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THE NEW YORK TIMES,

COURT ENJOINS PLAN FOR ANTIRIOT POSSE

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 29—Sheriff Joseph I. Woods's plan to form a special riot-control unit of 1,000 unpaid volunteers was ruled illegal today in Cook County Circuit Court by Judge Donald J. O'Brien, who said he would enjoin the Sheriff from establishing it.

Sheriff Woods, whose jurisdiction includes Chicago and suburban Cook County, said he would confer with John Stamos, the state's attorney, on whether the ruling should be appealed. The suit challenging formation of the unit was filed by Harry Leviton, a Chicago lawyer.

Judge O'Brien ruled that the Sheriff had authority to form a "posse comitatus" to help him maintain the peace, but only when confronted with an emergency warranting such a move. The judge held that no such emergency existed.

He also ruled that the Sheriff could not add deputies in excess of the maximum set by the Circuit Court, which fixes the number of employes in the Sheriff's and other county fee offices.

Sheriff Woods who had tentatively accepted 350 applicants for membership in the unit, had said that members would be carefully screened and trained, but would not be deputized until an emergency existed.