

Lawyers, defendants jailed

Conspiracy court shafts five of 'Chicago 7'

After deliberating four days the jury in the Chicago Conspiracy trial convicted five of the seven defendants and acquitted two.

The jury convicted Jerry Rubin, Dave Dellinger, Abby Hoffman, Tom Hayden, and Rennie Davis of inciting riots but refused to convict them under the controversial "Rap Brown Law" which makes it a crime to cross state lines for the purpose of inciting riots. The jury acquitted John Froines and Les Weiner.

The trial of another member of the 'Conspiracy', Black Panther party chairman Bobby Seale was severed from the other trials on November 5, 1969, by judge Julius Hoffman.

Only ten minutes after the jury went out to deliberate, Hoffman began sentencing defendants and defense lawyers on charges of contempt of court.

Hoffman sentenced Dellinger to two years, four months and twenty-nine days in prison, and gave Davis 25 months. But not before the courtroom

erupted in the wildest demonstration since the trial began September 24, 1969.

Just before he sentenced Dellinger, Hoffman overruled defence attorney William Kunstler's charge that the judge was acting extra-legally, and asked Dellinger to talk.

Dellinger began talking about the Vietnam war and racism. When Hoffman interrupted, saying "I don't want to talk about politics now," Dellinger replied: "This court is in contempt of human life, dignity and justice."

Twice, federal marshalls pushed Dellinger back into his seat.

Dellinger's two daughters, Tasha and Michelle, and several other women in the front row of the courtroom began shouting; federal marshalls grabbed Tasha Dellinger but she pulled back and kicked one of them in the stomach.

For the next several minutes, the courtroom was the scene of a melee, as marshalls, defendants, spectators and defence aides wrestled and

threw punches. Three persons were arrested after the scuffle.

Earlier, in delivering the contempt citations, Hoffman began by saying, "The court now has the responsibility of dealing appropriately with the contemptuous conduct that has pervaded this trial from its beginning."

"They were advised that their misbehavior could be punished when a defendant was cited earlier," the citation read.

"I tried right down to the end to put an end to such misconduct," Hoffman said.

On November 5, 1969, Hoffman severed the trial of Black Panther Party chairman Bobby Seale from the trial of the other seven defendants, and sentenced him to four years in prison — 16 consecutive three-month sentences for contempt.

In October, Hoffman had "tried to put an end" to Seale's repeated charges that he was being denied his constitutional rights and that he had no defence lawyer, by having Seale gagged and chained to his chair in the courtroom.

In his two-hour charge to the jury, Hoffman said his instructions "must be accepted by you as a binding control and guide" — that jurors had "no right to question the wisdom of any law," although they were the "sole judge of the facts" in the case.

The defendants were charged with conspiring to cross state lines with the intention of inciting a riot during the Democratic Party national convention at Chicago, in August, 1968.

The defendants are the first persons charged under a federal act, labelled the "Rap Brown law," because "agitators" like Brown and Stokely Carmichael were often referred to during its formulation in congress.

Several hundred persons demonstrated outside the Federal building Sunday (February 15) as Hoffman handed out prison terms for contempt of court charges to three more defendants and the two defence attorneys in the 'Conspiracy 7' trial.

Hoffman convicted attorney William Kunstler on 24 counts of contempt and sentenced him to 4 years 13 days in prison — the longest sentence legal sources can recall ever given an American lawyer for contempt of court.

The other defence attorney, Leonard Weinglass, was convicted on 14 counts and sentenced to one year, 8 months and 3 days.

The 74-year-old judge also gave contempt terms to three defendants: Jerry Rubin, 2 years, 1 month 23 days on 15 counts; John Froines, 6 months days on 10 counts, and Lee Weiner, 2 months 18 days on 7 counts.

The courtroom, under unusually tight security Sunday, was free of the furious protests that have marked the trial's history since it began September 24, 1969.

The only incident occurred as Hoffman was admonishing Weinglass for his behavior in the courtroom. Marie Leaner, a black member of the defence team, jumped up and told the judge: "You are a racist, a fascist and a pig."

In a prepared statement Sunday, Kunstler said he was not ashamed of the conduct for which he was being punished.

"I have tried with all of my heart faithfully to represent my clients in the face of what I considered and still consider repressive and unjust conduct toward them," he said.

Kunstler said he only hoped his sentence would not deter other lawyers throughout the country.

"If they are so deterred," he said, "Then my punishment will have effects of such terrifying consequences that I dread to contemplate the future."

Hoffman then took the opportunity to express some "unorthodox thoughts" on the causes of crime. If crime is on the increase today he said, it is because "waiting in the wings are lawyers who are willing to go beyond professional responsibilities, professional obligations, professional duty," in the defence of "potential criminals."

Meanwhile, protesters in the plaza outside were joined by more than 100 members of a liberal reform group in the Democratic Party meeting in Chicago. They chanted "two four six eight, jail Hoffman, smash the state" and carried placards reading "You can't jail the truth," and "Impeach judge Hoffman."

The protest was echoed in New York as a coalition of anti-war groups announced plans for a massive demonstration to protest the sentences, in a march past the courtroom where 13 Black Panthers are currently on trial also on conspiracy charges.

Right wing captures St. Mary's elections

An even 2-1 split gave incumbent council vice president Paul Leblanc a presidential win last week in student council elections at Saint-Mary's University.

Leblanc defeated Peter Gregg 667 votes to Gregg's 360.

The main feature in Leblanc's landslide win was an almost even split in Saint Mary's usually monolithic residence vote.

That makes the first time in recent history that the residence has split.

But their votes probably didn't matter. Only about 300 residents voted (of about 650) and Leblanc won by over 300 votes.

The election was also the first that saw complete slates running for all of the four positions up for grabs. With the exception of one bogey, Barb Moreton for secretary, all of the candidates were aligned one way or another.

Running with Leblanc and also elected was Cameron Crowell, an unknown before he won the vice-presidency in a tight count over council Internal Affairs Representative Ralph Holt. Crowell beat Holt by about 100 votes.

But the election for treasurer saw at least one bright moment for the losers. Bill Grandy, running with Gregg and Holt, beat JOURNAL Business Manager Bruce Smith in an election which was never really in doubt. The JOURNAL is the newspaper at Saint Mary's.

Neither of the aligned candidates saw daylight in the secretarial election. Barb Moreton took first place over her rivals Terry Mercer and Pearl Woolaver. Mercer ran with Leblanc and Woolaver ran with Gregg.

TO: All Members of Senate & Faculty

FROM: W. Bruce Gillis, President, Dal Student Union

DATE: February 17, 1970

At the last Senate meeting a motion was made to have the Senate Discipline Committee deal with matters involving faculty members. This request arose out of an incident in the SUB which involved the alleged assault of a campus policeman acting as an agent of the Student Union, by a faculty member.

The Student Union, in good faith, chose to take this matter to the Senate Discipline Committee rather than its own student committee in order that the faculty member should face his peers rather than students for a decision. We had every expectation that a fair and judicious hearing of the matter would be made.

To my personal astonishment, and the disgust of many students, Senate refused to allow the matter to go before the discipline committee. The argument, as I understand it, is that existing structures (departmental chairmen, deans, etc.) are competent to deal with faculty discipline. Anyone familiar with faculty structure can see immediately how ludicrous this suggestion is. This is not an academic matter. It involves the improper conduct of a faculty member on university grounds, in the case in a student controlled area and in flagrant violation of rules established by the student union. This is no academic matter, and should not and cannot be properly handled as such.

I had assumed that my suggestions regarding the establishment of proper grievance procedures in the university was favourably received by Senate. Apparently there are some faculty members who are unwilling to be regarded outside of their departmental cages, and are terrified of "interference" justified or not.

It is time that it was recognized that the university is not made of a number of isolated entities, but is amorphous, with open contact between all segments of its operation, and necessarily a single overall responsibility. Senate is charged with the discipline of university members. That includes faculty members. There is a Senate Discipline committee. It would be entirely repugnant to expect that this committee is constituted to deal only with students. They have a right to expect that faculty members who step out of line will be treated in a similar fashion to themselves, and that the self-protection devices will be discarded in such matters.

I would urge that the decision taken at the Senate meeting of February 9th be reconsidered.

W. Bruce Gillis

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Dalhousie Student Union