

NAACP CITES INCREASE IN DETROIT POLICE BRUTALITY: Illegal Searches ...

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NAACP CITES INCREASE IN DETROIT POLICE BRUTALITY

Illegal Searches Feature "Reign of Terror" As Detroit Negroes Complain of Widespread Strong Arm Tactics by Police

DETROIT, Mich. — Concerned over the sudden rise in police brutality, local NAACP officials have asked Commissioner John H. Witherspoon for a hearing. Citing recent cases as ample proof for immediate concern, the NAACP also indicated that in several instances not only were the victims injured, but in two cases, received court sentences as well.

"This is entirely uncalled for," stated the NAACP communication. "We will fight and continue to fight this type of Hitlerism at home as long as we are able. The antipathy between the police department and ourselves calls for some progressive action on the part of the Commissioner. Either the Police Department becomes cognizant that Negroes' rights as well as other citizens must be respected, or some type of violent conflict may result."

The NAACP report included the cases of Mr. and Mrs. Alsop of 3804 Brush, reported July 7, 1942; Lemar Thomas, July 8, 1942; Arthur Drake, killed by Hunt Street police, July 13, 1942; Paul Kirk; Mrs. Alma Moseley, August 4, 1942; Mrs. Lucille Shepherd, August 4, 1942; Calvin Hicks, July 27; Kermit Harris, Roy Buchanan, Howard Boatwright, John Lloyd, and Charles Helm.

The Alsups received suspended sentences for disturbing the peace. Lemar Thomas complained of illegal search while returning from

work; Mrs. A. Moseley was kicked by an officer when she complained about their treatment of her sister.

The officers held Mrs. Moseley's sister, Lucille Shepherd, on the floor of the squad car, twisting her arm behind her back. Calvin Hicks, Vice President of the North Detroit Youth Council, while watching an officer of Davidson Police Station give a Negro a ticket was grabbed and beaten by the officer. The blows from the officer broke Hicks' glasses.

Harris, Buchanan, Boatwright, Lloyd, and Helms were set upon by the entire Bethune Station as they were leaving because one supposedly said "Wait until the Japs come over."