

Nuns Told to Face Contempt Charges After Jury Silence

A Roman Catholic nun has been ordered to answer Government charges of contempt in Brooklyn Federal Court this morning. She had refused to testify yesterday before a grand jury that is believed to be linked in some way with the case of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and others awaiting trial in Harrisburg, Pa.

Sister Carol Vericker, 29 years old was one of six women subpoenaed to testify yesterday and the first to appear before the closed hearing.

Government lawyers asked Federal Judge Anthony J. Travia to cite her for contempt and order her to jail for the duration of the jury session after she declined to answer questions despite a grant of immunity by the judge.

Meeting with newsmen after

today's hearing had been scheduled, Sister Carol said she had refused to testify partly because she objected to the secrecy of the proceedings; the witnesses were not told why they had been asked to appear.

She also said members of a religious community should have the same right as a hus-

band and wife not to testify against each other.

Another witness, Susan Susman, said Sister Carol and another nun were the only women among the six who knew each other. Miss Susman is press secretary to the Harrisburg Defense Committee, which is raising money for legal fees for

Father Berrigan and seven other persons accused of conspiring to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, and to commit antiwar acts.

The press and public were barred from the courtroom during some of yesterday's proceedings before Judge Travia.