

Woman due to have baby gives evidence from hospital bed

A WOMAN due to give birth today was ordered to give evidence from a hospital bed yesterday, despite a doctor's warning that she could not vouch for the consequences to her health.

Magistrate Mr Glynmor Jones turned a hospital lecture hall into a courtroom to hear prosecution witness Patricia Stanners, 19, after overruling a defence lawyer's claim that it was "cruel and unnecessary" to question her.

Miss Stanners, who is due to have a Caesarean section today, lay with a drip in her arm, and gave evidence for 50 minutes in the case of a 21-year-old woman accused of wasting

a police cell by two officers as two policewomen held her down, Manchester magistrates were told.

Berkeley, of Moss Side, Manchester, pled not guilty, and also denied assaulting three policewomen, damaging two police blouses and a police van, and using threatening words and behaviour last April.

Prosecuting counsel Mr John Bailey said he would prove Berkeley's rape claim to be "utterly false". A male officer and a policewoman she had picked out in an identity parade had not been at Moss Side police station when the alleged rape took place, he

stripped naked, held down, and raped first by a plain-clothes policeman and then by a uniformed officer.

Miss Stanners, who was also arrested in the street disturbance, said she did not think Berkeley had been moved to a different cell. But she claimed that she saw a policewoman hitting Berkeley and then saw a male officer kicking her.

Mr Ian Macdonald, defending, had earlier protested that it was "cruel and unnecessary" to take Miss Stanners's evidence, and a doctor warned that she could not vouch for the consequences of stress to her pregnancy.

police time.

Jacqueline Berkeley sparked off a "gigantic" police investigation by claiming she was raped in

said.

Berkeley, arrested after a street fight, claimed she was moved from one cell to another, where she was

Mr Bailey said Berkeley's allegations "were not and could not" be true, and the prosecution intended to "ventilate the truth of what happened in the police station that night". He claimed Berkeley had acted like a "wildcat" after her arrest.

She was freed after appearing in court two days later. Three days after that, she made her rape complaint to a youth worker.

The case was adjourned until today.

