

Sniper's

Parents

Talk

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — A young man from the Kansas Plains had been driven to a hatred of whites, his family said.

Police today questioned his friends and acquaintances in their search for another black man who perhaps drove him to a murderous, sniping spree atop a downtown hotel.

The body of Mark Jones Essex, 23, was sent to his hometown of Emporia, Kans., yesterday, back to the place where his family said he had known a "better world" of racial integration.

Essex will be buried Saturday.

Victims

Two of the three policemen who died in the battle at the Howard Johnson Motor Hotel Sunday and Monday were buried yesterday in New Orleans.

Two other victims, a couple who had been in the hotel on a second honeymoon, were buried in their hometown in Virginia. Another policeman and an assistant hotel manager also died in the incident.

Essex, a Navy dental technician, received an unsuitable discharge for "character and behavior" disorders in 1971. He had been court-martialed for overstaying 28 days on a leave.

Sister's View

"The Navy was his own private hell," his sister, Penny, 19, said. "he had a rough deal in the Navy. The Navy turned out to be very prejudiced with Jimmy.

"I think it was just this racist society that drove my brother to do what he did. He wanted a better world, a better place to live in and a

better place for his three nephews."

Renee Green, who dated Essex when they were in high school, said she was convinced there was another, more dominant sniper.

"I don't think the shooting was Mark's original idea," she said. I just can't imagine him thinking of it. I think somebody put him up to it."

Police said FBI agents today continued their canvass of Essex's friends, neighbors and acquaintances in their search for a possible second sniper.