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Abbie Hoffman Denies Rioting Charge

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 2—Abbie Hoffman, the Yippie leader, pleaded not guilty today to charges stemming from the antiwar demonstrations here last month by the Mayday Tribes.

Mr. Hoffman was indicted May 13 on charges of crossing state lines on April 29 "with intent to organize, promote, encourage, participate and carry on a riot."

He was charged also with "participating in a riot by erecting a barricade to block traffic at a busy Washington street intersection," and with "interfering with a policeman in the performance of his duties."

Today he told Federal District Judge John L. Smith Jr., "I ain't guilty."

After pleading, he said that although he was in Washington May 3 "to protest the war, a right I assume I still have," he was not part of the groups that planned the traffic-blocking action.

Accuses Policeman

Mr. Hoffman said his indictment was part of a plan by Attorney General John N. Mitchell "to tie up" prominent radicals with grand juries and prevent them from disrupting the Republican convention next year.

The defendant, who was wearing Levi's and a blue windbreaker with "Yo-Yo Champion" badges, charged his arresting officer with breaking his nose, splitting his lip with a club and causing a slipped disk. His nose was swollen and his upper lip scarred. The police declined to comment on these charges.

Mr. Hoffman and his lawyer, Gerald B. Lefcourt of New York, were critical of President Nixon for calling Mayday demonstrators "vandals and hood-

lums" during his news conference last night. *

"It seems he's continuing on the same course as he did with Calley and Manson, referring to cases in court," Mr. Hoffman said. "This is outrageous for the President to do this."

He was referring to Mr. Nixon's pretrial remarks in the case of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr., convicted of murdering Vietnamese civilians, and to the President's remarks about Charles Manson while Manson was being tried for murder in California. Manson, too, was convicted.

Issue of Grand Jury

Mr. Lefcourt said in court that he would attempt to learn if members of the grand jury that indicted his client were influenced by the President's remarks last night.

The grand jury is still in session. It is investigating allegation against the radicals Renie Davis and John Froines as well as additional allegations against Mr. Hoffman.

Mr. Lefcourt's remarks in court and those afterward implied that, even before the President's news conference,

the lawyer had intended to make an issue of the grand jury proceedings.

Some radicals say that grand juries — whose proceedings are secret and generally closed to everyone but prosecutors and prosecution witnesses — are being used to intimidate political dissenters.

These radicals say the current Administration is using grand juries to gather information and entrap those who refuse to testify.

A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment on specific charges but denied any Administration plot to use grand juries for anything other than the investigation of alleged criminal activities.

The President's labeling of antiwar protesters was also criticized by sponsors of the April and May protests in the Capital and by executives of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The criticism came during a news conference to announce a national planning conference by antiwar activists in Milwaukee June 25-27 to plan for a "fall offensive" similar to this spring's protests in Washington.

Calley - President Orders Calley Released from Stockade, NYTimes 2 Apr 71, filed Nix Ad.

Manson - Nixon Calls Manson Guilty, NYTimes 4 Aug 70, filed Richard Nixon 3 Aug 70 et seq.

"vandals and hoodlums" - see "bums," filed 1 May 70, Richard Nixon.

*This remark not in story on press conference, filed Nix Ad 2 Jun 71.