

Rap Brown Trial Set

April 20

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From News Dispatches

The trial of H. Rap Brown was rescheduled yesterday for April 20 by Howard County Circuit Judge James Macgill, who met with the defendant's attorneys in a final pre-trial conference in Ellicott City, Md.

Brown, who has been missing since early last month, faces charges of arson, incitement to riot and incitement to arson in connection with a speech he gave in Cambridge, Md., in July, 1967.

E. Carl Broege, one of Brown's attorneys, said he still has no idea where the young black militant is, and doesn't know if he will appear for trial. Should Brown fail to appear, Macgill could order his \$10,000 bond forfeited and issue warrants for his arrest.

Macgill said he would withhold rulings on two defense motions filed on Monday. The motions ask that the trial be returned to Cambridge, from where it was moved at the request of the prosecution, and that it be indefinitely postponed.

The trial was scheduled to open March 9 in Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County, where it was originally sent after being removed from Cambridge.

It was first delayed a week after two of Brown's friends were killed in an explosion in an automobile near Bel Air the night before the defendant was due in court. Subsequently, Harford County Circuit Judge Harvey E. Dyer Jr. sent the case to Ellicott City for trial.

Dyer ordered the change of venue after Dorchester County State's attorney William Yates II asked the judge to disqualify himself. Yates said comments Dyer made to reporters had prejudiced the state's case.

"I'm happy we're set up to go," Yates said yesterday. Macgill said 200 potential jurors have already been selected by a computer. That list will be pared to 100, from which the 12 jurors to hear the Brown case will eventually be selected.