

9 Given Probation In Dixie Bombings

New York Times News Service

JACKSON, Miss.—Nine white men arrested in the bombings of three Negro homes in McComb, Miss., were freed on probation yesterday after they pleaded guilty and no contest to charges that could have brought the death penalty.

Circuit Court Judge W. H. Watkins gave the defendants suspended sentences up to 15 years. He said they were "unduly provoked" by civil rights workers in the area and deserved a second chance.

2 ADMIT GUILT

The felony convictions were believed to be the first in recent years against whites involved in the continuing violence against Negroes in Mississippi.

Two of the defendants, Billy Wilson, 22, and Paul D. Wilson, 25, pleaded guilty to three counts of unlawful use of explosives and each received

three five-year sentences, to run concurrently.

Jimmy D. Wilson, 38; Gerald Lawrence, 21; Hilton Dunaway, 36; and Ernest F. Zeeck, 25, each pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful use of explosives and received a five-year sentence.

CONTEMPT CHARGE

The three Wilsons, John Paul Westbrook, 20, Emory Allen Lee, 35, and Murphy J. Duncan Jr., 44, all pleaded no contest to the conspiracy charges, and received suspended six-month sentences and \$500 fines which were not suspended.

Meanwhile, in another development, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the fifth circuit announced it will conduct a hearing in Jacksonville, Fla., Monday regarding contempt proceedings brought against Justice Department officials by Federal Court Judge Harold Cox of Jackson.