

RIGHTS ACTION WON BY LOUISIANA NEGRO

SHREVEPORT, La., Feb. 3 (UPI)—Ten business men promised in Federal District Court here today to end what the Justice Department called "economic coercion" against a Negro farmer who tried to vote in East Carroll Parish.

The pledge, filed by defense lawyers, had the effect of settling the dispute without actually closing the department's Civil Rights Division case against the business men and the parish sheriff.

The stipulations, filed before Federal Judge Ben C. Dawkins, promised "no further intimidation" on the part of the business men, who had been accused of refusing to gin cotton, process soybeans or supply butane gas for Joseph Atlas, the farmer. Under the stipulations that refusal will end.

Mr. Atlas told the Civil Rights Commission at a hearing in September that when he tried to register to vote he was told that he must be identified by two registered voters. East Carroll Parish has no Negro voters.

Sheriff John Gilbert allegedly informed Mr. Atlas that it was because of his testimony before the commission that he would be unable to find processors for his crops.