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A Resolve

Police Now Admit Siler Was Sober

Under cross-examination yesterday, Lt. Earl R. Drescher said altho he concluded that Pvt. Carl Siler had been drinking the night of his controversial arrest, "I resolved this in Siler's favor."

Pvt. Siler, a Negro policeman arrested by two white patrolmen for allegedly driving without his lights in a traffic incident from which a fight developed, had none of his faculties impaired by any drinking he might have done, the white lieutenant said.

Monday, Lt. Drescher told a District Court jury there was a "strong odor of alcohol" on Pvt. Siler's breath as the two rode together in a squad car to the 12th Precinct, where Pvt. Siler alleges he was further beaten by the lieutenant and Pvt. Paul R. Jones.

Lt. Drescher and Pvt. Jones

are defendants in a civil suit in which Pvt. Siler is seeking \$20,000 from each.

As the trial went into its sixth day, Lt. Drescher related again how Pvts. Siler and Jones exchanged blows in the precinct stationhouse corridor, as the lieutenant was taking the prisoner in for questioning.

He said he and another policeman, Sgt. George Long, separated the two after an exchange of blows, and that he grabbed Pvt. Siler from behind with a full nelson wrestling hold to put him into a cell.

He denied putting a knee in Pvt. Siler's back when he released him in the cell and also denied punching him.

Pvt. Siler testified last week that either during the scuffles at Third and U streets or at the station, he suffered a broken nose.

Verdict on Boy 16

Suicide Ruled in Death

The Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney today indicated he doesn't agree with a ruling yesterday by the County's medical examiner that the death of Paul A. Jahoda, 15, was a suicide.

Dr. Claude Cooper, the county medical examiner, said he based his ruling on tests showing a lethal dosage of a sleeping pill drug in the boy's blood at the time of death. Paul, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Joseph R. Jahoda of 3505 Alba Place, Fairfax, was found last Wednesday in a storm sewer six blocks from his home.

But Mr. Horan said that several leads still are being checked in the case.

"We don't have a suicide note and if this is a suicide it's the first one I know of in a storm sewer... an odd place," he said.

School Suspension Rules Hit

Booker Brooks, candidate for president of the Washington Teachers' Union, said yesterday the new school board regulations on pupil suspensions are "ineffective and operate to the detriment of the teachers."

Mr. Brooks, who is challenging incumbent president William Simons in the May 26 election, said that his position is in opposition to the present leadership of the union which supports the new regulations.

The policy adopted by the board Saturday set up conditions under which a student can be suspended from school and provided for a hearing for a student suspended more than two days.

ANSWERS

The policy also calls for "new answers" to the problem of disruptive students such as special classes and remedial help.

It was adopted at a special meeting of the board which followed two days of teacher walk-outs in three junior high schools in the District last week

after the board had adopted a motion calling for a temporary halt to all suspensions.

Mr. Brooks said, "No money has been provided for the remedial services promised, no additional safeguards provided for the teachers."

He said the board should not have taken any action on suspensions without consulting the union "because this affects our working conditions."

He said he also disagreed with Mr. Simons statement that the walk-outs last week violated the teacher contract.

"It is a recognized practice among all trade unions not to require their members to work where their own personal safety is in jeopardy," he said.

In answer to questions raised at the time of the walk-outs, Mr. Simons had said: "While it might be charged that the teachers violated the contract in a technical sense, the union wishes to make it clear that it is in full support of the teachers in their efforts to improve conditions in order to do a more effective job."

In an issue of the union's newspaper The Washington Teacher, distributed in the schools yesterday, Mr. Simons praised the new suspension policy and said, "Had this been done Thursday, the chances are the situations which developed would not have occurred. It is most unfortunate that conditions were such that the teachers were compelled to react as they did."

The Washington Daily News, Wednesday, May 14, 1969

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