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REQUEST DENIED BY COURT: Attorney General Richmond M. Flowers of Alabama leaves State Supreme Court in Montgomery after losing bid to disqualify prospective jurors in the murder trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr.

White Supremacist Jurors Approved in Liuzzo Trial

By **ROY REED**

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HAYNEVILLE, Ala., Oct. 20—An all-white jury dominated by self-proclaimed white supremacists was chosen here today for the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., a Ku

Klux Klansman charged with the civil rights murder of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo.

State Attorney General Richmond M. Flowers was not able to purge racists from the jury, but he spent two and a half days documenting their prejudice.

He lost a final purge attempt today in the Alabama Supreme Court at Montgomery. A four-judge panel of the high court turned down his request to disqualify 11 prospective jurors for prejudice against civil rights workers.

Ruling Is Explained

The justices said, "If we were to interrupt the trial of the Wilkins case to review by mandamus the rulings here under consideration, we would establish a precedent which would in the future operate to impede the progress of all criminal trials while we reviewed by mandamus various and sundry rulings of trial courts during the progress of those trials."

The jury was selected two and a half hours later at Hayneville. It included six men who said on Monday that they believed in the superiority of the white race, six former members and two present members of the Citizens Council and four men who said they believed white civil rights workers to be inferior persons.

Tells of Finding Body

As in the first Liuzzo trial in May, the first witness was Trooper H. L. Burgess of the Alabama State Police. He related once again, in soft Alabama syllables, the beginning of the year's most notorious civil rights murder case.

He recalled the clear, cool night of March 25. At 8:30, he was called to an "accident" on U. S. Highway 80 about 10 miles north of Hayneville, he recalled.

There he found a blue Oldsmobile on a grassy slope, astride a pasture fence, its windows shattered. In the car, he found a .38-caliber slug, blood

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"all over" and, slumped across the front seat, the body of the 38-year-old Mrs. Liuzzo.

As the trooper testified, Wilkins, the 22-year-old Klansman charged with shooting the Detroit woman to death, sat once more in the muggy court room leaning on his elbow. His heavy face rested in his cupped hand, his hard, blue, sunken eyes turned disinterestedly back and forth to take in the people around him.

Once again, Mr. Wilkins was surrounded by white people as he went on trial for his life: the white-haired little Circuit Judge, T. Werth Thagard; 12 neatly dressed jurors; his lawyer,

Arthur Hanes, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a former Mayor of Birmingham; red-haired Mr. Flowers and two of his assistants; more than two dozen reporters; Sheriff Frank Ryals and his deputies; six blue-uniformed State Police troopers guarding the doors, and, slouched in cigarette haze, about 50 spectators—all white.

Three of seven Negroes named to the 55-man venire remained unchallenged early today, but they were removed by defense challenges and when Judge Thagard dismissed all the culled jurors, they left.

Two young Negro men came in later and listened briefly, then walked out, leaving the machinery and trappings of justice in Lowndes County in the hands of the white people, where it always has been.

After preliminary witnesses had set the scene, Leroy Morton took the stand late this afternoon. He is the 20-year-old Negro who rode with Mrs.

Liuzzo as they ferried participants in the Selma-Montgomery freedom march from Montgomery to Selma.

Mr. Morton recalled the drive back toward Montgomery in the car with the white woman. The attack occurred halfway between the two cities on a lonely stretch of United States Highway 80.

Mr. Hanes until today had been far more restrained than the defense counsel in the first Liuzzo trial, Matt H. Murphy Jr., who died in an automobile accident August 20. Mr. Murphy, the Imperial Klansel of the United Klans of America, Inc., played constantly on racist sentiments.

Mr. Hanes began by asking Mr. Morton what work he did for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Mr. Morton testified that he had been a transportation officer for the civil rights organization in Selma during the civil rights campaign there last spring.

Mr. Hanes then asked him

abruptly, "Leroy, was it part of your duties as transportation officer to make love to Mrs. Liuzzo?"

Joseph Breck Gantt, Mr. Flowers's assistant, leaped to his feet and said: "We object, your honor. That's clearly improper. We're trying a murder case."

Judge Thagard sustained the objection.

Judge Thagard also refused to let the defense lawyer question Mr. Morton about his connection with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.