

FOR FIRST TIME IN LOUISIANA ...

Cop is indicted for killing Negro

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GRETNA, La., May 27—Patrolman Alvin Bladsacker today is under indictment by a grand jury for manslaughter because of his unprovoked killing of Roy Cyril Brooks, Negro unionist, a month and a half ago.

This is believed to be the first time in Louisiana history that a white policeman has been indicted for killing a Negro. Louis Berry, prominent Negro attorney from New Orleans, gave credit for this initial victory to the Louisiana Committee for Civil Rights, which has tirelessly hunted up witnesses to Brooks' murder and obtained statements from them.

These witnesses, he indicated, turned the tide of sentiment in the grand jury, which had been moving toward exoneration of the Negro-hating cop.

The civil rights committee, formed to obtain justice in the Brooks case, also brought direct pressure to bear on the authorities by enlisting the aid of the Civil Rights Congress and Congressmen Vito Marcantonio and Leo Isacson (AL-N.Y.) and Sen. Glen H. Taylor (D-Ida), who brought up the case on the floor of Congress.

Brooks, a member of the CIO Food, Tobacco & Agricultural Workers, was killed while on his way to work about six weeks ago. He got into an argument with a bus driver because he assisted a woman who boarded the bus by mistake and then wanted her nickel back.

Bladsacker stepped from his traffic control job and struck Brooks on the head with

his revolver, dragged him off toward the jail and hallway there shot Brooks twice and left him to die in the street.

The killing aroused widespread resentment among Brooks' white and Negro fellow unionists and



Taken shortly after the slaying, this picture shows Roy Cyril Brooks, victim of a white police officer, lying dead on a sidewalk in Gretna, La. Brooks' son, right, looks on.

Among the Negro population generally. The civil rights committee has won considerable support in its fight to convict Bladsacker. If the policeman is found guilty, he faces imprisonment up to 21 years.

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