

Angry Denials to Grand Jury*By Maitland Zane*

Two more reluctant Weatherman probe witnesses denied yesterday to a federal grand jury that they had any knowledge of the fatal bombing at Park police station in 1970.

Blasting the Justice Department's question as "slander," Howard J. Berg replied "no" when asked at a grand jury hearing whether he had knowledge of any bombings of any buildings.

Then Berg, a 23-year-old Minneapolis engineer, refused to answer further questions, knowing he may be jailed today for contempt by U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham, who had ordered him and the two other reluctant witnesses to testify.

WITNESS

Two days ago, another witness, Daniel J. Rosenberg, 31, a San Francisco conservationist, told newsmen:

"I had nothing to do with Park Station and I know nobody who did." He refused to answer any grand jury questions.

The third witness, Dr. Phillip Craven, 28, a U.S. Public Health Service physician in San Juan, Puerto Rico, told The Chronicle he feels he has been "smeared" by the nationwide investigation.

He said he was working at Park Emergency Hospital the night of Feb. 16, 1970, when Sergeant Brian McDonnell was killed and several other officers in-

jured in the still-unsolved bombing of adjoining Park Police Station.

Craven said he "knows nothing about the bombing." He was only questioned about Weatherman "fugitives" but refused to talk.

REASON

Craven said his reason for doing so was to protest what he called Government attempts to "suppress legitimate political activity."

He said he has been tailed by FBI agents and police, and believes his phone has been tapped.

"I'm now very reluctant to contact my friends," Craven said. "It works — I'm intimidated."

At the conclusion of a third day of legal wrangling yesterday Judge Peckham directed Craven, Rosenberg and Berg to answer questions put by Robert Dierker, an attorney with the Justice Department's internal security division.

The judge acted after Dierker assured him neither the FBI nor any other government or local agency had conducted electronic surveillance of the witnesses or their attorneys.

One of the reasons the witnesses have refused to testify is because they have said their answers might tend to incriminate them.

JUDGE

The judge ordered them to testify only after granting them "limited immunity," which means their testimony before the grand jury cannot later be used against them in any criminal prose-

cution.

The judge ruled that Craven did not have to answer questions that might violate what lawyers call the "marital privilege"—in other words, confidential conversations with his wife, Karen, an English nurse.

Berg said he told the grand jury he had no information about any bombings of public buildings. He said he also told jurors he was unable to identify two photo-

graphs, one of a man and another of a woman.

As for other questions put by Dierker, Berg refused to talk. He claimed Dierker had not followed the judge's order to provide him with copies of statements he made to the FBI on three occasions, twice in Oakland in 1971 and once this year in Minneapolis.

"I want to make it clear I consider this an attempt to slander people," Berg said.

"The questions I was asked were outrageous."

Judge Peckham, who held the three witnesses in contempt earlier this month, set another show cause contempt hearing for 10 a.m. today at which time Dierker said he will seek "immediate incarceration" of the witnesses.

Defense lawyers however, are expected to ask for their clients to be freed on bail pending appeal.