Plan Action To Restrict Money Order Sales

Law may be enacted on check firms

Because a S. Charles St. money order firm was reportedly unable to pay off a $17,000 debt derived from some 400 alleged uncashable money-orders, checking firms may be required to obtain a license in the near future.

That was the opinion Tuesday of John D. Hospelhorn, deputy Maryland State Bank Commissioner.

In making the statement, Mr. Hospelhorn said:

"We have no law on the books now to control this matter . . . but we have given a suggested bill to the Legislative Council, which will be up for discussion on Tuesday at 1 p.m., which would require all such checking companies to be licensed.

State Senator Harry A. Cole (R., 4th Dist.), said later that he would lend his full support to legislative action which would place companies distributing and selling checks under some form of control.

As of now, any person with the capital to get check forms printed and distributed to various stores can go into the business of selling money orders without any restrictions.

Mr. Hospelhorn stated that the Maryland State Bank Commissioners had tried unsuccessfully in June of last year to get some control set up by the Legislative Council.

* * *

EFFORTS TO obtain some type of control were renewed as a result of a demonstration in Central Police Court.

On Monday, some 400 persons became unruly when they were informed that their complaints against an executive of the Atlas Money Order Company could not be heard.

One officer described the court room "as the most beligerent I have ever seen.

"A couple of agitators kept urging them on until things got out of hand.

"They crowded into the court room and spilled over into the hallways" the officer said.

The crowd became angry when told that only six cases out of 499 involving bogus money order charges against the head of the firm could be heard.

They were told by Chief Magistrate Standley L. Richardson that a mistake had been made and that everyone should not have been notified by police to appear at the hearing.

* * *

AMID SIGHS of disgust and and catcalls, Magistrate Richardson had to repeat his request three times before the crowd would leave the court room.

A number of persons said they came to court because they were under the impression that they would get their money back.

They were assured that none of their cases were being dismissed, and that all would be given consideration "downtown," meaning Criminal Court

Magistrate James F. Fansell then proceeded to hear the case involving six charges against Seymour Brothers, 22, of the 3900 block Bancroft Rd.

Specificially, Mr. Brothers who waived a preliminary hearing, was charged with obtaining by false pretense bogus money orders which were not paid when presented for payment at the County Trust Company.

He was accused of taking $75 from Leroy Howard of 2021 Sinclair Le.; $13.50 from Roland Frankton, 19 S. Culver St.; $5.15 from Mrs. Pauline Meyers of 1833 W. North Ave.; $27 from Perry Lindsay, 1301 N. Stricker St.; $69.91 from Robert Tiolkerski, 1404 Forrest Hill Rd.; and $27 fror Mrs. Bessie Wilson of 2131 Sinclair Lane.

Bail for Brothers was set at $10,000 and he was released for action of the grand jury.

Typical of those who allegedly lost money was a result of by having bought money orders was one woman who told an AFRO reporter:

"I sent through $75 to pay my brother's monthly car payment. It didn't arrive and now the finance company wants to take his car."

Ben Weintraub, attorney for Mr. Brothers, stated that stores that had handled Atlas money orders were holding approximately $20,000 owed the company.

In offering an explanation as to why so many people showed up for the hearing, police said no efforts had been made to tell the complainants not to appear after it was decided in the State's attorney's office that only a few cases would be heard.

No trial date in Poe Homes death

A Criminal Court trial date has not yet been scheduled for William McKinley Johnson, 32, accused of the Poe Homes killing of his wife, Mrs. Beulah Johnson, on April 16.

Mrs. Johnson, mother of four children, was shot to death outside her 200 block Amity St. home, and Mr. Johnson disappeared directly afterwards. He was arrested by FBI agents in Towanda, N.Y., last month and returned to Baltimore.

TWO-ALARM FIRE at home of Mr. and Mrs. Sloan Gingles at 2234 Penrose Ave. on Monday afternoon cancelled plans for a family Thanksgiving Day reunion. Daughter, Shirley Gingles Brown, is shown at right holding her eight-month-old daughter. She rescued infant and the Gingles grandson, five-year-old Michael, shown at left.

10 Police killings in Baltimore area

APRIL 19, 1956—Robert McLain, 14-year-old Dunbar High School student of 404 E. Chase St., shot while running away from a stolen car at Madison and Fallsway by Officer Donald E. Mitchell of the Central District Magistrate Meyer Cardin exonerated the policeman.

JUNE 25, 1956—Harry Boyd Jr., 27, 1417 N. Broadway, shot in the back by Northeastern Patrolman Charles Fennell, who arrived on scene after a street fight. Magistrate Meyer Cardin ruled the officer acted in line of duty and the killing was justified.

JULY 7, 1956—Robert O. Harper, 34, 1614 Barclay St., shot in leg and bled to death following shooting by Southwestern Patrolman Walter Mina Jr., who told superiors he was breaking up a disorderly crowd. Officer Mina was exonerated of the killing by Magistrate Meyer Cardin, who ruled he acted in the line of duty.

AUGUST 15, 1956 — Frank J. Williams, 24, was shot and killed by Sgt. Albert Heck as a suspect in two holdups and the non-fatal shooting of a tailor shop proprietor. Sgt. Heck was exonerated of the killing in Central Police Court by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1956—Donald Jackson, 23, 971 Ellicott Dr., shot in the arm and chest by Southeastern Patrolman Benjamin Ledden. Ledden said he shot the man "in defense of my life," in the unit block Gilmor St. Patrolman Ledden was exonerated of the slaying by Magistrate Cardin.

OCTOBER 15, 1956 — Benjamin Brown, 14-year-old patient at Rosewood Training School shot and killed by Northwest Patrolman Marshall V. Brewer with rifle he "didn't know was loaded." Magistrate Meyer Cardin dismissed the shooting charge after State's Attorney John Weiss said the State could not make out a homicide case against the officer who said the shooting was an accident.

NOVEMBER 7, 1956—James H. Duggan Jr., 28, white city sanitary department worker, killed by a policeman answering cries for help. Central District Patrolman Joseph Bosse was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

NOVEMBER 24, 1956 —Clarence Wilkerson, 39, 1304 Harlem Ave., shot and killed by a Baltimore County Policeman while getting out of a car as ordered. Officer Louis DeManns was charged with homcide by State's Attorney Frank Hewell. On Monday Dec., 10 a Baltimore County jury failed to indict officer DeManns. He was returned to the force with no official punishment.

JANUARY 21, 1957 — James Kenneth Robbins, 17, 1800 block Jackson St., was shot and killed after a robbery assault. Southern District Patrolman Melvin Kearns said as he fired a warning shot, he slipped on the ice. A bullet struck the youth in the back of the head. Patrolman Kearns was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin who declared that the shooting had occurred in the line of duty and was accidental.

AUGUST 4, 1957 — Benjamin Ward, 19, 281 N. Exeter when he reportedly lunged at Officer Isiah Pressey when the policeman attempted to question him about a stolen battery. Patrolman Pressey was exonerated by Chief Magistrate Stanley Richardson who declared the officer was acting in the performance of his duty.

Gets gas, sets fire

"He said a few smart words and left. . . then came back with the gas. . he's never been in trouble before. . . judge, your honor, I think the child is sick."

A tearful Mrs. Catherine Wilson, 2300 block of W. Lafayette Ave., sobbed those words to Magistrate Linwood G. Koger Sr. in Northwestern Police Court Monday where an arson charge was being held against the 19year-old son.

Sgt. Dennis Mello testified the youth was arrested after the mother reported he brought home a five - gallon can of gasoline, kicked it over and threw a match into it.

* * *

BEFORE LIGHTING the match the boy told his mother "If we can't live together, we'll die together," Sgt. Mello testified Mrs. Wilson told him.

He said he was informed the youth and Mrs. Wilson had been discussing a teenage girl. Considerable damage was done to the interior of the house, the officer reported.

The boy, Dockery Whitehead, was held in $3,000 bail on the arson charge and released on his own recognizance on the disturbing the peace charge.

Mrs. Lillie Jackson to address Walbrook Community group

Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, dynamic president of the Baltimore branch NAACP, will be guest speaker at a meeting Monday of the Walbrook Community Association.

The monthly meeting will be held at the Walbrook branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, North Ave. near Bloomingdale Rd., beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The Association was organized nearly two years for "the general betterment of the neighborhood," according to Leo Burroughs, assistant business manager, and is in the midst of several such projects now.

'Hickey' Clay still critical

Capt. LeRoy (Hickey) Clay of 2556 Arunah Ave. was reported in "fair condition" at Ft. Howard Hospital on Wednesday.

However, the World War II veteran was still reported to be on the "critical list." He has been ill almost a month.

One year ago . . . father of 3 killed

One year ago on Nov. 24, 1956, Clarence A. Wilkerson, 39, 1304 Harlem Ave., was fatally wounded by a bullet which reportedly came from the gun of a Baltimore County police officer Louis DeManns.

The shooting took place near the Northpoint Shopping Center in Baltimore County at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Wilkerson, the father of three children, was critically wounded in his right side and was pronounced dead at 9 p.m. at City Hospitals.

Officer DeManns was searching for a man wanted in connection with a minor shooting in Turner Station when he and another officer stopped the car in which Mr. Wilkerson and a friend were riding.

Although police later announced that the suspect was found, Officer DeManns was subsequently exonerated of the shooting.

Last week the widow filed a damage suit asking $275,000 from the county and the officer.

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Notary admits not administering oath

Testimony by Mrs. Ethel P. Rich, notary of 1737 Druid Hill Ave., in Criminal Court Tuesday that she failed to administer the required oath during the notarizing of some papers for Dr. Robert H. Reddick resulted in the State dropping one of two cases against him.

Dr. Reddick former State psychiatrist, was on trial charged with perjury, involving charges of swearing falsely concerning the validity of some 14,000 names on a petition he had drawn up to force a referendum on a State law abolishing the Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners.

A Criminal Court jury later returned a not guilty verdict in favor of Dr. Reddick.

The State dropped the charge involving Mrs. Rich's testimony, because with the notary oath not being administered as required, Dr. Reddick could not have sworn to the validity of the names on the paper in this instance.

Dear Michael: Grandma will not spare the rod, spoil you

"I had warned him about matches—talked to him. . .the Bible says if you spare the rod, you spoil the child, so this time he'll get a spanking. . .he's waiting for it. . .

"After all, he could have gotten burned to death. He was afraid and hid himself in the room so he didn't know the danger he was in. . .he was just scared because he had done wrong. ."

Mrs. Sloan Gingles, 2234 Penrose Ave., was speaking about her five-year-old grandson, Michael, a kindergarten pupil at School No. 141.

Michael and his eight-month-ol cousin were rescued from the Penrose Ave. home Monday afternoon by the Gingles' 21-year-old daughter, Shirley, who smelled smoke after Michael went to the second floor to change his school clothes.

* * *

THE FIRE gutted the second floor sleeping quarters and cancelled plans for a family Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Since Monday, Michael has been staying with other relatives. Mrs. Gingles explained: "The windows are all out, and it is too cold for the children here now, but he will be back after Thanksgiving.

"It is sort of hard to believe a thing like this could happen to you," Mrs. Gingles added, and comforted herself with these words, "But you can always replace material things. You can't bring back a life. So we have a lot to be thankful for. We hope to have the house fixed up by Christmas."

Air dirty linen in divorce court

Charging that David Means left her on Sept. 2, last year, and has since been living with a Miss Elizabeth Gaines at 1132 Whatcoat St., Mrs. Maggie Means divorced him, this week.

Mrs. Means, of 1216 N. Stricker St., a practical nurse, also won custody of their nine-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter.

The father was ordered to provide $10 per week for their support, pay court coasts and the wife's attorney's fees.

To prove the charges against her husband, Mrs. Means brought her step-son, David Jr., into court as witness.

The son testified that his father and Miss Gaines lived at the Whatcoat St. address and that he lived with them.

The couple was married on April 27, 1951.

* * *

MRS. FLORENCE CHAMBERS, beautician, of 1105 W. North Ave., who frankly told the court that she is the mother of a child not her husband's, won a divorce and alimony from the latter, this week.

Divorced was Oscar B. Chambers, to whom she was married for three months in 1946. She testified that, married on Feb. 8, 1946, they voluntarily separated on May 8, 1956.

A teenage daughter was born of this marriage, according to records. The court ordered the father to pay $10 per week for this child's support.

Mrs. Chambers said that she and Mr. Chambers who lives at 1104 N. Central Ave., had many arguments and agreed to end the marriage.

The court ordered him to pay her $5 a week so long as she remains unmarried.

Mrs. Chambers also told the court that she is the mother of a seven-year-old daughter.

This child, she said, receives support from her father, despite the fact that her friendship with him ended many years ago.

Depression topic of Friday debate

With the ranks of the unemployed increasing daily, a debate scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6, should have more than passing interest for Baltimoreans.

The subject will be "Can America Avoid Depression and Maintain Free Enterprise?"

Speaking for the affirmative will be Dr. Abba T. Lerner, visitor professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University, who is on leave from Roosevelt University, Chicago.

Taking the negative will be Harry Braverman, co-editor of the American Socialist magazine. Fred Weisgal, local attorney, will serve as moderator.

The debate, to be held at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reistertown Road, is being sponsored by the Socialist Study Group of Baltimore, Robert Kaufman, chairman.

The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

Gatewood gets six more years

Bland Gatewood, 36, of the 1100 block Druid Hill Ave., who is already serving a three-year sentence for lottery and possessing a pistol, was given an additional six-year suspended sentence in Criminal Court Tuesday on three bastardy charges, involving three children, two, three and four years old.

Judge Reuben Oppenheimer suspended the sentence on condition that Mr. Gatewood be placed on probation and pay a weekly amount to the mother of the three children, to be determined by the Probation Department.

Judge Oppenheimer was told that the children are a girl, born March 6, 1953; a boy, born January 15, 1954, and another boy, born March 18, 1955. The mother of the three children, according to court records, lives in the 2200 block Bryant Ave.

Mr. Gatewood was sentenced on September 18 to two years in the Maryland Penitentiary for a lottery operation, and given an additional year for having an automatic pistol in his auto when arrested on May 17.

Doctor named

Dr. William S. Spicer, University of Maryland Medical School chief of pulmonary diseases, is one of 26 physicians named to receive National Tuberculosis Association fellowships for the current year.

William A. Rowe, president of the Maryland Tuberculosis Association, has stated that the need for continued research and study is fully recognized by that organization.

'Miss Alverta' buried Tuesday

"Mrs. Alverta Leonard led a simple and quiet life among us. The simplicity of it made it beautiful and strong.

"Her life was a real witness for Jesus Christ, whom she loved and humbly followed as Lord and Savior. She related her love for Christ through her love for her fellow man . . . to her religion was a thing to live."

The Rev. Frank Williams, pastor of Metropolitan Methodist Church was speaking Tuesday about Mrs. Alverta Leonard, 70, 814 N. Carey St., who died last Wednesday.

Her decomposed body was not discovered until late Friday night by her landlady, Mrs. Mary Anderson. Mrs. Leonard had been a roomer at the Carey St. home since 1949,

Well known in fraternal circles and Metropolitan Methodist Church, where she had attended regularly for 40 years, Mrs. Leonard was affectionately called "Miss Alverta."

* * *

An active member of Metropolitan for 40 years, Mrs. Leonard was a member of the Sarah Circle. Garett D. Rawlings, lay leader in the church, recalled that she, "never missed church."

Her body was discovered by her landlady after 'she didn't answer' when Mrs. Anderson went to her room.

* * *

FOLLOWING the discovery of her body, Dr. Russell Fisher, chief medical examiner, pronounced her dead at 12:50 a.m. Saturday. He estimated that she had been dead two days and the cause of death was listed as hardening of the arteries.

Mrs. Anderson, the landlady, said she last talked to Mrs. Leonard on Tuesday and that oddly enough she had told her that she had "never been sick a day in her life."

* * *

FUNERAL services were held Tuesday from the Hemsley Funeral Home. The Rev. Mr. Williams officiated. Burial was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Mrs. Leonard was active in the Elks, Nazarites, Order of Moses, Knights of Pythias and the Green Leaf Social Club.

She also held membership in the Great Southern Temple and the Peace and Harmony Council of Elks; the St. Francis Court of the Nazarites; Mt. Arrarant Union Temple; Mt. Carmel Household of Princess No. 2 and the St. Peter Tabernacle No. 73, all of the House of Moses.

* * *

SHE IS SURVIVED by a sister, Mrs. Eleanor Melton and three brothers, Gordon, George and Daniel Smith, all of Baltimore.

Mrs. Leonard was a native of Baltimore and the daughter of the late Benjamin and Eliza Smith and widow of John P. Leonard, who died three years ago.

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STREET SCENE—This was the scene Sunday morning in front of Ebenezer AME Church where police said they were summoned by a trustee, Henry Hinton, left arrow, 100 block S. Hamburg St., who complained that Henry C. English, 23, 3000 block Gwynns Falls Pkwy., threatened him. In Southern Police Court the next day the charge against Mr. English was dismissed. Right arrow points to Mrs. Leonard English, mother of Mr. English, who testified that Mr. Hinton slapped her recently during a misunderstanding over tickets for a supper.

(See Story Page 8)

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