Catonsville 9 Prosecutor Urges Parole for Berrigan Brothers

TOWSON, Md., Nov. 18 (AP)—The Baltimore County prosecutor who obtained convictions on state charges against the Catonsville Nine says the three remaining members of the group still serving federal prison sentences for burning draft records in 1968 should be paroled.

Samuel A. Green Jr. said in a written statement that he was “particularly disturbed” to see the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, his brother the Rev. Philip Berrigan, and George Mische denied parole while persons sentenced for such crimes as armed robbery “make parole rather easily.”

“No matter how often I read through our file on the case,” Green said, “I cannot bring myself to believe that the quiet, zealous dedication of these nine justifies incarceration any longer unless there is something I and the public do not know about their adjustments to imprisonment.”

The two Berrigans and Mische, along with six others, were sentenced in federal court to prison terms ranging from 2 to 3½ years on charges of destroying draft records in Catonsville, Md. All nine then received identical state sentences. The federal and state terms were to be served concurrently.

Mische has been an inmate at the federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa., since April, 1970. The Berrigans are serving their terms at the Danbury, Conn., federal prison.

Four other defendants were paroled; one died in a car accident, and one, Mary Moylan, is a fugitive.