—'Thank God'

(FROM PAGE ONE)

brought out, through testimony, that 75 employees a day handled the money for three days, resulting in the money passing through 310 hands.

In addition, he developed through testimony, the money was carried to a safe and stored and several people had the combination.

While the safe was accessible to 23 persons, Mrs. Moore did not have the combination.

* * *

Further, defense witnesses told the jury money bags were left loose and lying around for other girls to handle while Mrs. Moore was out to lunch or absent from the counting room.

Other girls counting with her had shortages of about $110, witnesses said.

* * *

Mr. Dearing also produced testimony that revealed Mrs. Moore's husband has a substantial salary and she had never been in any trouble before.

An assistant store comptroller and firm board of directors member, testified he had called Mrs. Moore back to work after she had quit once last fall.

He told the jury Mrs. Moore is a very impressive, nice person who speaks articulately and was a good employee.

Through testimony the jury was told she had been employed off and on since July, 1970, but had left temporarily when her complaints of shortages were ineffective.

Mr. Dearing states his client is no longer employed at the department store. — EMO

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This Coupon Good Until May 19, 1971

—'Horror'

(FROM PAGE ONE)

rience anyone could ever

"We were sitting in the living room talking. A nurse who is 61 years old was there visiting from New York. We expected to enjoy the day.

"A knock came at the door and when it was opened, some boys were there. The one with the gun came in. I thought they were playing and I pushed him back and said, "Go on away from here, get out of here."

"They came on in and took our watches and jewelry and everything we had, including money.

"They treated us bad, pushed us around and used awful language.

"The one with the gun had the oldest one tie us up. They tore out cords from the TV and radio and tore up sheets.

"I was tied with the other older women on the bed. Our hands and feet were tied and we were blindfolded and put together on the bed.

"They tied up the nurse and put her in the bathroom.

"On the bed, we could not see. We could only hear.

"They started after Mrs. Watkins who was the youngest. We heard them tell her to take off her bra and clothes and heard her say, 'Do I have to do that?'

"We could hear her putting up protest and fight and later we saw the dining room was torn up where they had wrestled with her. We heard the shot that killed her."

* * *

The incident occurred in the second-floor apartment of Mrs. Annie Johnson, 70, a resident of the project, highrise at Myrtle Ave. and George St.

Medical examiners' reports show the 34-year-old mother of a son and three daughters, ages eight to 15 years, died almost instantly of a bullet wound of the head.

Police are still looking for the three youthful suspects.

Missing is an estimated $200 taken from Mrs. Johnson's two elderly sisters.

On Wednesday, the slain woman's husband told the AFRO he and his wife were both natives of Louisiana and had lived in various sections of the country during his six years in the service.

He said he was discharged from Fort Meade, Md., in 1967, and a year later they settled in Baltimore.

He works for a copper and brass firm.

Both he and his wife have been active in Union Baptist. She has been Bible Vacation Class and cooking class teacher.

* * *

Mrs. Watkins was born June 2, 1937, the daughter of Mrs. Octavia Edwards of Palmetto, La. and Willie Hunter, New Orleans, La.

She and Mr. Watkins were married Dec. 19, 1954.

Funeral services will be held Saturday noon at Union Baptist Church with burial in Crestlawn Memorial Gardens on Rte. 40, 22 miles from Baltimore.

The family will receive friends tonight (Friday) at the church at Druid Hill Ave. Also surviving are seven sisters and five brothers, all of Louisiana.

* * *

As to the Murphy Homes conditions which may have been involved in such a tragedy occurring, Van Story Branch, in charge of management of all Baltimore housing projects states, "An investigation is in progress to see how to combat any situation which could bring such tragedy.

"We have recently established a position of Security Officer. A man who goes and works with residents and police to plan to reduce crime. He is working around the clock to resolve problems.

"We have two guards stationed in all projects during critical hours, times when residents said we are most needed."

* * *

Mr. Branch added: "Two guards that circle the four Murphy highrise apartments are there from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., the times when tenants wanted them most. If we find Murphy Homes needs additional guards, we will provide them.

"But it comes to this, a rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul situation, since there is the question, where is the money coming from in Baltimore housing projects' budget?"

"We would like to put guards everywhere in all projects but again, where is the money coming from?

"Tenants meet every month in every project. They report, we alert security and the police."

Mr. Branch said tenants and the community may call the chief security officer, John Reid, SA. 7-3400, EXT 404 or 406 to report any conditions, crime, vandalism, fires and problems. "Across the board" help will be provided.

Baltimore Afro-American

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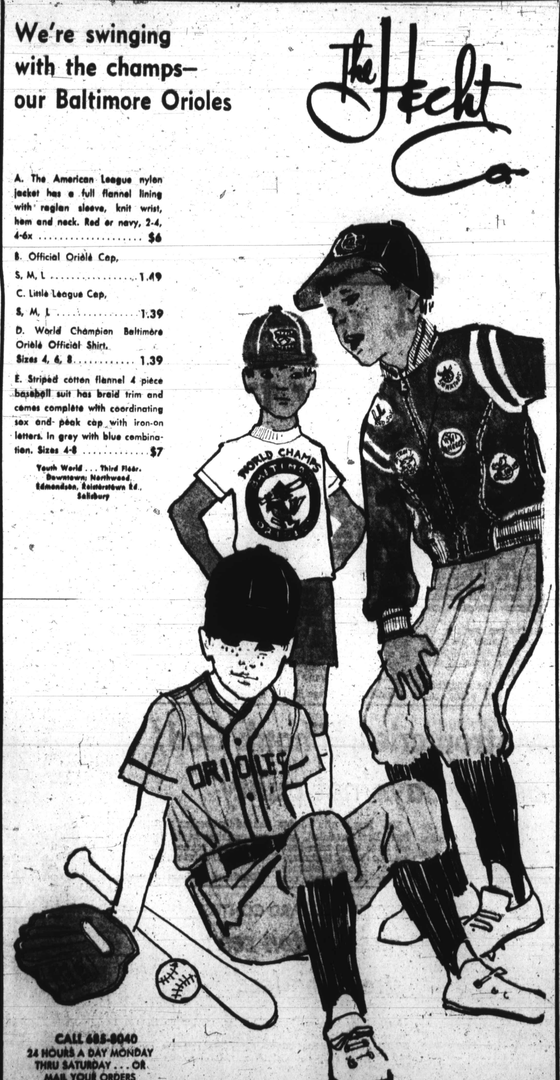

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Del. Lee blasts police slaying

Del. Lena K. Lee and Norman V. A. Reeves, civic leader, have asked State's Attorney Milton B. Allen to reopen the case involving a police killing on May 6.

An extensive investigation conducted by Delegate Lee and Mr. Reeves brought to light testimony to the effect that contrary to the findings at a hearing in Municipal Court the police fired one warning shot and then aimed point-blank at victim's head killing him instantly.

Testimony brought out at the formal hearing resulted in a verdict of acquittal of the police officer on the basis of justifiable homicide.

However, the citizens in the neighborhood area of Mount Holly and Lyndhurst Sts., who were eyewitnesses contradict such conclusion.

Statements corroborated many times and hearing up under cross-examination by Mrs. Lee, who is an attorneyn were taped and passed on to Mr. Allen for study.

* * *

At a press conference on Monday, May 10, following the neighborhood investigation on May 8, Reeves and Mrs. Lee stated in the presence of witnesses, TV, and newsmen that they in no way gave sanction to crime nor to criminals.

However they asserted they feel that the gap between law enforcement officials and the black community widens with each police killing. "The people in this neighborhood have asked for law through proper channels," Del. Lee said, "and we must do all that we can to convince the necessity for taking to the streets."

Mr. Reeves added, These are fine people, they are seeking assistance from those whom they helped to elect; at this period they are confused and we must give them our full attention.

"I have urged them to await, Mr. Allen's determination.

"Mr. Allen is known for his judicious temperament and for his sense of fair play.

I have assured them that their proper course of action is through Mrm Allen's office, and I believe that all interested groups will withhold their action until the State's Attorney acts."

The deputy State's Attorney, Benjamin Brown, was present at the press conference held at St. Cecelia's R.C. Church.

It was decided at the meeting to give the state the courtesy of withholding pertinent evidence pending Mrm Allen's study.

The case referred to involves the killing of 21-year-old Edward William Johnson, 2100 block Mt. Holly St.

Police reports describe him as a robbery suspect.

In Central Police Station, Judge Robert Gerstung dismissed homicide charges against 24-year-old Patrolman Thomas Jackson, ruling his action was 'justifiable homicide.'

DIES AT 84 — Joseph Spriggs, 1317 Woodyear St., died at his home Thursday. Funeral services are Monday noon at Metropolitan Methodist Church where he and his wife of 64 years, Mrs. Mamie Spriggs had been members 64 years. Friends will be received at the church Sunday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Surviving are widow, Mrs. Spriggs; son, Harry Spriggsn Long Island, N.Y.; four daughters, Mesdames Lillian Moulden, Eleanor Mills; Mary Austin, all of Baltimore; Naomi Jenkins, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Austin, all of Baltimoreg Naomi Jenkins, Mt. Vernonn N.Y.; sister, Mrs. Annie Gray, Baltimore and ever 100 grand, great and great great grandchildren, nieces and nepcws.

Paul Smith is new Juvenile Court master

Paul Smith, a local attorney, has been named to fill a post as a master in the Juvenile Court. His selection Wednesday brings a total of two black masters in the court which up to the fall of 1970 had none.

The other master is U. Theodore Hayes who has served eight months.

Recently a Federal grant allowed for the appointment of extra masters. The four including Mr. Smith are former Municipal Court Judge Avrum K. Rifman, Bernard Peter and Bright Walker.

Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman heads the court located on the first floor of the Court House. Longtime masters are John O'Grady and Bernard McDermott.

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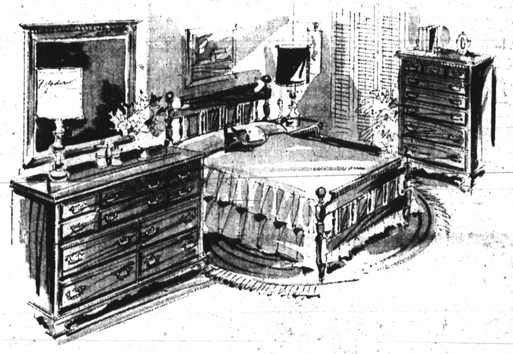

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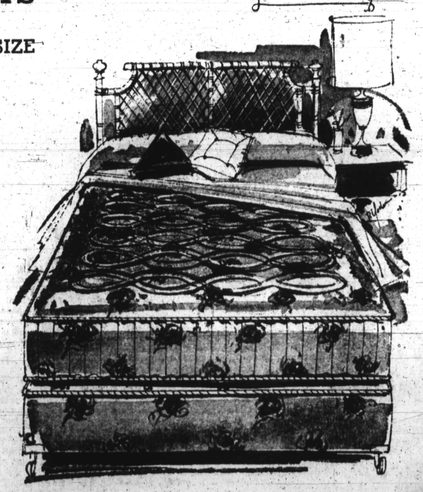

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