

New Hearing

Brown Absence Stirs Warning

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)—H. Rap Brown did not appear in Federal District Court Wednesday despite a warning by Judge Alvin B. Rubin that his \$15,000 bond might be forfeited.

Brown was to answer testimony concerning his alleged threat on the life of Negro FBI agent William H. Smith in New Orleans Feb. 21, 1968.

Defense attorney William M. Kunstler filed a motion for dismissal of the charges against his missing client on the grounds that the government failed to afford Brown a "speedy trial" as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Judge Rubin took issue with some of the facts and set an evidentiary hearing to examine

them for July 23, the same day as another hearing on whether Brown's \$15,000 bond will be forfeited.

In moving for the dismissal, Kunstler said it took the government 20 months to bring the case to trial. He said this was "far too long a time to wait in a case with such serious charges as intimidating an officer and intimidating a federal witness."

Kunstler argued that a long delay in a trial is prejudicial against the defendant because "memories fail" and the witnesses who were present at the time of the alleged threat could not be expected to remember the episode in detail.

Quoting a recent Supreme Court decision by Chief Justice Warren Burger, Kunstler said that a speedy trial "is not something that the defendant can provide for himself. The duty of the authorities is to bring on a prompt trial. The defendant has no obligation but to wait for the government to bring him to trial."

In a lengthy statement reiterating the series of incidents which led up to Brown's alleged threat, Kunstler cited various "facts" about his client's previous arrests, the tense atmosphere in the country, and "the government's efforts to make my client a national outlaw."

Methodists To Take Vote On Vietnam

HOUSTON (AP)—Delegates of the Texas Conference of the Methodist Church were to vote today on a Vietnam resolution.

Announcements of appointments of conference ministers also will be made in today's closing session.

Wednesday the church ordained nine men as elders. Bishop Kenneth Copeland and other elders took part in the service in which the nine received full ministerial status.

Western North Carolina Bishop Earl Hunt said in the ordination sermon that Methodists must work to restore their "vanishing spiritual capital."

There will also be balloting Thursday for members of the board of trustees of the Methodist Hospital in Houston for those whose terms expires in 1970.

Nominated are two Houston physicians, Dr. Ray W. Goens and Dr. John Kelsey.

In other business, the conference set the minimum salary for a full time minister at \$6,000 a year. Payment from the conference will make up the difference for smaller churches unable to pay the minimum amount.