

BANDIT SUSPECT MAY TESTIFY



The Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

July 28, 1996

A man suspected of being a member of a group that robbed about 20 banks in Wisconsin including one in Madison and in six other states could testify Monday against the alleged leader of the gang, The Columbus Dispatch reported Saturday.

In a pretrial hearing for Peter Langan, assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn Jones said one of the government's witnesses scheduled to testify is in custody.

Jones on Friday did not identify the witness by name, but the newspaper reported that Kevin McCarthy, 19, was the witness.

Langan and McCarthy were alleged members of the ``Midwestern Bank Bandits."

They are suspected in the robbery of the Bank One near East Town last Aug. 30.

The group was also suspected of robberies in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Kentucky. The robbers poked fun at federal agents by wearing shirts with FBI logos and buying getaway cars in the names of retired FBI agents.

The testimony of McCarthy, 19, in U.S. District Court is seen as especially important in the case against Langan following the apparent suicide on July 12 of another key prosecution witness.

Richard Lee Guthrie, 38, had pleaded guilty on July 3 to 19 bank robberies and had agreed to testify against his accused accomplice, Langan. But before testifying, Guthrie apparently hanged himself in his Covington, Ky., jail cell.

Trials in other states where Langan, 38, are expected to begin after Langan's Columbus trial ends.