

Murder Charge Levied Against Indy Man Here

A preliminary charge of first degree murder was filed in Hancock Superior Court this morning against Jeff Bailey, a 19-year-old Indianapolis man suspected in the November slaying of a Marshall High School freshman.

Judge Richard T. Payne, handling his first case as newly-appointed Superior Court judge, heard State Police Sgt. John Petty testify that Bailey had confessed to him during an airplane flight from California to Indiana. Bailey had been arrested in California on

a speeding charge, and was returned to Marion County on a charge of vehicle theft.

Robert Jackson Jr., 15, was found dead in a Hancock County section of Buck Creek, near Cumberland, on Nov. 22.

Under questioning by prosecuting attorney Peter D. Shumacker, Petty revealed that investigation had linked a bandana and cords, used to bind the Jackson youth, with Bailey. He also stated that during the plane trip, after Bailey had been advised of his rights, the suspect admitted to having sodomy with Jackson, choking the 15-year old boy, and then

leaving him at Buck Creek. Jackson, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 120 pounds, was believed to have died from a combination of strangling and drowning.

The preliminary charge accuses Bailey, six feet tall and 190 pounds, of choking and drowning Jackson, on or about Nov. 20. The preliminary charge is effective for just seven days, but a grand jury has been called to convene Wednesday.

Witnesses have reported that Jackson and Bailey were seen together at a bowling alley two days before Jackson's body was discovered.

Bailey was expelled from Marshall high two years ago, Petty said school officials reported. He is presently on two years' probation after a 1971 conviction in Marion criminal court.

Detectives say that Bailey had contracted to deliver an auto from Indianapolis to Los Angeles by Nov. 24, but failed to make the scheduled delivery.