Chicago 7 acquitted
On contempt charges

CHICAGO — A federal judge acquitted the Chicago 7 defendants on nearly half of the contempt charges against them yesterday, freeing two of them from all further prosecution.

Judge Gignoux let stand 14 contempt charges against two of their lawyers, William M. Kunstler and Leonard I. Weinglass. However, he dismissed part of a citation against Kunstler dealing with alleged improper questioning of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Included in the acquittals were 10 citations stemming from the failure of the defendants to rise when the trial judge entered the courtroom. Judge Gignoux said the record did not show that the court insisted that the defendants stand and there was no evidence of obstruction of the judicial proceedings.

Two of the defendants, John R. Froines and Lee Weiner — each charged with three counts of contempt — were acquitted of all counts and discharged from the trial.

Eight contempt counts remain against David T. Dellinger, three against Jerry C. Rubin, one against Thomas E. Hayden, two against Rennie Davis and five against Abbie Hoffman.

Of the five contempt counts that had been brought against Davis, two were acquitted yesterday and one — pertaining to not restricting his answers to the scope of questioning — was dismissed.

During the original trial Davis, Dellinger, Hayden, Hoffman and Rubin were convicted of crossing state lines to incite rioting during the 1968 Democratic national convention in Chicago.

All of the defendants had been held in contempt at the conclusion of their conspiracy trial by Judge Julius J. Hoffman of U.S. District Court. Hoffman originally sentenced the seven defendants and their lawyers to prison terms ranging from two months and 18 days for one defendant to four years and four days to one lawyer.

An appeals court overturned the contempt convictions and ordered a new trial for the defendants and their lawyers.