

5-1  
8  
7  
69

## Klan Hall Fire Sentences Eased

RALEIGH, N. C. (AP) —  
Five Negro youths sentenced to  
12 years in prison for setting  
fire to an empty Ku Klux Klan  
meeting hall received suspended  
sentences yesterday by order of  
Gov. Bob Scott.

Damage to the hall was es-  
timated at \$100.

The building in Benson was  
set afire a week after the assas-  
sination of civil rights leader  
Martin Luther King Jr. in April,  
1968, and after Klansmen brand-  
ishing firearms had driven  
through a Negro section of the  
eastern North Carolina city.

The sentences imposed by  
Superior Court Judge William  
Bickett brought strong protests  
from many individuals and  
groups across the state. The  
judge was quoted in June as  
saying, "I don't mind admitting  
I might have made a bad judg-  
ment, a mistake.