

URBAN LEAGUE CLAIMS POLICE DISCRIMINATION

JUDGE O'HARA

Lawyer Charges "Insult"

Charges of bias and prejudice were lodged against Recorder's Judge John P. O'Hara during the trial of 17 persons charged with trespassing as a result of the picket and sit-ins at First Federal Savings and Loan company.

For the second time in two days the defense attorneys offered a motion requesting that Judge O'Hara disqualify himself and on each occasion the motion was denied.

The case indicated it would be one of continued fireworks as one of the defendants, Mrs. Geraldine Worrell Kimmel, was hospitalized in the Beaumont General hospital Monday following an overdose of sleeping pills. It was alleged that she had taken the pills because of the state of distress she was in because of the trials.

Tuesday morning sessions were sparked when, during a discussion over what the defendants charged was a "systematic exclusion" of Negroes from the jury, Judge O'Hara, referred to the memorable "People versus Roxborough" trial. In this trial it was charged that "all Negroes were involved in the playing of numbers." Judge O'Hara in commenting on this turned to Myron Wahls, a Negro defense counsel, and asked: "What is your number, Mr. Wahls?"

Chief Defense Counsel George Downing immediately asked that the Judge apologize to Wahls for the statement. When the Judge refused, Downing walked from the court room.

Judge O'Hara then charged Downing with "grand



SWORN IN — Gov. George Romney, left, administers the oaths of office to the two co-chairmen of the new eight-member Michigan Civil Rights Commission in his office in Lansing Friday. The co-chairmen are Damon J. Keith, second from left, and John Feikens, both of Detroit.

Open Door - To - Door Registration Drive

A door-to-door campaign to retain the estimated 100,000 Negroes who have received voting suspension notices was launched this week.

The Detroit City Clerk sent out notices the last week in December to 180,000 Detroiters who have not voted during the past two years. These persons have 30 days from the receipt of the notice to return it to the Clerk's office.

"We would like all groups and persons interested in helping, to register at the headquarters in the district where they live," Hylton said. "We hope all block clubs will volunteer to participate in this vital campaign."

Hylton said the committee has set up various divisions to work toward mobilizing the entire community.

The City Election Commission has announced that police precinct stations, including the Youth Bureau but excluding police head-

Plan Interviews For New Civil Rights Position

Rumors that political pressures were being brought on the newly appointed Civil Rights Commission in the selection of an Executive Director were emphatically denied by Co-Chairman Damon Keith Monday.

"We are planning to interview a number of highly qualified applicants who are brought here from all sections of the country Saturday," Keith stated. "We intend to screen all applicants

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Promotion Policy Questioned In Extensive Report

The Detroit Urban League in an extensive report, released Tuesday, charged the Police Department with having failed to make any appreciable gain during the last five years.

Common Pleas Judge Julian P. Rodgers, Jr., president of the League, said that a qualified Negro candidate has no better chance of joining the force today than he did in 1958.

Judge Rodgers stated that an improvement in police-community relations will result in proportion to the correction of this racial inequity.

Arthur Johnson, executive secretary of the Detroit branch of the NAACP, hailed the report as being factual but indicated that there were many areas in police department activity in regard to its Negro personnel that must still be explored.

Francis A. Kornegay, executive director of the League, in making the report before the Board of Directors for final approval called attention to the several areas of deep concern and glaring inequities.

"Racial discrimination within a police department," Rodgers said, "will usually result in racial discrimination in law enforcement activities."

Kornegay said some Negroes believe the Negro contingent on the force is only token, and that whites and blacks do not receive equal treatment from the department.

League prepared statistics show 29 percent of Detroit's population to be Negro, while only 3.28 percent (or 44 members) of the police department are Negro.

"As of June 1962, 223 more white police officers had received appointments

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POLICE CHARGED

Assault Complaint Probed

Inspector Gerald Perman, of the Chene precinct, this week said an investigation was being completed of the complaint by a 37-year old woman that she was struck by a police officer.

Miss Lillie Woods, of 3466 Mt. Elliott, said she was struck in the stomach after she became involved in a quarrel with the officer following a minor auto accident Dec. 27 at Dane and Mt. Elliott.

Miss Woods told Lt. Harry Anderson the officers who responded to the accident took individual reports from her and the other driver.

She said she asked to see the driver's statement but was refused permission, thus precipitating the argument.

Miss Woods said the patrolman on the passenger's side got out, reached into the back seat to pull her out, then both examined the damages to the autos.

She said they returned to the scout car where the of-

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time of the filing.

Urban League

(Continued from Page 1)

than in 1957," Rodgers said, "while 4 less Negroes were appointed during the period."

The department has denied any segregation in the assigning of patrolmen, said K o r n e g a y but the greatest concentration of Negro policemen is in predominantly Negro neighborhoods.

The League has recommended that the entire recruitment procedure for the department to reviewed. It also suggests an upgrading of interviewers, and a psychological or psychiatric test for applicants.

Assault Probed

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ficer is said to have struck her in the stomach.

At the time of the accident, Miss Woods accompanied by a neighbor, Lillian Banks, 35, and two small children.

Following the accident Miss Woods left the scene but later noticed blood on her stockings and said the officer caused a recent surgical wound to hemorrhage when he struck her.

Miss Woods said she did not get the badge number of the officer who struck but his partner's badge number was #519.

(Police records show that the scout car which received the auto accident run to Mt. Elliott and Dane was manned by Patrolmen Frank Mrock, badge #519, and Hugo Knobelsdorf, badge #3244).

Questioned by Lt. Anderson, Miss Banks said she had remained in Miss Woods' auto parked in front of the scout car and did not see an officer strike Miss Woods.

At Receiving hospital, Edward Newkumet, admitting clerk, told police he could find no record of Miss Woods having been to the hospital previously.

However, a preliminary examination showed a post-operative infection and a contusion of the stomach.

According to Insp. Perman, three witnesses described Miss Woods' actions at the time of the accident as "aggressive."

Seek Rapist in Attack on Nurse

A 25-year-old nurse was assaulted and raped early Monday as she was enroute to work. The nurse told police she left her home in the Northwest area, and in the alley north of Fort on Scotten, a man put a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her. He then pulled her into an alley and assaulted her.