

FBI indicts six on conspiracy charges

WASHINGTON AP—The government Tuesday indicted imprisoned antiwar priest Philip Berrigan and five other persons on charges of plotting to kidnap presidential advisor Henry Kissinger and blow up heating systems in federal buildings.

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover earlier linked the alleged plot to a move to force the United States out of Vietnam and release so-called political prisoners in this country.

Seven other persons, including Berrigan's brother Daniel, also a Roman Catholic priest, were named as co-conspirators in the alleged plot.

Altogether three priests, a former priest and nun were cited as plotters and three nuns, a priest and a former priest as co-conspirators.

Both brothers are serving federal prison sentences for destruction of draft Selective Service records at Catonsville, Md., in 1968.

The indictment charged that last August, Philip Berrigan, after his arrest on charges of destroying draft records, sent instructions from the U.S. prison at Lewisburg, Pa., to Sister Elizabeth McAlister. Sister McAlister was named a co-conspirator in the alleged plot.

Hoover told Congress late last November the alleged conspirators planned to kidnap Kissinger, Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser, and hold him until the United States dropped all participation in Vietnam and released the so-called political prisoners.

Hoover declared the plan to kidnap Kissinger and blow up heating system in government buildings in Washington was the work of a group calling itself the East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives.

Spokesmen for the group later denied the Berrigans were members and the brothers challenged Hoover to retract his statement or prosecute.

The indictment said the six conspired to "maliciously damage and destroy by means of explosives" federal building heating systems at five locations next Feb. 22, George Washington's Birthday.

The indictment did not mention specific demands, but said Kissinger would be held until certain demands of the alleged

plotters were met. The six named in the alleged plot were arrested after a grand jury in Harrisburg, Pa., returned a sealed seven-count indictment.

Warrants were served on the five by FBI agents Tuesday after sealed indictments were returned by the grand jury.

The charges include conspiracy to damage government property, conspiracy to possess unregistered dynamite and other explosives, conspiracy to take the explosives across state lines, and conspiracy to kidnap and take the victim across state lines.

The indictment said as part of the conspiracy the six were to obtain maps and diagrams of the underground tunnels in Washington, D. C. that contain heating systems for the government buildings.

Hoover's testimony naming the Berrigans as head of the alleged plot raised a furor when it was made public last November.

One congressman, Rep. William Anderson, D-Tenn., said Hoover should apologize to the Berrigans or show further proof of his accusations.

Speculation at the time of Hoover's testimony centered around Kissinger the possible kidnap victim but until Tuesday was never confirmed by official sources.

Rep. Anderson said Tuesday night he is "delighted that the matter has finally been removed from the trial-by-headline arena. At last the matter is in proper judicial channels . . .

"An open adjudication of the

allegations against the Berrigan brothers has been my prime concern in this matter from the beginning," Anderson said in a statement issued by his Washington office. "I have faith in the judicial system."

John Cottone, U.S. attorney of the Middle District of Pennsylvania based in Scranton, said Tuesday night the grand jury met in Harrisburg because the conspiracy allegedly took place in the Middle District.

Cottone said the jury heard testimony for four days spread over several weeks. He said the indictments were returned Tuesday.

In Haverford, Ann Advidon, wife of alleged co-conspirator William Advidon, said she was shocked by the announcement.

"We know Daniel Berrigan and are interested in his projects and what he is involved in. We are opposed to the war. I haven't any ideas where they dug that plot up," she said in a telephone interview.

The warden at the federal institution where the Berrigans are prisoners, J. Norton, declined comment on the indictment or on any plans to move Philip Berrigan to another institution.

Another prison spokesman said it would not be possible to obtain a statement from the Berrigans "except through their lawyers."

The day after Hoover's statements to the Senate subcommittee, the Berrigans released a statement through two of their lawyers in New York.

News Roundup

From AP Reports

NEW YORK—Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the militant Jewish Defense League, was arrested Tuesday in connection with a demonstration in December. The anti-Soviet tactics of Kahane and his group have figured in U.S.-Russian controversy. The rabbi was arrested on a bench warrant when he missed a court date to answer charges stemming from a Dec. 27 demonstration to protest death sentences given two Soviet Jews. The sentences were later commuted.

FT. BENNING, Ga.—Ex-GI Paul Meadlo testified Tuesday that he shot women and even their babes in arms when Lt. William Calley Jr.'s infantry platoon swept into My Lai. Meadlo said he was convinced the women and children were deadly agents of the Viet Cong.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Calling Welfare "a cancer eating at our vitals," Gov. Ronald Reagan proposed a major overhaul of the state's program Tuesday—including creation of a WPA-like public work force. California has been more than generous to the needy, the Republican governor told the legislature in his fifth "State of the State" address. But, he added, "we must also insist that able-bodied recipients work and meet their own responsibilities."

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—About 50 policemen fired a barrage of gunfire and tear gas into a Black Panther headquarters Tuesday, forcing the surrender of a man and 15-year-old boy later charged with stealing a truckload of meat. Police chief Justus Tucker said officers opened fire on the Panther headquarters after a "shot, or shots" were fired from an upstairs room.

WASHINGTON—A special House elections investigating committee recommended Tuesday that the names of all House candidates who failed to comply with financial reporting laws be turned over to the Justice Department. The requirement applies to losing as well as winning candidates in the November congressional elections.

SAIGON—U.S. military sources said Tuesday the Communist command is unable to mount a TET offensive this month against Saigon or the heartland of South Vietnam. They saw no enemy buildup of significant size for a drive at Tet, the lunar new year which starts Jan. 27, or even for a dry season offensive later in the spring.

Lunar soil kills Earthly germs

HOUSTON, Tex. AP—Soil from the moon can be used to create an antiseptic powerful enough to easily kill some of the earth's most troublesome germs, a biologist said Tuesday.

Moon dirt from core samples collected by the Apollo 11 astronauts provides some unknown ingredient that is highly toxic to bacteria, Dr. Gerald Taylor reported to the second annual Lunar Science Conference.

Dr. Taylor said the antiseptic was created by chance while scientists at the Manned Spacecraft Center here were attempting to revive any organisms living in the moon dust. No lunar organisms were found.

The scientist, who works in the Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the center, said the soil was mixed with a protein solution and allowed to incubate for some time. The fluid from this mix, he said, was then exposed to three types of bacteria for 10 hours.

"It killed them all," said Dr. Taylor. The test has since been repeated several times, he said.

Two of the bacteria, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, are virulent germs which are troublesome medically and usually very hard to kill, he said. The third is a common soil bacteria, *Azotobacter vinelandii*.

Asked if it was possible to create a "new penicillin" if the unknown substance could be isolated and produced artificially, Dr. Taylor would say only, "That's a possibility."

The scientist said the unknown substance is not apparently available everywhere on the moon. He said attempts to create the antiseptic from soil samples from the Apollo 12 landing site or from soils gathered on the surface at the Apollo 11 site have been unsuccessful. Only soil from two Apollo 11 core samples have successfully produced the antiseptic.

Chemical comparison of the soils, said Dr. Taylor, shows that the Apollo 11 core has about 28 per cent more scandium, a rare metallic element, than is found in other moon soils studied.

Fraud besets housing program

WASHINGTON AP—Senate investigators and a federal grand jury in Charleston, W. Va., are zeroing in on a federal housing program that House committee staffers have reported is beset by abuse and fraud.

Staff members of the Senate investigations subcommittee headed by Sen. John McClellan, D-Ark., are fanning out around the nation in preparation for hearings on the program of home-ownership subsidies for low- and moderate-income families, committee sources said.

The Charleston grand jury has been deliberating for several months and is expected to return fraud indictments in the mortgage-subsidy program, a source in the Department of Housing and Urban Development said.

Nixon administration officials are particularly concerned about the probe by McClellan, a dogged and experienced investigator.

New medicine policies . . .

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that disclosure by Look and the Digest would have been proper. He also said the Digest and Look had reacted to the hearings as had others in a pro-pill "establishment . . . automatically, like Pavlov's dog."

Nelson pointed out that it was at these hearings that the FDA said that women were being inadequately informed and announced that it was going to require inclusion of a cautionary message to the user in every package of the drugs.

The Digest and Look attacked the hearings of the principal ground that they panicked women to no purpose and produced no new information.

Nelson faulted the magazines for not having written "the other side . . . a largely untold story that the public is entitled to know" and that fills "three printed volumes" of his senate subcommittee on monopoly.

The Digest, which prints no letters to the editor, said it would be "happy to consider" other articles on the pill. For what it's worth, the Digest was making this

claim last summer, in promotional ads headed "Number One Remedy":

"Last year, drug and remedy advertisers invested more than 7 1/2 million dollars in the pages of Digest. That's nearly more than 3 1/2 million more than Life and Look combined.

"What's more, the Digest has been the leader since 1962—further proof that a schedule in the Digest is the kind of prescription that works."

But it could be a grave mistake to assume that an appetite for advertising dollars alone, or possibly even significantly, explains the Digest's record in promoting medicines: surely the Digest turned its back on huge amounts of revenue when it refused cigarette advertising and campaigned against smoking.

The fundamental problem may be one that affects everyone in the media and, indeed, everyone with a responsibility to report to others: whether to indulge in gimmickry such as Orwellian newspeak—new is better, for example—or whether to level with the audience. Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service