

## POLICE BOARD BEGINS

### Hears Many Witnesses Concerning Case Of Captain Ward.

### CLASHES IN THE CORRIDORS

#### Sergeant Plum And Louis Katz Attack Each Other's Veracity—Col. Swann Says He Wants Facts.

Col. Sherlock Swann, president of the Police Board, returned to Baltimore yesterday in time to attend the morning session of the board, at which was begun the board's investigation of the charges brought against Capt. Bernard J. Ward, of the Northwestern district, by Sergt. Charles E. Hurley.

Sergeant Hurley, it will be remembered, alleges that he handed Captain Ward a report in which Mrs. Maggie Hunter, keeper of an alleged disorderly house on North Carey street, had made the statement that she had paid Robert E. Davis, a politician, \$75 to secure immunity for her house from the police. This report, the Sergeant alleges, was ignored by the Captain.

The board decided at the morning session to hold secret sessions, at which it would co-operate with Marshal Farnan in examining witnesses named by Sergeant Hurley in his complaint to the board. It will depend on this testimony whether or not charges will be preferred against Captain Ward. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon another inquisitory and secret session was held, and still another at 8 o'clock at night.

After the night session, which lasted until 10 o'clock, none of the Commissioners would say whether in their opinion the evidence so far brought out indicated that charges would be preferred against Captain Ward or any other member of the department.

The investigation will be resumed this morning at 10 o'clock, when additional witnesses will be called. Captain Ward may testify, but it is probable that he will be allowed to speak last, so as to be able to controvert, if he can, the testimony that has been given.

#### Sergeant Plum And Louis Katz.

Besides what took place behind the closed doors of the Commissioners' rooms two altercations in the Courthouse corridor enlivened the happenings of the day. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon Sergeant Plum, now of the Northeastern district, but formerly under Captain Ward at the Northwestern, said to Louis Katz, a former saloonkeeper of Lorman street, in the northwestern:

"Katz, you're a liar. You told me repeatedly that Ward was making you pay him enough money each month to pay rent on a good sized house, and I put what you said in my note book. Now you go in the Commissioners' room and make me out a liar. Well, you're a liar."

"I never told you any such thing," said Katz.

"You did. I put it down here in black and white in my book, and you told Officer Casey and Officer Webster and Officer Jeremiah Lynch the same thing. They heard you. You said you would go before the grand jury or Police Board or to any other place and swear that it was so. Now you try to make me out a liar. I have your very words here in my book, as I put them down a few minutes after you said them."

"I never said anything like that," rejoined Katz.

He was standing with an open knife in his hand, with which he had been trimming his nails. The two men looked stern for a moment, but after a few more exchanges of words Katz walked away. He refused to discuss the case, but denied that Captain Ward had ever given him or he had ever given Captain Ward any money.

#### Before The Board.

Katz was called before Plum and remained in the board room only a short time. It is understood that he was asked concerning the alleged payment of money by him to Captain Ward, and that he denied it. After a short time he was asked to retire temporarily and Sergeant Plum was called.

The Sergeant had brought his memorandum book along, and when asked by the board to state what he knew about the alleged giving of immunity money he opened the book and read various notations from it.

The Sergeant said that Katz had told him he had paid sums of money to Captain Ward for immunity from raids on his saloon. The Sergeant said also that he had jotted down Katz's exact words a few minutes after leaving him. The Sergeant asked the board, he says, to call Patrolmen Webster, Casey and Jeremiah Lynch. All three, he said, had heard Katz make similar remarks.

When he was told by the board that Katz had denied ever giving money the Sergeant declared that his memorandum book was accurate, as he had taken care to get the words verbatim as Katz had said them. He was then relieved of further testimony, and Katz was also allowed to go, the board determining not to hear him further.

#### Robert E. Davis Called.

Robert E. Davis also testified at the afternoon session. Davis explained that he had volunteered to appear, and entered a general denial of the charges which had been brought against him by Mrs. Hunter.

"And I intend to prosecute that suit against her if I live," he added.

Before the board Mr. Davis testified that he had no dealings at any time with Mrs. Hunter.

Soon after Mr. Davis left the Courthouse Detective Peter Brennan arrived at headquarters accompanied by Edward Hargrave, committee clerk of the First Branch City Council, who had been sent for. He was inside the board room only a few minutes. As he emerged, he said:

"I have been to the Hunter house, but I never had anything to do with anything concerned with it. Don't know a thing about it—nothing at all. I heard rumors of the \$75, but know nothing about it."

Lieutenant Kalbfleisch, of the Northwestern district, was also called in the afternoon, but was not questioned after he said that he knew nothing about the case.

Patrolman Miller, who was formerly on the beat including the Hunter house, testified that he had been told to get evidence against the house, but had not been able to do so.

Edward Stoneman, who alleges that he carried the money from Mrs. Hunter to Davis, was called again to testify and was pretty well grilled by each member of the board. When questioned concerning the taking of the envelope said to have contained the \$75 he repeated to the board an alleged conversation, said by him to have passed between himself and Davis at the time of the delivery of the money, in which it was alleged that one man was not getting all of the \$75.

#### What Daniel T. Mattison Said.

At the night session several new phases were placed upon the situation by the calling of Daniel T. Mattison, former bartender for August Roth, 2000 West Lantvale street. Mattison is a brother-in-law of Sergeant Hurley.

Mattison said he testified to the board that after Roth's place had been raided a number of times he went to the Northwestern Police Station to see Captain Ward and that Captain Ward had told him:

"You people are doing a big business up there. Where do I come in?"

Mattison says also that he testified he went several nights ago to the saloon formerly run by Katz and asked Katz concerning the alleged statement that Katz had been giving Captain Ward immunity for immunity. Katz, he says, did not deny it, but referred him to Sergeant Plum, saying that "Plum knew all about it."

Charles McDermott, an employe of the saloon formerly kept by Katz, was also before the Commissioners. He said he knew nothing of the alleged giving of money.

#### Sergeant Hurley Again.

Sergeant Hurley made his third appearance at headquarters at the night session and was questioned by the Commissioners for over an hour. Later he returned and made a supplemental statement, having overlooked some of the facts which he wished to present.

It is understood that the Sergeant stated to the board that he had visited the Hunter home in company with Patrolman Higgins and told Mrs. Hunter that her name would be sent to the grand jury on the charge

of conducting a disorderly house. According to the Sergeant's version of the story, Mrs. Hunter told him that she had already "paid her indictment," and on being asked when and how she paid it answered that she had paid \$75 to "Bob" Davis through the agency of Stoneman.

The Sergeant, it is understood, then told the board that he drew up a statement setting forth the facts as she alleged them, and this the woman was asked to sign. The woman, it is said, refused to sign, but placed her cross-mark to the paper.

This paper, Sergeant Hurley declares, was taken to Captain Ward and presented to him with the statement by Sergeant Hurley that it was a confession from the woman. The Sergeant says that Captain Ward returned the statement with the remark that he had already known of the place and did not believe there was anything new in the statement.

The facts as they have developed are said to show that Patrolman Dunn was detailed the same night to get witnesses against the house, and upon the information gathered by him the charge was formulated by Captain Ward and later sent to the Marshal. The woman was indicted upon this information.

Sergeant Oliphant and a number of patrolmen of the Northwestern district were also questioned concerning details of the charges brought by Sergeant Hurley.

#### Captain And Sergeant Meet.

While the board was meeting in the morning Captain Ward and Sergeant Hurley met in the corridor. The Captain was talking with several friends, when the Sergeant approached and said:

"I want that report that I turned in to you regarding Maggie Hunter's house. You have it. I want it."

"Yes," replied the Captain. "I have it and I'm going to keep it. It belongs to me."

"It ought to be in my hands," said the Sergeant.

"Well, if you think so," said the Captain, "make a complaint to the Marshal. I am retaining that report as captain of the district, and it will be produced when the proper time comes."

Sergeant Hurley passed into the Marshal's office, and the Captain remained in the corridor. Later he went to the Criminal Court, where he was present at the trial of a man charged with breaking into the home of Superintendent of Public Buildings Ames.

#### Mrs. Hunter Reported Ill.

Varying statements were made as to when Mrs. Hunter will appear before the board. Stoneman said at the close of the morning hearing that she was extremely ill.

"I doubt if she will ever be able to testify," he said. When asked if she was so sick as to justify an apprehension that she might die, he answered affirmatively. Later, however, he qualified his statement, and said that "may be" she would be down to the Marshal's office in several days. He said positively that she would not be able to appear today.

Marshal Farnan says he expects her to appear soon and that if she does not come he will ascertain the exact state of her illness. The Police Board has the power to summon witnesses and swear them.

#### Church Workers Interested.

The good citizens' committee of the Baltimore Union of Christian Endeavor Societies is said to have been making an investigation into the character and record of Sergeant Hurley, and it is said that a report favorable to the sergeant will likely be made to the union.

Church workers of different denominations in Northwest Baltimore are actively interested in the case, and the opinion is said to prevail that Sergeant Hurley is an upright policeman, with a spotless reputation.

It is even said to be probable that before the case ends several prominent church workers will appear before the Police Board in the interest of Sergeant Hurley. He is said to be an active church worker.

#### Colonel Swann's Position.

Discussing the attitude of the board on the situation, Colonel Swann said:

"I desire to be perfectly fair in this case. We are going to use every possible avenue of information which might lead to anything that will either substantiate or disprove the charges that have been made. The board will probe deep. It is our intention of getting down to the bottom of the troubles, and if there is any wrongdoing we will unquestionably deal with the situation as we should do."

"I have always thought the Northwestern district, like the other districts, in very good shape. I have had no complaints, and my own investigations, made at frequent intervals, have disclosed no loose methods. If there has been any, the board wants to know it and we will meet the situation squarely."