

CROWD SEARCHED IN QUEENS COURT

Security at Ferguson Trial
Tightened by Threat Report

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By JOHN KIFNER

Spectators at the murder-conspiracy trial of Herman B. Ferguson were searched before entering the courtroom yesterday afternoon.

The unusual security measures were ordered by Justice Paul Balsam after the defense lawyer, Miss Gene Ann Condon, told him that Mr. Ferguson and his co-defendant, Arthur Harris, had received threats against their lives.

The two are charged in State Supreme Court in Queens with having conspired to murder Whitney M. Young Jr. and Roy Wilkins, the civil rights leaders, as part of a black revolutionary plot.

Assistant District Attorney Thomas DeMakos objected to Miss Condon's request for the search of spectators. He said that he had seen "at least 15" policemen in the court.

Handbills Are Cited

He also said that handbills had been circulating in the Negro community with pictures of his principal witness, Detective Edward Lee Howlette. The handbills, which show Detective Howlette and three other Negroes, who are asst'd to be police undercover agents, warn militants to "be cool" around them.

Mr. Young, the executive director of the National Urban League, was called as a prosecution witness. He testified that he did not know either of the defendants.

"I'm not here voluntarily," Mr. Young said on the witness stand. "I'm under subpoena."

Mr. Young testified that he and several other leaders had taken an advertisement in The New York Times on Oct. 14, 1965, to make a statement entitled "Crisis and Commitment."

Detective Howlette, who has testified that he infiltrated Mr. Ferguson's organization, the Black Brotherhood Improvement Association, has said in previous testimony that the statement by the civil rights leaders had inspired the alleged plot because it was regarded as an attack on black power.

Miss Condon closely cross-examined Detective Howlette for the second straight day, with much of her questioning concerned with the Jamaica Rifle and Pistol Club.

The detective had testified that Mr. Ferguson set up the club to give members of the group marksmanship training and to obtain cheap rifles and free ammunition through National Rifle Association and Government programs.