

Condemn Grand Jury; City Council Is Urged

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Five aldermen will ask the City Council Tuesday night to condemn the state grand jury investigating the fatal Sterling Hall bombing as "a tool to eliminate dissent."

They will also ask that a public hearing on the issue be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the council chambers.

ACCORDING to Ald. Susan Kay Phillips, Ninth Ward, who drafted the resolution, Ald. Loren Thorson, 12th Ward, will introduce a resolution supporting the grand jury. Thorson was not available for comment Sunday night.

Co-sponsors of Ald. Phillips'

resolution are Aids. Joseph Thompson, Second Ward; Dennis McGilligan, Fourth Ward; Eugene Parks, Fifth Ward, and Paul Soglin, Eighth Ward.

Dane County Dist. Atty. Gerald Nichol convened the jury, which has met several times since the Aug. 24, 1970, bombing, last Thursday. Secret testimony was taken from University of Wisconsin Chancellor Edwin Young and several unidentified witnesses.

SPECULATION has been rife among Madison radicals that the jury is attempting to assemble a history of radical activity leading up to the bombing,

which took the life of a physics researcher.

The Phillips resolution calls the jury "a tool to eliminate dissent and criticism of national policies" and urges all Madison citizens "to refuse to cooperate with the grand jury in any way."

It also asks the council to oppose the use of the City-County Building as the seat of the jury.

It accuses the jury of not being selected on a random basis, of having "unlimited investigative powers," of denying constitutional rights to witnesses, and of being unnecessary for the handing down of

state murder warrants on the four fugitive suspects who are still being sought on federal warrants.

A MEMBER of Nichol's staff said last week that the jury would remain active for about 10 days. It can be reactivated after that if called upon by Nichol, however.

Miss Phillips said Sunday night that the jury apparently is "out to find out as much as they can about the Left in Madison."

"I don't know if they're so concerned with just this one incident," she said. "Grand juries are sometimes used to legitimize wire tapping, and they can also very easily be turned into witch hunts against anyone they fancy as being subversive."

She said she would be "floored" if the resolution passed, but hoped that it will at least encourage debate and "bring out the real reason for the convening of the jury."

"The language of the resolution is strong, but I think it needs to be," she said. "This is something people feel very strongly about."