

Pending Appeal of Contempt Sentence

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Seale Freed on \$25,000 Bond

CHICAGO, May 27 (AP)—The U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals granted bond today for Black Panther national chairman Bobby Seale pending his appeal of a four-year contempt sentence imposed during the conspiracy trial stemming from disorders during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

The decision permits Seale to be freed for the first time in almost two years.

Bond was set at \$25,000 by Judges Luther M. Swygert and Thomas E. Fairchild. Seale was ordered to notify the U.S. marshal when traveling beyond the court's jurisdiction and to receive permission for any travel outside the United States.

An attorney for Seale, who was being held in jail in Connecticut pending the setting of bond, said efforts were under way to get Seale freed as soon as possible, but it was unclear how long the process might take.

The government had asked that bond be denied but, failing that, recommended the amount of bond and restrictions ultimately set by the court. Similar contempt prohibitions have been imposed on other members of the Chicago group who are free pending appeal. Seale was the eighth defendant in that case but he was severed from the trial.

The government had opposed Seale's release while capital charges were pending against him in New Haven, Conn., and continued its opposition. The case, in which Seale and Connecticut Panther leader Ericka Huggins were charged with murder, kidnaping and conspiracy, ended in a mistrial. The charges were dismissed Tuesday.

William J. Bauer, U.S. district attorney, said the government's continued objection was based on Seale's not being acquitted in the Connecticut case.

Seale has been in custody for almost two years on the Connecticut charges. He was on trial in 1969 in Chicago with the seven others on charges with conspiracy to incite rioting at the time of the 1968 convention.

Seale was severed from the trial and sentenced for contempt after outbursts and heated exchanges with the bench. The charges against him in the conspiracy case later were dropped.

Five of the defendants were convicted of inciting rioting during the convention, and two were acquitted of conspiracy charges.