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An order granting a mistrial must be made before the jury renders a verdict. *See State v. O'Neal*, 67 N.C. App. 65 (1984), *aff'd as modified*, 311 N.C. 747 (1984). Once the jury has rendered a verdict and has been discharged, there is no purpose in ordering a mistrial because the proceedings may be determined by rulings of the court on matters of law, including motions for a new trial. *O'Neal*, 67 N.C. App. at 69. The prohibition on declaring a mistrial after verdict also may be viewed as protecting defendants. A retroactive declaration of a mistrial, if allowed, “would impermissibly place a defendant who made *any* mistrial motion at *any* time in peril, subject to the unlimited discretion of the trial court, of losing his constitutional right to not be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense.” *Id.* (emphases in original) (trial judge had no authority to belatedly grant a motion for mistrial where five days had passed since the acceptance of the verdict and the discharge of the jury).