

# Plot Is Laid to Harlem Witnesses

By PETER KIHSS

A prosecutor charged yesterday that witnesses balking in a grand jury investigation of last summer's Harlem riots had "agreed to kill police officers" and that one had warned a prospective cooperative witness that "his body might be found hanging by a lamppost."

The assertions by Assistant District Attorney Joseph H. Phillips in Criminal Court produced an immediate flare-up by a defense lawyer, who denied there was any court record of such agreement among the defendants. And the defendant accused of intimidation cried out that the statement was "terminological inexactitude."

"What did you say?" Judge William E. Ringel demanded.

"Terminological inexactitude—what the District Attorney just said," replied the defendant, David Douglas. "In other words, it's a lie."

The exchange ended with all five defendants, who were convicted earlier of criminal contempt, being sentenced to four-month terms in the Workhouse. The five had refused, despite

grants of immunity, to answer certain questions, invoking constitutional guarantees of free speech and against self-incrimination.

The proceedings were the latest in a grand jury inquiry that began last August. Involved are activities of the Progressive Labor Movement—whose national chairman, Milton Eosen, describes it as paralleling Chinese Communist views -- and two groups with some overlapping membership—the Harlem Defense Council and the May 2 Movement.

Sentenced yesterday were William McAdoo, 28 years old, the Defense Council chairman; Douglas, 25, a garment worker and writer, and Vivian Anderson, 29, a teacher, all Negroes, and Michael Crenovich, 39 and Nathaniel Barnett, 36, both printers.

Three members of the Progressive Labor Movement Club at City College—Kathy Prensky, 21, chairman; Wendy Nakashima, 24, and Elinor Goldstein, 22—have served 30-day jail terms for civil contempt for refusing answers, and Miss

Goldstein has started a second such sentence. Genoveva Clemente, 34, Lower East Side organizer for the movement, served a similar term.

Eight more defendants are moving this week for dismissal of criminal-contempt jury informations. They include six P.L.M. members—Robert Apter, 26; Jerry Gelles, 24; Susan Karp, 21; Levi Laub, 26; Steve Martinot, 25; and Ellen Shallit, 22—and Michael Brown, New York organizer of the May 2 Movement, which describes itself as a peace group, and Otis Chestnut, 24, of the Harlem Defense Council.

Another City College member of the Progressive Labor Movement, Morton Slater, 22, announced that he had refused to show up on a subpoena for yesterday's grand jury inquiry. He said he had already appeared three times without having been questioned, and he charged that the inquiry was aimed at "framing" the movement. A Federal Bureau of Investigation report has denied that any organization sparked the Harlem rioting, he said.

## One Indictment Filed

The grand jury has produced one indictment—a criminal-anarchy bill against William Epton, P.L.M. vice chairman and Harlem leader. The indictment, filed last Aug. 5, is scheduled for trial this Friday. Last Tuesday charges of unlawful assembly and disorderly conduct against Epton and his lawyer, Conrad J. Lynn, growing out of a July 25 demonstration, were dismissed in Criminal Court on a prosecution motion.

The militant and generally youthful Progressive Labor Movement has 1,200 members, according to Mr. Rosen, who was ordered out of the courtroom by Judge Ringel yesterday for waving at the defendants.

The organization has had internal troubles. Fred Jerome, editor of its weekly, Challenge, said a Harlem member whom he named as Adolph Hart, also known as Abe Hart, was expelled last July and had been reported as being seen wearing a police badge.