

Police Indicted in L.A. Shooting

LOS ANGELES, March 3 (UPI)—Four policemen were indicted here today for violating civil rights in the so-called "mistake shooting" deaths of two Mexican nationals last summer.

In addition, a federal grand jury indicted two policemen and a civilian for plotting to burglarize a woman's home and another officer with forcing a female suspect to disrobe in his patrol car.

In the shootings last summer, police had contended that a series of mistakes—compounded by the fact that none of the men in an apartment raided by officers spoke English—led to the deaths of the two Mexicans. Manslaughter charges against the officers were later dismissed.

The indictments, involving six policemen and three separate incidents last summer, were announced in Washington by Attorney General John N. Mitchell. All charged violations of civil rights.

At the same time, Mitchell announced the Justice Department had found no violations of civil rights in the separate deaths last summer of Mexican-American journalist Ruben Salazar and Jerry Lee Amie.

Salazar, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, was killed by a tear gas projectile fired by a deputy into a bar where he was sitting during a Chicano disturbance in East Los Angeles. Amie, a Negro Vietnam veteran, was shot to death by Los Angeles police.

In the shootings, the grand jury indicted Los Angeles policemen Marshall F. Gaines, Jeffrey J. Fedrizzi and Hector R. Zepeda, and William Kinsella of the San Leandro, Calif., police department.

They went to a skid row



HECTOR ZEPEDA



SGT. MARSHALL F. GAINES



JEFFREY J. FEDRIZZI

... Los Angeles police officers charged by federal grand jury

apartment in search of a murder suspect wanted in San Leandro. The man was not at the apartment.

The gunfire erupted when one officer said he thought one of the Mexicans in the apartment was charging him with a gun. No weapons were found in the apartment.

Policeman Peter J. Lupton was indicted for requiring a Chinese woman, May Ling Lu, to disrobe in his patrol car so he could search her.

The burglary conspiracy allegedly involved Los Angeles policeman Edgar Brown and Gaines, one of the officers indicted in the shootings.

It was charged that Angelo Direienzo, a police informant, burglarized a home and gave the officers photos of antique silver he stole. The silver eventually wound up in the possession of attorney Lester Berman, who was then arrested by the officers for possession of stolen property.