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A JURY SELECTED IN RIGHTS DEATHS

12 Whites Chosen at Trial of 18 in Mississippi

MERIDIAN, Miss, Oct. 9 (AP) —An all-white jury of seven women and five men was picked today for the trial of a sheriff, a Ku Klux Klan leader and 16 other men charged with conspiracy in the deaths of three civil rights workers in 1964.

Lawyers needed only four hours to settle on a jury from a 50-member panel that included 17 Negroes and 33 whites.

Federal District Judge Harold Cox indicated the trial would last less than 10 days.

Judge Cox refused to delay the trial of one of the men, Frank J. Herndon, who was confined to Anderson Hospital here suffering from a herniated esophagus. He ordered Herndon brought to the afternoon session, and Herndon appeared wearing pajamas and a house robe.

The judge separated the 50-member panel of prospects from the main venire of 250. He had earlier excused 11 prospects, including a Negro woman who said she had participated in a civil rights march.

Man Tined to Klan Rejected

A Justice Department attorney, Robert Hauberg, immediately singled out one man as a former member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The man admitted he attended two Klan meetings in 1964, but said he could be fair and impartial as a juror. He was not selected.

The defendants, charged under a 97-year-old Reconstruction era law, are accused of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Michael H. Schwerner, 23 years old, and Andrew Goodman, 20, both white New Yorkers, and James E. Chaney, 21, a Meridian Negro.

Associated Press Wirephoto

LAW OFFICERS ARRIVE FOR TRIAL: Sheriff Lawrence Rainey of Neshoba County, right, and Cecil Price, his chief deputy, outside U.S. District Court yesterday in Meridian, Miss. They are among 18 men accused of conspiracy in the deaths of three civil rights workers in 1964.

Conviction could bring a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a $5,000 fine. No state charges were ever filed in the deaths, and murder charges cannot be filed by the Federal authorities unless the deaths occur on Federal property.

Twelve attorneys represent the defendants, who include the Neshoba County Sheriff, Lawrence Rainey, 43; Chief Deputy Cecil Price, 28; Sheriff-elect Ethel Glen Barnette, 47, all of nearby Philadelphia, and Sam Holloway Bowers Jr., 42, of Laurel.

Bowers has been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Federal indictment named 19 men in the conspiracy, but one, James E. Jordan, 40, has had his case transferred to the United States District Court for Northern Florida. Jordan testified before the grand jury that delivered the indictments. He received F.B.I. protection.

The charges result from the F.B.I.'s discovery of the bullet-riddled bodies of the three civil rights workers in a new earthen dam on a form about eight miles southwest of Philadelphia, 44 days after the three had been arrested on a speeding charge June 21, 1964.

Deputy Price, the Government said in the indictment, arrested Mr. Schwerner, Mr. Goodman and Mr. Chaney for speeding, held them at Philadelphia about four hours, then released them so that they could be kidnaped and murdered.