

Surprise in Trial of '7'

HARRISBURG (Pa.) — (AP) — A surprise woman witness told the Harrisburg Seven conspiracy trial today she heard Sister Elizabeth McAlister describe plans for an antiwar action in 1970 that she claimed "would be liable for a substantial prison sentence."

Carolyn North, a Harrisburg bank employe, took the stand after the judge heard arguments on a defense motion for dismissal on the grounds a paid FBI inform-

er provoked the alleged bomb - kidnap plot.

Mrs. North said the remarks of the defendant nun were made in a speech at a shopping center luncheon in New York City's suburban Westchester County in June 1970. Mrs. North said she called the FBI yesterday to give the information.

Something Big

"She said they were working on something that was going to be substantial, that was going to be bigger than draft board raids," Mrs. North testified.

"She said they would be liable for a substantial prison sentence. She said it would be something criminal, and that they fully expected to be apprehended."

Mrs. North, who works three blocks from the courthouse here, said that when Sister Elizabeth made the statement "people were so startled that they interrupted to ask questions."

"One asked if it was a draft board action and she said that it was not," Mrs. North said. "I was astounded that she would say so much."

Charges

Sister Elizabeth, antiwar priest Philip Berrigan and five codefendants are accused of conspiring to kidnap presidential aide Henry Kissinger, blow up heating tunnels under government buildings in Washington, and vandalize draft board offices around the country.

Under cross-examination Mrs. North was asked why she hadn't come forward earlier, since the trial now is in its ninth week and the indictment against the defendants was handed down by a federal grand jury in Harrisburg more than a year ago.

"Everyone I told about it said, 'Oh they surely know about it'" she replied. "Everybody I spoke to was firmly convinced that everybody knew about this."

Same Order

Mrs. North was unable to identify Sister Elizabeth in the courtroom but she said the reason she remembered her name was because she was a nun of the same order that taught her in high school, the Religious Order of Sacred Heart of Mary.

The defense objected to the late introduction of Mrs. North as a witness, claiming that they had little time to know what she would testify about.

Chief prosecutor William Lynch replied that "we never saw her until this morning."