

Judge Ousts 'Chicago 8' Juror After Baring a Threat to Her

By J. ANTHONY LUKAS
Special to The New York Times
CHICAGO, Oct. 1 — Judge

Julius J. Hoffman removed a 23-year-old woman from the jury in the trial of the "Chicago eight" today after he showed her a threatening letter.

Kristi A. King, the youngest member of the sequestered jury, was brought into court alone this morning to answer questions about a letter that was sent to her home earlier this week. The letter read: "You are being watched" and was signed "The Black Panthers."

When Miss King took her seat in the jury box, Judge Hoffman instructed a Federal marshal to show her the letter. After she read it, the judge asked whether she had ever seen it before.

"No," Miss King said. "Has any member of your family ever brought it to your attention?" Judge Hoffman asked.

"No, sir," she said. "Having now seen it, will you please tell me if you can still be a fair and impartial juror in this trial?" the judge asked.

"No, sir, I cannot," Miss King replied.

Defense Lawyer Objects
Judge Hoffman then ordered Miss King excused from the jury.

At this point, William M. Kunstler, a lawyer for the "Chicago eight"—charged with conspiracy to incite a riot during last summer's Democratic National Convention in Chicago—sprang to his feet.

"We object," he said. "The juror had never seen the letter until this moment. It is Your Honor who has revealed it to

her and who has led her into saying she could no longer be impartial."

Mr. Kunstler strenuously argued that the Federal Bureau of Investigation to whom Miss King's family had given the letter, could have determined that she had never seen it. If the Government had told the court that, he said, Miss King could have remained on the jury. Miss King has been sequestered in a downtown hotel with the rest of the jury since late yesterday.

Richard Schultz, the assistant United States attorney, said the prosecution had no idea that Miss King had not seen the letter. "We and the defense knew precisely the same facts until just now," he said.

Objection Overruled
Judge Hoffman overruled the defense objection. He ordered Miss King excused and replaced by the first alternate juror, Kay Richards, a 22-year-old computer operator.

At a news conference during the noon recess, David T. Dellinger, one of the defendants, said the Government had succeeded in "sandbagging one of the jurors of whom they were obviously afraid."

Mr. Dellinger said that what had happened "adds up to collusion between the judge and the Government to deprive us of a fair and impartial juror."

The defense had considered Miss King one of the jurors most likely to be fair-minded toward their case, which will rely, in part, on an explanation of the "new youth culture" and the political and social views of young dissidents.

The excused juror, who worked as a customer's representative for a copying machine company, appeared to be

at least 10 years younger than most of the other jurors.

The defendants conceded that Miss King's replacement by Miss Richards actually lowered the average age of the jury.

Another juror, Mrs. Ruth L. Petersen, received a letter identical to Miss King's this week. Like Miss King's, it was addressed to her family and de-

livered to her home while she was in court. But her family gave it to her when she went home at night and she handed it to an official of the court the next day.

When Mrs. Petersen appeared for her hearing this morning, however, she said the letter would not affect her ability to be impartial. She said she was ordered to remain on the jury.

Mrs. Petersen said she had mentioned the letter to one other juror, her roommate at the hotel, Mrs. Mildred Burns. Mrs. Burns was also called for a hearing. She, too, said she would still be impartial and remain on the jury.

Mrs. Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury, and Judge Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury.

Mrs. Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury, and Judge Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury.

Mrs. Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury, and Judge Hoffman ordered that she remain on the jury.