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Nun Wiretapped

HARRISBURG, Pa. — An FBI agent said Tuesday the government used a wiretap to gather evidence against the Harrisburg Seven, but he insisted the bugged conversations were never used in the government's case.

The testimony came at a federal court hearing on a defense claim that the Rev. Philip Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAlister, a New York nun, were prosecuted illegally for smuggling letters in and out of the Lewisburg (Pa.) federal prison.

The defense listed two grounds—that illegal wiretaps were used, and that the two were prosecuted as punishment for their antiwar views.

FBI Agent Mason Smith of Philadelphia, confirmed that a telephone had been tapped from Nov. 24, 1970, to Jan. 6, 1971. He said Sister Elizabeth's voice was believed overheard.

The government first admitted the use of taps in hearings before the 11-week trial began.