

Ellsberg Friend May Be Jailed

Washington

The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that Samuel L. Popkin, a young Harvard scholar, could be jailed now for refusing to assist a federal grand jury in Boston in its investigation of publication of the "Pentagon Papers."

Popkin, 30, had asked for a reprieve at least until the court receives and rules on his appeal from the contempt judgment. He was truned down 8 to 1 with Justice William O. Douglas dissenting.

The assistant professor of government is an expert on Vietnamese village life and a friend of Daniel Ellsberg, who has been indicted in Los Angeles under federal espionage laws for providing press and public with the once-secret study of the origins of the Vietnam war.

Popkin, 30, objected to seven of the questions put to him last year by the grand jury, while answering several others. He was sentenced to 18 months.

In May the U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston ruled that four of the seven questions were improper because they "probed Popkin's opinions." However, the three others were ruled appropriate, and Popkin plans to appeal to the Supreme Court.

In pleading for a stay of sentence, the scholar contended the questions would



AP Wirephoto

SAMUEL POPKIN
Harvard scholar

implicate "confidential source relationships" and have only the slightest connection to the investigation.

Two were about how he had learned who had written the official study. The other was how he had discussed it with Ellsberg.

The court made no comment on the issue in ruling against Popkin.

In Boston, he turned aside newsmen's questions with: "If I have to go to prison I will hold a press conference first."

Authorities did not move immediately to jail him.

Associated Press