BUNDY IS GIVEN 20 DAYS IN JAIL

TP 3/21/69

Doctor's Action Could Win His Release

One of District Attorney Jim Garrison's chief witnesses in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw pleaded guilty to a charge of theft in Municipal Court Thursday and was sentenced to 20 days in the House of Detention.

Judge Andrew G. Bucaro said he would be willing to release defendant Vernon Bundy Jr. if his doctor agreed to take him back for methadone treatment.

Methadone is a synthetic heroin substitute which satisfies the addicts cravings while allowing him to function normally.

Attorney Rudolph Becker III said he advised Bundy to plead guilty because he felt the addict would be safer in jail than on the streets where he would be tempted to use drugs. Bundy has previous convictions of narcotics use.

Bundy was accused of stealing two pairs of boys' pants valued at $18.50 in a department store Saturday.

In the Shaw trial, Bundy told a Criminal District Court jury he saw Shaw and accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald meet on the lakefront in the summer of 1963.

Shaw was acquitted of conspiring with Oswald and others to murder President John F. Kennedy.