

Court Urged to Uphold '7' Contempt Convictions

CHICAGO, March 9 (UPI) —

An organization called Americans for Effective Law Enforcement Inc. sought today to take part in arguments over the contempt convictions imposed on members of the "Chicago Seven" and their lawyers.

The organization filed a petition to file a brief with the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which will hear the case.

Fred E. Inbau, professor of criminal law at Northwestern University and president of the group, said the organization seeks only to argue that the contempt convictions be upheld and is not primarily concerned with the length of the contempt sentences dealt the figures in the riot conspiracy trial.

U.S. District Judge Julius J. Hoffman imposed sentences ranging from a little more than two months to more than four years on the defendants and their attorneys at the end of the marathon trial of the "Chicago Seven" on charges of conspiring to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

The appeals court granted bond to the seven defendants on the contempt convictions and to five of them on their

convictions of crossing state lines to incite to riot. The action enabled all seven to go free on bond pending the appeals court's decision.

Inbau said in a statement, the contempt issue is of greater long term importance than the question of the constitutionality of the riot statute or the rulings of the trial judge.

"If tolerated, contemptuous conduct will spread and strangle the civilized processes that have been developed in our judicial system for the protection of the public safety as well as the rights of the individual."