

LIBERATION NEWS TO GO ON IN RIFT

Both Sides in Bitter Dispute
to Use Agency Imprint

By JOHN LEO

The two factions in the bitter dispute at Liberation News Service will each continue sending out news packets using the agency's imprint.

Marshall Bloom, a co-founder of the left-wing news agency, who is accused of embezzlement and theft by the 13 members of the agency's staff, will publish from a farm in Montague, Mass. He is supported by six full-time employees, including Ray Mungo, the other co-founder.

The 13 staff members, all sought by the police in Turners Falls, Mass., on a charge of kidnapping Mr. Bloom and several of his guests at the farm, will publish from the Liberation News Service offices on Claremont Avenue in Manhattan.

Each faction says it has legal control of the agency, and each plans to service the 400 subscribers, mostly underground and college newspapers.

Mr. Bloom said the staff's accusation of his having embezzled \$11,000 in agency funds was "absurd" and "a gross, outrageous distortion."

"That money properly belongs to Liberation News Service, and we are Liberation News Service," he said. He added that he had put \$6,500 of his own money into the agency, including a \$4,000 loan.

The 13 staffers had said Wednesday that Mr. Bloom and several colleagues broke into the agency's offices Sunday night and illegally carted off most of the equipment to the Massachusetts farm.

"We did it in broad daylight," said Mr. Bloom, "accompanied by a lawyer, with ownership papers and incorporation papers in good order."

The 13 staff members control the news service as a result of a meeting two weeks ago placing the New York staff on the board of directors. Bloom said that the meeting, "packed with new people in an effort to purge me," did not produce a legal transfer of power.

However, both sides seem less concerned with legal title to the Liberation News Service name and equipment than with the threat of losing the allegiance of radical editors and readers.

"The crucial question is who will establish legitimacy with the movement," said Thorn Dreyer, one of the 13 staff members. They regard Mr. Bloom as authoritarian and insufficiently militant.

Asked to reply, Mr. Bloom said only that a letter to the agency from Marvin Garson, editor of The San Francisco Express Times, complained that recent coverage was doctrinaire, full of jargon and poor in quality.

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