

Seale Presses to Defend Himself

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CHICAGO, Nov. 4 — Lawyers supporting Black Panther leader Bobby G. Seale sought today to halt the Chicago Eight conspiracy trial until Seale is allowed to defend himself in court.

The 24 attorneys filed a suit charging that Seale was subjected to "cruel and inhuman" punishment when he was bound and gagged as he sat in the courtroom last week.

The suit seeks a restraining order prohibiting District Judge Julius H. Hoffman from continuing the trial until a hearing is held in another courtroom on Seale's right to represent himself.

Seale, who has appeared in court free of restraints for two

days this week, twice objected today when witnesses were excused without his being galled to examine them. Judge Hoffman cautioned him and instructed him to sit down but threatened no retaliation for the interruption.

Preferred Attorney

Seale repeatedly has de-himself since it became apparent that the trial would proceed without his preferred attorney, Charles R. Garry, who is in San Francisco recovering from an operation.

Hoffman has insisted that Seale is represented by another defense lawyer, William M. Kunstler, although Seale has publicly asserted he does not want Kunstler to represent him.

Kunstler once tried to with-

draw as the black leader's attorney but was refused permission.

The suit filed today cites several cases in which defendants have represented themselves, including one in which a defendant discharged his lawyer after the trial began.

It points out that Seale is the leader of a black political party. The restraint imposed on him, the suit asserts, "results in a chilling effect on all black citizens to organize politically and achieve equal justice."

Signing the Complaint

Among the 24 attorneys signing the complaint are several civil rights lawyers from New York and California, a California state assemblyman, three law school professors,

and attorneys from the Law Center for Constitutional Rights.

Judge Hoffman, U.S. attorney Thomas Foran, U.S. attorney John N. Mitchell, and Deputy Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst are among the defendants cited in the suit.

In the case on trial here for seven weeks, Seale and seven other defendants, all white, are charged with conspiring to cross state lines with intent to incite a riot at the Democratic National Convention last year.

Judge Hoffman today accorded Seale a measure of status in court by overruling a "motion" Seale had offered and by acceding to his request to have a portion of the court record read to him for clarification.