

ALBANY MOVEMENT LEADER
FACES PERJURY CHARGES

MACON, GEORGIA - Mrs. Eliza Jackson will go to trial here February 24 in United States District Court for perjury.

Mrs. Jackson, recording secretary of the Albany (Ga.) Movement, is one of nine Albany civil rights leaders indicted for perjury and conspiracy by a federal grand jury.

The indictments grew out of a grand jury investigation of charges by a white Albany grocer that a half-hour picket line before his store was an attempt to intimidate him because he had served on a jury that had failed to convict a Baker County sheriff of shooting a Negro.

The grocer, Carl Smith, protested to the United States Department of Justice. A grand jury was convened, and nine prominent leaders of the Albany rights drive were indicted. They are:

Mrs. Jackson; Slater King, acting president of the Albany Movement; Dr. W. G. Anderson, former Albany Movement head; the Rev. Samuel Wells, a board member of the Albany Movement; Thomas Chatmon, a local businessman and Movement board member; Robert Colbert and Luther Woodall, two youths active in the Albany demonstrations; Robert Thomas, an active participant in the Albany demonstrations and Joni Rabinowitz, a white field worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

King and Wells, both tried in November, 1963 were sentenced December 23, 1963 to a year and a day in prison. Chatmon and Thomas were given suspended sentences and placed on five years probation. Colbert also received a suspended sentence. Dr. Anderson's trial ended in a mistrial. The heaviest sentence was levied against Miss Rabinowitz, now a student at Antioch College, who was placed in the jurisdiction of the United States Attorney General. The length of her sentence will be determined by the United States Parole Board; it must be more than three months and could be four years.

All of the sentences are being appealed. Lawyers for the Albany nine have charged that the jury which convicted them was not representative. Although Negroes comprise 34% of the population of the Middle Federal District of Georgia, where the court is located, only 5% of those chosen for jury duty were Negroes.

The white grocer's charges sparked the most active and vigorous investigation by the federal government ever witnessed by rights workers in Southwest Georgia. "At least 35" FBI agents investigated his claims.