Killing Of Man May Be Dixie Plot

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OPELOUSAS, La.—John Lester Mitchell, whose court fight for the right to vote was scheduled to be heard before Federal Judge Porterie next Thursday, was shot to death here this week by Deputy Sheriff Lanclos who claimed that Mitchell, 33, was "raising a disturbance."

The murder of Mitchell was characterized as the beginning of Dixiecrat-inspired campaign to keep Negro citizens from demanding the right to vote. As a result, efforts will be made to enlist the aid of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mitchell was slain in a night

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spot known as "The Chicken Snack." Shortly before he was accosted by Lanclos Monday, a Negro "stool pigeon" was seen telephoning someone under questionable circumstances.

Stormed Into Area

Half an hour later, Sheriff Guilbeau and his deputies swarmed into the Negro area of town, demanding that pedestrians and passers-by keep their voices down. Mitchell, who had filed the civil rights suit with two other Negro citizens, is said to have objected to the Sheriff's decree. Among other things Mitchell reportedly told Lanclos:

"We may as well be in slavery if we can't speak out here on our side of the town."

A scuffle ensued and, according to Sheriff Guilbeau, Lanclos emptied his service revolver at the unarmed Mitchell.