

Feds want convicted bomber Shay to testify vs. his alleged accomplice

By RALPH RANALLI

The U.S. attorney's office filed a motion yesterday seeking to compel convicted Roslindale bomber Thomas A. Shay to testify against his alleged co-conspirator, Alfred Trenkler.

In an application for an order compelling Shay to testify, U.S. Attorney A. John Pappalardo asked U.S. District Judge Rya W. Zobel to give Shay immunity from further prosecution based on his testimony.

If Zobel grants the order,

Shay would be forced to give up his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and testify or face additional prison time for contempt of court.

His defense attorney, Nancy Gertner, is expected to oppose the request.

Shay, 21, was convicted in July of conspiring with Trenkler to build a bomb and plant it under Shay's father's car. The bomb exploded Oct. 28, 1991, killing Boston Police Bomb Squad officer Jeremiah Humley and wounding officer Francis Foley.

Shay was sentenced earlier

this month to 16½ years in prison by Zobel.

Prosecutors have alleged that Shay and Trenkler were friends and that Trenkler built the radio-controlled bomb so the two could collect on a lawsuit Shay's father had filed.

In hearing testimony and papers filed in the case, prosecutors have said Shay has repeatedly made statements implicating Trenkler.

But Shay's defense said that he is a compulsive liar, whose statements cannot be relied on as true.