Liddie Jones Trial Ends

BULLETIN

The Liddie Jones jury was still out at AFRO presstime. today (Friday).

The narcotics conspiracy trial of John Edward (Liddie) Jones, 31, and his two brothers Robert (Bobby) and Baxter (Peanut) Jones has finally come to the end after five weeks of testimony from a total of 65 witnesses.

The case went to the jury after 7 p. m. Thursday night. The all-white jury was sequestered and has been kept at an unknown hotel.

Relatives, friends and spectators crowded the courtroom Thursday in Federal Court to hear the closing arguments. Judge C. Stanley Blair presided at the trial.

During the closing arguments of U. S. Attorney Frank Brocato, he told the jury that Mrs. Carolyn House and Mrs. Melva Rogers indicated that Baxter was at the cutting house on Ruxton Ave. and the apartment belonged to Baxter Jones.

Mr. Brocato stated "It's a hard dirty and stinky job we are involved in. It was a very difficult case to bring. It's a situation that the conspiracy begins with John Edward Jones.

Mr. Brocato told the jury, according to Reece (Cups) Whiting's job was to get other individuals.

* * *

Jesse Parker testified he paid Liddie when he could not locate Whiting. He stated he saw Liddie and other known dealers going down the street on Edmondson Ave.

During the 90 minutes that the prosecutor gave his closing argument, some spectators were nodding and others seemed to be more interested in an artist who was sketching the defendants picture.

Howard Cardin, attorney for Robert Jones said "The majority of the witnesses you have heard from have long criminal records. "Many of them were dope addicts. He told the jury that each witness that testified for the government was in jail or under indictment.

Mr. Cardin indicated that each of the government's witnesses was looking for a ticket to get less time or no time. He stated "They have all lied."

In his closing argument, he mentioned that a junky will do anything he can to stay out of jail. Most of the government witnesses were junkies.

* * *

He expressed "Whatever verdict you return with, you have to live with it. Norman (Pookie) Coleman testified because his freedom was most important to him. He stated he used to deal with Joe Perry. He admitted bying heroin from Turk Scott in Sept. and Aug. of 1971. He also said he made two purchases from Big Head Brother. That is the kind of testimony the government is using to scoop these citizens off the street."

Mr. Cardin stated "Reece Whiting is the one who should be on trial. This is an intelligent man. Whiting said he went to the Family Affair and got money from Liddie on July 15 to go to the West Coast. Liddie was in jail on July 15."

* * *

In closing his statement, Mr. Brocato said "Reece Whiting lied. Since January Robert Jones and his family have been waiting for this day. I am certain your verdict will bring a smile to him because it will be the beginning of the rest of his life." He asked the jury to return with a verdict of not guilty.

Baxter Jones' attorney was William Murphy Jr., he told the jury the testimony of Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. House are the only witnesses who involved Baxter.

Their testimony is that Baxter helped them to bag heroin on Ruxton Ave. Mr. Murphy told the jury Baxter was working at the American Smelting and Refining company during the time the two matrons were employed at the cutting house.

* * *

Mr. Murphy indicated that Baxter worked a double shift in a room with a temperature of 140 degrees. However, he stated Mr. Brocato wants you (the jury) to bi evheesawn oel Mr. Brocato wants you (the Ruxton Ave.

The attorney compared Reece Whiting to John Dean in the Watergate trial. He stated Whiting was an educated man like John Dean but lied on the witness stand to save his own skin.

In summing up his argument, he stated "Look over all the evidence of Baxter Jones. You must return with a verdict of not guilty."

* * *

In defending Liddie Jones, Stephen Miles stated the trail has been a great education. "I don't understand why Big Head Brother is not indicted. Everyone gave information on him.

"Reece Whiting is the worst criminal alive. Liddie gave a confession to Joseph Murphy from Narcotics Strike Force. He went to his office and said I don't want to be framed.

"No man is that stupid to give a statement." Mr. Miles remarked that Liddie wanted that statement taped. The attorney called Liddie an uneducated eighth grade man from the ghetto. He stated no big amounts of money were associated with Liddie.

Mr. Miles repeated that if Liddie was so stupid why wasn't he ever caught with narcotics. This case was like ab allgame—the bums versus the bums. I had 35 bums and the government had 30 bums (witnesses). I had Hercules Williams. We are the winners.

The Jones family has attended the trial daily. When the judge dismissed the jury to deliberate, the family members were left sitting waiting for the jury to return.

A GOOD CITIZEN is registered and prepared to VOTE. Do so TODAY at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. Next Election is Sept. 1974. Register from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Mother drowns while on vacation

BLAST RIPS HOME—A sudden explosion last Friday ripped the Columbia home of Edgar Johnson, fortunately, he and his wife, Pamela and their three-month-old daughter were out of town at the time.
(AFRO staff photos by Fletcher Roberts)

"She had just recently got out of the hospital. She went to New York for her vacation to visit relatives and drowned at a beach while in New York."

Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, mother of Mrs. Barbara Best made the above statement about her 24 year-old daughter.

Mrs. Best died July 14, while in New York. She is a graduate of Douglas High School.

Funeral services were held Thursday at Gillis Memorial Community Church. Mrs. Best was a member of the Sanctuary Choir.

* * *

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, John Best; a daughter, Miss Michelle Best; a son, John Best; her father, Charles Thomas; four sisters, Mrs. Patricia Anderson, Misses Theresa Thomas, Christine Thomas and Victoria Thomas; three brothers, David, Ralph and Timothy Thomas.

She is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Columbia home rocked by blast

A gas explosion late last Friday rocked the home of Edgar Johnson of 6096 Babylon Crest in Columbia, according to reports of the state fire marshal's office.

Miraculously, Mr. Johnson and his family, his wife Pamela and daughter Lori, were spared from injury while they attended a family reunion in Dayton, Ohio at the time of the explosion.

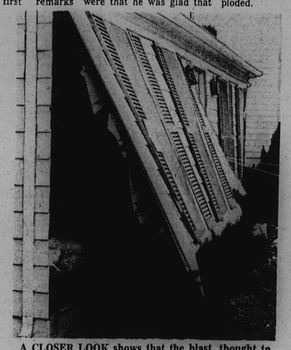
A Howard County licensing official has estimated damage to the $42,000 colonial-style frame house at $25,000.

The blast is believed to have resulted from three small puncture holes in a gas pipe located on the Johnson property close to the service main which runs along the sidewalk and connects to a house adjoining the demolished structure.

A spokesman for the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company said it is the responsibility of the company to maintain meters and exterior gas lines and the homeowner's responsibility for upkeep of gas equipment within the home.

The Johnson's have since returned from Ohio and are stying with the parents of Mrs. Johnson, also residents of Columbia.

Beyond Johnson's disbelief, Mr. he and his family were away when the house exfirst remarks were that he was glad that ploded.



A CLOSER LOOK shows that the blast, thought to have been caused by unexplained puncture holes in a copper pipe, lifted front sections of the structure away from their foundations. Signs posted by county officials caution that the "building is unsafe".

Druid Park Sunday concerts

Mayor William Donald Schaefer announces that the Bureau of Music will continue its Sunday series July 22 with two concerts featuring pops and Big Band sounds from 2 to 4 p.m.

* * *

Baltimore's Big Band conducted by Eugene Walker will play in War Memorial Plaza, 7 to 9 p.m. to feature Big Band sounds popularized by Count Basie and Stan Kenton plus will also offer modern jazz and selections with a rock beat that run the spectrum from the soul sound to country blues.

There is no admission charge to these concerts.

Contrary reports cloud disturbance at Md. Pen

What the inmates say

The George Jackson Prison Movement in a press statement on conditions at the Penitentiary said:

"We wish to correct certain reports by penitentiary warden Gerald McClellan on the recent stabbing of a guard at the penitentiary.

"The warden's report which was given local media was so erroneous that we have concluded that it was written to cover up the actual facts surrounding the guard being stabbed.

"According to the warden's report, five inmates stabbed guard Jefferson O. Johnson. This was done after Johnson moved another inmate to the south wing (the segregation wing).

"The report further states that a number of inmates jumped Johnson about 20 minutes later.

"It also says that about 20 guards fired two or three gas cannisters and subdued the responsible inmates with no injuries.

* * *

"The truth about what actually happened is told by those five inmates who are all now confined to the penitentiary hospital unit.

Their story is this:

"Thursday evening two inmates were being moved from the prison diagnostic center to the south wing. The two men, Samuel Feister and Dennis Davis were being beaten and dragged.

"Johnson was one of the guards doing the beating. An inmate Robert Foulkes, approached the guards and asked why they had beat the men so bad. Foulkes was told by Johnson to mind his own business and to back off. This was done by Foulkes.

"After Feister and Davis were transferred, Johnson was overheard saying "let's go back and get that n--r Foulkes." Johnson along with guards Green, Smith, and Rahodes went back to the section that Foulkes was on.

"They then took Foulkes and four other inmates who they said were giving "lip service" from their cells. The five were then moved to the south wing. Once on the south wing, the guards took the inmates out of their cells one at a time to beat and gas each one.

"This was almost an hour after the first inmates were transferred to south wing. It was during this time that Johnson was stabbed. The beatings went on and only stopped when the inmates were all unconscious.

The inmates were then dragged to the prison hospital.

* * *

"The fact that all of the inmates are either closely associated with the George Jackson prison movement or members of the black panther party indicates to us why McClellan was so determined to cover up what actually happened.

"The inmates are: Marshall Eddie Conway, member of the Black Panther Party, who substaine injuries leg, jaw broken in two places, a broken collar bone, extensive head injuries, and a possible broken shoulder.

* * *

"Robert Foulkes who substained extensive head, back and neck injuries along with two black eyes. Guard Green has visited Foulkes in the hospital and threatened to kill him.

* * *

"Thomas Gaither received a broken wrist and finger, head and knife wounds that required nine stitches. The brother's legs were beaten so badly that he cannot walk.

* * *

"Clifton Wiggins receivd head wounds and multiple bruises.

* * *

"Robert Austin has been hospitalized but the extent of his injuries is unknown at this time.

"These five inmates are the living facts that contradict the prison administration.

"We know that after a period of hospitalization, these five brothers will be brought to trial on attempted murder charges. It is the prison and its guards that have attempted to murder thse brothers.

"We call for all elements of the black community to investigate our charges and help us develope a defense committee for these five brothers." George Jackson Prison Movement, 2607 West North Ave., 669-3697.

What the warden says

The fracas at the Maryland Penitentiary Thursday which resulted in injuries to two guards, one of whom required surgery, was termed a slight "disturbance" by Gerald H. McClellan, penitentiary warden.

"It was a disturbance, not an incident," Mr. McClellan told the AFRO, adding that the hospitalized guard, Jefferson O. Johnson, was in "satisfactory" condition after undergoing surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital for multiple stab wounds of the neck, throat and chest.

The second officer, Barron E. Burch, was released from the hospital after being treated for minor cuts and bruises.

* * *

According to Mr. Johnson's brother, Anthony, inmates had been "after" Jefferson ever since he began working at the Pen four years ago.

"My brother knew that the inmates didn't like him," he stated. "They had it planned that'd he would be in the wing by himself; people had been after him ever since he's been over there."

* * *

According to Anthony Jefferson, his brother is, "getting worse," contradicting hospital reports which list his condition as satisfactory.

"He's getting secretion in his lungs and it's hard for him to breathe. When he came out of surgery last Thursday he could breathe on his own but now he can't."

According to young Johnson, the only thing his brother "has going for him," is "determination."

According to the warden, the disturbance, which occurred at approximately 6:30 p.m. July 12 while the inmates returned from dinner, was a "spontaneous action" in which 5 or 6 prisoners attacked the gurds as Mr. Johnson was returning from putting a prisoner in confinement.

The ensuing attack on the guards ended when reinforcements arrived and fired several cannisters of tear gas into the area and apprehended the individuals suspected of the attack.

Approximately 20 guards rescued Mr. Johnson and Mr. Burch.

"We've identified the people who were involved and we're investigating the situation," Mr. McClellan stated, adding that no disciplinary action has been taken as of yet.

A subsequent shakedown of cells produced three home-made knives.

Fearing that the disturbance would eventually spread among the entire inmate population of 1,300, city police were called to the prison but did not go inside.

Marriages

JACKSON-PULLIAM — Raymond T. 32 4003 Hilton; Patricia A. 25, 5051 Cedardale

CASTELLANO-KELLY — Eugenio, 23, 3215 N. Charles; Laura, 22.

HODGES-BANKS — Elwood W. 32 1504 N. Bond; Jean E. 23, 1218 Cochran

TERRY-HICKS — Luther N. 23, 268 S. Monastery; Peggy L. 23.

BROWN-SHERMAN — Walter P. 21, 2075 Druid Park Denise J. 19, 4201 LaPlata.

REMMNEY-SEIDL — James M. 22, 405 E. Cross; Lorteea R. 19 1250 William.

BRUNSON-JONES — Calvin — 24, 1601 Spray; Sophia. 22. 140 Allendale.

WILLIAM-COATES — Samuel I. 19, 2305 Francis; Charisse M. 17, 900 Argyle.

KEARSON-THOMAS — Thomas E. 23 2011 W. Saratoga; Glorida D. 20, 230 N. Payson

DEATH NOTICES When a loved one dies, you can have your funeral director let your friends know. Simply call AFRO Classified, 728-8200. Death notices accepted up until two hours before publication, noon on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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For one week only at Hutzler's Westview—an exciting opportunity to learn the secrets of beauty improvement and the art of Melanin makeup—exclusively for dark skin.
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Monday, August 6 ..... 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 7 ..... 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 8, 2:00 and 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 9 ..... 6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 10 ..... 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 11 ... 10:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Cosmetics—Westview mall level

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Selectivity key to Phase 4 curbs

President Nixon's phase IV economic plan takes a sector-by-sector approach with controls tailored to the economic conditions of each sector. Generally it freezes profits instead of prices.

Here it is at a glance:

Food — The freeze on all items except beef was immediately lifted to allow processors and retailers to pass on the additional costs of raw agricultural products.

On Sept. 12 the beef price freeze will be lifted and further increases permitted to cover such additional costs as processing and transportation.

Industrial service sector — Price freeze will remain until Aug. 12 when all increased costs will be passed through on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The 1st quarter of 1972 was established as the base period. Companies with sales over $100 million would be required to notify the Cost of Living Council 30 days prior to price increases.

Wholesale and retail (nonfood)—Same a for industrial and service sector. Companies with sales over $50 million annually would require approval by the CLC before putting price increase into effect.

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