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**CONTEMPT TRIAL
HEARS AIDE OF U.S.**

**Chicago Court Told of Bork
Meeting on Dropping Case**

CHICAGO, Nov. 15 (UPI)—United States Attorney James R. Thompson said yesterday that the acting Attorney General, Robert Bork, asked him two days before the start of the Chicago seven contempt trial to discuss whether the case should be prosecuted.

Mr. Thompson testified under a defense subpoena at the contempt trial of five members of the Chicago seven and two lawyers, William M. Kunstler and Leonard I. Weinglass, who represented them in their 1969-70 riot-conspiracy trial.

Mr. Thompson said that he was called to Washington on Oct. 29 and met most of the day with Mr. Bork, Deputy Attorney General Henry E. Petersen and other Justice Department officials.

He said that Mr. Bork took no position during the discussion, but told him that there had been "many suggestions" to drop the contempt charges.

Mr. Thompson testified that Mr. Bork told him that former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Mr. Richardson's deputy, William Ruckelshaus, had thought the case should not be taken to trial. However, Mr. Bork said, in the rush with which they left office in the aftermath of President Nixon's dismissal of the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, he "never had a chance" to discuss the matter.

"Bork asked me if I didn't think it was better not to open old wounds," Mr. Thompson said. "He also asked if I didn't agree that perhaps the Department of Justice had better start projecting a liberal image since the days of Watergate."

Mr. Thompson said he had told Mr. Bork that the case should go to trial because "it came at a time in the nation when everyone from the President on down was being pressed to observe the laws of the land."

The United States Attorney also said that he opposed dropping the case because it would be "breaking faith with every Federal judge in the nation."

Mr. Thompson said Mr. Petersen agreed with him and later in the day Mr. Bork ruled: "We are not going to drop the case."

Mr. Kunstler testified earlier yesterday that Government agents bugged the Chicago seven's offices and read their mail during the original trial. He said he had complained to Judge Julius J. Hoffman about Government surveillance and was rebuffed.