

Minard Conspiracy Charges Are Dropped

By Robert Hoig

The prosecution has dropped charges of conspiracy to commit murder against David L. Rice and Edward Poindexter in connection with the bomb death of Patrolman Larry D. Minard Jr.

Special Prosecutor Arthur D. O'Leary said: "We felt that the conspiracy charge had merged into the first-degree murder charge."

He declined to elaborate.

No mention was made of the

development as jury selection continued through Tuesday in the chambers of District Court Judge Donald Hamilton.

Asked about the conspiracy count, for which the prosecution filed a motion to dismiss with the Clerk of the District Court Monday, Hamilton would say only that the motion was brought to his attention.

Rice, 23, and Poindexter, 26, were charged with a count of first-degree murder and a count

of conspiracy to commit murder in the original information filed by County Atty. Donald Knowles.

The conspiracy charge called for a penalty, upon conviction, of 1-2 years in prison. First-degree murder, upon conviction, is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

The jury selection today is in the stage of allowing both sides to challenge prospective jurors without a reason, known as peremptory challenge.

Twelve prospective jurors had been accepted by mid-afternoon Tuesday. As soon as each side uses its allotted peremptory challenges—12 for each defendant and 10 for the prosecution for each defendant—two alternate jurors will be chosen and the trial can begin.

Minard was killed Aug. 17 when a suitcase loaded with explosives exploded in his face at a vacant house at 2867 Ohio Street.

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