

## Jury Asks Explanation Of Plot Law

By Betty Medsger  
Washington Post Staff Writer

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 31—Perplexed by the meaning of the nation's conspiracy law, the jury weighing the case against the Rev. Philip Berrigan and six other antiwar activists returned to the courtroom twice today for assistance.

The case went to the jury shortly after 2 p.m. Thursday following U.S. District Court Judge R. Dixon Herman's charge.

Defense attorneys claimed the charge contained "errors" and omitted reference to contradictions brought out during cross-examination of prosecution witnesses. The charge, defense attorneys said, caused "irreparable prejudice" to the defendants.

Late Thursday night, Judge Herman refused the jury's request for a copy of the section of his charge dealing with conspiracy. But this morning, he read again for the jury the conspiracy section.

The defendants are charged with conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger, bomb tunnels under federal buildings and raid federal offices.

To find any defendant

guilty, the jurors must determine that there was an overall conspiracy. But an overall conspiracy could include only one of the elements in the charge or all of them.

Apparently still confused by Herman's charge, the jury returned this afternoon and asked for further clarification on an overall conspiracy.

The jury also asked for transcripts of testimony of three witnesses, key witness Boyd F. Douglas Jr., Robert L. Hendricks, former associate warden at Lewisburg, Pa. federal penitentiary, and FBI agent Delmar Mayfield.

In addition of Father Berrigan, now imprisoned for destruction of Selective Service records, the defendants are Sister Elizabeth McAlister, a New York nun and college art history teacher; Mary Cain Scoblick, a former nun and teacher from Baltimore; Anthony Scoblick, a former Josephite priest from Baltimore; Eqbal Ahmad, a Pakistani scholar from Chicago, and the Revs. Joseph Wenderoth and Neil McLaughlin, both Baltimore parish priests.