

BAILS FORFEITED IN CHECK CASES

The District Attorney's office Friday, in a new crackdown on writers of worthless checks got bond forfeitures totaling \$12,500 against eleven County Criminal Court defendants.

Judge Joe B. Brown ordered the forfeitures on recommendation of Asst. Dist. Atty. Clarence Bentley, when the defendants failed to appear for trial.

The defendants had been charged in a total of twenty-five cases and had posted a \$500 bond in each case.

Judge Brown ordered sureties on the bonds to appear in court July 28 (the last day of the current court term) and show why he should not enter final judgments against them for the full \$12,500.

Bentley, in charge of the District Attorney's hot check section, said the bonds were good and that he would press for collection on the forfeitures if the defendants or their lawyers did not come up with good excuses for the absences.

The forfeitures grew out of a mass setting of 102 hot check cases for trial Friday. Bentley said the huge case setting was "an effort to work out our backlog of old check cases."

The hot check section now is keeping abreast of the new check cases filed, Bentley said, but a lot of older cases still are on the court dockets.

The cases set for trial Friday were filed during 1949 and 1950. All the cases involve misdemeanor offenses in which the hot check was less than \$50. Conviction carries a maximum jail sentence of two years.

Forty-seven defendants were represented in the 102 cases, which Bentley said involved about \$2,000 worth of checks.

The checks had been written by persons with no bank accounts in amounts ranging from \$1 or \$2 up to just under \$50 and passed off to grocery stores, department stores, filling stations and to individuals.

Besides the cases in which bonds were forfeited, Bentley said a number of other cases had been

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