

Around the Nation

Minn. Hijack Case Charge Dropped

ST. PAUL, Minn.—A federal commissioner has dismissed a hijack conspiracy charge against Ronald Reed, 20, of St. Paul, who was accused of plotting a hijacking and planning to kidnap the Minnesota governor to free black militants.

U.S. Commissioner Bernard Zimpher said there was no probable cause of conspiracy with another person to hijack a plane. The commissioner also said the charge against Reed was not substantiated by an overt act as defined by federal law.

The FBI made the charge after Reed was arrested by Minneapolis police Nov. 13. Police found notes in Reed's pocket and the FBI said they had evidence of a plot to kidnap Gov. Harold LeVander and St. Paul councilwoman Rosalie Butler in a bid to free jailed militants, including Angela Davis, who is charged with murder in California.

Zimpher bound Reed over to the U.S. District Court on a charge of possessing a sawed-off shotgun. Possession of such a weapon violates the National Firearms Act.

Reed was arrested with a warrant issued by authorities in Omaha, Neb. He was wanted in connection with a bank robbery there.