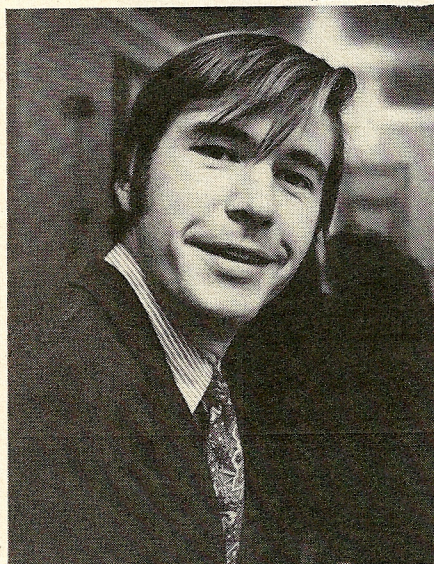


Tigar for the Defense

In Seattle last February, 2,000 chanting youths descended on the city's federal courthouse to protest what they regarded as the unfair conduct of U.S. District Judge Julius J. Hoffman in the Chicago Seven conspiracy trial. Prepared for the worst, Seattle police had hidden riot squads in the public library across the street. When some of the protesters foolishly hurled rocks through the court windows and splattered paint on the walls, the police swooped out of their hiding place and arrested 77 demonstrators.

Local courts soon acquitted or dismissed the charges against nearly all

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MICHAEL TIGAR
Abler and cooler.

the defendants. But the Justice Department used the incident as a reason to investigate a nascent radical group called the Seattle Liberation Front. Last spring FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover personally announced federal indictments against eight S.L.F. members. Though none of them had been arrested at the demonstration, all were charged with conspiring to damage federal property; five were also accused of crossing state lines with the intention of causing a riot. It was the Government's first use, since the Chicago trial, of the 1968 federal antiriot law, which civil libertarians insist is unconstitutional.

Simple Heart. Many lay observers have expected the mop-haired "Seattle Eight" to stage a political trial as messy as the one in Chicago. The defendants have, in fact, caused a few sporadic disruptions—clenched-fist salutes for the judge and brief scuffles outside the courtroom. But when the new trial opened in Tacoma last week, there were clear differences. For one, U.S. District Judge George Boldt, 66, seems more detached and judicious than Julius Hoffman. His authority has also been strengthened by