

## OBSTRUCTED POLICE OFFICERS?

# Young Mother Faces Trial

A Westside mother was arrested and charged with obstructing an officer in the performance of his duty after she complained about the treatment her brother received.

Mrs. Betty Jean Hogan, 24, of 2727 Montgomery, said she was arrested after she went to Vernor station to protest the treatment her brother James Hobbs, 21, of the same address allegedly received at the hands of two police officers.

The young mother said she and her brother were riding in an automobile when the officers stopped them for a traffic violation. She claimed the officers asked for Hobbs' operators permit.

She gave them his license and proceeded to wait for them to write the ticket. After more than 15 minutes elapsed, Hobbs got out of his car and walked to the patrol car and asked the officers for his license.

One of them reportedly asked him if he was trying to be smart and told him to get in the car. When he asked why, he said he was told by the officers that if he didn't get in the car they would "break his head in," Mrs. Hogan said.

The officers then allegedly got out of the car and proceeded to grab Hobbs and wrestled him to the ground. According to Mrs. Hogan they beat him while he was on the ground and then handcuffed him and forced him into the police car where one of them hit him while he was handcuffed and seated in the rear of the scout car.

Mrs. Hogan said that all the time the officers were beating her brother, she was standing on the street along with another passenger in their car screaming for the policemen to stop beating her brother.

Hobbs was taken to Vernor station where he was held for overdue traffic tickets. The officer at the desk is said to have then told Mrs. Francis Hobbs, his mother, she would need \$150 to secure his freedom. She then called a friend of the family who brought a certified check for the exact amount and was told the check would not be honored.

After the friend went back to his bank and cashed another check, Hobbs was released.

The following morning, Mrs. Hogan said she went back to Vernor station to protest her brother's treat-

ment. She was taken to the prosecutor's office where she was interviewed by an assistant prosecutor.

The officer who arrested her brother was present and accused her of hitting and biting a police officer. The officer said he had been told Mrs. Hogan had been arrested for prostitution and when she denied this, she said the assistant prosecutor said he didn't like her attitude and told the officer to "check her out." She said she was fingerprinted and held and later released on \$500 personal bond and told she would be tried Dec. 26.

Witnesses to the incident said at no time did Mrs. Hogan attempt to stop the officers except by screaming. Mrs. Hogan said she has never been arrested.

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