

# New York City Gets First Negro Federal Judge Appointment

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# Hand Picked Jury Says Murder Justified

## Truman Appoints Mollison To Judgeship of U. S. Customs Court

CHICAGO (ANP)—President Truman appointed Atty. Irvin C. Mollison last week to the judgeship of the U. S. Customs court in New York City, marking the first time in American history a Negro has been named a federal judge within continental United States.

The United States Custom court, with headquarters in New York City, is one of the nation's most important federal courts where questions affecting government revenue and customs duties, which vitally affect the nation's industry, business and its commercial relationships with other nations of the world.

## 50 Senators to Vote for Anti-Poll Tax Bill Passage

WASHINGTON (ANP)—A total of 50 members of the senate are committed to vote for passage of the anti-poll tax bill, according to the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax. Of this number, the names of 44 are being made public.

Consideration of the bill by the full membership of the senate judiciary committee was scheduled to come up on Monday morning. It was reported by a sub-committee last week.

Besides the six pledged senators who asked that their names not be publicized, a substantial number of other senators have given informal assurance of their support, or have been pledged to the bill in previous congresses, the national committee said on Wednesday.

Sixteen of the 50 are associated with then. Pepper and Sen. Ferguson in the senate bi-partisan steering committee.

"Arguments against the constitutionality of abolishing the poll tax by congressional enactment have not stood up in two previous senate judiciary committee reports," Mrs. Kathryn Shryver, secretary of the national committee. "They are further weakened when the governor of Alabama, in his address to the 1945 legislature, state unequivocally that the poll tax is a condition and not a qualification of voting. That has been the position of the national committee since the first bill to abolish the poll tax was introduced by the late congressman, Lee Geyer, of California."

The bill passed the house last spring with a substantial majority.

## GEN. BRADLEY SAYS HE'S FOR EQUAL BENEFITS

ATLANTA (ANP)—Gen. Omar Bradley, administrator for the Veterans administration, declared last week in a letter to USO Director C. W. Greenlee that he stands for "benefits to all veterans without regard to race, creed or color." He said further he was "fully aware of the contributions of all soldiers to the nation" and would act in his capacity to provide the benefits and opportunities to which they are entitled.

Mollison, a graduate of the University of Chicago Law school, has had an extensive law practice here since 1923 and is a member of U. S. Supreme court bar, the U. S. Circuit court of appeals, 7th circuit; the district court of the United States, northern district of Illinois; the U. S. Emergency court of appeals, the U. S. Tax court and is also licensed to practice before the treasury department.

"I am deeply grateful to President Truman for his appointment of me as a judge of the United States Customs court," he said. "This appointment is an important recognition of colored citizens of our country, and is another expression of the President's announced policy of justice and fairness to all Americans."

The 47-year-old lawyer was given a three-year appointment as a member of the board of directors of the Chicago Public Library by Mayor Edward J. Kelly on Oct. 11, 1938, and was reappointed for another three year term on June 23, 1945. He was also made a member of the board of education here on Jan. 7, 1944, for a term expiring on April 30, 1944, and was reappointed for another three-year term on June 23, 1945. He was also made a member of the board of education here on Jan. 7, 1944, for a term expiring on April 30, 1944, and was reappointed by Mayor Kelly on the following June 14 for a five-year term.

Atty. Mollison has been actively identified with the local branch of the NAACP for many years in his fight against all forms of racial injustices against Negro citizens. He is a member of the National NAACP Legal committee and has largely participated in a number of court battles against anti-Negro restrictive covenants.

He was given the NAACP meritorious award in June, 1936, during the 27th annual NAACP conference there had served as president of the Illinois State conference of the NAACP from 1933 to 1940. He has also served as secretary and member of the board of trustees of Provident Hospital and Training School association from 1942 until now.

Obstacles and difficulties taught men more than ease and contentment. Necessity—not only the mother of invention, but arouser of dynamic powers of the ego—forced man to think in order to survive.—Dr. Gerald B. Bryan.

## American Youth Charter Demands End Of Racial Strife

NEW YORK (ANP)—A "Charter of Youth Needs and Rights" has been prepared by the United States Arrangements committee for the World Youth conference. The charter will be presented to the World Youth conference in London, Oct. 31 to Nov. 9, by the 25 delegates from the United States representing leading American youth organizations.

Stressing the right of young people to participate in the deliberations and plans for world security, the charter covers the fields of "International Security," "Self-Determination of Peoples," "Economic Welfare," "Social and Educational Welfare," "Citizenship and Democracy" and "National and International Youth Cooperation."

Miss Frances Damon, chairman of the arrangements committee, commenting on the charter said, "If the provisions of the charter are adopted by the world, there never again would be a repetition of the interracial student strife that has been reported in the newspaper recently."

The provision to which Miss Damon referred to, specifically, is "All young people, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, economic status or national origin, must be guaranteed educational training commensurate with their ability without discriminatory restrictions, which will provide adequate preparation for work and citizenship responsibilities."

## STUDENT STRIKE LEADERS ARRESTED IN LATEST ANTI-NEGRO DEMONSTRATION

CHICAGO (ANP)—Police from Gresham station arrested 11 white student strike leaders here Thursday to effectively block the latest anti-Negro demonstration by 1700 Calumet High school students.

The 1700 students, representing more than half the school's enrollment of 3,026, stayed away from classes to protest the presence of 29 Negro pupils at Calumet. They had also planned to stage picket demonstrations in front of the Chicago Vocational school where a large number of Negro students are enrolled.

Acting Capt. Bart J. Morgan, Gresham station, immediately dispatched police to the scene at Calumet High School to break up the Anti-Negro demonstration and later prevented the pupils from throwing picket lines around Chicago Vocational.

After arresting 11 of the strikers and taking them to the station, he joined in advising them against participating in anti-Negro demonstrations along with Thomas Wright, executive director of the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations. The parents of the 11 arrested strikers backed Capt. Morgan and Wright by pointing out that their action was "undemocratic and un-American" and explicitly forbidden by law, whereupon all of the strike leaders agreed to return to class and promised to use their influence to persuade other Calumet students to do likewise.

## First Negro Sub' Teacher Assigned Here

Mrs. Sylvia Ray, former school teacher of Austin, Texas, recently filed application for teaching in the Portland Public schools. In doing so, Mrs. Ray stated that she would do substitute work.

About one week after filing the application Mrs. Ray was called and assigned to the Elliot School. She was there for one day. One day later she was sent to the Joseph Kellogg School.

Mrs. Ray is the first Negro substitute teacher in the Portland Public School system and reports that she is doing well. She is a teacher of Physical Education.

There are two Negro teachers numbered among the "regular" teachers of the City School system, they are Mrs. L. O. Stone and Mr. Robert Ford, both assigned to the Elliot school, N. E. Knott Street and Rodney Ave.

## Old Resident Leaves Portland

Mr. John Mott, a long time resident of Portland, is leaving this week for Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Mott has been an employee of the Park Bureau for 23 years and is leaving on a disability pension because of ill health.

He is the father of three charming daughters, Ogie, Eunice and Jessie Mott who own and operate a Style Salon. Mr. Mott was also treasurer of Mt. Olivet Baptist church and will certainly be missed by his friends.

He was a great church worker and admittedly leaves Portland with saddest regrets. Mr. Mott resided at 728 N. W. 15th avenue.

## Guild's Inquest Shows Oregon Jimcros' State

The farce that was called a Coroner's Inquest into the death of Erwin Jones on Tuesday, October 9th ended after two days with just the kind of verdict that could be expected in a Jimcros state like Oregon. After deliberating for one hour and 15 minutes a verdict was SENT into the courtroom of "Justifiable Homicide". The Jury did not even bother to return to the courtroom while the verdict was read.

From the opening hour of the trial, anyone with a grain of sense could see that it was to be nothing but a "whitewash" and subsequent events during the trial carried out this fact. From the Dr. Earl Smith Coroner's timidity it was plain to see that he had his "orders" and was doing his best to see to it that they were carried out. His first action along this line was to refuse counsel for the family the privileges of questioning the jurors on their prejudice. Even the jurors at times had their little say towards intimidating the counsel Mr. Irwin Goodman. The Coroner further refused permission to have the report made on the night of the murder by Sgt. Mitola of the detective bureau read into the records of the inquest (?). At the suggestion of the Assistant Attorney General Rex Kimmel, Dr. Smith, the coroner would not let Mr. Goodman question John Collier of the District Attorney's Office on points of law that would have incriminated the murderer. At one time during the proceedings Dr. Smith ordered the attorney for the family to sit down, which Mr. Goodman rightly refused to do. A bootlegger and crap game operator was the only witness that the Police could get to verify their contentions that they were sent to the home of the innocent Erwin Jones.

Incidentally, the jurors were picked before the inquest started. No one ever explained why Detective Bard Purcell had a shotgun in his possession on the night of the murder.



Almost 200 people jammed in the courtroom of Judge James Crawford for coroners inquest into killing of Erwin Jones. In the left foreground seated at the table is Rev. George W. Brown, of Guilds Lake who headed the committee that secured the inquest. Seated next to him is Attorney Irwin Goodman who donated his services free to the committee.

The six jurors namely, Richard H. Tusan, John Dixon, H. L. Idleman, elen Lamond, Florence A. Runyon and Harriet E. Monroe, jury foreman, found that Jones came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted by Purcell "in performance of duties and in protection of himself and fellow officers." They deliberated one hour and fifteen minutes before bringing in the verdict.

The shooting occurred August 21 at the Jones apartment in Guilds Lake when detectives Bard Purcell, Dan J. Mitola, Michael O'Leary and Deputy District Attorney John R. Collier went to the apartment after being told by General Grant that Scott Thomas, alleged slayer of Beatrice Terry, was hiding there.

Represented Mrs. Erwin Jones, widow, and her family. At the beginning of the trial Atty. Goodman asked that the jury be interrogated which was refused by the Coroner, Dr. Earl Smith, who was presiding. The request was made by Goodman because the law says that a coroner's jury should consist of six persons who are selected from the vicinity where the person was killed, should be a citizen and free from prejudice. Since Mr. Jones was a Negro and lived in a Negro neighborhood, there was question in everyone's mind as to WHY THERE WERE NO NEGROES ON THE JURY.

Mrs. Iva Jones, widow of Erwin Jones, was the first witness called to the stand by the Coroner. She testified that she was awakened by knocking and kicking at their door about 2 A. M. Aug. 21, and she heard her husband say, "who is knocking?" The reply given by the men outside, whom she nor her husband knew were police officers, was "open the door or we will break it down". She then saw her husband tried to hold the door while she ran into the bedroom where her two small children and two sisters were. She



Mrs. Jones on witness stand

saw her husband back away from the door and throw up his hands and fall beside the book-case, wounded. The officers then rushed in and told her husband, who had by that time dragged himself on the floor into their bedroom, to drop his gun and asked him his name and why he fired a shot at them. He told them his name was Jones and that if he had known that they were police officers he would have let them in. The officers then called an ambulance and removed Mr. Jones from the house and Mrs. Jones did not know the condition of her husband until later in the day when one of her neighbors, Mrs. Blanche McCoy who testified at the inquest, phoned the police station to ask and they told her that he was in an icebox. After calling the second time they were informed that his body was at the coroner's.

Mrs. Jones' two sisters, Misses Susie and Zandaree Rambo, also confirmed her statement in their testimony that the officers used vile language in attempting to

break into the apartment and at no time did they hear them say that they were police officers. None of the witnesses knew of or had ever seen Scott Thomas, the alleged slayer whom the police were looking for.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Johnson who lived next door to the Jones' home testified that they both heard the officers trying to break into the apartment and at no time heard them identify themselves as police officers.

Mr. General Grant who was the informant for the police officers, testified that he told them that he had seen Scott Thomas in the vicinity of 4611 N. W. 44 Court, which turned out to be the apartment of the Jones family. He then led them there in his car from the police station and then left the officers in front of the apartment. With him in his car was Cornelius Floyd, better known as half-a-dollar.

Sgt. J. Mitola was the first of the police to take the stand. He was questioned by the counsel for the defense, Clarence Potts. Mitola testified that he and Purcell, O'Leary and Collier surrounded the Jones apartment after being directed there by General Grant. One of the bedroom windows was slightly raised and Mitola said he reached in and raised the shade and pointed his gun inside and someone on the inside pulled it down again. He then returned to the door and announced that he was a police officer and kicked the door open. Upon entering the house he found that the person inside had been shot by his fellow officer Purcell. When asked by Attorney Goodman if he believed that he had a right to break into a person's house without a search warrant, without a warrant for anyone's arrest and not in fresh pursuit he boldly answered, "Yes I believe I had the legal right to forcibly enter the Jones home. Deputy District Attorney Collier gave a testimony which corroborated with that of Mitola and the

## USO Hostesses To Fly to Idaho

The Williams Avenue U. S. O. has added something to the usual routine for entertainment. In his effort to spare no pains or trouble in doing a grand job, Kenneth F. Smith director has chartered a plane to leave Portland today to fly USO Hostesses to the Mt. Home, Idaho Air Base in Mt. Home, Idaho. This is the first time in history that a U. S. O. has gone to this extent to provide hostesses for any affair.

Plans are for the plane to take off from Portland Air Base at 5:30 on Friday and return to Portland the following day. Photographic coverage of this momentous event has been arranged by the PORTLAND INQUIRER. Mrs. Margaret C. Robinson, the only Negro woman photographer in history to fly with the Armed Forces will accompany the flight. Complete picture history of the occasion will appear in next week's Portland Inquirer. Fifty-six girls and four hostesses are scheduled to make the trip.

## Volunteers For KKK Moose Party

CHARLESTON, S. C. (ANP)—Responding to an editorial suggestion of the Charleston News and Courier of Sept. 17, D. F. Jamison of Ridgeville, who recently has written several bitter denunciations of Jews, Negroes and the government, even urging open rebellion against the United States, wrote in the newspaper Sept. 27 his agreement with the newspaper.

The newspaper had suggested a revival of the Ku Klux Klan if the FEPC became a permanent institution. Jamison wrote:

"If the FEPC becomes law, this (KKK) is our only weapon, and I advocate its employment."

"By father served under Gen. Lee in Virginia, and after the war when conditions required it, he was captain of a KKK troupe, serving as long as the necessity existed."

"I will surely volunteer and will fire the first shot or tighten the first noose as the circumstances may be."

## Color Bar Hits White Glendals School; Negro Child Withdrawn

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—The hush-hush policy was applied here last week to the withdrawal of an unnamed Negro child from the lily-white Glendale school.

The child, whose mother is a maid in one of the nearby white homes, was taken out of the all-white school after a few days attendance. Efforts to secure additional information from the principal of the suburban school proved futile. She took the attitude that nothing was wrong in the child's withdrawal.

Other officers. He also stated that he felt that he may be dead if it had not been for Purcell shooting Jones since Jones was shooting in his direction. In his opinion, "Justifiable Homicide", was a correct verdict.

Late in the afternoon when detective O'Leary was called to the witness stand he "recited" his story, which was in accord with the other witnesses. Attorney Goodman cross-examined him and received a rehearsed emphatic "No" when asked did you ever have any special instruction on how to deal with the Negro people at police headquarters.

John Bardwell Purcell was the last witness called to the stand to give his testimony. He testified how he stood armed in front

(Continued on page 2)

# FLASH!

## Request to Governor for Grand Jury Investigation of Jones' Case

An Order has been dispatched to the Governor for the request of a Grand Jury Investigation of "The Jones' Murder Case". This has been affirmed by prominent leaders of the Portland area.

The murder of Jones was proven to be justice in the Inquest held the 8th and 9th but does not reach the satisfaction of citizens who are sincerely interested in Justice, in spite of creed or color.