

JUL 19 1974  
Gainesville 8 Group

Freed of Contempt

As Ruling Is Upset

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(AP)—The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed yesterday the contempt of court conviction of seven persons in connection with the "Gainesville eight" trial.

The convictions came before the Federal District Court trial of the eight members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War on charges of plotting violent disruptions during the 1972 Republican National Convention. The veterans were found innocent on those charges.

The contempt citations were levied against six of the eight defendants and one courtroom spectator.

The contempt convictions were levied by the trial judge because of a disturbance in the courtroom during a pre-

trial hearing, the judge sentenced the seven persons to unsupervised probation during the length of trial. The Appeals Court said it had reversed the convictions because the trial judge had failed to show in the record that he had observed the disturbance and had failed to list a recitation of the facts of the disturbance.

The prosecution had argued on appeal that the question was moot because the sentence had already been served. The appeals court said, however, that a contempt conviction could have adverse consequences on the defendants.

Appealing the contempt convictions were Scott Camil, Alton C. Foss, John W. Kniffen, Sanley K. Michelson, William J. Patterson and Donald R. Purdue, and Frank Hall, the spectator.