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THIRTY-ONE

Flag Suit Dismissal Bid Denied

A three-judge federal court has denied a plea seeking dismissal of a suit brought by five persons arrested at Southern University in an alleged flag desecration case April 9.

Attorneys for District Attorney Jim Garrison and Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso asked the court to dismiss the suit aimed at blocking prosecution of the five for lowering the American flag and replacing it with the "black flag of liberation."

Arrested in the case were Vallery Ferdinand Jr., 2517 St. Maurice; Ronald Fernandez, 1434 Touro; Lawrence J. Terrel, 4103 Holly Grove; Spencer Williams, 3715 Gen. Pershing, and Norman Lee Williams, 2218 1/2 Baronne.

The suit asks an injunction against their prosecution, and a ruling that the act under which they were arrested be declared unconstitutional.

Denying the state's motion to dismiss were Judge Robert A. Ainsworth Jr., of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and District Judges Herbert W. Christenberry and Lansing L. Mitchell.

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