

Jury Deadlocked In Bowers Trial

HATTIESBURG (AP)—The state of Mississippi was unsuccessful for the third time here last night in its efforts to convict Sam Bowers Jr., in the 1966 death of Negro voting rights leader Vernon Dahmer.

A Forrest County jury deliberated for approximately five hours before reporting to Judge Stanton Hall that it was hopelessly deadlocked.

Bowers, identified as a former Ku Klux Klan chief-tain, was charged with plotting a nightrider firebomb attack on the home and grocery of Dahmer in the Kelly settlement near here.

COURTROOM SOURCES said the four Negroes and eight whites had deadlocked at eight for acquittal and four for conviction. The jury reported itself deadlocked earlier in the night, but Judge Hall ordered them back into deliberations after a supper break.

Under state law the judge must set bond for Bowers, but the amount is left to the discretion of the court. Bowers, also under federal charges stemming from the attack, must also request a bond hearing before U.S. Dist. Court Judge Harold Cox.

The state bond hearing was scheduled for 11 a.m. today.

26 July
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