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JDN
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Orders End To Prosecution Of Negroes

A federal judge Monday ordered Lauderdale County authorities to end prosecution of two Negroes on charges of committing perjury in U. S. district court.

Judge Sidney Mize labeled the indictment against William G. Goff and Andrew Kenrick Jr. as "utterly faulty." Mize ordered the indictment quashed and canceled \$3,000 bond under which the two defendants were held.

Kendrick and Goff, both of Clarke County, were witnesses last year in a federal court hearing at Meridian and testified to alleged discrimination against Negroes attempting to register as voters.

At the conclusion of that hearing, U.S. District Judge Harold Cox ordered the Negroes bound over to a federal grand jury on charges of perjury. When the grand jury failed to act, Kendrick and Goff were charged with under state laws with false swearing.

Mize's ruling today granted and injunction sought by the U.S. Justice Department to block prosecution of Kendrick and Goff in state courts.

However, the judge refused to rule on the constitutionality of the state statutes under which the two men were charged. Justice Department attorneys had sought to have the laws declared unconstitutional.

Mize cited a Virginia case in which the court ruled a person cannot be prosecuted in state courts for perjury allegedly committed in federal courts.