

Jurors' Choice Goes On

NEW BRUNSWICK (AP) — Jury selection in the murder trial of Joanne Chesimard was to continue today as prosecutors waited for a ruling on their appeal of suspended Friday court sessions.

The prosecution requested a full nine-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hear arguments on an order granting the Ms. Chesimard suspension of Friday court sessions.

Defense attorneys had argued Ms. Chesimard's religion prohibited her from attending court on Fridays, the sabbath in the Muslim faith.

A federal appeals court panel ruled the defendant had the right to a suspension of Friday proceedings.

In a brief filed yesterday with the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, the prosecution said the state would suffer irreparable harm by a four-day trial week.

Asst. Prosecutors William Welaj and Nicholas Stroumtsos said the cost of the trial would increase significantly and there would be a reduction in the effectiveness of the state's presentation of the case.

They also cited the possible alienation of the jury against either party and the adverse effect it would have on the speedy trial rights of 2,000 defendants in the county who are awaiting trial, indictment or grand jury action.

Ms. Chesimard, 29, is charged with murdering state Trooper Werner Foerster during a May 1973 shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike. She originally was to be tried with Clark Squire, but the cases were severed when she became pregnant. Squire is serving a life sentence in Trenton State Prison for the

Superior Court Judge Theodore Appleby questioned 33 prospective jurors yesterday about their knowledge of the case and their feelings on sequestration. Ten prospective jurors were retained.

A total of 67 prospective jurors have been selected from the 227 questioned during the 6½ days of jury selection.

Appleby said he has not decided how many prospective jurors must be retained before he brings the panel into open court for further questioning.