

S-1 12-11-68

Minutemen Sentenced For Raid

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) —A Superior Court Judge has given five Minutemen who pleaded guilty to staging a pre-dawn raid on a Pacifist camp last August sentences ranging from one to 10 years.

Judge Douglass Wright said yesterday the men engaged in "misguided acts of pseudo-patriotism."

If a nonviolent dissenter such as Dr. Benjamin Spock can be sentenced to two years in prison for allegedly counseling young men to resist the draft, said Wright, the prison sentences were justified for the violent behavior of the Minutemen.

A Minuteman blinded by gunfire during the raid, Louis Rogers, 23, of Lisbon, received the lightest sentence, one year in jail.

Four raiders in all were wounded in the predawn shootout Aug. 24 with state police at the farm in Voluntown owned by New England Committee for Non-Violent Action.

The leader of the group, Thomas J. Hart, 29, of Milford, along with Frank Barber, 26, of Norwich, and Thomas Cowl-er, 21, of Canterbury, are sentenced of 2 1/2 to 10 years.

Abraham M. Smith, 30, of Willimantic was sentenced to one to nine years.