*Magnificent promises are always to be suspected.*
—THEODORE PARKER.

# EDITORIALS

## The Law and Governor Lane

Tuesday of next week, Thomas A. Edwards, 23, of Freetown, Md., is scheduled to appear before the Anne Arundel County grand jury on charges of slaying John H. Mahlan and his female companion, both of Glen Burnie, seven weeks ago.

According to our accepted theory of jurisprudence, Edwards is only suspected of committing the crime. Even if he is indicted for murder, that alone does not necessarily prove he is guilty. By law a man is presumed to be innocent until acceptable evidence in a court of law and justice proves his guilt.

Evidently Governor Lane, the police officers who worked on the case and the daily papers reporting it do not work by this theory. Already they have tried, convicted and practically sentenced the suspect.

Edwards was arrested, for the second time, Monday night, and, according to police, subjected to an all-night grilling. While this was going on Governor Lane issued an official statement that he was sure "the authorities had come to the end of this case."

On the heels of this, the "team" of officers, city, county and State, appointed by the Governor, passed out to the papers a statement that the group was "convinced beyond reasonable shadow of a doubt that the murders were committed by Thomas."

Finally, the papers have "slanted" their stories so as to rule out the possibility that the suspect is not guilty.

If such behavior is not in violation of the Supreme Bench rule which prohibits the discussing of guilt or innocence of a suspect prior to trial, then surely it is against the whole legal system that a man is to be presumed innocent until his guilt is an established fact.

The most disturbing element of this case, however, has been the apparent conclusion by city, county and State officials—the Governor included—that a colored person had to be the guilty party.

In view of this, it causes us to ask why the unreserved assurance on part of these officers, and the Governor, that Edwards is their man?

Is the pressure for a conviction so strong that they are willing to hang a man who could be innocent?

Then there is one other thing which this case points up with screaming clarity.

It shows again, as the Brill case did, that Maryland police officers, especially those of Baltimore, will move heaven and earth to get a conviction when a crime is committed against a white person; that where the victim is colored they make a gesture, shrug their shoulders, and forget.

About 18 months ago when 6-year-old Cola Mae Robinson was fiendishly attacked and brutally slain on Brevard St., Baltimore police made a casual investigation and then marked it off as "an unsolved case." Today the criminal still is at large.

There have been other such cases, many others. When these cases and the fact that police apparently assume that a colored person always is the guilty party, are placed side by side, they make a rather horrible picture.

## Irrational and Nefarious Rule

H. L. Mencken, the Baltimore Sun's caustic disciple of gloom and doom, who has gained considerable reputation for looking on the "under side" of political or social questions, this week commented upon the much-discussed policy which the Board of Recreation and Parks is attempting to cram down the throats of the local citizens.

This time, however, he departs from his usually ultra-conservative role and stands for once on the side of progress and common sense.

His argument against the park board's policy prohibiting colored and white playing tennis together, and forcing golfers of the two races to use separate courses, is this: Even if it is lawful (which is doubtful), it is not supported by either common sense or common decency.

"A free citizen in a free state has an inalienable right to play with whomsoever he will, so long as he does not disturb the general peace," Mencken points out.

He is astounded to find so much of the spirit of Georgia surviving in Maryland. The public parks, he reminds the park board, are supported by the taxpayer, including the colored taxpayer, for the health and pleasure of the whole people.

Sensibly, he asks: "Why should cops be sent into them (the parks) to separate those people, against their will, into separate herds? Why should the law set up distinctions and discriminations which the persons directly affected themselves reject?"

His conclusion is that "The park board rule is irrational and nefarious. It should be got rid of forthwith."

This is precisely what the Monumental Golf Association, the NAACP, the AFRO-AMERICAN, the arrested tennis players and thousands of Baltimoreans have been saying all along. Mencken simply repeats an argument the park board and the courts have heard time and again.

But the significant thing is that in taking this position, Mencken, who certainly cannot be accused of being a crusader for social reform, shows up the extreme backwardness of the park board and its policy of feudal human relations.

## A Sore-Spot of Long Standing

The City of Baltimore is now formally on record as being opposed to the application of the Baltimore Transit Company, a private concern, for an increase in carfare from the current ten cents to a 15-cent straight fare and a rate of two fares for 25 cents.

The city's application for a denial of the increase lists three reasons for its actions.

First, it points out that the transit company's request is premature because at present the utility firm is in the process of conversion from fixed to free-wheel operation, or from streetcars to trackless trolleys, and that the company also is under new management—two factors which should result in a decrease in operation costs.

In the past, whenever complaints were filed about service, transit company officials attempted to explain it away by blaming manpower shortage.

At the same time, it has doggedly refused to hire colored persons as streetcar and bus operators, despite the long and continued efforts of individuals and organizations to induce a change of policy.

So, it is our opinion that this alone is responsible for much of the opposition to the request for a fare increase from the local citizenry. We further believe that this sentiment on part of a large segment of Baltimore's people helped to determine the City's opposition to the request for an increase.

We hope that if and when the transit company sets about to correct the other matters listed in the city's application, it will also change its hiring policy and thus eliminate a long-standing source of public irritation.

## Is This Christianity?

The Episcopal Church has sent out circulars to all members in Maryland asking $88,605 "To help the Kingdom of God become a reality in our diocese."

In the general circular sent out under the head: "What do we get for what we give?" are listed 12 services. Four of these services are composed entirely of colored people. In two others, the issuance of the Diocese Newspaper and the Diocesan House, colored parishioners have only nominal interests.

The four services which are closed to colored include All Saints' Sisters: St. Gabriel's Home, described as a splendid ministry to girls afflicted with rheumatic and other heart conditions.

This home is administered by the nuns of the church, but expressly excludes colored girls, advising publicly that it is for white girls only. In other words, white girls of other faiths will be taken, but colored Episcopalians who help to support the home are barred.

The second service closed to colored is that of Diocesan Schools, among which are St. James School and the Hannah More Academy.

Colored members are being asked to contribute. On a strict material basis this hardly meets the requirements of just treatment for all members, to say nothing of the moral side of the issue.

It also appears that such a policy must be put down as one that is highly un-Christian.

DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION MUST GO

# reporter's row

By Samuel Hoskins

### Quoting the Bible for Evil

Last February a senator from the South stood at his post in Congress and resorted to the use of a Biblical phrase in describing President Truman's civil rights message.

He said: "It (the President's program) is a stench in the nostrils of honest, self-respecting people and an abomination in the eyes of the Lord."

Over in the House of Representatives there was a similar refrain. A Mississippian made this well-publicized utterance:

"I will say in all sincerity that I had rather see the Democratic Party go down in honorable defeat standing on the time-honored principles of Thomas Jefferson than to see it win an empty victory by stabbing its best friends in the back."

Needless to say, his definition of "best friends" was the Southern Democrats; the "stabbing," the President's request for enactment of civil rights legislation.

As everyone knows, this rebellion which started in Congress was carried to the extent of Southerners organizing the Dixiecrat Party in an attempt either to defeat the President, because of his program, or throw the election into the House of Representatives, where they hoped to have greater bargaining power than in a popular election.

### Rebellion a Tea Pot Tempest

As is also known, the election results came as a surprise to a number of people, including the Dixiecrats, whose rebellion turned out a mere tempest in a tea cup and proved once and for all that from a point of politics the day is gone when the tail is able to wag the dog.

It proved conclusively that, historically, 1948 may be put down as the year the political philosophy concocted by the generation of John C. Calhoun, nurtured to full maturity by that of Pitchford Ben Tillman and adopted as a religion by the Bilbo-Glass-Heflin school finally was rejected by the nation.

This means also that 1948 turned out not to be the Toulon sought by the Thurmonds and the Wrights but, instead, their Waterloo.

But with all this as pizzn as paper on the wall, look what is happening:

The Dixiecrats, the supermen of yesterday who set out to hold back the tide of time, who spoke with such fervor and conviction, now come slinking back, kicking the place where the voter so firmly placed his foot.

### Booted Out; Now They Crawl

Some people may attempt to call it by another name, but when men transport themselves on the under parts of their anatomies there is only one word for it—crawling.

That is what the men who stormed out of the Philadelphia convention are doing today—plain crawling.

They are doing this when they suggest that the 38 electoral votes which went to Thurmond in four States, where the voting was conducted along a pattern closer to that of Nazi Germany than of a Democracy, be given to Truman.

In view of the fact that they did everything in their power to defeat the President, this is an example of the most supine kind of "me toning," as Truman is elected now and does not need their help.

So, obviously, their purpose is not to help either the party or the President, but to save their own political hides.

In other words, they gambled and lost. Now they are welching on the bet. And of all the low characters, a welcher is the lowest.

The real truth is, they are beaten. The popular vote the Dixiecrats received in the entire South is less than that which went to either of the major candidates in New York, Illinois or California.

The best indication of the extent of their beating is the fact that in West Virginia a candidate who promised full support to civil rights, Matt Neely, won a thumping victory.

### Should the Party Take Them Back?

So the question now is, will the Democratic Party reinstate the rebels?

Truman has said, "I am through giving 'em hell." National Democratic Chairman McGrath has indicated that there is the possibility of the party making peace with most of them, excepting, of course, Govs. Strom Thurmond and Fielding Wright, the Dixiecrats' Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates.

But these two were only mouthpieces for the men who really ran the rebellion. They were not in Congress, headed no committee and had no opportunity to sabotage the President's program.

### Mrs. Roosevelt's Realistic Approach

The real culprits have been pointed out by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has taken a very realistic approach to the whole thing. She advises: kick them out.

She said: "It is inconceivable to me how these Southerners who walked out of the Democratic Convention, formed their own party, won four States and did their best to beat the Democratic President can now walk back into the party, explain that 'boys will be boys' and then take up several committee chairmanships won by the uphill fights of loyal and progressive Democrats."

Her logical conclusion is that the people who voted for the President did so out of approval for his civil rights bills and other progressive measures, that they would not want to see the President hampered by having important committee chairmanships in the hands of those who most bitterly opposed him.

If this were to happen, it would only lead to more filibusters, more stalling and the kind of Congressional conspiracy which characterized the 80th Congress.

The Dixiecrats walked out on their own and their bluff was called when the Administration proved that it could get along without them. They should be kept out.

# public pulse beat

### DP's Are Welcome

Dear AFRO: I have first-hand knowledge of the privation and hardships of displaced persons in Europe, and know what the lack of freedom and first-class citizenship means to them.

Therefore, it is natural that I have sympathetic feeling for the 205,000 D.P.'s scheduled to come to the States within the next two years.

I do hope they will cherish, honor and respect this democratic way of life much more than many of our own more fortunate inhabitants.

It is so easy and convenient to become fellow-travelers of these justice-blind, home-grown Fascists, who successfully deny certain rights and privileges to minorities for ethnological and religious reasons.

What is it we do to our immigrants that they must find a scapegoat?

I pray these people will have enough resistance not to become infected by this disease which claims so many of our citizens and perhaps victimizes more people than any combination of other physical and mental conditions.

We have to make democracy a living way of life, equal for all people regardless of race, color, creed, if we expect to remove the gear of other political ideologies as a threat.

Welcome displaced persons to America and pledge your allegiance to our flag and you will have found freedoms that I am still seeking.

EUGENE D. BYRD, D.D.S.
Turners Station

### Voted for Truman

Dear AFRO: I voted for Mr. Truman and he returned to the White House. I saw in my Tuesday's AFRO that Mr. Dewey is on his way home or some place. May joy go with him.

(Mrs.) E. BOULDEN

# scratch pad

By Mae Morris

Job and People
Man or Mouse
Who Are You?

The Sunday School lesson this week was about Job.

Ask any of your friends to describe this Biblical character, and nine times out of ten you'll get the comment, "He was the man with more patience than any human can have."

But Sunday's lesson revealed a little more about Job. As a matter of fact, it showed that the man is a fictional character, created in the form of a drama by the ancient Hebrew historian to show our utter helplessness at the whim of the Almighty.

In the final scene, Job has lost all of his wealth, his health is broken, he curses the day of his birth and runs out of patience with his suffering.

Then come the words which match the clarity and purpose of any in all literature. A Divine Voice asks Job: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

Job had no answer, and neither have we when we stop to think about how unimportant we really are.

Which makes it rather difficult to understand how some people strut around, pass laws and do everything else within their power to make themselves believe they're superior to other folks.

Maybe more of these strutting people should go to Sunday School. Or maybe the story of Job should be tacked on a page of their favorite reading matter.

But the next time one of them shows off in front of me, I'm going to ask: "Where were you when Someone decided you wouldn't be born a mouse?"

# sob sister

By Ruth Jenkins

Speculation is running high about the sincerity of the motive behind that high-powered white attorney's desire to sell his exclusive suburban home to a colored or Chinese family only.

His reason that he believes "rich colored people and Chinese have the most money" sounds very weak, although it took courage to tell the newspapers, the neighbors and the Real Estate Board to go to grass with their racial, prejudiced objections.

Nevertheless, for my money, he can keep his lavishly furnished abode. Too many disadvantages.

In the first place, there's too much fresh air and sunshine. Might develop into howling winds and snowdrifts this winter.

In the second place, the residents have indicated too much neighborliness. They'd probably be running in and out of the house all day borrowing a cup of sugar or something.

In the third place, think of the expense entailed. That roomy garage and garden space certainly would call for a new Cadillac and a gardener, at today's sky-rocket prices.

In the fourth place, transportation facilities are too convenient. Being right on the trolley line and on a dual highway would prove too annoying with all that traffic.

Besides that, the house is much too far from the stores. Why, that select new Edmondson Village shopping center which sells everything from matches to bank coats is every bit of four blocks away.

And, finally, they just might build that church on the adjacent lot, and that's being too near to religion which in reality would be so far away.

# news beat

By Rufus Wells

A white druggist telephoned us Wednesday morning.

He wanted to know what had happened to the white youth on trial in connection with the death of Francis L. Tovares, a teen-age delivery boy who died shortly after being beaten near Wyman Park Drive on July 9.

The druggist had telephoned both daily papers and the court house but had been unable to learn of the outcome of the case, which was tried before Judge Dickerson, Monday.

He was exasperated.

How, he asked, can a newspaper consider itself worthy of the name when it rings down an iron curtain on all news that does not tie in with its theories of white supremacy?

We told the druggist that the accused youth, Ronald Poe, 16, had been convicted of "assault with intent to murder" Tavares and that sentence had been withheld at the request of defense counsel.

We also told him that if Poe had been a colored person and the victim white, the daily papers would have carried sensational stories of the "hoodlum's" unwarranted attack.

## 2,211,600 in State at Beginning of '48

For the current year, the total population of Maryland has been estimated at 2,211,000.*

In addition to Baltimore City, the population for the following cities has been estimated: Annapolis, 19,500; Cambridge, 12,800; Cumberland, 46,700; Easton, 9,700; Frederick, 20,500; Hagerstown, 38,700; Hyattsville, 11,100; Salisbury, 15,900.

* Reprinted from Survey of Buying Power, 1948, by permission of Sales Management Magazine.

# PENCIL SHAVINGS

By Peyton Gray

### From Decorations to Oil Stoves

The sudden appearance of Christmas decorations in the downtown store windows reminds one that the annual religious holiday and gift-buying day is but six pry-checks away—six weeks, that is.

With that realization came thoughts of cold weather and of my pet peeve. What are thousands of Baltimore families going to do for heat? This will be the first winter under the Fire Code which prohibits the use of portable oil stoves, the only means of heat in many sub-standard homes.

The City Fathers passed makeshift legislation, amended it, and then sat back with folded arms. But the job has not been completed. The danger to life and property through oil stove fires has not been removed through a city ordinance.

Any number of persons already have been fined from $5 to $100 for the use of the outlawed stoves. Still others will be caught and fined. And because of the rapidity with which such fires spread through small shacks, in all probability more lives will be taken.

### Increased Rents Probable

The situation poses several controversial points which will result in added discomfort and will be a burden to a great many Baltimoreans not fortunate enough to live in homes equipped with approved heating systems.

The Area Rent Control office has revealed that it is powerless to prevent increases in cases where landlords who previously did not furnish stoves or heat, install a unit in order to comply with the ordinance.

Whether this procedure be followed or tenant and landlord work out an agreement whereby the tenant purchases the unit, the average person involved, already burdened under the high cost of living, will face additional financial worries.

Some landlords and agents of large real estate holdings have indicated they do not intend to install the units because of the cost. The approved type of kerosene stove ranges in price from $50 to $165.

### Some May Face Eviction

Some have stated they will close the properties down and take them off the rental market. This is permissible, cheaper, and since most of the landlords have their own comfortable homes, they aren't particularly concerned over the fate of their not-so-fortunate tenants.

It is because of the gravity of the picture that many persons are hoping the next Congress will extend the life of the current Rent Control Act. Unless revived, the measure dies Mar. 31, 1949.

Months ago, local landlords were reported preparing to wage a stiff fight with proponents of the law, come next spring. This week, the other side swung into action. Plans are being studied whereby the Federal law can be tightened.

Advocated is a one-year extension of the law. Federal control over evictions, the awarding of triple damages to tenants overcharged and the penalizing of landlords for rent ceiling violations. Such legislation would actually mean the restoration of OPA control.

Any action taken in Washington should be closely followed by Baltimore's civic agencies and steps taken to prevent any further hardships to the large group of citizens involved.

### The New York Story

While on housing, it is interesting to note that 62% of the tenants living in Stuyvesant Town, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's segregated housing settlement in New York, agreed colored tenants should be admitted if they meet the qualifications necessary for other tenants.

Thirty-three per cent answered "no" and 5% said they preferred not to answer. This was the result of a poll taken for the Provisional Committee to end Discrimination in Stuyvesant Town.

As the Yuletime season approaches, one also thinks of listening to broadcasts of the various football "Bowl" games from different sections of the country. The list I have uncovered to date includes:

Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, East-West Shrine, Orange Bowl, Cotton Bowl, North-South, Dixie Bowl, Sun Bowl, Delta Bowl, Gator Bowl, Cigar Bowl, Burley Bowl, Vulcan Bowl, and now Hampton Institute and Wilberforce University have come up with a FISH bowl game set for Dec. 4.

### Election Backwash

An anonymous rivel for Democratic control of the 16th Ward hurled a few ugly threats over the telephone to U. Theodore Hayes, attorney, on election day. As a means of revenge, Hayes swung his machine triumphantly through the district. Throughout the country, some 103 colored candidates entered the sectional election races. Almost half, or 50 of the aspirants were Progressives.

Believe it or not, a colored weekly newspaper came out last week supporting the Dixiecrats, or States' Rights Party.

A story was circulated that here in Baltimore a Republican declared he would not go to church this past Sunday if Governor Dewey lost. He kept his word and spent the morning reading the Sunday comic sheets.

And to that friend who still does not believe the United States Government can be sued, Mrs. Sadie T. M. Alexander, Philadelphia lawyer and member of President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights, brought suit against the Air Terminal Services at the National Airport for some $15,000.

Her attorneys contend the airport is owned and operated by the U.S. Government. Mrs. Alexander charges that the Air Terminal Services refused to sell her milk except on condition that she take it into the women's lavatory or the lobby to drink it.

## Minority Group Owns 14 Banks in 9 States

### '47 Shown to Be Their Peak Year in Commerce Department's Report

The sixth annual report of banks and banking institutions owned and operated by colored persons, released by the Department of Commerce, reveals that there are now 14 banks domiciled in nine States and the District of Columbia. Of this number 11 are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

An analysis of their 1947 statements of condition, prepared by Emmer M. Lancaster, advisor to the Secretary of Commerce, indicates that peak records were attained in several of their operations.

Their total assets of $31,307,345 are the highest of record, exceeding the preceding year's total by $2,150,658.

**Assets Up Million Dollars**

Although government obligations, directed and guaranteed, of $14,531,557, declined 9.91% during the year, other securities, including obligations of States, political subdivisions, corporate stocks and bonds amounting to $2,383,876, surpassed the 1946 total by $1,168,221.

All security holdings for the year 1947 aggregated $16,915,433 and constituted 54.03% of combined bank assets.

Cash and balances with other banks of $4,978,720 decreased 8.25% since December, 1946; loans and discounts of $9,838,918 registered an increase during the year of $2,830,386 or 47.11%.

**Deposits Rise 5%**

Corresponding to the constant upward trend of bank assets, deposits of individuals, partnerships and corporations, rose to a peak total of $29,006,342, a gain of 5.19% over the 1946 record.

Capital accounts—capital stock $1,214,720, reserves, $119,549, surplus and undivided profits, $770,453 totaled $2,104,722. Increased 40.83%.

During the calendar year 1947, gross earnings from current operations amounted to $934,622; current operating expenses, $700,520; and net earnings, $234,027.

**Profits Also Higher**

Recoveries and profits were $56,357; losses and charge offs, $106,897; taxes on net income, $63,723; and net profits, $119,764. Of net profits, $51,664 was disbursed distributions and the balance of $68,100 was transferred to surplus, undivided profits and reserves.

During the reporting period, the financial statements of these banks, as compared with their 1946 reports, revealed significant decline and excessive increases, particularly in government obligations, direct and guaranteed, current operating expenses, net profits after income taxes and losses and charged off on loans and discounts.

However, these operational trends, according to the 1947 reports of the comptroller of the currency and chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, were common to all active banks in the United States.

**Used by U.S. Treasury**

It is considered worthy of note that the following banks have been selected as depositories for public funds of the Federal Government and of the various cities, counties and States, wherein they operate:

1. THE MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK OF NORTH CAROLINA—Serve as a depository for the State of North Carolina, the cities of Durham and Raleigh, the counties of Wake and Durham, and postal savings funds of the Federal Government in the approximate sum of $500,000.

2. THE CROWN SAVINGS BANK OF VIRGINIA—Acts as a depository for the city of Newport News, State of Virginia, Newport News Development and Housing Authority, war loan account of the Federal Government and U.S. Postal Savings into the amount exceeding $194,000.

3. DANVILLE SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF VIRGINIA—Public funds of the State of Virginia, city of Danville, war loan deposit account and postal savings of the Federal Government totaling $136,000 are held by this institution.

**$137,800 in Kansas Bank**

4. DOUGLAS STATE BANK OF KANSAS—This bank reports deposits of State and political subdivisions amounting to $137,800.

5. CITIZENS AND SOUTHERN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA—Its depositors include the State of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia, School District of Philadelphia and the Federal Government in sums of $80,000.

6. CITIZENS AND SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF TENNESSEE—Acts as depository of State and political subdivisions totaling $1,000,000.

7. CONSOLIDATED BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF VIRGINIA — The Federal Reserve Bank, War Loan Account and the City of Richmond have deposits in this bank amounting to $31,605.

**Hold Federal Funds**

8. THE CITIZENS TRUST COMPANY OF GEORGIA—A depository for the State of Georgia and the U.S. Government for the following accounts: U.S. War Loan, Board of Postal Savings and withheld taxes, amounting to $40,000.

9. THE FARMERS STATE BANK OF OKLAHOMA — Holds deposits of $33,705 for the various political subdivisions in Oklahoma.

10. THE INDUSTRIAL BANK OF WASHINGTON AND THE TRI-STATE BANK OF MEMPHIS —Are depositories of Federal Government funds.



## Police Brutality Held Increasing

(Continued From Page 1)

lass High School.

Also arrested for disorderly conduct, young Malone, too, was dismissed the following morning.

In a case occurring last week, two East Baltimore brothers appealed to the NAACP, which has asked the commissioner to investigate their story of assault, while in custody at Northeastern police station.

**Bandaged at Hearing**

The brothers, George and Floyd Davis of 1734 Ashland Ave. were arrested late Thursday night and charged with disorderly conduct and with assaulting Patrolman Nicholas Cortesi of the Northeastern District.

Requesting a jury trial, they appeared in court with patches on the head after treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital for wounds which they said were inflicted by policemen at the station house.

The NAACP, in a letter to the police commissioner pointed out: "Here is a case in which individuals were arrested and beaten after they were brought to Northeastern station.

"As they did not resist arrest when apprehended on Ashland Ave., it does not seem logical that they would cause a disturbance in the station house which would warrant the type of brutal treatment which they have received."

**Policeman Stays Youth**

Most gruesome of these cases was that of 14-year-old Ponnelle Pearson of 866 W. Fairmount Ave., who was killed when shot in the back on Sept. 1 by a Western District patrolman.

The youth was felled by a shot fired from the second-story window of a vacant house in the 800 block Lombard St. by Patrolman Edward Cook.

Despite eye-witnesses' testimony to the contrary, Patrolman Cook was absolved of blame on his contention that he fired to protect a fellow policeman, Officer Pete Lowinski, on whom, he said, the boy was advancing with a knife.

**None Ever Convicted**

Although officers have always been exonerated in police killings, the fact that they are not always right in their disputes with citizens was proved in a recent Criminal Court case.

In this unusual situation, during which the defendant charged police with persecuting him, Charles Hill, 39-year-old radio repairman, was acquitted by a jury on Oct. 7 of charges of disorderly conduct and assaulting a policeman.

Pleading not guilty to both charges, Mr. Hill told the jury that the case was "spite work" by Patrolmen Michael Cortes of the Northwestern District, who had previously arrested him on a trumped up charge.

**Beaten, Fined, Rearrested**

He testified that he was seated in a tavern on March 1 when Officer Cortes and fellow policeman came in and began searching the patrons for weapons.

When he resented the search, a dispute resulted, during which Hill was taken to the station house, where, he said, he was beaten by the officers.

Tried the following day, Hill was fined $75 on charges of assaulting the officer and disorderly conduct.

The "spite" arrest occurred, Mr. Hill said, on Sept. 15, when he and the officer passed each other on Pennsylvania Ave.

**Jury Absolves Defendant**

Testimony differed as to what happened during this encounter. Mr. Hill said he spit into the street, but the officer contended that Hill spit on him. However, in the ensuing disagreement, Hill was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct, resisting and assaulting the officer.

But after listening to his story, the jury, under Judge Henry Niles, deliberated only 35 minutes before returning the "not guilty" verdict.

Now of these cases speaks favorably for police officers whose responsibility is to help prevent crime, uphold the law and protect law-abiding citizens.

**"Police Brutality Mounting"**

In the letter to Commissioner Atkinson, Milton Brown, NAACP executive secretary, declared that "Police brutality is continuing to mount, with the consequent loss of respect for police officers in colored communities."

Then he pointed out, "This, I am sure you know, is a very dangerous situation and I trust that we can correct this matter to our mutual benefit."

Is police brutality on the increase?

## Eastside Brothers Charge Police Brutality

Two brothers, shown above, display bandages covering wounds which they say were inflicted by policemen at Northeastern police station; after they were arrested near their home last week on disorderly conduct charges. Seated is Floyd Davis, 17; and kneeling is George Davis, 26. The NAACP has asked Commissioner Atkinson for a full departmental investigation of the charges. The brothers said they were arrested by Patrolman Nicholas Cortezi and another policeman as yet unidentified. The officers were investigating a reported shooting near the Davis home, at 1734 Ashland Ave.

Pushed by Police

Mrs. Thelma Davis of 1734 Ashland Ave., shown above, said she was knocked from the front steps of her home and cursed by a policeman, who also threatened to kick her. The wife of George Davis, she was standing on the steps when Northeastern District officers investigated a reported shooting nearby, last Thursday night.

## Civil Service Job at $2,086 Open

The Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Social Security Administration, has announced an examination for the position of calculating machine operator.

Persons who receiving eligible ratings on this examination, will have their names placed on registers from which probational appointments will be made to positions with the Social Security Administration, or with Camp Detrick, Frederick, Md.

**$2,086 Beginning Salary**

Beginning salary for these positions is $2,086 a year. Liberal allowances are granted for vacation and sick leave. Applications must be filed by Feb. 21.

Information may be obtained from Post Offices in the State, Camp Detrick or by writing to the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Social Security Administration, 714 E. Pratt St., Baltimore 2.

## Wage Rate Up 35% Here in Five Years

Wage rates in Baltimore manufacturing industries increased 35.9% between April, 1943 and April, 1948, as compared with 48.9% for the nation as a whole, according to a preliminary report on straight-time hourly earnings released this week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Commenting on the report, Robert R. Bahow, regional director for the Bureau in the Middle Atlantic States, pointed out that manufacturing wage rates for the nation as a whole increased 6% from April, 1948 to Sept. 1948.

In selected non-manufacturing industries, wage increases here amounted to 56.2% between April, 1943 and April, 1948, as compared with 57.3% for the nation.

The consumers' price index for moderate income families in Baltimore rose by about 37% over the five-year period.

## Body Unclaimed at City Morgue

The body of Miss Emma Grant of 1058 W. Lexington St. was unclaimed at the City Morgue Thursday after her death at University Hospital, Wednesday, police reported.

She was said to have been taken to the hospital in an unconscious condition by Western District police. Tuesday, after a call by her friend, Miss Carey Edmondson of 125 W. Carlton St.

## Teen-Agers Fined $50 in Theft of Machine

Found guilty of stealing a sewing machine, two teen-age youths were fined $50 each, Wednesday, by Magistrate Romano in Southwestern police court.

The defendants, Harry Anthony, 19, of 100 N. Bruce St., and Clarence Simmons, 17, of 221 N. Parrish St., were accused of taking the machine from Irvin Gampel of 4104 Elderon Ave.

## Theft of Auto Tire, Wheel Nets $25 Fine

Charles H. Polk, 27, of 220 Myrtle Ave., was fined $25 in Southwestern police court, this week, when convicted of stealing an automobile tire and wheel from Riley Walker of 7 S. Carlton Ave.

## Jurist in Drive to Halt Violence

In an effort to curb steadily increasing assault cases on the Eastside, Magistrate-at-large James H. Ellis Jr., handed jail terms totaling three years and nine months to six defendants this week, instead of the customary fines.

The heaviest sentences were those given to three men found guilty of striking Miss Sonora Branch of 214 N. Wolfe St.

The men, Charles and Sidney Allen of 1720 Orleans St. and Carlos Daughtery of 409 N. Caroline St., each were sentenced to one year in the House of Correction.

For kicking his wife, Mrs. Evelyn Eldridge, Henry Eldridge of 1731 Ashland Ave., drew a three-month jail term on Monday.

Arthur Sterry of 1207 N. Dallas St., was sentenced to three months when convicted of striking Charles H. Perry of 1230 N. Bond St.

And William Patterson of 44 N. Caroline St., was sentenced to a like term for hitting Miss Christina Parker, also of the Caroline St. address.

Magistrate Ellis expressed a hope that the jail terms would cause others not to attempt to settle their disputes by resorting to physical violence.

late city

### Shooting Threats Cost Man $50 Fine in Court

Found guilty of threatening to shoot Miss Anna Taylor of Detroit, Mich., William W. Keeling, 37, of 120 St. Matthew St., was fined $50 Thursday, in Northwestern police court.

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