

Nun Held in Contempt in U.S. Court in Brooklyn

By ELEANOR BLAU

A Roman Catholic nun was held in contempt in Federal District Court in Brooklyn yesterday for refusing to testify Tuesday before a grand jury despite a waiver of immunity. The jury's investigation apparently involves the theft of Government records.

Judge Anthony J. Travia ordered Sister Carol Vericker, 29 years old, jailed for the duration of the jury session or until she "purges" herself of the contempt by testifying.

However, he freed her temporarily in her own recognition, pending an appeal.

In yesterday's hearing, attorneys for Sister Carol contended that requiring her to testify against other members of the Sisters of Charity of New York would violate her freedom of religion and her freedom of association.

They also asserted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was using the grand jury subpoena power to elicit informa-

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tion it had no power to obtain itself; that unlawful electronic surveillance had been conducted; and that the Government had improperly cited sections of the criminal code that actually did not apply to the investigation, merely to be able to obtain the immunity grant.

The attorneys said the Government had cited a total of five sections, involving transportation of stolen property, mutilation of public records, theft and destruction of Government property, and conspiracy.

But, they said, the Government had not revealed the nature of the investigation.

Sister Carol and five other women were subpoenaed to appear before the jury yesterday. The five include another nun

from the same order and the press secretary to the Harrisburg Defense Committee, which is raising money for legal fees for the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and others accused of conspiracy to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser.

Sister Carol was the first witness. The others were directed to return tomorrow at 10 A.M.

Plea in Berrigan Case

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 30 (AP)—The so-called Harrisburg Eight want a Federal judge to dismiss bomb-kidnap conspiracy charges against them on the grounds that one of the grand jurors who indicted them was not qualified. A motion filed by J. Thomas Menaker, Harrisburg attorney, charged that Mrs. Susan Palmer Kline, Marysville, Pa., was not a registered voter in the district on the date her name was selected for the venire.