

2nd Interracial Tennis Party Repulsed at Park

BALTIMORE

Park police moved in again, Sunday, and thwarted attempts of an interracial party of four persons to play tennis together in Druid Hill Park.

The foursome represented a group of Young Progressives of Maryland, whose members landed in court on July 11, when they tested the Park Board's policy of segregated sports by staging interracial matches with members of the Baltimore Tennis Club.

Result was that seven out of 22 persons arrested in connection with the matches, recently were convicted by Judge Herman Moser on charges of conspiracy.

Hold Policy "Unenforceable"

Although that conviction is being appealed, the youngsters maintain that the State's failure to prosecute additional charges involving the actual issue of segregated sports indicates to them that the jim crow policy is non-enforceable.

Stanley Askin, director of the Young Progressives, and one of those convicted, revealed this week that a "half-dozen policemen" were waiting, Sunday, for the interracial players and refused to allow them to play.

Mr. Askin said that the entire matter has been turned over to attorneys for legal action.

Gaeng Enforces Ruling

Capt. Gordon Gaeng of Park Police, admitted to the AFRO on Wednesday that the officers refused to let the young people play,

because he is still carrying out the original Park Board directive.

Said the captain, "Until the courts decide this thing one way or the other, I am going by what has been established."

Mr. Askin released a statement in which he called the police action "another flagrant abuse of authority."

Police Action Assailed

He said further:

"It seems to us that the time of tax-supported police could be spent for far better purposes than that of preventing law abiding citizens from having access to public recreational facilities which they are taxed to maintain."

The young director called the action of the police "direct opposition" to statements made by Judge Moser during the "tennis court" trials.

Judge Moser stated at one point that he did not "see much sense in a rule banning interracial sports in one section of a park and then selling tickets for another section where there are interracial games."

Policy Contradictory

The Park Board operates the Baltimore Stadium, where interracial athletic contests, including baseball and football are conducted without incident.

Declaring that the Young Progressives of Maryland refuse to accept discrimination and segregation, Mr. Askin said: "The 'tennis case' is far from over. We will continue to protest—and in the end we will play, colored and white together."

Omnibus Civil Suit On

Pending in the U.S. District Court, meanwhile, is a civil suit filed by some 18 persons who have been affected by the Park Board's policy of segregated sports.

The complainants are managers of an interracial basketball team, suspended from league competition; 15 of the arrested tennis players and a white man turned away from a golf course on a day designated by the Park Board for use by colored golfers.