

Eastside Home 'Invaded'; Claim Police Harassment

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By NADINE BROWN

"There are some nasty policemen here in Detroit. They give no respect whatsoever to a Black man. You're not safe in your own house," an eastside father angrily declared as he told the Chronicle how a group of white men, later identified as police officers, invaded his home Christmas night, ransacked it and terrified everybody, including the small children.

Ulysses Bryant, a Burroughs Corp. employee for about 15 years who has a habit of retiring early even when he doesn't have to go to work the next day, said he was awakened about 9 p.m. by noises coming from the dining

room of their home on Cooper St.

"I got up to find out what was happening and saw a lot of white men in the dining room," he said. "My wife (May) had her arms around our son, Lawrence. I could hardly believe what I saw."

He said he rushed back into the bedroom and picked up the telephone to call the police, and one of the men followed him and ordered him to put the phone down. "We're police officers," Bryant said the man told him. "When I asked how I was to know that they are policemen, he flashed a badge quickly. I told him I couldn't read it that fast, so he showed it to me again and said don't touch it!"

Bryant said the officer finally told the family that they were looking for Aaron, 18, the youngest son, on suspicion of armed robbery, and had received a tip that he was there. He said the police never explained when asked why they didn't have a search warrant.

Police arrested both Aaron and Lawrence but released Lawrence shortly afterward. Aaron, who had enlisted in the Army shortly after his 18th birthday Sept. 30, was held and has since been arraigned on a charge of armed robbery, and his pre-trial examination was set for Jan. 3. He was home on a Christmas leave and was due to report back to

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at Ft. Jackson
ma, Jan 2, the day
his court date."

According to Chronicle information from the police department's robbery division, Aaron has been sought in connection with an armed robbery holdup that occurred last June.

Mrs. Bryant, Aaron's mother, said he has not been in any trouble as far as she knows since he was a juvenile.

Lawrence and his mother both said they arrived at the den leading to the front door when they heard the doorbell ring, and one of the white men had already entered. Lawrence said he blocked the door to try to keep the other men out, demanding to see a search warrant. He refused to move even when the officers pulled guns. Then his mother, he said, began crying and beggin him to move.

He said the men went right through the house and he followed, still demanding a search warrant, and one of the men told him "we don't need a search warrant." Lawrence said he replied that they "should apply some professional discretion about the matter," and when he started to grab one as he got to the kitchen and said "wait a minute," the man pulled his gun. "He told me, if you're looking for trouble, you're going to get it," Lawrence said.

"I don't mind dying for a cause, but not just because," Lawrence said was his response, and the man asked him, "What about the kids. You don't want them hurt do you?"

"I told him that we'll all go for a cause but not because you want to walk on us, and one of them pulled his rifle up and my mother grabbed me and started crying again and begged me to stop talking," Mrs. Bryant kept nodding her head in assent as he told of the incident.

She said they handcuffed Lawrence and said he talked too much and that he is a troublemaker. Mrs. Bryant said they have been harassed by the police since last July, when she and her husband went on vacation and left Lawrence, his wife and two kids in charge of the house where they had moved in temporarily. "When we

returned, we learned that police had come in and searched the house for guns. Dishes and other property that Lawrence and his wife had not unpacked were broken in the basement. They (police) have been here several times since then," she said.

"Three STRESS officers came one Sunday about a month ago and threatened my husband when he wouldn't open the door to let them in," she said. They argued on the porch, she said, and she was very fearful about what they would do to him. "He demanded to see a search warrant and when they didn't produce one, he told them 'a man's house is his castle.' The officers told him that 'skunks like you are the reason the country is in the mess it's in today. We'll come back and blow your house up. It may be your castle, but you may not have a home pretty soon', then they left."

Lawrence said he was arrested by police in October and questioned, despite the fact that he told him his name is Lawrence Bryant. He said they had asked if he was Aaron Bryant.

Mrs. Bryant said Aaron hasn't been in any trouble to her knowledge since he was a juvenile and was committed to a boys training school for nearly two years. He left Detroit and went to stay with aunt in Greenwood, S. C., last July, she said, "because he got tired of police harassment and his inability to find a job. We didn't know he had enlisted in the Army until he came home just before Christmas and we saw his papers. You know, he is the third one of our sons who enlisted in the Army. Lawrence is the only one who didn't. One son, Glenn, has served in Vietnam. He's stationed in Georgia now, but is expected to be sent back to Vietnam," she said.

When advised to file a complaint with the Polices Citizens Complaint Bureau, Bryant said he had a rotten experience a long time ago when he filed a complaint there. But he, his wife and Lawrence finally agreed and filed their charges there.

"Our Merry Christmas was really cut short," Mrs. Bryant said wistfully. "Maybe the new year will be better but I don't see it. I hope so though."