

Phase of Capitol Bombing Inquiry Ends

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By WALLACE TURNER

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SEATTLE, May 20 — With Leslie Bacon now in the city jail for contempt of a Federal Court, the initial public phase in the investigation of the March 1 bombing of the national Capitol has ended inconclusively.

Government prosecutors believe that Miss Bacon was a courier between radical groups. They hoped that by questioning her they could uncover leads or confirm information they had gathered from other sources.

However, she refused to answer questions, even when granted immunity from prosecution for her testimony, and was jailed yesterday until she does answer or until the life of the Federal grand jury expires on March 1, 1972.

Today the grand jury was in recess and will not return until next Tuesday. The expectation is that routine business will be presented then.

There was no indication that other witnesses would be called at this time in the bombing inquiry.

Some observers have said that he 18 questions Miss Ba-

con refused to answer indicated the following things about the Government's investigation:

The Government suspects that a plan advanced by a Seattle activist group at a meeting in Ann Arbor, Mich., in February led to the Capitol bombing.

The Government has some reason to believe that Miss Bacon made statements that showed that she knew about the planning of the bombing, and also that she said she was acquainted with the explosives on a trip from Washington to Boston.

The Government has access to conversations between the activists who met at 2226 M Street, N.W., in Washington on the day of the bombing.

A mysterious access to money is hinted at in some questions. Others mention a cabin in the Virginia mountains, where meetings of plotters were alleged to have been held.

But the questions, together with the names of nine persons Miss Bacon was asked about, fail to throw much light on what the Government's sources are, or where its investigation will turn next.

When the investigation began, Miss Bacon's lawyers said she thought she could freely

answer all questions about the bombing without involving herself or any of her friends. But by the afternoon of May 2, her third day before the grand jury, she began to refuse to answer on the ground of self-incrimination.

The prosecutors then obtained a court order requiring her to answer and then used the answers to have Federal charges placed against her in connection with a fire-bombing plot in New York City.

From then on she answered virtually no questions. The Government's next move was to immunize her for prosecution on her own testimony, and the sentencing for contempt followed.

The questions that were made public are worded in such a way that they indicate they could have been based on information gained from an infiltrator who actually is a Government agent, or through use of an electronic eavesdropping device.

Miss Bacon's lawyers accused the Government of having subpoenaed her because of information obtained in illegal eavesdropping. The appeals they plan in her behalf will be based in part on this contention.

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