

Policemen Lose Battle in Court

Three more New Orleans police officers have lost a court battle to regain their jobs lost after they refused to take a lie detector test in connection with the investigation of the slaying of 19-year-old babysitter Susan Goldman.

The Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, in a decree authored by Judge L. Julian Samuel, today upheld the City Civil Service Commission's order confirming the firing of Clinton Grady

Clayton, Harold Watkins LeJeune Jr. and Francis Joseph Blanchard.

EARLIER, the appellate court had upheld similar action taken against George Roux, also a police officer who would not submit to the test.

One of the contentions of the three fired policemen, said the court, was that "the commission erred in following the rationale of Roux versus New Orleans Police Dept. . . . because in the instant case the appellants were suspects of a crime whereas Roux the officer was not a suspect."

The court said:

"IN OUR OPINION the difference was immaterial. Certainly a civil service employe suspected of having committed a crime is not entitled to more consideration relative to constitutional privilege, than one of his fellow employes as to whom there is no grounds for suspicion," said the decision.

The court also struck down other contentions of the trio, including the claim that on the basis of decisions of

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the U.S. Supreme Court, the dismissals were without cause and therefore in violation of the Louisiana Constitution.

"We do not agree with any of these contentions," said the appeal jurists. "That provision simply states that no person who has acquired permanent civil service status should be dismissed except for cause.

"We hold that the appellants in this case were dismissed for cause as required by the provision," said the court, citing its decision in the Roux appeal.