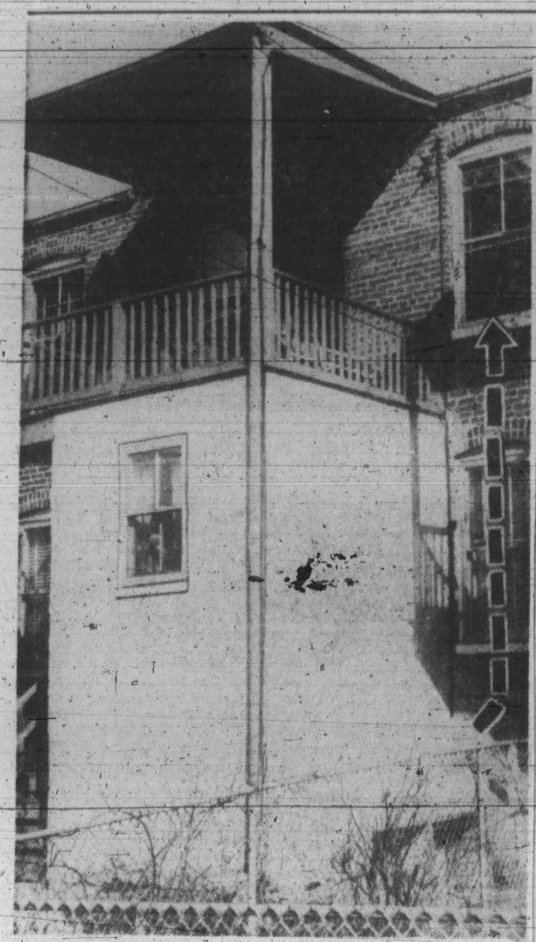
Councilmen Explain Their Votes On Hotel Resolution



SCENE OF FIRE — The arrow points to the second floor bedroom at 2042 Ruxton Ave. where Otis Parham, 71, suffered fatal second and third degree burns of his body on Sunday afternoon. Investigating officers said Mr. Parham told them the fire started when he struck a wooden match to light his cigar and it dropped from his hand onto a scatter rug. His clothing caught fire and he sustained burns over 80 per cent of his body. Mr. Parham was the father-in-law of A. Sinclair Swan, counselor at Carver Vocational Technical High School.

FATAL CRASH

'The police told us he hit a pole'

"The police told us he hit a pole head-on.

"He was dead before anyone could get to him.

"We don't know where he was going that time of morning. There were no other cars on the road."

Those were the comments of Miss Wilma Hill of 3317 Piedmont Ave., Wednesday as she discussed the death of her brother, Willie Columbus Hill Jr.

AN ASSEMBLYMAN at the Glenn L. Martin Co., Mr. Hill was killed instantly Monday at 2:30 a.m. when his new automobile smashed into two wooden poles at the intersection of highways 40 and 29 near Ellicott City.

His body was taken to the Higginbotham Funeral Home in Ellicott City pending the arrival of the coroner.

Miss Hall said she was told that the impact of the crash bent a steel pole after the car plowed through two wooden standards.

The poles which the car struck supported signs directing traffic to Washington and Frederick, Md., and were located in the center of the busy intersection.

IN COMMENTING on her brother's death Miss Hill said:

"The last time I saw him was around 7 p.m. Sunday. When he left home, he didn't tell us where he was going.

"When the city police called and told us he was dead, we wondered why he was driving out in that direction alone.

"We had no idea where he was going and we have never known him to be by himself" Miss Hill said.

A NATIVE of Enfield, N.C. Mr. Hill came to Baltimore four years ago and had been working at Martin's for three years, his sister said.

Funeral services for Hill are scheduled to be held at the First Baptist Church in Enfield Sunday with the Rev. K. P. Battle presiding.

The body was shipped to North Carolina from Baltimore on Thursday by the Joseph Locks Funeral Home.

Mr. Hill is survived by one sister, Mrs. Luvenia McLaurin of Tarboro, N.C.; mother Mrs. Sarah Hill, and father Willie C. Hill Sr., of Enfield; and three brothers, David, Charlie and Maurice Hill who is with the Air Force in Greenland.

Hotel vote 'deplorable,' says Levin

"I have often said that the Democratic Party of Baltimore and Maryland is an entirely different animal from the national Democratic Party which at least in the North and West is a liberal party.

"The action Monday night of the City Council composed entirely of Democrats, in killing the hotel resolution proves my point.

"It also proves the need of a two-party government in Baltimore just as we now have in Baltimore County.

HARRY O. LEVIN, attorney and Republican leader, was speaking this week of the City Council's action on the hotel resolution which saw the measure pigeonholed indefinitely.

Mayor D'Alesandro, 'as has been proved over and over again, absolutely controls the city council. He, therefore, must bear the responsibility for the Council's deplorable action," Mr. Levin continued.

"It is now up to the colored voters of both parties and indeed all decent citizens to use their ballots to place men in office who sincerely believe in democracy spelled with a capital d," he concluded.

D.C. lawyer faces non-support charge

"Do the best you can," was the advice Magistrate Linwood G. Koger, Sr., gave Thursday in Northwestern Police Court to Joseph Abraham Brown, a 42-year-old Washington attorney charged with failure to support his wife, Mrs. Milburne Brown, and four minor children.

Mr. Brown was released on his own recognisance and the case postponed for 30 days at the request of his lawyer, W. A. C. Hughes, Jr.

Mrs. Brown, who wore a neat grayish-brown top coat and purple hat, is the daughter of the late AME Bishop Monroe H. Davis of the AME Church. She lives at 815 N. Arlington Ave. with her mother.

The Browns, who have four children ranging in ages from 3 to 15, were married January 14, 1940, and have been separated since March, 1954.

* * *

MR. BROWN, considerably back in his payments to his family, has not contributed to the support of his family since August 1956, according to police.

During Thursday's brief hearing, Mrs. Brown glanced sadly at her husband several times.

Mr. Brown, immaculately attired in a dark blue business suit, held a heavy blue top coat and a gray hat, while awaiting his release.

If indicted by the grand jury on the non-support charge, Mr. Brown will face debarment from his law practice.

9 Police killings in Balto. area in 9 months

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 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, 9718 Ellicott Dr., shot in the arm and chest by Southeastern Patrolman Benjamin Leddin. 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 or manslaughter 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 homicide 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.

Attorney indicted in tax case

A Washington, D.C., attorney was indicted by a Federal grand jury here Tuesday for income tax evasion in the amount of $8,558.05 covering a four-year period.

He is Edwin C. Brown Sr., 48, 1000 block Girard St., NE., with his law office in Alexandria, Va.

The case was presented to the grand jury by John Hargrove, assistant United States attorney.

Mr. Brown was in Baltimore Thursday morning to post bail in the amount of $1,000 set by Judge R. Dorsey Watkins.

* * *

THE government contends that for the years 1950 through 1953, Mr. Brown reported a net taxable income of $5,607.83 when his corrected net taxable income for the period should have been $37,234.43.

According to the indictment, Mr. Brown, a 1938 Howard University Law School graduate, reported his tax due the government was only $158.90, when it should have been $8,716.95.

He also has a civil tax liability of $23,400 for a ten-year period, from 1943 to 1953.

* * *

MR. BROWN was admitted to practice before the District bar on April 11, 1945. On January 4, 1950, charges were filed against him by the Committee on Admittance and Grievances, charging him with malpractice and professional misconduct.

After a hearing before the committee, Mr. Brown was found guilty in a case involving $450 awarded to a client after a judgment he won against the Capital Transit Company.

Although the judgment was granted on March 22, 1949, Mr. Brown failed to pay his client until Oct. 28, 1949 when he sent her $337.58, the committee alleged.

THE COMMITTEE suspended his license for nine months on May 3, 1950. He was found not guilty in a second case involving a smaller sum.

He is originally from Columbus, S.C., where he attended public schools. Following high school graduation as valedictorian in Sumter, S.C., he was awarded a four-year scholarship to Allen University where he was graduated in 1938.

He finished Howard University's law school in 1943 and subsequently entered practice in the District.

DISTINGUISHED — Judge E. Everett Lane, left, was presented this scroll by Sen. Philip Goodman, acting for Governor McKeldin, who named the jurist a Distinguished Citizen of Maryland. Judge Lane is the first colored person so honored by the State. Presentation was made at the Breakfast Club of the Har Sinai Brotherhood on Sunday.

Judge Lane cited as distinguished citizen

"Individual worth is of paramount importance."

These words of Judge E. Everett Lane spoken Sunday at the Breakfast Club of the Har Sinai Brotherhood were like a prophetic boomerang for Maryland's first colored judge of a court of record.

For Judge Lane, sworn in as a Peoples Court jurist recently, was to receive duel honors for his individual worth as the breakfast progressed.

Little did he know when he accepted Sunday's speaking engagement that he was slated to receive a State of Maryland scroll, disgnating him a distinguished citizen of this state.

SEN. Philip H. Goodman (D.—5th Dist.) presented the citation to Judge Lane on behalf of Governor McKeldin.

The Har Sinai Brotherhood presented a gavel to Judge Lane, their principal speaker at a program dedicated to Brotherhood Month.

In his address Judge Lane told the Jewish congregation he thought it a sacred duty for men of every race and faith to aspire to human dignity.

* * *

THE CITATION from Governor McKeldin to Judge Lane read:

"Having trust and confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability, you are hereby appointed and commissioned Distinguished Citizen of Maryland in grateful recognition of your long and constructive interest in the advancement of humanity and your outstanding services to your city and state; with our official confidence that you will continue to execute the duties of said position with fidelity and zeal for the interest and advantage of the State of Maryland."

Alexander Lempert, chairman of the program committee of the Har Sinai Brotherhood, presented the gavel to Judge Lane on behalf of his organization.

The jurist was introduced by the group's vice president, Eli Baer, noted attorney.

Before his elevation to a judgeship, the jurist served as a magistrate at Northwestern Police Court and in Traffic Court.

Support came from 4th, 5th districts

Almost solid opposition from the First, Second, Third and Sixth District delegations to the City Council spelled the story of the setback sustained by the hotel resolution on Monday night.

The vote was 13-7 to shelve the resolution indefinitely but supporters of the measure did obtain from Leon Abramson, president of the Council, a ruling that the resolution could be broughtt back to the floor of the Council at a later date.

One of the original supporters of the resolution, Solomon Liss (D. Fourth) said that he and other backers realized as early as Monday afternoon that they did not have enough votes for passage.

There was an attempt made at the Monday night session to have the matter postponed until April 8, but this was defeated and the forces that wanted the issue pigeonholed indefinitely had their way.

* * *

SUPPORTING THE hotel resolution in the voting were members of the Fourth and Fifth District delegations with the exception of Mr. Liss who said he joined with the opposing forces in order to be in a position to bring the measure out to the floor again.

Comments on the City Council session ranged from the "blot on Baltimore" remark of A. Rubenstein (D. Fifth), to the "I was against the resolution" statement of Michael McHale (D. Sixth).

In amplifying his remarks, Mr. McHale said:

"It's not that I am not in favor of colored persons going into the hotels but I was against the resolution.

"I would be wholeheartedly opposed to an ordinance stating that hotels would have to admit colored persons."

* * *

MR. McHALE, who represents a district that includes the Mt. Winans and Cherry Hill community, said that if any of his colored constituents asked him for the reason he had voted to delay the resolution that he would give them this same answer.

"Like (Councilman) Walter T. Dixon (D. Fourth) said, it is embarrasing for a member of the colored race to go into a hotel and be told that they are not wanted.

"But I think it would be worse if a colored person would go into a hotel and a man might say that we don't want you but we will have to take you because it is the law Mr. McHale said.

Another councilman who voted to delay the resolution was C. Lyman Schueler (D. Second), who told the AFRO on Wednesday:

"There is pending legislation in Annapolis on these problems and I feel like there certainly is not any reason for us to take action on this resolution," he said.

Editor's Note: The General Assembly currently has before it an omnibus bill that would outlaw discrimination statewide, establish a anti-discrimination agency, and set up a civil rights law.

(However, a bill which would have only outlawed discrimination in Baltimore city hotels was withdrawn by State Sen. Harry A. Cole when the Attorney General said the measure was unconstitutional.)

* * *

WHEN ASKED how he would vote if the hotel resolution reached the floor again, Mr. Schueler said:

"I would rather wait until I see what action the legislature takes on the matter before making a statement."

The resolution in question only asked that the Hotel Association "re-examine" its policy of discrimination. No powers of enforcement were included.

It was introduced last July 2 by Mr. Dixon and was sent to the floor on Monday after the Public Relations Committee failed to agree on any type of recommendation.

* * *

ANOTHER OPPONENT of the resolution who expressed his views to an AFRO reporter on Wednesday was Henry R. Hergenroeder (D. Third).

"I personally feel that to force them (hotel owners) into a situation where they would lose business, would be a difficult step.

"I am not prejudiced or biased in any way but when you get in to problems like this you get closer to these problems that occur in cocktail lounges and places like that.

"One of my thoughts was that probably through the Interracial Commission they could go to the downtown hotels and say 'look the York — (Dolphin and Madison Ave.) is full,' and work out arrangements where reputable people could be referred to the downtown hotels when they are going through town.

* * *

MR. HERGENROEDER was asked: "What you mean is that You would have the colored guests screened?"

"In effect (yes)," answered Mr. Hergenroeder," because I wouldn't want things of an illegitimate nature cropping up. Do you know what I mean?"

When the reporter said he was unaware of what the councilman really did mean, Mr. Hergenroeder said:

"I would prefer to help the transients, but I wouldn't want to see the people from in town going around at will (to the hotels.)."

ON THE opposite side of the fence, Councilman Jacob J. Edelman (D. Fifth), one of the supporters of the resolution, said:

"This legislation will be back in one form or another."

The same type of optimism was expressed by both Mr. Liss and Mr. Dixon, two councilmen from the Fourth District who have been actively supporting the resolution.

"This much is certain," said Mr. Liss, "that while we suffered a temporary defeat that doesn't mean that the matter is closed, nor does it mean that the issue is dead for all times.

"At an appropriate time it will be revived," said Mr. Liss.

"It will take only a couple of votes in the Council to change the opinion in the Council and I think the biggest job now will have to be to convince these councilmen who voted against the proposition that they were wrong," he added.

"The matter is still before the Council. They haven't disposed of it entirely and according to the ruling anybody can bring it up or call for it at any future meeting of the Council," Mr. Dixon noted.

(For Voting Breakdown see Page 24)

$50 is the total set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call: MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1812 and 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-2811 or RI. 4-0508. Bring your News Photos to the City Desk.

DEATH CAR—In this late model automobile, Sgt. John L. Lewis, 29, of 424 Swale Ave., Cherry Hill, rode to his death last Saturday when he lost control of his car on Route 170 near Friendship Airport. In the car with the serviceman who returned from Korea, only two months ago, was his brother, Griffin Lewis, and cousin Garland Lewis both of whom received minor injuries. Funeral services for the serviceman were held today (Friday) in Crewe, Va.

Essay contest winners to be announced, Feb. 26

Winners of the Lincoln-Douglass Essay Contest will be announced in the February 26 issue of the AFRO.

Winners of the annual contest, which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Avenue-Lafayette Market Association, will receive the following cash awards: first prize, $10, second prize, $5, and third prize $3.

Schools attended by the writers of the winning essays will also be given cash awards to be used for the libraries.

NEW SCHOOL — Cherry Hill's newest school is the Patapsco Elementary School No. 163 at Bridgeview and Roundview Aves. It has sodded lawns and terraces, many newly planted trees. The rear view above shows the many-windowed classrooms. The entire building is above ground. A full page of pictures and a story on this new school appears in our next edition on the newsstands Tuesday, February 26. Watch for it.

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