

SEVERE BURBRIDGE SENTENCE AROUSES IRE

SAN FRANCISCO--A nine-month jail sentence slapped on local NAACP president Dr. Thomas N. Burbridge for his part in a recent civil rights demonstration has resulted in a hot wave of indignation in the Bay Area.

The stiff penalty was imposed by a visiting judge from Orange County who has been accused of prejudice.

The Council for Civic Unity, the Presbyterian Interracial Council, Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike, Rabbi Alvin Fine, the Rev. Hamilton Boswell, Assistant State Attorney General Howard Jewell, the Northern, California Dental, Medical and Pharmaceutical Association, and the full 45-member board of directors of the local NAACP blasted the sentence.

Burbridge and his supporters were cheered by one small victory.

Presiding Municipal Court Judge Leland J. Lazarus suspended the bail set by the visiting judge, David D. French of Santa Ana, for Burbridge and the four others sentenced with him and ordered them all released on their own recognizance pending their appeals.

WAIVES BAIL

"The only purpose in bail," Judge Lazarus said, "is to guarantee the appearance of the defendant. We can implicitly rely on Dr. Burbridge. I have long known him personally. I felt he is confronted already with enough hardships."

Burbridge's bail would have been \$500, the others' \$250 each.

In a show of unanimity, the full board of the San Francisco NAACP and about 150 other per-

sons were waiting in the lobby of the Hall of Justice when he appeared for the formality of surrendering himself on the sentence at 3:30 p.m.

After receiving their prolonged applause, Burbridge thanked them for their support but added:

"I hope that my particular case of harsh punishment will not obscure the fact that there has been a lot of injustice to a lot of other people, too.

All the board members accompanied Dr. Burbridge to the seventh-floor county jail, where he went through the routine of booking.

When the booking officer, Deputy John Enslin, reached the question, "Years of education?" Burbridge, a professor of pharmacology at the University of California Medical Center, scratched his head and replied:

"Oh, about 23 years."

Enslin whistled softly and said, "I think that's a record up here."

He got a large laugh from Burbridge's followers.

Burbridge was freed immediately after the booking.

APPEAL FILED

His attorney, Hartly Fleischmann, said he filed an appeal of Burbridge's conviction and penalty on the basis of "the excessive and savage sentence" and "errors in the trial."

Meanwhile, a delegation of prominent Negro leaders visited Mayor John F. Shelley and the Attorney General's Office to ask them "to use their good offices" to get pardons for all civil rights demonstrators already convicted and to

have the charges dropped in all pending trials.

They said hundreds of petitions to the same effect are being circulated and that CORE's James Farmer planned to carry the appeal to Governor Edmund G. Brown.

Assistant Attorney General Howard Jewell told the delegation, "I share your indignation and distrusts for the results of the Burbridge case. It has done nothing to enhance law and order. I have yet to talk to anyone who is happy with that trial."

Bishop Pike, Rabbi Fine and the Rev. Mr. Boswell, in their joint statement of protest, asked, "Is a misdemeanor that is connected with civil rights more heinous than any other kind of misdemeanor?"

"It would certainly seem so because rarely has a misdemeanor ever received such a stiff sentence in San Francisco."

"STRANGE DISTORTION"

They called the sentence "a strange distortion of values which is neither supported by the San Francisco public nor supportable by any system of values which belongs in America."

Statements of other groups and individuals called Judge French's sentencing "harsh" and "repressive" and said it was apparently based on "animosity" to Burbridge's cause.

The pharmaceutical association pointed out: "The Romans fed Christians to the lions--no harsher sentence could be imposed. It only strengthened Christianity."

In a sidelight to the furor over the Burbridge-French case, Municipal Judge Robert J. Drewes resigned as president of the Council for Civic Unity so that the Council could draft its statement of protest "without embarrassment to me or to the Council."

PRESIDENT NAMES NEGRO UNITED NATIONS ENVOY

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has announced the appointment of Franklin H. Williams as U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Williams will have the rank of Ambassador and serve as one of the five full delegates of the United States to the United Nations. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson heads the U.S. Delegation.

For the past year, Williams has served as Director of the African Region for the Peace Corps. He was appointed Special Assistant to the Director of the Peace Corps in 1961. Prior to this appointment, Williams served as Assistant Attorney General of California, Director of the NAACP Freedom Fund and Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Williams, 41, was born in Flushing, N.Y., and is a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and the Fordham University Law School, New York City.

In his new position, Williams becomes the first Negro to represent the United States on the Economic and Social Council. While working with the Peace Corps he developed, coordinated and implemented all U.S. Peace Corps relationships with the United Nations and other international agencies. He also served as adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the 32nd Session of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva, Switzerland.

Williams is married to Shirley Broynard of New York City and they have two sons.

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