

# Mother Blames "Indifference" by Police for Son's Beating

Detroit police were charged with indifference to the Negro community this week by Mrs. Helen Kelly, of 1991 Highland, as she recounted a series of incidents which took place over the previous week.

According to Mrs. Kelly, her ten-year-old son, Sam, was assaulted by three school children after school last May 21. As a result of the beating, Mrs. Kelly's son had to be taken to Provident hospital. She had feared that the boy had suffered internal injuries.

"After I returned from the hospital," continued Mrs. Kelly, "I notified the police concerning the beating of my son. I supplied them with the names of the boys involved.

"The police promised to investigate it. The beating had taken place on Thursday. The police were notified on Friday morning, but Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday passed without my hearing a word from them.

"Then, I called the newspapers and told them about the incident. No one printed a word, but the police called after they had heard from the newspapers and they took down the information. That happened at 7 p.m. Thursday.

"Still, the police have done nothing. The kids are still running up and down the streets . . . two weeks later."

Mrs. Kelly cited other instances where children have

been threatened by other children and expressed alarm that the condition is becoming widespread.

She commented that it "seems as though the police are saying to all Negroes, 'go ahead and kill each other. We don't care.'"

"Or," she concluded, "perhaps they're just letting the kids run amok to prove the point that some officials want to make. They'll let

the kids beat up and shoot each other. Then, after somebody gets killed, they'll be satisfied."

She stated that the time to mete out punishment is now—before it's too late and before it gets too far out of hand.

"I'll do my part to clear this up," she stated, "by pressing for the prosecution of the children beating other children."

## Decision On Del Rio Suit

A decision on a suit to force the police department's community relations department to open its books for inspection was postponed for a month to give attorneys time to compile a brief on the department's functions.

James Del Rio, director of the Detroit Council for Human Rights, charged police officials have refused to supply him with information on the number of complaints filed with the department since January 1963, what recommendations were made by the department concerning the complaints or the final disposition of complaints.

At a hearing Friday, Circuit Judge James N. Canham said there was

little law on the subject but that if members of the department take records and compile reports, it would appear to be a public record." Canham said he would require a brief explaining the exact functions of the department before reaching a decision.

The suit was brought against Police Commissioner Ray Girardin and Inspector William V. Harcourt head of the community relations department.

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