

Harvard Accepts Imprisoned Slayer

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HARTFORD, June 8—Warren A. Kimbro, a high-school dropout who pleaded guilty in the murder of a fellow Black Panther three years ago, has been accepted as a graduate student at Harvard.

If he could get out of prison, he would be a candidate next fall for a Master of Education degree in Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

"We have gone into his background and performance quite carefully," Francis Duehay, dean of admissions and studies, said today.

Kimbro was sentenced to life—a sentence that was commuted to four years after he had become a state's witness. He still has time to serve.

He has applied to Superior Court here for a writ of mandamus, hoping to force Commissioner of Corrections John R. Manson to allow him to appear before the Parole Board to ask for an early release for the time he spent waiting to be sentenced and for his good behavior in prison afterward.

According to Kimbro's attor-

ney, Lawrence W. Iannotti of New Haven, Kimbro reckons he has a total of 1,106 days coming, which would almost wipe out the four-year minimum that was left of his life term after it was commuted.

Kimbro has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of Alex Rackley in Middlefield on May 21, 1969.

Judge Harold M. Mulvey gave Kimbro a mandatory life term but said after he imposed the sentence:

"For the record, I feel Mr. Kimbro has purged, has rehabilitated himself."

He had worked with New Haven's community action program from 1966. In 1967 he worked at a residential youth center there, and in 1968 became its director and served another half a year.

He was a state's witness in the trials of Black Panthers that followed his own guilty plea.

The State's Attorney for New Haven County, Arnold Markle, appeared before the Board of Pardons on Kimbro's behalf last Oct. 4 and won a reduction of his minimum sentence to four years. Never be-

fore in Connecticut had so many years been commuted from a sentence. Normally a lifer becomes eligible for parole only after 20 years.

Kimbro, who is married and has three children, has been editing the inmates' newspaper at the Connecticut Correctional Center at Brooklyn.

He has also kept up his studies, which have carried him through some undergraduate work with Eastern Connecticut State College at Willimantic but have not yet won him a degree.

At Harvard, Dean Duehay said that each year some people who had experience in community work were taken into the graduate program.

Kimbro was given good recommendations by Prof. James Titpon at Eastern Connecticut State College and by two professors who know him from his days in community work in New Haven—Prof. Seymour B. Sarason of the Yale department of psychology, and Prof. Ira Goldenburg, who left Yale to become associate professor of clinical psychology and education at Harvard.