North of Birmingham—IV

Detroit Negroes Plan Massive March On 20th Anniversary of Racial Riot

Editor's note: This is the fourth of a series of five dispatches by United Press International on race relations in the North.

By JAMES STICKFORD

Detroit – (UPI) – Negroes plan a massive protest march in downtown Detroit later this month and expect 100,000 persons to take part in the peaceful demonstration.

The demonstration is scheduled to be held June 23 in sympathy of the plight of southern Negroes. It also marks the 20th anniversary of a vicious race riot that ripped the Motor City and left 35 dead before it was brought under control.

Racial tension is a part of the everyday life of the nation's fifth largest city where the Negro population has increased to 30 per cent of the total.

Some Negroes say the unrest is reaching the critical point and others say they frankly do not know. Police Commissioner George Edwards said that "the thing normally termed as racial tension is not too great in Detroit."

Negro Leaders Agree

But he added, "This is a big city and the possibility of trouble always exists."

Negro leaders agree that anything can happen.

"We can't project with any certainty a serious outbreak of racial conflict in Detroit but we have potential for serious trouble," Arthur L. Johnson, executive director of the Detroit chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said.

Francis A. Kornegay, executive director of the Detroit Urban league, echoed his sentiments.

"It seems to be an explosive situation," he said. "For years things have not been well and Negroes have swallowed things that should not exist. When fires are set off in other parts of the country things sometimes get set off here. It's a chain reaction. I frankly don't know what's going to happen."

Statistics Tell Story

A look at statistics could best explain the situation:

–In 1950, the total population of Detroit was 1,849,568 persons, and 300,506 were Negroes. But the 1960 census showed the population of the city dropped to 1,670,144 and the Negro population rose to 482,222.

–About two-thirds of the men and women prosecuted for criminal offenses in Detroit are Negroes.

–About 80 per cent of the persons on relief in Detroit are Negroes.

–Seventeen per cent of the city's Negro population is unemployed compared with about 5 per cent of the white population.

–At the last count, when the Negro population of the city was 350,750, almost one-third, 105,000 of them, were jammed into a small area on the near East Side. Johnson said he expected the proportion would be valid today.

Chief Concern

The Negro in Detroit feels chief concern in three areas: housing, education and jobs. Negro leaders to a man feel that these are the things that are keeping the "Negro the second class citizen."

Rev. C. L. Franklin, pastor of a Baptist church and chairman of the newly formed Detroit Council on Human Rights, said racial troubles in Birmingham have caused a great deal of uneasiness among the Negro community.

It is this group that is organizing the demonstrations this month.

TRAFFIC SENTENCE–Officer Jerry Gilbert checks Robert Taylor, 18, as he walked with a sandwich sign as part of an unusual traffic sentence. Downey, Calif., Municipal Judge Leon Emerson gave Taylor his choice of serving 3 to 30 days in jail or talking a five-mile hike and attend traffic school for four nights. Taylor's sign reads "I am a traffic violator. Reckless driving after license was suspended." (UPI)

IT'S YOUR LAW

Respect for Law Makes Democracy Live

Editor's note: The following article has been prepared by the Oregon State Bar as a public service and is not intended as legal advice. Persons having a legal problem are advised to consult an attorney.

HABEAS CORPUS—CORPUS DELICTI

Two legal phrases which are probably more misunderstood and misused by laymen than any other are "habeas corpus" and "corpus delicti."

The words habeas corpus are Latin for "you have the body." They are commonly used in the legal profession to describe a writ or order signed by the judge directed to the sheriff or jailer holding a prisoner or to any person who is physically detaining another, and commanding him to produce the body (alive) of the prisoner (or person detained) before the judge. The purpose of such an order is to allow the judge to determine whether the prisoner is being held lawfully or whether he should be set free.

The writ of habeas corpus prevents law enforcement officers from abusing the constitutional right of personal liberty and has been a jealously guarded privilege.

The words "corpus delicti" are Latin, and, liberally translated, mean the elements of the crime or wrongdoing. Laymen incorrectly interpret corpus delicti as meaning liberally "the body," as in a murder case.

Must Be Proved

Speaking technically in a legal sense, corpus delicti is that which must be proved in every criminal case. Such proof must show that an unlawful act has been committed and that it has been committed by a human agency. The mere finding of a dead body or a burning building does not mean that there is murder on the one hand or arson on the other. To prove murder, it must be shown that the death was unlawfully caused by a human agency. Contrary to popular belief murder can be proved even though the body cannot be found. In the case of the burning building, it must be shown that the building was unlawfully set on fire by a human agency.

To sum up then, habeas corpus is a writ designed to prevent the unlawful detention or imprisonment of any person. Corpus delicti, on the other hand, literally means the body of the crime, or, in general, the substance of crime.

more meat

more flavors

4-H Club News

Westside Blockers

The May meeting of the Westside Blockers 4-H Sheep club was held at Mark Wright's home recently.

Carolyn Barnes called the meeting to order. We elected Linda Faben to the office of secretary to finish out this year. Dennis Hoffbuhr is a new member in the club. Guests were Mrs. Faber, Mrs. Ownby and Mrs. Wright.

The spring lamb show was discussed. The dates are June 21-22, at the county fairgrounds.

Before the meeting, Mark Wright gave a demonstration on blocking a lamb for show. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by Mrs. Wright.

Snappy Cooks

The last meeting of the Snappy Cooks 4-H club was held at Mrs. Florey's home recently.

We talked about pre-fair preparations and how we did on the judging.

After the meeting was adjourned, Diana Craven did a demonstration on Cinnamon muffins, and Gail Glass did a demonstration on fruit torte, which were served as refreshments.

Court Records

CIRCUIT COURT

Merle Ellsworth Bradley vs. Lillie Marie Bradley, divorce decree.

Bettijean Brown vs. George I. Brown, divorce complaint.

Darrell Rolls vs. Dixie Virginia Rolls, divorce decree.

Melvin E. Weaver vs. Lexie E. Weaver, divorce decree.

James Richard Beck vs. Charm Adele Beck, divorce decree.

Jalene Fisher vs. Lloyd Fisher, divorce compalint.

Doris Burkett vs. Stephen G. Burkett, divorce complaint.

RAILROAD FUELS

Chicago – (UPI) – In 1961, railroads used 3,382,000,000 gallons of diesel oil, 93,570,000 gallons of fuel oil, and 1,626,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity to power their locomotives, reports the association of Western Railways.

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