

COURT DECLARES HOFFMAN FUGITIVE

Acts in 3d Failure to Appear
for Cocaine-Case Hearing

By C. GERALD FRASER

Abbie Hoffman was declared a fugitive yesterday after he failed to appear for the third time at a court hearing in connection with his indictment on charges of selling cocaine.

The police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have made Mr. Hoffman the object of a nationwide search.

Mr. Hoffman's absence cost him \$10,000 in cash, as Mary Johnson Lowe, an acting State Supreme Court justice, ordered his bail forfeited. She also put into effect a bench warrant for his immediate arrest.

Mr. Hoffman, one of the "Chicago Seven," a group of antiwar figures charged with conspiracy and crossing state lines with intent to incite a riot at the 1968 Democratic convention, was arrested in New York on Aug. 28, 1973, for allegedly selling an undercover police officer three pounds of cocaine.

Arrested with him were Diane Peterson, Carole Ramer and Michael Drosman.

Mr. Drosnin later was cleared of any participation in the sale. The grand jury heard testimony that he was on the scene in his capacity as a journalist and was preparing an article for Harper's magazine. Mr. Drosnin formerly worked for The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

'John Doe' Surrenders

Yesterday, David Cunningham, an assistant district attorney with the special narcotics prosecution office, said that John Rinaldi, previously identified in the indictment as "John Doe," had surrendered in connection with the case.

Frank Robergs, the special prosecutor, said yesterday that Mr. Hoffman had been scheduled to appear on March 15, March 25 and yesterday in State Supreme Court. Yesterday's hearing related to wire-tap matters.

When Mr. Hoffman did not show up the first time, the matter was put over for 10 days. At his second absence, Justice Lowe issued a bench warrant, but stayed execution until yesterday.

Mr. Rogers said that Mr. Hoffman's cash bail had been put up by his wife, Anita. Originally set at \$200,000, bail was reduced to \$10,000 cash or a \$50,000 bond.

Mr. Hoffman, who is 37 years old, is accused of having made the cocaine sale to the undercover police officers. The other defendants allegedly sold one-eighth of an ounce of cocaine to undercover officers the previous day.

The reason for the eighth-of-an-ounce sale, the police said, was to test the purity of the substance and to indicate to the sellers that the agents were ready for "square business."