

EBB 24 1972

SFChronicle

Four U.S. Witnesses Mute

Harrisburg, Pa.

Four key Government witnesses refused to testify yesterday about a purported plot by the Rev. Phillip Berrigan and six other anti-war activists to kidnap presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger. The quartet of women took the Fifth Amendment 29 times

yesterday.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General William Lynch, calling the four an integral part of the Government's kidnap case, said they were "attempting to obstruct the progress of this trial, to hide the truth, to obfuscate."

A decision as to if and when the witnesses must

testify at the Federal conspiracy trial of the so-called Harrisburg Seven was put off until tomorrow by United States District Judge R. Dixon Herman.

The recalcitrant witnesses, all of whom testified before a grand jury last year under a grant of immunity, are Patricia Rom, 28, Jane

in Berrigan Trial

Hoover, 22, Mary Sandel, 23, and Zoia Horn Galloway, 52.

The Government claims the four were links in a communications system set up by Father Berrigan in 1970 while he was confined at the Federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa. for destroying draft records.

Through the aid of a fel-

low convict turned informer, Boyd Douglas Jr., and the four women, Berrigan was said to have kept in touch with his six codefendants outside the penitentiary walls. Douglas, who has not been seen publicly since the first grand jury indictments in January 1971, is the main government witness. *A.P.*