Witness Tells of Seeking Radicals' Help

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 8—The government's chief witness in its case against seven antiwar activists on trial here testified today that he originally tried to become part of the "radicals and activists" on the campus of Bucknell University because he needed their protection. But less than a month from the time in April, 1970, when his first inroads into the small peace movement on the Lewisburg, Pa., campus, witness Boyd F. Douglas said during cross-examination by defense counsel, he began planning to turn former leftist and radicals to the FBI.

While a prisoner at Lewisburg Federal penitentiary, he was also a fulltime student at Bucknell and was allowed to travel daily to the nearby campus. Apparently the little FBI office in the center of Lewisburg was a frequent stop on route.

Douglas' information, the government has said, was the prime basis for the indictment of the seven defendants on charges of conspiracy to admitlly lying to Father Berrigan about his feeling about the government. Explaining, he said "When you're in prison, you are not going to tell another inmate you like the government... There are very few inmates that are pro-government."

On one occasion, Douglas testified in cross-examination, he urged a coed, Betsy Sandel, to go to a demonstration at the federal prison gates.

She went to the demonstration. Douglas said that immediately after the demonstration he went to the FBI office with information about persons who attended the demonstration, including Miss Sandel, whose picture he said he identified.

Douglas burst into laughter today when asked by O'Dwyer if he once proposed to Miss Sandel. "Yes, it's a possibility, surely," said Douglas, muffling his laugh and blushing.

Douglas also testified today that he told FBI agents after the defendants were indicted that often he could not distinguish between two of the defendants, the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth and the Rev. Neil McLaughlin, both Baltimore Catholic parish priests.