

"IT MUST BE STOPPED"**WCO Challenges Girardin
On Police-Teen Brutality**

"Can we trust you to take the boys home and keep them out of trouble," policemen asked parents of four youths arrested and beaten Sept. 12.

"Can we trust the police to leave us alone?" retorted one's mother.

The teens were involved in a football game on Pine and Vermont when two policemen stopped to question them. In the fracas, a 16-year-old, Howard King, 3002 Harrison, received a broken hand and a cut across the left eyebrow requiring nine stitches; another a scalp cut requiring five stitches, and all were kicked, beaten, threatened and insulted.

The incident was one of three involving police brutality with which members of the West Central Organization (WCO) confronted Police Commissioner Ray Girardin Sept. 29.

"His first remark to us was 'My time is valuable,'" recalled Mrs. Mary Valentine, one of the leaders of the group.

The meeting ended with an emotional scene where the 40 parents and teens stood over Girardin's desk, told him they wanted a solution to the entire problem of police brutality as well as of the three cases, and then walked out.

They demanded that he meet with Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh on the problem and said they will return to Girardin's office this week whether he has arranged a meeting or not.

Girardin commented that the meeting was "too emotional to reach any solution."

In one of the incidents Roland Holmes, 19, 3103 Wabash, called the police Aug. 19 to break up a dispute at a gas station at 14th and Myrtle.

He wound up under arrest with a broken hand, was hit hard in the chest, and now suffers from headaches, he said.

"How can we develop a good relationship between citizens and the police department when Holmes called the police for help and they beat him and accused him of disturbing the

peace?" Mrs. Valentine asked.

In another incident Charles Carter, 20, 2610 Webb, was driving down 13th near Blaine with a friend to pick up his wife and baby about 9:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

The police pulled him over to give him a ticket for a broken taillight. Since the policemen were joking in their car behind and four or five other police cars stopped and joked with them, Carter said he got out of his car and went back, asking them to hurry.

He said the driver swore at him and then threatened to give him a ticket for interfering with traffic if he didn't get off the street.

Carter admitted he swore at them and the driver got out and hit him on the head as he ducked, trying to protect himself, falling into the officer.

The other came over and both hit him, Carter said, handcuffing his hands behind him and dragging him to their car. Carter said they made racial insults and the driver hit him in the face with his elbow as he sat forward on the back seat, his hands cuffed behind him.

When they got to the 10th precinct, one policeman noted he had a cut and the other said, better get it

checked, they sometimes have rabies, Carter recalled.

He was taken to Receiving hospital and waited 11 hours for X-rays. They held him for non-payment of \$32 of previous tickets, although he wanted to pay them since he had just been paid at Ford's where he works. He had to miss three days of work, he said.

Howard King, his cousin Henry Jackson, 17, 3001 Cochrane, and Harry Traylor, 16, 1571 Butternut, described how they and their friend Lonnie Stewart were beaten during the football game incident.

The first two policemen who drove up questioned the boys who were playing football with a group in the street that Sunday around 5:30 p.m., asking why they were not playing in the baseball field nearby.

They asked King over, and he said, "For what?" One said, "Just get in the car." King described, as he started to get into the car, the policeman jumped out and pushed him up against the car door, he said.

His cousin said "You don't have to do him like that," and they asked him, "What is it to you?" He answered King was his cousin and a policeman hit him with a nightstick in the arms, jumped on him, and threw him down, the boys said.

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