

# Surprise Witness Testifies Against Berrigan Group

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HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21—Sister Elizabeth McAlister told a group of 200 in Westchester County, N.Y., in June 1970 that she and others were working on something "substantial . . . something bigger than they had done previously," according to a surprise prosecution witness at the trial of Sister McAlister and six other antiwar activists.

"The women were startled," said Carolyn North, who moved here from New York shortly after she heard Sister McAlister speak to a Westchester Women for Peace meeting.

"One asked if it was a draft board action," said Mrs. North. "She made it clear it was not . . . What she wanted from these women was that these women would say they were guilty, too, (that) they were liable (when it happened)."

When she heard in January, 1971, that the defendants had been indicted, said Mrs. North, "I thought . . . that's what she was talking about."

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

In cross-examination of Mrs. North, defense attorneys maintained that Sister McAlister spoke to the group about taking public moral responsibility for draft raids and not about the crime with which she is now charged.

Defense Attorney J. Thomas Menaker showed the witness a statement signed by 302 persons who took responsibility for June, 1970, draft raids in Delaware. She acknowledged that the addresses of the signers indicated they were from the Westchester County area.

One of the government's pieces of evidence, a letter written that summer by Sister McAlister to another defendant, the Rev. Philip Berrigan,

while he was in Lewisburg, Pa., Penitentiary, makes an apparent reference to the occasion. She wrote:

"Jogues (Sister Jogues Egan) and I went up to Westchester Friday afternoon for a session with some of the Women for Peace on the signatures business. We were both amazed at their seriousness and sense of dedication. There may be some hope from this sort of thing."

Although she couldn't identify Sister McAlister in the courtroom today, Mrs. North, in her mid-twenties, said she was sure it was Sister McAlister she heard because she remembered her religious order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

"She belongs to the same religious order that taught me in grade school," said Mrs. North. "They were semi-cloistered then. I was surprised that day because she was not in a habit."

Other speakers at the luncheon, she said, included Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), a professor and "some man running for Congress." Mrs. North, who said she called the FBI

here yesterday to report the 1970 incident, said she assumed the FBI already knew about it. Part of her motivation for calling them, she said, was the fact that "the FBI doesn't have a good press anymore."

FBI agent Delmar Mayfield, the 60th government witness, testified today that on or shortly before Sept. 1, 1970, he wrote FBI director J. Edgar Hoover a letter in which he described the then convict Boyd F. Douglas as "an accomplished confidence man."

Douglas, whose arrest records for check forgery and interstate transportation of stolen securities and assaulting an FBI agent began in 1958, is the chief source of the government's information in the case.

Mayfield, who was the Lewisburg, Pa., agent to whom Douglas reported information about the defendants, Bucknell University students and his fellow inmates in 1970, testified during cross-examination that on Aug. 29, 1970, he asked Douglas if he would be available after his parole was completed to work for the FBI as an informer.