

Kunstler Floors Canadian Heckler

TORONTO, June 23—A right-wing demonstrator was beaten unconscious at a rally here last night, and police are holding a warrant charging Chicago Seven attorney William Kunstler with assault causing bodily harm.

Police said Kunstler had returned to the United States and they do not intend to seek extradition. But they said Kunstler will be arrested if he returns to Canada.

The warrant was issued on the basis of a complaint by Paul Fromm, 21, chairman of the University of Toronto chapter of the right-wing Edmund Burke Society.

Fromm was one of a group that heckled Kunstler as he started to speak to the rally, sponsored by a coalition of left-wing groups. Kunstler then invited Fromm to speak.

As Fromm approached the lectern, he spilled a glass of

water, accidentally or deliberately, over Kunstler's trousers.

Kunstler then poured a pitcher of water over Fromm's head, and the two men started fighting. Leftists on the stage tried to break them up, but Fromm's supporters took their action as an attack on Fromm and stormed the stage.

By the time they got to Fromm, he was unconscious and bleeding from the mouth. He was taken to Toronto General Hospital, where he regained consciousness, was X-rayed and released.

Meanwhile, the two factions had continued the fight on the stage at University of Toronto's Convocation Hall, and Kunstler was floored by a right-winger before leftists pulled the man off. That melee lasted five minutes.

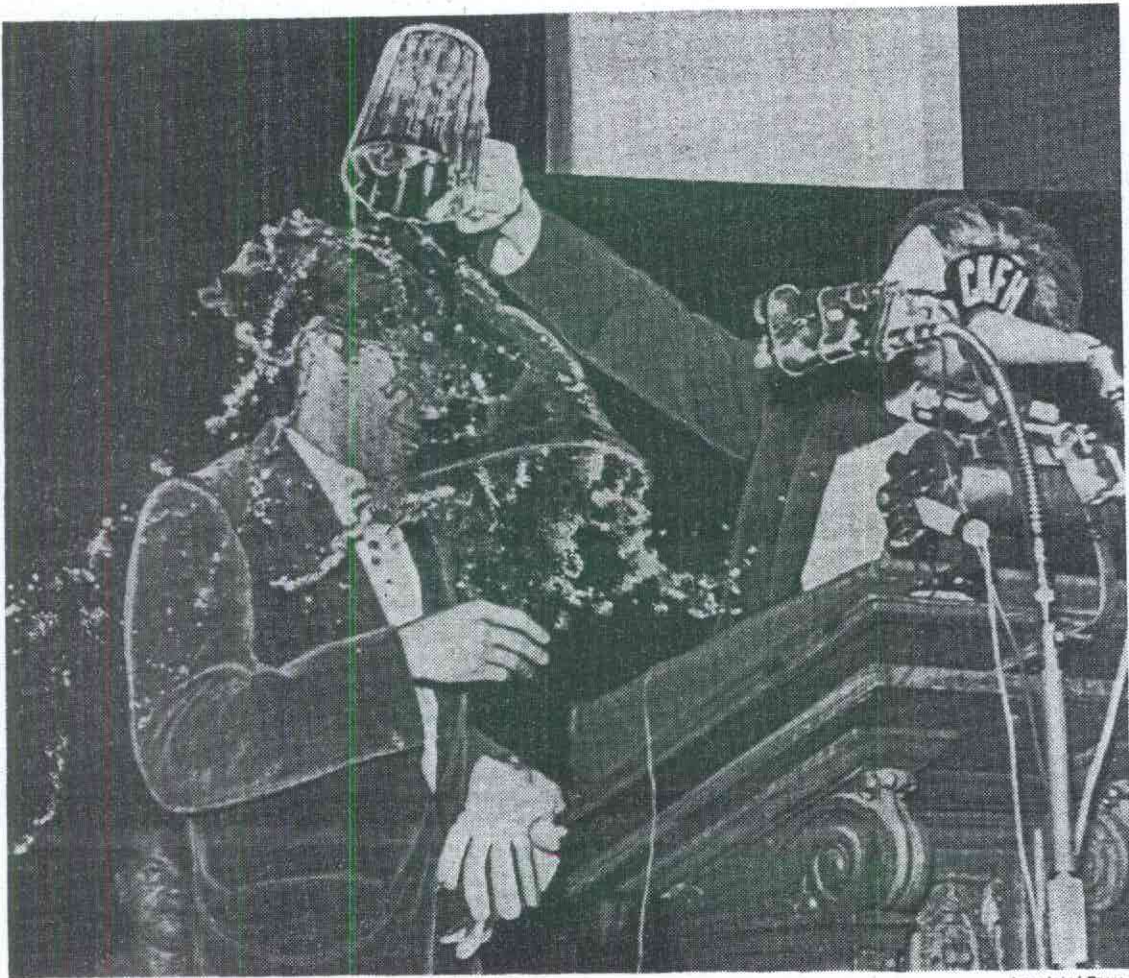
About 10 minutes later, the Burkers tried to storm the stage again, but were pushed back and taken out of the building.

When Kunstler finally got to speak, he said the Chicago Seven trial was a test of the freedom of speech, and commented: "This is the first time I've literally had to fight for it."

Jeff Goodall of the Edmund Burke Society charged that Kunstler hit Fromm in the side of the face with the pitcher.

Kunstler is appealing a sentence of four years and 13 days for contempt of court during the riot-conspiracy trial of the Chicago Seven, who were charged after demonstrations at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He was allowed to leave the United States for one day.

Proceeds of last night's rally were divided between the Law Center for Constitutional Rights, New York City, and a defense fund for 90 people arrested here after a demonstration at the U.S. consulate protesting the slayings of four students at Kent State University, Ohio, last month.



Associated Press

Chicago Seven attorney William Kunstler, interrupted during a speech to students at the University of Toronto, empties his pitcher of water over the head of Paul Fromm, a right-wing heckler who had stepped onto the platform.