



DR. BENJAMIN SPOCK

SPOCK BLASTS CHICAGO TRIAL

Calls for the Reversal of
T-10 All Verdicts
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By GEORGE LEESON

Dr. Benjamin Spock, the noted baby doctor who became one of the principal spokesmen of the Vietnam peace movement, said in New Orleans Thursday that the trial of the "Chicago seven" was an "outrage" and called for the reversal of the verdicts on all counts.

"Judge Hoffman sided with the prosecution in every instance," said Dr. Spock. "The question is not whether the defendants acted contemptuously, but whether the American judicial system can allow Hoffman's behavior."

Dr. Spock made the remarks both at a press conference Thursday afternoon and at a speech at McAlister Auditorium Thursday night.

The speech raised money for the Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund, an organization which provides legal defense of conscientious draft resisters

throughout the country.

Dr. Spock was himself on trial in 1968 for "conspiracy to counsel, aid and abet registrants to resist the draft." Later, he and four co-defendants were acquitted of the charge by a federal appeals court.

Dr. Spock said that at his trial, he and his co-defendants "sat like five little bad boys who had been sent to the principal's office," and that the press quit coverage after two days.

"I would says," said Spock, "that the Chicago Seven made than we did. They dramatized the issues in a way that we failed to."

When asked if it wasn't wrong to make a "political circus" of a trial, Spock responded that it was the government that had made a political issue of the trial by bringing the charges in the first place.

'ABOMINABLE WRONG'

"Mayor Daley had no legal or moral right to block the protests at the Chicago Convention," said Spock. "So I ask you, which came first, the War in Vietnam or the trial?"

"Of course," he said, "it was the war in Vietnam. It is an abominable wrong and the government refuses to admit. Instead, it prosecutes those who protest."

Thursday night, Dr. Spock told students that they must continue to protest the war because it will continue for as long as Richard Nixon is President.

"Vietnamization is a fancy word," he said, "and it seems to have succeeded in quieting the people down. But it won't work because the people of Vietnam don't want to fight on the side of foreign invaders."

Dr. Spock urged the students to support anti-war candidates in the 1970 Congressional campaigns, because "Nixon has gotten away with murder."

"Nixon isn't solving anything," he said. "We're not being fair to him by making him think we are going for this Vietnamization bit. He'll be watching the Congressional elections, and we've got to see to it that there are good contests in all the races."