

DETROIT POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

GOD BLESS YOU GEORGE!

THE COMPLETE STORY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PATROLMAN CZAPSKI

TIME: 11:40 P.M.; DATE: Saturday, March 29th; Patrolman Michael Czapski, age 22 and Patrolman Richard Worobec, age 28, cruising near Linwood and Euclid observed ten to twelve men dressed in green military fatigue uniforms with leopard skin epaulets armed with rifles and carbines in front of the New Bethel Baptist Church. They immediately stopped the scout car and got out to investigate. Neither drew his gun. Upon seeing the officers, the would-be killers in guerrilla fashion, turned and fired. Patrolman Czapski, fatally wounded, fell. Patrolman Worobec, although critically wounded, managed to crawl to the scout car and call for assistance. Patrolman Czapski brutally shot seven times was dead upon arrival at Ford Hospital. The scout car was riddled with bullets. Patrolman Worobec barely escaped with his life. The assassins ran straight into the New Bethel Baptist Church. Patrolman Worobec's cries for help were heard over the police radio.

Within seconds supporting scout cars arrived on the scene. Black as well as white officers responded. Fellow officers removed Czapski and Worobec while under fire from the Church. A ranking officer at the scene pounded repeatedly on the locked door of the Church and demanded entry. The only answer received was gunfire. The officer then broke into the darkened, barricaded building. Immediately they were fired upon from the center of the altar by a rifleman. The man dove for cover behind an overturned table near the pulpit. Shots were being fired from all over. One sniper fired at the officers from a loft located near a corner of the building. When the officers returned his fire, the sniper fell along with his loaded automatic.

headquarters. Arrangements were immediately made for detectives on duty to remain and additional detectives were called in to process the prisoners as quickly as possible. The prisoners were taken into the garage on the ground floor of police headquarters and from there in small groups they were sent to the scientific laboratory. Nitrate tests were conducted to find traces of gunpowder. Then, the prisoners were taken to the Robbery Breaking and Entering Bureau for fingerprints and other identification procedure. They were finally sent to the 9th floor where they were registered for arrest.

A detective sergeant from the Homicide Bureau was placed in charge. The case began to take shape as the patrolmen involved arrived to make their reports. At 5:30 A.M. when the detective in charge first learned that Judge Crockett was in the building, several patrolmen still had not completed their preliminary reports. Some had yet to arrive from the scene. Of the 142 people arrested, only forty (40) had been completely processed. Detectives were working quickly. Possibly some were wanted criminals, but there was no time to determine this.

At 5:45 A.M. the Police Dept. was ordered to stop everything and produce all prisoners before Judge Crockett in a makeshift court set up on the first floor of police headquarters. Security arrangements had to be made quickly to comply with Judge Crockett's orders. By 6:35 A.M. the prisoners started arriving downtown in the

noon. The Prosecutor pleaded with the Judge to reconsider, whereupon the Judge cited him for contempt, ordered his reappearance at noon, declared the hearing terminated, and stormed out of the building. The remaining prisoners were then taken to the 9th floor of police headquarters where they remained until the hearing at noon in Judge Crockett's courtroom. At the hearing held in Recorder's Court the Assistant Prosecutor requested all prisoners be held until it could be determined whether or not they were fugitives. The Judge refused. Only two (2) were held. Six (6) had traces of gunpowder on their hands, but only two (2) were held. It was later determined that a number of the persons arrested had prior felony arrests including three (3) persons convicted of conspiracy in the planned slaying of Roy Wilkins, President of the N.A.A.C.P. and Whitney Young, Director of the National Urban League.

At the time of the incident the Church was not being used for religious services. It had been rented to the Republic of New Africa, R.N.A. The R.N.A. is a militant race oriented organization founded on March 31st, 1968, by former followers of Malcolm X (Malcolmites). Its avowed purposes are:

- 1) FORMATION OF PARA-MILITARY UNITS OF BLACKS FOR ARMED SEIZURE OF THE STATES OF MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ALABAMA, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

- 2) UPON SEIZURE TO DEFEND THE

PROPERTY, OR THE UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH A POLICE OFFICER.

- 3) IT IS FURTHER UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO ASSEMBLE OR ACT IN CONCERT WITH FOUR OR MORE PERSONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING IN CONDUCT CONSTITUTING A CRIME OF RIOT, OR TO BE PRESENT AT AN ASSEMBLY THAT EITHER HAS OR DEVELOPS SUCH A PURPOSE, AND TO REMAIN THEREAT WITH INTENT TO ADVANCE SUCH PURPOSE.

In view of what happened, the police certainly knew murder had been committed and had probable cause to believe an assembly was being conducted which potentially created a serious risk of causing public terror and alarm.

Judge Crockett maintains that he issued a Writ of Habeas Corpus on his own motion because he felt the arrested persons were illegally restrained of their liberty and that the administration of tests for nitrates upon detained individuals without the assistance of counsel and prior to their being warned of their right to counsel is unconstitutional. The applicable cases, however, don't even remotely support the Judge's position. Furthermore, the case the Judge relies on, *U.S. v. Wade*, 338 U.S. 218 (1967), expressly indicates that it is inapplicable to the type of scientific test here involved.

Judge Crockett maintains that he is objective and wants to see justice done. This is hard for us to swallow in view of his previous actions. For example, on Saturday, November 16th, 1968, a Detroit Police Officer with a home and family in Detroit and with an excellent criminal record

Other officers came in and turned on the lights. Everyone was ordered to stand with their hands up. Slowly they began to rise as directed. One hundred forty-two (142) adults including five (5) injured persons, as well as five (5) juveniles were in the building. The majority, both men and women, were wearing para-military fatigues with leopard skin epaulets, and combat boots, the uniform of the Republic of New Africa. Requests for information brought only silence. Not one person offered assistance or cooperation. Nine weapons, including rifles, hand guns, gas ejecting spray and quantity of ammunition was recovered from inside the church building. Narcotics were also found.

The ranking officers at the scene ordered all those present arrested. Why?

1) BECAUSE ONE OFFICER WAS CRITICALLY WOUNDED AND ANOTHER APPARENTLY DEAD;

2) BECAUSE THE ASSASSINS WORE MILITARY UNIFORMS;

3) BECAUSE THE POLICE WERE SHOT AT FROM THE CHURCH;

4) BECAUSE THE POLICE HAD TO BREAK INTO THE CHURCH;

5) BECAUSE THE LIGHTS WERE OFF WHEN THEY FINALLY GOT IN THE CHURCH;

6) BECAUSE THEY WERE FIRED UPON AFTER THEY ENTERED;

7) BECAUSE PEOPLE WEARING UNIFORMS IDENTICAL TO THE ASSASSINS WERE IN THE CHURCH;

8) BECAUSE NO AID WAS GIVEN TO THE OFFICERS ONCE THEY SECURED THE CHURCH;

9) BECAUSE SEVERAL WEAPONS WERE FOUND IN THE CHURCH;

10) BECAUSE OF THREAT OF FURTHER NEIGHBORHOOD DISTURBANCE.

Police busses were called even before the premises were completely secured, and within forty (40) minutes the busses arrived at police

courtroom already occupied by Judge Crockett, Representative James Del Rio and an Assistant Prosecutor. As the prisoners started to enter Judge Crockett's makeshift courtroom, Representative Del Rio was seen running in and out of the room. Mutual greetings were exchanged between Del Rio and the prisoners in line. By the time Prosecutor Cahalan arrived Judge Crockett had released fifteen (15) prisoners. During this time the press was excluded from the floor. While releasing prisoners, Judge Crockett never inquired whether or not they were fugitives. The prisoners were released without requiring cash bonds. Unfortunately, no court stenographer was present. When Prosecuting Attorney William Cahalan arrived, he and the Judge, along with Del Rio, had a short but private conference. Cahalan and Judge Crockett returned to the makeshift courtroom.

For the first time the press was allowed near the courtroom. On at least one occasion Representative Del Rio appeared to be holding a press conference in a corner. Then he ran back into the courtroom. During this time patrolmen standing guard were jeered by the prisoners who were anticipating their immediate release. Remarks such as, "We'll only be here a short time, Whitey," were directed to the officers. Then, suddenly, Milton Henry with what appeared to be two guards following close behind, burst into the side door of the building and pushed past the police to the prisoners. Again, mutual greetings were exchanged. Henry then entered the courtroom, and exited. He left the building and then returned with his guards close behind. This reassured the prisoners who were by this time making "black power gestures." He also conferred briefly with Representative Del Rio and then left the building.

When a prisoner identified as James Wheeler was brought before Crockett, Prosecutor Cahalan asked him to be held. Judge Crockett released the prisoner on his promise to appear in court at

TERRITORY AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

3) ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA AND CUBA.

4) TO ORGANIZE GUERRILLA WARFARE IN THE NORTHERN CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

5) REMOVAL OF ALL WHITES FROM TERRITORIES SEIZED.

The leaders of this organization are Milton Henry and his brother, Richard B. Henry. Milton Henry, a licensed attorney, on many occasions has attacked the courts and so-called "White Man's Justice." In a pamphlet put out by the organization entitled WAR IN AMERICA, written by Brother Imari, slave name Richard B. Henry, published in August 1968, by the Malcolm X Society, Box 697, Detroit, Michigan 48206, it is stated on page 32, that the Unions have been the constant enemy of black unity and black progress, because they successfully used their power to deprive George Crockett of an important endorsement in his candidacy for Judge.

Judge Crockett apparently claims that the officers acted illegally in arresting the persons in the Church. Yet, the law provides:

1) IT IS UNLAWFUL AND CONSTITUTES THE CRIME OF RIOT FOR FIVE OR MORE PERSONS ACTING IN CONCERT TO WRONGFULLY ENGAGE IN VIOLENT CONDUCT, AND THEREBY INTENTIONALLY OR RECKLESSLY CAUSE OR CREATE A SERIOUS RISK OF CAUSING PUBLIC TERROR OR ALARM.

2) IT IS FURTHER UNLAWFUL FOR PERSONS INTENDING TO CAUSE OR TO AID OR ABET THE INSTITUTION OR MAINTENANCE OF A RIOT, TO DO AN ACT OR ENGAGE IN CONDUCT THAT URGES OTHER PERSONS TO COMMIT ACTS OF UNLAWFUL FORCE OR VIOLENCE, OR THE UNLAWFUL BURNING OR DESTROYING OF

was arranged before Judge Crockett on charges of felonious assault growing out of the Veterans Memorial Incident. The prescribed standards for the release of a prisoner and consideration of bail are as follows:

1) THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENSE.

2) THE LIKELIHOOD OF RETURN, PREDICATED UPON THE MAN'S TIES IN THE COMMUNITY.

3) THE ACCUSED'S PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD, OR LACK THEREOF.

Judge Crockett set bond in this case in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), almost unheard of in this kind of case where the Defendant has no previous record. The same day Judge Crockett arraigned nineteen (19) other defendants who were not police officers in crimes ranging from Assault with Intent to Commit Rape, Armed Robbery, Sale and Possession of Narcotics, to Receiving Stolen Property. In many of these cases the defendants had prior felony convictions. Except for one bond that was reduced by Judge Crockett from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), the highest bond he set that day was Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2500.00). He granted personal bonds in two (2) narcotics cases, five (5) breaking and entering cases, one (1) receiving stolen property case, one (1) larceny in a building case, and the highest bond he set, other than the patrolman's, was Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

Justice that is either all Black or all White is not justice at all. On Sunday, April 6, 1969, the following advertisement appeared in the "personals" section of The Detroit News on page 2C:

**"GOD BLESS YOU GEORGE
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR AID AND
ENCOURAGEMENT LAST SUNDAY
MORNING. WE ALL LOVE YOU.
BROTHERS RICHARD AND MILTON"**

NEED MORE BE SAID!

**Anyone wishing to assist in petitioning for the removal of Judge Crockett
or in the demanding for changes in the present laws or court procedure
-or interpretation of the laws**

**Contact DPOA
2899 W. GRAND BLVD.
DETROIT, MICH., 48202
PHONE: 873-0404**

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