

Prospective Harrisburg Jurors Questioned on Feelings Toward War

By Betty Medsger
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HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 25—

Prospective jurors were asked today if they had feelings about the Vietnam war that would prevent them from reaching an impartial verdict in the trial here of seven antiwar activists accused of conspiring to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger, blow up tunnels in Washington and raid federal offices.

"I have a son who is 22," said one woman. "He's number 23 in the draft. There are times when I feel quite sympathetic to the efforts to end the war."

U.S. District Judge R. Dixon Herman's question about the impact of war attitudes came during the second day of ques-

tioning of prospective jurors. Earlier questioning today revealed that two prospective jurors had relatives killed in Vietnam and two others had relatives injured there.

One of the seven defendants, Pakistani scholar Ebal Ahmad, said at a press conference he thought the question was unfair because he felt those who support the war "just accept it and would not say they have a strong opinion about it."

"With that kind of questioning," said Ahmad, a fellow at the Adlai Stevenson Institute for International Studies in Chicago, "they could knock out any jurors with antiwar attitudes and leave only pro-government jurors."

However, the judge did not dismiss the persons who ex-

pressed antiwar views. He said he would deal with the matter another day.

All but 62 of the original 175 persons called for jury duty have been dismissed, 55 of them on the basis of prejudiced opinions and the rest because of hardships the trial would impose.

Judge Herman ruled today that the jury would be sequestered throughout the trial.

In other questioning, the jurors were asked if they were related to Kissinger by blood or marriage. One question pertained to the relationship of prospective jurors to law enforcement officers. One woman indicated she has friends who are FBI agents. She said they talk to her about cases in progress "but not about this one."