

Judge Hoffman Is Dealt Trial of SDS Militants

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CHICAGO, April 3 (AP)—
Federal Judge Julius J. Hoff-
man, who presided in the
stormy Chicago 7 trial, will

hear another criminal case in-
volving dissenters.

Judge Hoffman was as-
signed Thursday to preside at
the trial of 12 members of the
Weatherman faction of the
Students for a Democratic So-
ciety accused of conspiracy to
incite rioting in Chicago last
October.

Elbert Wagner, clerk of the
U.S. District Court, said the
74-year-old judge's name came
up under the court's random
selection method of assigning
cases.

"This system is never varied
with any case, never," said
Wagner.

He said the lottery system
works this way:

The names of the nine ac-
tive judges are printed on
small, white cards. Twenty-two
decks of 18 cards two contain-
ing the name of each judge—
are made up.

Each deck represents a cate-
gory such as criminal, civil or
bankruptcy cases and two of
the 22 decks are for reassign-
ment of cases in which judges
disqualify themselves.

Each deck is then shuffled
and a case number is stamped
on the blank side of the cards.

When the card with the
number for the Weatherman
case was turned over, it bore
Judge Hoffman's name.

During the five-month Chi-
cago 7 trial, the defendants ac-
cused federal officials of ar-
ranging the assignment cards
so Hoffman would preside
over their cases. The judge de-
nied this.

Five of the seven defend-
ants were convicted of inciting
to riot.