

Barnes Testifies Brown Urged Youths To Put Torch To School

ELLCOTT CITY, Md. (AP)—A Maryland fire investigator testified Friday that three teenage boys told him black militant H. Rap Brown urged them to set fire to a school during the racial disorders in Cambridge, Md., in July, 1967.

"The boys gave me verbal statements they had been talking to Brown," Top E. Barnes Jr., the investigator, testified in an evidence hearing in connection with riot and arson charges against Brown.

"They gave me verbal statements indicating they had set the fire because they were told to set the fire," he continued in Howard County Circuit Court.

"They said they listened to a

speech by H. Rap Brown, who said to burn down the school so the city would build a new one."

Top Barnes said Mrs. Pamela Waters of Cambridge told him that the black leader, now missing for more than a year, had talked with the three teenagers after the speech and told them to get gasoline from cars because local filling stations had stopped selling fuel.

Rap Brown was indicted by the Dorchester County grand jury on charges of inciting riot, counselling others to burn property and committing arson himself.

Brown's trial was to have started in March 1970 but was postponed indefinitely after the black leader failed to appear. Two of his associates were killed when a bomb exploded in their car near Bel Air, Md., the night before testimony was to have begun.

Brown has not been reported seen publicly since then, and his

chief counsel, William M. Kunstler, said again Friday he had not seen or talked to Brown since before the original trial date.

Friday's proceeding before Judge James Macgill concerned Kunstler's motion to dismiss the charge that Brown actually committed arson in Cambridge.

Neither Top Barnes; Stanley F. Connor, a second fire investigator, nor Brice G. Kinnamon, the Cambridge police chief, responded affirmatively to Kunstler questions whether they had knowledge of evidence showing Brown actually set any fires the night of July 24, 1967.

One of Kunstler's chief witnesses was Richard Kinlein, Howard County state's attorney, who said he felt his Dorchester County counterpart, William Yates, had "fabricated" the felony arson charge against Brown in order to have the FBI enter the picture in case Brown did not appear for trial.