

Witnesses Balk at Weatherman Quiz

By Tom Hall

Legal technicalities bogged down a federal grand jury's investigation yesterday into the Weatherman group as some witnesses balked at answering questions and government attorneys sought immunity for them.

As a result of witnesses' attorneys objecting to immediate granting of immunity, U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham set tomorrow for hearing argument on the issue.

At the same time, the jury specializing in internal security matters recessed until tomorrow after ordering 10 of 13 witnesses to return before it.

SDS Splinter

Four subpoenaed witnesses were called before the jury yesterday. It is making inquiry into the Weatherman, a splinter organization of the Students for a Democratic Society.

They were Phillip Craven, a Public Health Service doc-

tor, of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Howard Berg, engineer, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Daniel Rosenberg, a conservationist, San Francisco.

The fourth witness called were David Grabill, attorney, Venice, Calif., but U.S. Attorney James L. Browning Jr. did not seek an immunity order for him and no explanation was given as to whether he was answering all questions or not.

The requested order presented to Judge Peckham by government attorneys said the immunity orders and answers of witnesses were "necessary to the public interest of the United States."

Objections to the requested order were raised by attorney Paul Halvonik, national director of the American Civil Liberties Union's grand jury program, as well as attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild's Grand Jury Defense Office.

They claimed they had

valid challenges to the granting of immunity but needed time to research the law and brief their contentions.

Wiretaps

Halvonik also revealed he eventually intended to attack the investigation on the grounds that illegal wiretaps may have been used.

The attorney has said that not one of the subpoenaed witnesses is a Weatherman, but that they have been asked about possible acquaintance with Weatherman members.

The list of witnesses grew from 11 to 13 yesterday when a man and a woman, subpoenaed last Monday from out of town, also appeared. Their identity was kept secret "because they feared public disclosure," according to one attorney.

Other attacks the witnesses' attorneys indicate they will make will be based on the constitutional right to freedom of association, speech and privacy.