

9/28/73
W Post

Judge Refuses to Void Charges Against Four

TOWSON, Md., Sept. 27 (AP) — Saying the cases should be tried on their merits, Judge Robert E. Clapp yesterday refused a raft of motions to void charges against four persons indicted by the Baltimore County grand jury. The grand jury has been investigating the county state's attorney's office.

However, the judge did dismiss two of the nine charges against Louis W. Irvin, the chief investigator of the county office. Clapp ruled that Irvin was not a "public officer" as specified in one of the indictments.

Lawyers for the four defendants, including State's Attorney Samuel A. Green, Jr., have argued the indictments returned by the county panel were defective

on various procedural grounds.

But Clapp refused to dismiss the indictments, saying he felt the cases were of such importance they should be tried on their merits, "rather than have me as a single judge say right here these prosecutions must terminate."

The two dismissed indict-

ments against Irvin were for common law extortion and common law misconduct in office, both were connected to an alleged plan to have the arrest record of a Catonsville gas station owner erased.

Irvin, 48, still faces charges of bribery, false pretenses and obstruction of justice.