

6 War Protesters At the White House Set Free by Judge

WASHINGTON, Monday, Aug. 6 (AP)—A Superior Court judge, agreeing with an allegation that there was White House pressure behind the prosecution of recent antiwar demonstrators, declined today to sentence six women arrested at the White House.

The women, who had stepped from a tour line to pray for an end to the Cambodian bombing, were charged with unlawful entry under a District of Columbia law.

With tears in his eyes, Judge Charles W. Halleck said he agreed with the defense lawyer, Philip Hirshkop, who contended that there was "White House pressure" behind the prosecution.

"To be singled out and prosecuted...to do no more than read a prayer from the Bible..." the judge's voice broke and he did not complete the sentence.

Finally Judge Halleck accepted pleas of no contest but suspended the imposition of sentence.

"I may not be able to keep the executive branch from prosecuting...but it's a judicial function to impose or not impose sentence," he said. "As a judge and as a human being, there's no way I'd have any of these people spend one day in jail."

The women were identified as Ginny Ives of Baltimore, Patricia Moore of Boston, and Rochelle Linner, Kathleen Thorsby, Jean Gregory and Mary Caron, all of Washington.

More than 60 persons have been arrested at the White House in recent weeks after protesting the bombing in Cambodia.