

Chesimard trial hits bumps in fourth week

By Pam Roberts

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.

As the prosecution's case went into its fourth week in the Joanne Chesimard trial, a state witness revealed testimony that seemed to suggest a link between the shooting death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and the defendant, Joanne Chesimard.

During this week, in which a number of state's witnesses were paraded to the stand and questioned extensively by both the prosecutors and the defenses, presiding Judge Theodore Appleby denied a defense request to permit the testimony of a ballistics expert.

Earlier in the trial Judge Appleby denied two other defense requests which may have been vital to their case.

Judge Appleby rejected the defense attorney's motion to bring FBI director Clarence Kelley and Senate Select Committee to Report Government Operations chairman Frank Church to the stand.

Both were wanted to testify about their knowledge of FBI operations during the past 15 years which sought to end so-called black militant and leftist groups.

Ms. Chesimard's name appeared on FBI corre-

spondence sent to law enforcement agencies in a number of states as a member of the Black Liberation Army, which was considered to be a dangerous militant group.

The judge also decided to suppress a defense motion to subpoena training manuals and log books of state policemen and the patrol charts of Trooper Foerster and Trooper James Harper (who was also involved in the incident which led to the defendant's arrest) and any summons the two issued the day before and of the shootout.

In requesting this information defense attorneys contended they would demonstrate a pattern in the kinds of people the troopers stopped and if they had acted improperly on the morning of the gunbattle, May 2, 1973.

The state's position in this motion was argued by New Jersey's Deputy Attorney George Ciszak.

Ms. Chesimard is charged with murder, attempted murder and an assortment of weapons violations, stemming from the gun battle on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Clarke Squire, who was also involved in the incident, was tried and convicted in 1974 and is serving a sentence at Trenton State Prison.

Under direct questioning he tested, which was found by First Assistant Prosecutor Edward Barone, on a jacket and pair of pants Ms. Chesimard wore on the morning of her arrest. George Hickman, a civilian chemist for the state police, testified that blood

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