

Don't Know Where Brown Is, Lawyer Kunstler Says

Says Militant Not Dead; Hearing Today

Civil-rights attorney William Kunstler said Wednesday he has no idea where black militant H. Rap Brown is but added, "I don't think he is dead."

"He would be crazy to try and reach me," said Kunstler. "Everyone listens to my telephone."

Kunstler will represent Brown during a federal court hearing Thursday before District Judge Alvin B. Rubin. Brown is charged with intimidating an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Kunstler contends that Brown is being denied a speedy trial.

The attorney said that he doesn't think that Brown, who has been missing since March 8, can get a fair trial. He based this on the statement that Brown "is a black militant who preaches a rough indictment of white America."

FRIGHTENS WHITES

Kunstler said he feels that Brown "frightens the white-middle-class and jurists."

The attorney was not specifically referring to the current Brown case, but to Brown's present legal problems and to persons of a minority group today who are in conflict with the judicial system.

Asked if he thought the white middle-class or juries in civil rights cases could be right, Kunstler said: "It is not possible they could be right."

The controversial attorney said he thought that the news media are partly to blame in misrepresenting persons in conflict with the "system." He said this is done by taking statements out of context.

"They are afraid of a man like Rap Brown," he added.

He said he was in favor of the Black Panthers because they believe in armed self-defense and have adopted a 10-point program which includes being



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
WILLIAM KUNSTLER

against forced military service. "I don't think they should be forced to fight for an oppressed nation," said Kunstler, who himself served in World War II.

CHICAGO TRIAL

Referring to the "Chicago Conspiracy Trial," in which he was defense attorney, Kunstler said "it was probably the best decision we could get."

He said he was told that the jury was deadlocked twice but that the judge was prepared to keep the jury "forever" if they didn't reach a verdict.

"If we got a hung jury, we would be back trying it again," he said. "Now we are attacking the statute itself." He referred to the federal anti-riot statute, "or the Rap Brown law."

Speaking of Brown again, he said he was disappointed from a professional standpoint that Brown has disappeared. "But I think he has given up on any form of justice."

He said his personal opinion about judges is that some "are stampeded" into reflecting middle-America, while "others are much more humane, more sophisticated."

Kunstler said he thought the application of the constitutional system is wrong, which he said is why he is involved in civil rights cases. He said the economic system is also wrong.

He described himself "as a movement lawyer" — one who is out to combat a situation where "the judicial system is being used."

LIVE WITH IT

The long-haired attorney said he is aware that he may be unpopular "with the white, middle-class America but I've learned to live with it."

Kunstler, 51, said he no longer accepts legal fees but earns his living by lecturing, writing and teaching. He said one of his books based on a murder case in the '20s in New Jersey is to be made into a movie. The book was called "The Minister and the Choir Singer."

He said he gave up corporation law about nine years ago to represent people like Brown.

"I think a man like Brown is good. He represents the drive of a slave people," said Kunstler, who will speak Thursday at 8 p.m. in McAlister Auditorium on the Tulane University campus.