

Dr. Clark Faces Trial For Manslaughter

OBSERVER

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Policemen Freed Of Conspiracy In Riot Deaths

CONSPIRACY CHARGES against two Detroit policemen and a private guard allegedly involved in the slayings of three young Negroes at the Algiers Motel during the July riot were dismissed Monday by Detroit Recorder's Judge Frank G. Schemanski. In dismissing the charges, he said that prosecution witnesses had made contradictory statements bordering on perjury in an attempt to "get the cops." The warrants charged Detroit patrolmen Robert Paille and David Senak and private guard Melvin Dismukes with conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS PRESIDENT Walter Reuther joined bargaining at General Motors Corp. Tuesday for the final round in 1967 auto talks. The company and the union have until Dec. 14 to nail down a national contract under bargaining terms set up by the UAW International Executive Board last Tuesday.

GOV. GEORGE ROMNEY leaves tomorrow for a month-long, 14-nation tour of Europe and Asia. Described by the candidate for the Republican presidential nomination as an "informing and fact-finding tour," the trip will include meetings with high-level government officials in several nations. Romney aides said that a meeting with Premier Alexei Kosygin in Moscow had already been scheduled and that requests have been made for meetings with other world leaders, including President Charles de Gaulle of France and Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Great Britain. The tour will include stops in France, Great Britain, West Germany, Poland, the Soviet Union, Austria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Thailand, South Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and India. He will return Jan. 4.

HARRY WISNER, a sportscaster and promoter who began his career in Detroit and East Lansing, died Monday morning in New York City at the age of 55. He had suffered a fractured skull in a fall down a flight of stairs in a Manhattan restaurant. Services will be Thursday in the First Methodist Church of Port Huron, his hometown. He began his career as sportscaster for Detroit radio station WJL, and later became an owner of two professional football teams and a founder of the American Football League.

BERT LAHR, movie and stage comedian died Monday in New York. He was 72. Lahr was filming "The Night They Raided Minsky's" when he became ill and entered the hospital Nov. 21.

News Round Up

His best known films included "Wizard of Oz," in which he played the Tin, "Love and Lies," "Mr. Broadway," "Josette," "Ship Ahoy," "Mr. Universe," and "Rose Marie." He also appeared in several Broadway plays and was a star comedian on radio in the 1930's and 40's.

Nate S. Shapiro, chairman of the board of Cunningham Drug Stores, Inc., has been honored for his contributions to brotherhood by the Detroit Round Table, National Conference of Christians and Jews. The citation is given annually.

Petitions to keep a 110-bed Hamtramck hospital from being closed in February were circulated in five city parishes Sunday. The petitions are part of a last-ditch drive to save St. Francis Hospital, 3411 Ewaldine, which has not been accredited by the Greater Detroit Area Hospital Council. St. Francis is scheduled to merge with Holy Cross Hospital, on Outer Drive.

A showdown between United Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther and AFL-CIO President George Meany has apparently been averted for now. Reuther announced this week that he would not attend the annual convention of the AFL-CIO in Miami Beach, because he would be tied up in General Motors contract negotiations. Reuther also asked that his resolution demanding reforms in the AFL-CIO be withdrawn.

The annual report of New York's Metropolitan Opera showed that it faces the prospect of a continuing operating deficit despite a highly successful emergency fund drive. Financial problems which hit the company in its first year in Lincoln Center, plus a potential loss of \$1 million for the second season added about \$3 million to a deficit previously estimated at \$3,100,000. The cost of raising the curtain for one night, \$39,000.

Michigan police officials have recommended new riot legislation and more money for riot control training of police recruits. In a proposal sent to Gov. George Romney, the State Police director, Michigan Sheriff Association, chiefs of police and prosecuting attorneys suggested 24 other ways to combat crime in the state.

'Why Was License Renewed?' Asks Schmidt

LANSING—Rep. Louis E. Schmidt today asked state officials to explain how accused killer Dr. Ronald E. Clark is still a licensed physician. He asked for details on two previous revocations of his license despite complaints from patients.

Clark underwent examination Monday for manslaughter in the death of a Livonia nurse to whom he administered sodium pentothal. Clark's clinic is at 30735 Grand River, Farmington.

Medical Experts Testify

Testimony of medical experts in Farmington Township Justice Court was vital Monday in Dr. Ronald E. Clark being bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

The same testimony served to indicate that what amount of sodium pentothal may be used safely in medical treatment, and for what purposes, are the key questions both in the prosecution and defense of the 56-year-old Farmington medic.

JUSTICE OF THE Peace Byron Walter, at the end of Dr. Clark's three-hour examination on the accusation that the physician is accountable for the Nov. 3 death in his office of Mrs. Grace Neil, 43, of Livonia, ruled:

1. "That sufficient evidence has been produced to believe a crime has been committed."

2. "That the testimony is sufficient to establish reasonable grounds for the belief that the defendant has committed it."

Mrs. Neil, a part-time nurse for Dr. Clark who also was being treated for an alleged heart ailment, died, according to the prosecution, after receiving an overdose of sodium pentothal from Dr. Clark.

Dr. S. David Kutov, toxicologist of the Michigan Department of Health, testified that in testing a blood sample from Mrs. Neil after her death he had found the blood to contain 3.1 milligram per cent of sodium pentothal.

"I am of the opinion that this particular concentration would account for the death of the subject," said Dr. Kutov from the witness stand.

He said no other barbiturates were found in the blood and added that men of his profession consider any quantity of sodium pentothal between three and four milligrams "to be lethal."

DR. RICHARD E. OLSON, the pathologist who performed the autopsy on Mrs. Neil, testified that he found no cause for her death, "but the fact that the blood did not indicate presence of some foreign substance in the blood."

He also testified that he does not consider it proper medical procedure to treat a heart patient with sodium pentothal. He said the drug has a hypnotic effect and is normally used in psychiatric treatment or as an anesthetic.

Under extensive cross-examination by Philip Rowston, the court-appointed attorney for Dr. Clark, Dr. Kutov reviewed the entire testing procedure in detail. He was ordered by the court to maintain all organ samples involved in the case for future laboratory availability.

MEANWHILE, Dr. Clark has been returned to the Oakland County Jail to await trial after Rowston's plea that his bond be reduced from \$50,000 to \$5,000 was denied by Judge Walter.

Assistant Prosecutors John Bain and Bruce Leitman vigorously protested any reduction in the bond. They also predicted that Dr. Clark will be brought to trial "within three or four months."

Arraignment on the manslaughter charge has been set for Monday, Dec. 18 in Oakland County Circuit Court before Judge William Beer.

He is scheduled for one more appearance in Farmington Township Court, this one on a misdemeanor charge that he failed to notify the coroner after Mrs. Neil had died "under unusual circumstances."

The lower court hearing has been set for 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15 and bond set at \$10,000.

Schmidt noted the criticism of licensing practices of the state Board of Registration in Medicine by Dr. Irving Kurtz, president of the Michigan Medical Society, in his promise of an "informal perusal of the facts."

"WHY, UNDER the circumstances, and in view of previous revocations of Dr. Clark's license, can't the State Board of Medicine suspend the license pending the results of a more formal hearing?" Schmidt de-



SPECTACULAR CREATION of the Culinary Arts Department has a place of honor on the campus of Schoolcraft College. Students and teachers in the department carved the figures of

Santa Claus and his Reindeer from blocks of ice and displayed their creations in the huge mall in front of the Administration building.

11 Resignations Hit Oakland Board

Oakland County's Mental Health Board met Tuesday to determine the extent of its personnel problems.

Monday 11 of the 13 staff members at the Oakland County facility resigned in protest over "administrative confusion and a continuing lack of leadership" by the mental health board and its director, Dr. Robert E. Walden.

GERALD V. HARRISON, chairman of the Personnel Sub-

committee of the Board, told The Observer that it would be "premature" to predict what this is about now.

"We are having a Board meeting tonight to make an assessment," he said. "I don't know how many of the resignations are in good faith or the kind of a startling thing that staffs sometimes do to gain attention."

"We do have some personnel problems which we have been working hard to resolve," Harrison said, "but I just can't say much until after Tuesday's meeting."

THE STAFF MEMBERS who resigned were all on the staff at the Oakland Training Institute, a day school for retarded young people.

Charges made by the 11 had been heard earlier by mental health leaders in the county. The resignations are to become effective Jan. 3. The director of OTI resigned last week. Those resigning Monday included a psychologist, a social worker and various therapists.

Convicts Nabbed In Killing

Two inmates of Jackson State Prison will stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court in the murder of Westland's Anthony Volante, supermarket owner whose body was pulled from the Detroit River last July 2, nearly five months after he disappeared.

BOUND OVER for trial following a preliminary examination in the Inkster Municipal Court were David Krogel 24, formerly of Southeast and Gene Mitchell 26, formerly of Wyandotte.

Volante, manager of a Wrigley Supermarket in Lincoln Park, was the object of an intense police search ever since he was last seen driving his auto into his driveway at 7531 August Street the evening of Feb. 15.

Another auto immediately pulled in behind him and Volante was seen by a neighbor getting into the second car which drove off.

The two defendants have been in police custody since Feb. 24, nine days after Volante's disappearance when Mitchell and Krogel were arrested in the armed robbery of a Wyandotte bar.

AT THE TIME of the bar holdup, Mitchell was facing trial for a Jan. 12 robbery of a Southeast supermarket.

Last June, the pair was given 20-to-30 year prison sentences in the Wyandotte bar holdup. Although the car used in the robbery and in the Volante kidnapping were identical, Lincoln Park police investigators had other reasons to feel that the two were involved in the Volante case.

In the week just after Volante's disappearance, Krogel was reported to have taken the auto to a do-it-yourself car wash three times with the interior being scrubbed.

Stains were found on the vinyl seat covers and the car's interior although the police could not identify them.

But until Volante's body was found in July floating in the Detroit River near Celeron Island, southwest of Grosse Ile, there was a chance that Volante was still alive.

In the safe at the supermarket he managed was emptied of \$2,559 the night of Volante's disappearance.

ence revocation regardless of whether a criminal act has been committed.

"THE WELFARE of the general public and welfare of a community are involved."

He said he wanted to discuss with the board its guidelines for revoking and renewing licenses and for followup investigation of such cases.

Schmidt directed a letter to Gov. Romney, Kurtz, and Lenon G. Sculthorpe.



PRELIMINARY -- Flanked by police, Dr. Ronald Clark leaves the township hall after his preliminary examination on a charge of manslaughter. At left is Patrolman Dale Hall; at right Sgt. Steve Santo.

Christmas Sweepstakes Spectacular!

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