

In Seattle 7 Conspiracy trial:
Judge Boldt decides:
1. Bail denied
2. Mistrial declared

Editor's note: The Emerald, in the past, has referred to the defendants of the conspiracy trial in Tacoma as the "Seattle 8," as eight defendants were charged with conspiring to damage a federal courthouse last Feb. 17. But one of those defendants, Michael Justensen, has not been caught, and only seven were ever brought to trial. The trial now being over, and those seven presently facing contempt citations, the group is now known as the "Seattle 7."

By GIL JOHNSON
 College Press Service

TACOMA—The fate of Seattle 7—and the bodies of five members of this group—appear to be sealed for at least a year.

The seven, charged with violating the federal anti-riot act, are currently imprisoned in various jails from San Francisco to Seattle. Their trial will be postponed a year while they serve contempt of court sentences levied Dec. 10 by Judge George Boldt.

Boldt declared the three week trial of the seven, which began last November, a mistrial on Dec. 10, following one of a long series of courtroom melees. He cited six of the seven in contempt of court for that outbreak and subsequently sentenced them to six months in jail. Sue Stern, who was ill that day, was not cited, but she earned six months herself for attempting to speak out in the courtroom three days later when the sentences were finalized.

Five of the others were issued another six month sentence for tearing up their contempt citations. Michael Lerner, the oldest of the group, did not participate in this action.

Since then, the defendants and their attorneys have been attempting to get the judge to set bail, but without much luck. Boldt refused to set bail initially, maintaining the defendants were likely to leave the country. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco later overturned Boldt's decision, but Boldt has stood fast. U.S. District Attorney Stan Pitkin, the trial's prosecutor, is presently challenging the appeals court decision.

Even if Boldt decides to set bail, he has said publicly it will be no lower than \$25,000.

Boldt has termed the higher court's ruling "equivocal" and "anamlous." He said the court did not consider a video tape of courtroom disruptions when it ordered that bail be set.

Seattle 7 attorney Jeff Steinborn, who has been handling the bail procedure, was unable to confer with Boldt until Dec. 31, although he attempted to reach the judge by telephone at home Christmas eve.

For that, Boldt chastised him: "Somehow or other, you learned my unlisted home phone number and called it. It was well after the Christmas holiday had begun; yet you persisted in annoying me. It greatly disturbed my wife."

Later Steinborn told the press, "Judge Boldt is disturbed because we interrupted his holiday. But I'm more disturbed because seven bailable defendants had to spend their Christmas in jail."

Steinborn also said he received the appeals court bail order last Wednesday, but Boldt said he didn't get it until Saturday afternoon and could not have been expected to do anything before then. - The judge is still studying the matter.



Seattle Seven defendants yawn, talk, slouch or moan during a portion of mistrial proceedings. Drawing from Seattle Sabot.

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