By Sanford J. Ungar Washington Post Staff Writer The D.C. Corporation counsel] sion, approximately 2,000 The D.C. corporation counsel stoll, approximately 2,000 tesses decided Vesterday to drop about 2500 of the remaining arrest asses prowing out of the Mayday antiwar demonstratom here without ever calling sons who might still be called

Prosecutor Drops

2,500 Mavdav

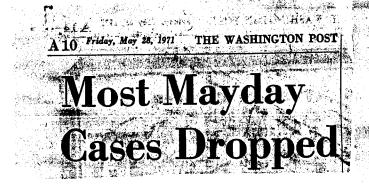
chess yet to be processed. no ficial court estimates failed to appear for trial.

at after Murphy's deci-

They cited administrative problems in the weeks since the demonstrations as the rea-

uling by the U.S. Court of sons for their inability to keep Appeals, Corporation Counsel Francis Murphy in effect perior Court Judge Eugene N. Hamilton ruled that collateral would no longer be automatichis more than half the May

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MAYDAY, From A1

He said the prosecutor must first certify to the court whether there is "probable cause" to link a defendant to his alleged offense before calling a case.

If the prosecutor does certify probable cause and the defendant fails to appear, Hamilton ordered, the case must be continued until July and the defendant formally notified of his new trial date.

Before the Court of Appeals decision and Hamilton's ruling, hundreds of Mayday defendants had a conviction en tered on their record merely because they failed to appear to learn that the case against them was being dropped.

Murphy chose to drop the 2,500 cases only after the American Civil Liberties Union warned that it would take the prosecutor back to the U.S. Court of Appeals if he adopted another proposed formula in the Mayday cases.

That formula would have provided for automatic forfeiprovider for a case thought by prosecutors to include, "ade-quate evidence" did not appear.

But the ACLU pointed out that such an arrangement would still require all remaining, unprocessed defendants to appear on the chance that they would be singled out at the last moment for prosecution.

When the corporation counsel complained that it would be "burdensome and expen-sive" to notify all those who need not appear for trial -- 'as required by the Court of Appeals order — the ACLU offered to do that job for him.

Murphy is to deliver a list of the 2,500 cases to be dropped to the ACLU today

for notification. Another, 158 Mayday cases were on the Superior Court calendar yesterday morning, but prosecutors immediately moved to drop 100. Of those remaining, most were contin-ued until July for a determination by the prosecutor of whether he has "adequate evidence."

Only two cases were actually certified for trial. One resulted in an acquittal and the other was dropped by the A 80.00

corporation counsel at the last moment. 1

Thus far, there have been about 10 convictions in cases growing out of the arrest of 12,000 persons during the Mayday demonstrations.

U. S. District Court Judge Howard F. Corcoran has scheduled a hearing for next week on whether prosecutors have maintained Mayday cases "for purposes of harassment and in bad faith with no hope of securing convictions."