

N.O. Contractor Sentenced In Stock Swindle Case

A Los Angeles, Calif., federal district judge has sentenced D'Alton Smith, New Orleans contractor, to serve five years in prison in connection with a stock swindle.

Judge Manuel Read also ordered diagnostic tests for Smith, whose attorney said the length of the sentence could be reduced after the 90-day test period.

ATTORNEY ARTHUR Crowley also said he has filed a notice of appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Smith was convicted in January on 18 counts of interstate

transportation of stolen and forged securities. A codefendant, Emil Tucker, 52, New York City, also was sentenced to serve five years.

The pair was accused of conspiring to obtain \$180,000 worth of stolen securities, forging their names to the documents and transporting them to New York for sale.

GOVERNMENT attorneys said the stocks came from the estate of a man who died in California three years ago, and that Smith and Tucker collected the proceeds from the sale of the securities in New York.

A court spokesman said the diagnostic tests are to serve as a guide in helping determine if a defendant should be released on probation.