

War Protest Trial--New Press Curbs

Gainesville, Fla.

A federal judge said yesterday that only five newsmen will be allowed to cover the first day of the trial today of eight anti-war activists on conspiracy charges.

United States District Judge Winston E. Arnow said the limit on newsmen is essential because 88 prospective jurors have been called for the trial and the courtroom has only 100 seats.

Seven Vietnam Veterans Against the War and one sympathizer were charged with conspiring to cause violent disruptions during the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

Arnow also refused a request by newsmen covering the trial to relax his ban on participants in the case making public statements during the hearing.

Dan Paul, a Miami attorney, filed the motions on behalf of the Miami Herald, ten Florida newspapers owned by the New York Times, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and individual newsmen.

Paul argued that "freedom of the press is a sacred right," but Arnow interrupted him, saying: "Freedom of the press is not only a sacred right but in every case where there is a clash between freedom of the press and a fair trial, it (freedom of the press) must give way."

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