying shot.

Sat Aug 4th Mr. Frennell of Mr. Marshall's Investigative
 firm testified - extremely nervous - former navy man

~~Mon~~
 Mon August 6th
 Mr. Semmer - witness for prosecution UAW member
 informant for F.B.I. all day testimony very accurate
 well rehearsed sounding testimony so very positive of
 date 2 years ago of planning "conspiracy" he testified
 of John Kniffen Scott Camil + Maloney + Albert Ross

- State Witness "Mr. Marshall"
- Scott Camil's former landlord and FBI informant
- "Saw box with gun 10ft away, allegedly real, saw other toy guns in attic"
- "Mr. Marshall is colorblind and appears to have difficulty judging distance"

NY Times Article Sept. 2, 1973

Jurors interviewed after the verdict said they had considered the Government informers—two of whom had been believed to be the “best friends” of two defendants, and two who were national officers of the V.V.A.W.—a shabby group. Although the informers laid out a set of gaudy tales—most of them completely unrelated to anything in the indictment the basic physical evidence the Government was able to produce was 55 boxes of wrist rocket slingshots confiscated from the Wang Dang Doodle hippie store and V.V.A.W. pre-convention newsletter mentioning sling shots.

The newsletter, which, it turned out, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had run off 75 copies of so its informer could have them distributed to the veterans, said the sling shots were to be used as a “defensive” measure in the event police attacked the demonstrators, but emphasized that violence at the convention would only aid the campaign of President Nixon.

The defense lawyers leaped on the newsletter, repeating to the jury during their closing arguments: “Government exhibit four—read it.”

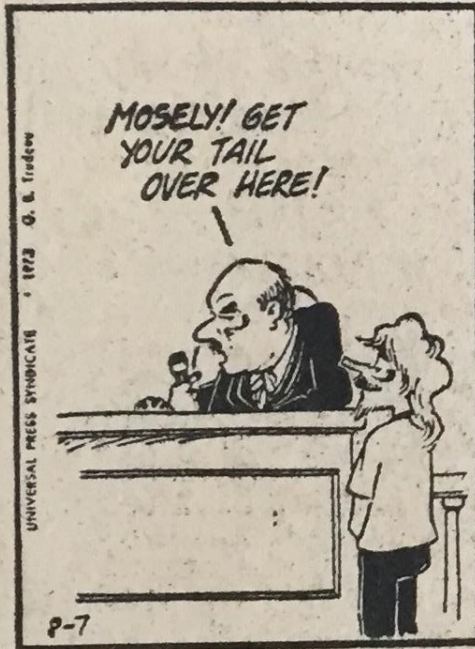
Then began days of worry, of fundraising, of working on the defense and t.f sitting in the courtroom watching man Mr. Mahoney had believed to be his best friend turn out to be an informer.

“In spite of all this joy and elation,” he said as the defendants prepared to celebrate their victory, “I can't forget the Government put me through 14 months of hell.”

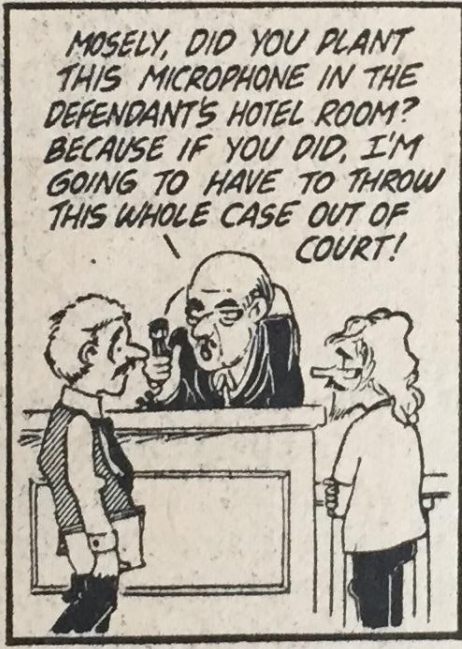


FBI Interference

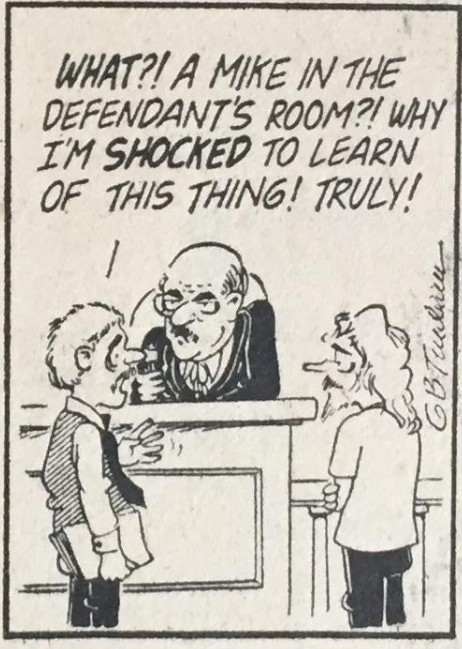
DOONESBURY



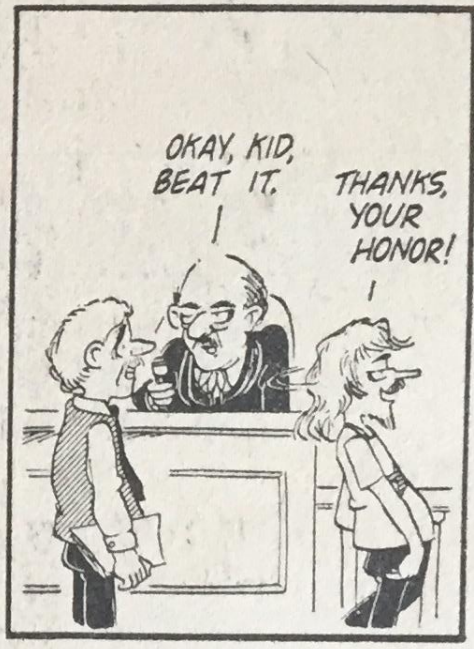
MOSELY! GET YOUR TAIL OVER HERE!



MOSELY, DID YOU PLANT THIS MICROPHONE IN THE DEFENDANT'S HOTEL ROOM? BECAUSE IF YOU DID, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO THROW THIS WHOLE CASE OUT OF COURT!



WHAT?! A MIKE IN THE DEFENDANT'S ROOM?! WHY I'M SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THIS THING! TRULY!



OKAY, KID, BEAT IT. THANKS, YOUR HONOR!

G. Trudeau

Tues Semmes finishes testimony for prosecution +
Process granted for defense to review tapes Mrs. Semmes
had given to F.B.I. as tapes concerning events about
which he testified

Jury released

phones at home acting very strange - squeal at end of
long distance call to Mom Dad sounding like someone
stopping tape recorder / amateur job of bugging if such is
case -
Mrs reported our phone acting strange when he called
this past week strange clicks + trouble dialing -
Paranoia perhaps but disturbing - plan to ask Judge
when case resumes Thurs. Aug 9th

Thurs. Aug 9th
Reported disturbance on phone to Judge Arnow -
others felt phones acting strange - Paranoia. Gray Hen
signed -
Cross examination of Bill Semmes by Patterson
+ Mrs. Stearns
Now Mrs. Semmes has great deal of difficulty
recalling things - could not remember how much
F.B.I. had paid him 2 years ago - not even
estimate. (I remember first teaching salary of
175.3)

Tuesday August 7th- "Phones at home acting very strange- squeal at end of long distance call to mom and dad sounding like someone stopping tape recorder/amateur job of bugging if such is the case"

"[unreadable] reported our phone acting strange when he called this past week, strange clicks and trouble dialing. Paranoia perhaps but still disturbing- plan to ask Judge Arnow when case resumes Thursday August 9th"

■ From Lois M. Hensel, one of the jurors, from a panel on May 17, 2001

We could not walk to the end of the hall so we took a hallway with us

clustered ^{together} with the other jurors. A Marshall sat at a table with a visible gun at either end of our hallway to protect us. We were not allowed on the top deck to swim until after regular guest hours and then only with the marshals there to guard us. Since I was a Gainesville resident and knew the dining places in the city I was appointed as an informal social director. We ate our evening meals in various places.

The trial was a very intense experience for me. I had never been inside a courtroom before. The jurors were all quite well educated, with a number of college degrees and others with at least a two year college experience. We listened to the witnesses and were shown the evidence. I shall always remember being shown some beautiful pieces of paper with blue ribbons and seals which were supposedly some documents and permits that were not obtained by the defendants. It seemed at the time that Mr. Jack Carouth, the attorney for the prosecution who was showing us these documents was dealing with the jurors as some rather non intellectual dim wits.

I saw witnesses who would not make eye contact with the jury. I saw hand signals from a prosecuting attorney to a witness. I picked up on a pattern. When the witness was asked a question by the defense attorneys the other attorney would scratch his head and the witness would say "I don't recall" When the witness was asked how much money he received for infiltrating the Defendants group he said after receiving the head-scratch signal, "I don't recall."

I feel that I went in to the trial with a very open mind. I figured that if the government had a case against these people they would prove it to us. They did not.

During the trial, it was very cold in the Court room. On one of my husband's twice a week visits I asked him to buy me a sweater. In 1973, looking for a long-sleeved sweater in Gainesville in August was rather a difficult task.

My husband went to the old Mall and went down the escalator in the old Maas Brothers Dept store. He felt someone was following him so he repeatedly went up and down several times with the man following him. Why or Who? I do not know.

While we sequestered ^{were} we not allowed to see much news or anything violent on TV. Our newspapers for the first week or so were carefully censored. Anything of violence or governmental comment was carefully cut out of the paper. My favorite cartoon was Doonsbury which was dutifully cut out of the paper. I told my husband to save it so I could read it later. It turned out it was a cartoon of the FBI bugging a lampshade for some reason or other and in real life I found out after the trial the the FBI here in Gainesville had bugged a closet next to the defense room to evesdrop on conversations.

When the trial was over, the jurors were sent back to the deliberation room. I was elected foreman of the jury. The evidence was brought in to our room and we could, as a group, finally discuss the trial with one another. One of the other jurors had picked up on the hand signals.

We came to a in a short period of time

Our consensus and vote was not guilty of the charges against the defendants.

After the trial Scott called and asked if I would like to see some of the written material that they were not allowed to use in the trial. We talked several times on the phone. At that time and during the trial I felt that my home phone was bugged. The trial was over in August. Scott had asked me what my plans were and I know that I told him I had accepted a position teaching Gifted Children starting in January. Paranoid of Government perhaps but a strange thing happened when I walked into the school that first day. The school secretary said "Mrs. Hensel, why is that man in the white car taking a video camera picture of you?" I had not seen him till I turned around. The principal, Mrs. Schenck, stormed out the door saying no one has permission to take school photos without my permission. The white car drove off quickly as she went into the parking lot. I was not concerned at the time and just told the secretary that it was probably just the Gainesville Sun or the Alligator doing a story on schools. The secretary called both places and no reporters or photographers had been sent out there. Intimidation? I don't know. Strange. Yes!

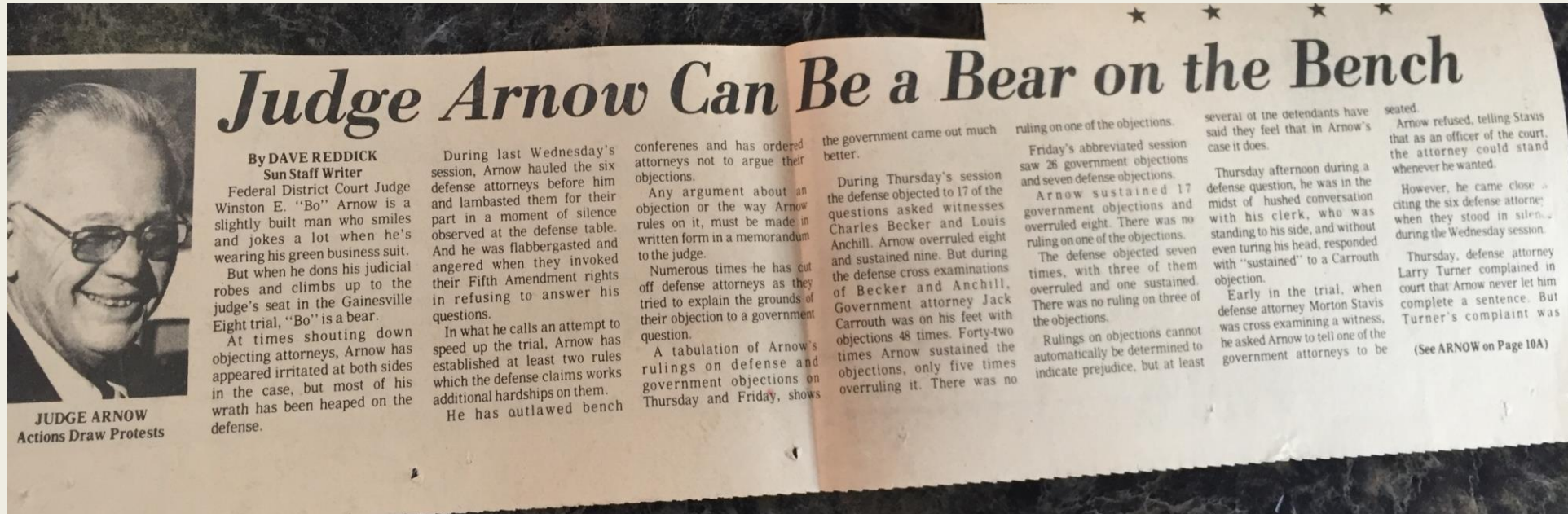
Did I lose my trust in Government after the trial? Yes

It is interesting to note that Lemmer seemed fairly well together during his testimony, but when it came his turn to be crossexamined, his stories rapidly fell apart. The prosecution continually asked for recesses, at which time Lemmer was taken into the hall where Guy Goodwin was waiting to give him answers to defense questions. The coaching of witnesses by the prosecution has already made itself evident to the jury. Arnow is making no moves to stop this coaching and the lines of defense have clearly been drawn. The repression and hostility of the court will continue, but the Gainesville 8 will finally be freed.

<http://www.vvaw.org/veteran/article/?id=1049>

VVAW Newsletter, September 1973

How was this allowed?



“Arnow has appeared irritated at both sides, but most of his wrath has been heaped on the defense”

“In what he calls an attempt to speed up the trial, Arnow has establishes two rules which the defense claims works additional hardships on them. He has outlawed bench conferences and has ordered attorneys not to argue their objections”

“The defense claimed the agents were bugging their lines. Judge Winston Arnow, a tough conservative Lyndon Johnson appointee, who has shown little patience with either defense or prosecution tactics, ruled last week there had been no bugging”

BEHAVIOR

Presbyterian—as a cross between Norman Vincent Peale and Billy Graham. A cheerful mass evangelist, he preaches a gospel of original sin and carries as he himself puts it, a “message of hope” to an ever increasing flock of converts. “We simply cannot argue with the endemic ‘cussedness’ of man,” he says, in a characteristic mixture of everyday and evangelical language.

In fact, Harris is convinced that only those who believe the “truth” of transactional analysis can win the battle against neurosis. “You have to have absolute faith that T.A. is true; otherwise you’ll lose.” Harris once told a group he was leading. Speaking more than half seriously, he told one patient who had not read *I’m OK—You’re OK* that “the only thing standing between you and a cure is my book.” The book itself goes so far as to suggest that it may be able to save man and civilization from extinction. Harris writes: “We trust it may be a volume of Hope and an important page of the manual for the survival of mankind.”

Eugene Carson Blake, former general secretary of the World Council of Churches, finds the values and assumptions of *I’m OK* to be “basically Christian ideas,” and an increasing number of mainline Protestant denominations are using T.A. for individual and group counseling. Educators are trying it, too. Last spring Harris and his staff taught 1,000 teachers at the N.E.A. convention in Portland, Ore., how to create “the OK classroom.” Business firms (General Foods and Digital Equipment Corp., among others) have experimented with the method, and so have NASA, the Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Naval depot in Oakland, Calif. (A depot contract: “We must move more boxes onto more ships with happier men.”) In Berkeley, Calif., psychologist Claude Steiner has reported success in treating alcoholics with T.A., and in Sacramento, Calif., pediatrician Dennis Marks says he has helped retarded patients.

Sharp Critic. In the midst of his success, Harris has one regret: “My readers and my patients seem to understand me better than other psychiatrists do.” Indeed, President Burness Moore of the American Psychoanalytic Association finds transactional analysis “superficial,” and Psychiatrist James Gordon of Washington, D.C., calls it “a hermetic system, defensively, self-righteously complete, dangerously closed to outside criticism and change.”

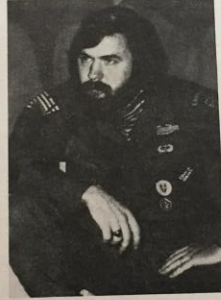
Although he has been a sharp critic of T.A. in the past, Boston Psychiatrist Robert Coles takes a more charitable view. “There is some wisdom in it—of a limited kind,” he says. “I don’t think it has the depth or breadth of vision of either Christianity or Judaism, let alone of a Freud or a Jung. But neither Freud nor Jung offers the ordinary individual any creeds to live by. T.A. is terribly reassuring. I think worse has been done by people who pretended to more.”

THE LAW

The Gainesville Eight

“Fire teams” using crossbows, wrist-rocket sling shots, automatic weapons and homemade grenades would roam the streets of Miami attacking police, knocking out electric transformers, and firebombing stores. According to FBI informer William Lemmer, those bizarre, bloody plans to disrupt the Republican National Convention last year were hatched by a group of Viet Nam Veterans Against the War. Lemmer says he attended a secret meeting in May 1972 in a Gainesville, Fla., attic, where plans for the disruption were discussed and the plotters demonstrated the use of crossbows, carbines and explosives.

Lemmer’s story was a major factor



LEMMER POSING AS AN ANTIWAR VET
Informer or provocateur?

in the arrest of six members of the V.V.A.W. in July 1972 on charges of conspiring and crossing state lines to incite a riot (subsequently, another vet and a civilian ally were also charged). Denying the charges, the defendants insisted that the arrests were purely political, designed to embarrass the leadership of the veterans and prevent their legal anti-Nixon demonstrations at the convention. Now the case of the “Gainesville Eight” has come to court as the latest—and possibly last—of the celebrated conspiracy trials of recent years. Those often traumatic trials, like the Gainesville case, were the result of a controversial Justice Department practice of prosecuting antiwar, anti-Administration activists for allegedly illegal plots. The prosecutions have involved at least 100 investigations in 36 states that have returned more than 400 indictments, but led to only one-tenth as many convictions, many on lesser charges.

There was a sense of *déjà vu* in

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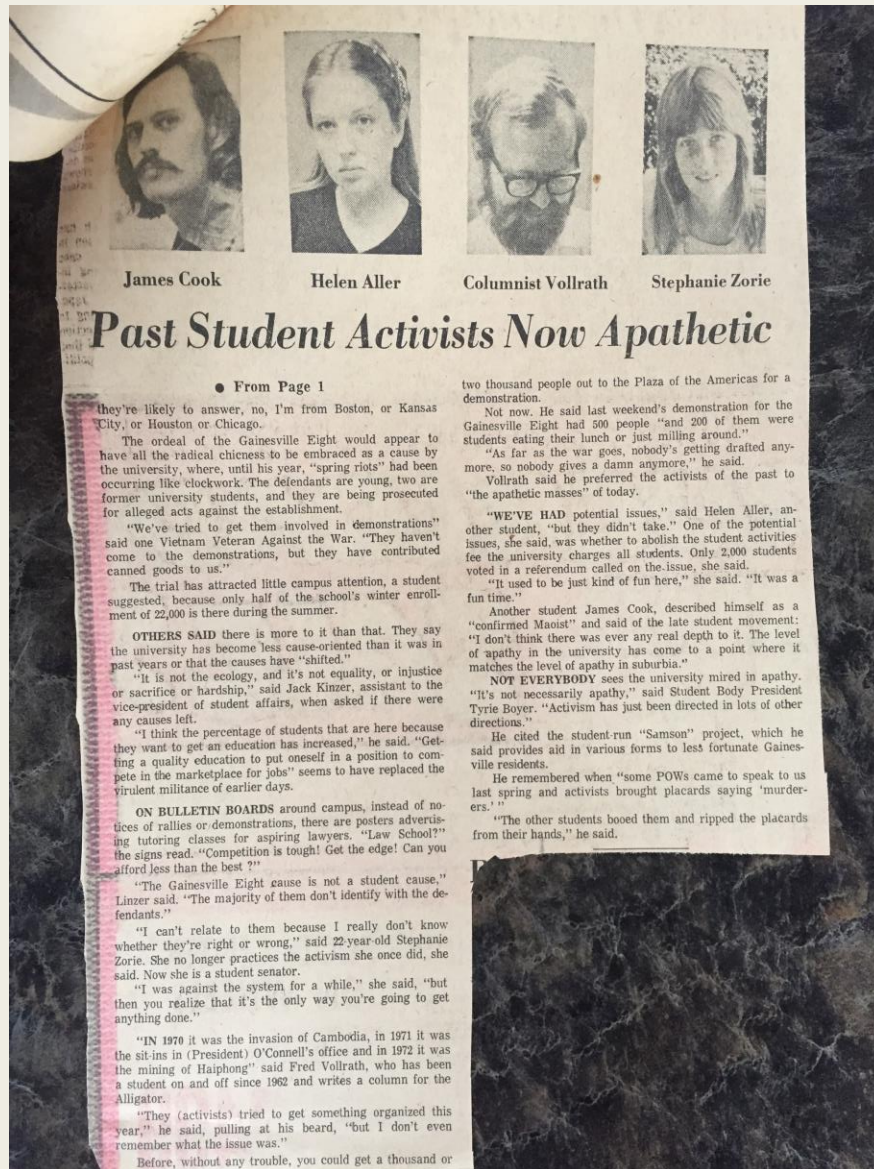
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In a setback, the defense was frustrated in its efforts to have a mistrial declared. Two FBI agents with an attaché case full of electronic gear had been discovered poised over telephone circuits next door to the defense attorneys’ conference room. The defense claimed the agents were bugging their lines. Judge Winston Arnow, a tough, conservative Lyndon Johnson appointee, who has shown little patience with either defense or prosecution tactics, ruled last week there had been no bugging. When the Gainesville case goes to the jury it will face a decision not unfamiliar in conspiracy trials: Was the strange plot planned by the defendants or merely visualized in the mind of the informer?

Impact/Legacy





- "The trial has attracted little campus attention, a student suggested because only half of the school's winter enrollment of 22,000 is there during summer"
- "Others say it is more than that. They say the university has become less cause-oriented than it was in past years"
- "Getting a quality education to put oneself in a position to compete in the market place for jobs seems to have replaced the virulent militance of earlier days"
- "The Gainesville Eight is not a student cause. The majority of them don't identify with the defendants"
- "I was against the system for a while, but then I realize it's the only way you're going to get anything done"

August 12, 1973

The Honorable Winston Arnow
U.S. District Court
Federal Building
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Sir:

I really do not know how to approach this problem, so please bear with me if this letter appears improper. I know only that I must do something. My fervant plea is that you reconsider your order sequestering the jury members in the current trial.

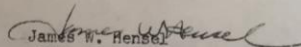
My wife, Lois Hensel, along with most of the other jury members seem to be emotionally exhausted. The trial is wearing and difficult but the lonely hours after the days activities are having a devastating effect. If the trial continues for many undetermined weeks, I truly fear for my wife's emotional stability. She is, I assure you, a very strong person, but this isolation has been a completely disorienting experience. It is especially difficult when they see the possibility of a prolonged trial and untold weeks away from loved ones.

The major publicity concerning the trial has subsided and no longer is it making the headlines. Further, you seem to have dispensed with the "side issues" which you obviously did not want the jury to hear. However, you know that the jury is composed of an intelligent and discerning group of dedicated citizens. You therefore should not fear that they would disobey any orders you would make concerning their conduct while away from the courtroom. They now understand the importance of the trial--the days of sequestration have made this fact abundantly clear.

Thus, I plead with you to consider releasing the jury members so they can spend nights with their families. This would help each of them to regenerate their emotional balance and provide the court with a jury that could be impartial and eager to fulfill their obligation to the court.

Thank you for your fairness and concern in the past and I know you will assist me in this matter.

Sincerely,


James W. Hensel
2011 NW 43rd Terr
Gainesville, FL 32605

- Letter from juror James Hensel to Judge Arnow on August 12th, 1973
- “The major publicity concerning the trial has subsided and no longer is it making headlines”

Time Magazine, August 20th, 1973

“Now the case of the Gainesville Eight has come to court as the latest—and possibly last—of the celebrated conspiracy trials of recent years”

“The prosecutions have involved at least 100 investigations in 36 states that have turned more than 400 indictments, but led to only one tenth as many convictions, many on lesser charges”

BEHAVIOR

Presbyterian—as a cross between Norman Vincent Peale and Billy Graham. A cheerful mass evangelist, he preaches a gospel of original sin and carries, as he himself puts it, a “message of hope” to an ever increasing flock of converts. “We simply cannot argue with the endemic ‘cussedness’ of man,” he says, in a characteristic mixture of everyday and evangelical language.

In fact, Harris is convinced that only those who believe the “truth” of transactional analysis can win the battle against neurosis. “You have to have absolute faith that T.A. is true; otherwise you’ll lose,” Harris once told a group he was leading. Speaking more than half seriously, he told one patient who had not read *I’m OK—You’re OK* that “the only thing standing between you and a cure is my book.” The book itself goes so far as to suggest that it may be able to save man and civilization from extinction. Harris writes: “We trust it may be a volume of Hope and an important page of the manual for the survival of mankind.”

Eugene Carson Blake, former general secretary of the World Council of Churches, finds the values and assumptions of *I’m OK* to be “basically Christian ideas” and an increasing number of mainline Protestant denominations are using T.A. for individual and group counseling. Educators are trying it, too. Last spring Harris and his staff taught 1,000 teachers at the N.E.A. convention in Portland, Ore. how to create “the OK classroom.” Business firms (General Foods and Digital Equipment Corp., among others) have experimented with the method, and so have NASA, the Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Naval depot in Oakland, Calif. (A depot contract: “We must move more boxes onto more ships with happier men.”) In Berkeley, Calif., Psychologist Claude Steiner has reported success in treating alcoholics with T.A., and in Sacramento, Calif., Pediatrician Dennis Marks says he has helped retarded patients.

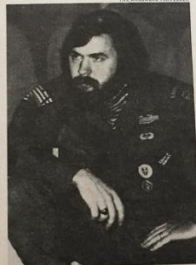
Sharp Critic. In the midst of his success, Harris has one regret: “My readers and my patients seem to understand me better than other psychiatrists do.” Indeed, President Burness Moore of the American Psychoanalytic Association finds transactional analysis “superficial,” and Psychiatrist James Gordon of Washington, D.C., calls it “a hermetic system, defensively, self-righteously complete, dangerously closed to outside criticism and change.”

Although he has been a sharp critic of T.A. in the past, Boston Psychiatrist Robert Coles takes a more charitable view. “There is some wisdom in it—of a limited kind,” he says. “I don’t think it has the depth or breadth of vision of either Christianity or Judaism, let alone a Freud or a Jung. But neither Freud nor Jung offers the ordinary individual any creeds to live by. T.A. is terribly reassuring. I think worse has been done by people who pretended to more.”

THE LAW

The Gainesville Eight

“Fire teams” using crossbows, wrist-rocket sling shots, automatic weapons and homemade grenades, would roam the streets of Miami attacking police, knocking out electric transformers, and firebombing stores. According to FBI informer William Lemmer, those bizarre, bloody plans to disrupt the Republican National Convention last year were hatched by a group of Viet Nam Veterans Against the War. Lemmer says he attended a secret meeting in May 1972 in a Gainesville, Fla., attic, where plans for the disruption were discussed and the plotters demonstrated the use of crossbows, carbines and explosives. Lemmer’s story was a major factor



LEMNER POSING AS ANTIWAR VET
Informer or provocateur?

in the arrest of six members of the V.V.A.W. in July 1972 on charges of conspiring and crossing state lines to incite a riot (subsequently, another vet and a civilian ally were also charged). Denying the charges, the defendants insisted that the arrests were purely political, designed to embarrass the leadership of the veterans and prevent their legal anti-Nixon demonstrations at the convention. Now the case of the “Gainesville Eight” has come to court as the latest—and possibly last—of the celebrated conspiracy trials of recent years. Those often traumatic trials, like the Gainesville case, were the result of a controversial Justice Department practice of prosecuting antiwar, anti-Administration activists for allegedly illegal plots. The prosecutions have involved at least 100 investigations in 36 states that have returned more than 400 indictments, but led to only one-tenth as many convictions, many on lesser charges.

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ELECTION 2004

REPORTED KERRY AIDE 1 OF 'GAINESVILLE 8'

Anti-war activist acquitted of plotting violence at GOP convention

Published: 03/19/2004 at 1:00 AM



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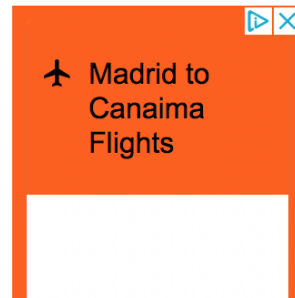
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The man who Sen. John Kerry's campaign reportedly has offered a position – whose background includes plotting to kill members of Congress in 1971 – was one of the "Gainesville Eight," a group of Vietnam War protesters indicted and then acquitted of a plan to violently disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami.



As WorldNetDaily reported, Scott Camil, a leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, presented to the group, including Kerry, a plot to assassinate conservative congressmen at a November 1971 meeting.

The Kerry campaign denies the senator and presidential candidate was present at the meeting, saying he quit the organization prior to the heated session in Kansas City, Nov. 12-15, 1971.

What can we take from the Gainesville Eight as a society?

“Well I think being a good citizen means being an active citizen, and I would say the number one responsibility of the citizen in a democracy is to control their government. That’s their number one responsibility.” - Scott Camil

