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Police Chief Takes To Pulpit To Explain Church Raid

CHICAGO - (NPI)--Commander Harold I. Miles of the Englewood Police District took to the pulpit of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian church to explain why his men raided the Englewood area church, where 44 young gang members were arrested.

THE ADDRESS replaced the regular Sunday sermon as Commander Miles, in full police uniform, explained why he ordered a recent raid on the church. He said it was to prevent gang warfare, which was to break out on the night of a meeting between gang members and youth officials in the church.

At the meeting, in addition to the gang members, were Officer William Crowell and John Harvey, a street detached worker for the city. Officer Crowell and Harvey differed on the threat of gang warfare resulting from the meeting.

Crowell said he had received information from gang members that gang warfare was "imminent." Harvey denied that the gangs were about to fight and said the raid was a "disservice to the church and to the pastor."

TO SETTLE the dispute, Commander Miles said he would pay for a lie detector test to determine which of the two men was telling the truth.

Commander Miles said he would work closely with gang members and the Rev. Clyde M. Allison of the church to prevent further outbreaks. Earlier, Rev. Allison expressed his dismay at the raid.

He was shocked, he said, "that police would come in with shotguns and submachine guns to cart the gang members off to jail, even though the raided meeting was set up to promote better understanding between gang members and the police." It will be a long time, the minister said, "before the church will be able to dry up any sort of meeting and have gang members trust church leaders and John Harvey."

On the night of the meeting, police raided another area church and arrested 78 gang members. Police said a gang leader was planning strategy for "a fight to the finish," to take place after the meeting.

COMMANDER MILES later charged that gang members have used community leaders and their facilities as "dupes" as they planned their gang warfare.

About a week before the raided church meetings, a teenage boy was beaten so badly near the two churches that he faced the loss of one eye. A long hospitalization was expected.

Commander Miles reported, meanwhile, that Officer Crowell had gotten gang members to turn over 10 guns to them.

Among those attending the meeting in Rev. Allison's church was ex-heavyweight boxing champion Ezzard Charles, now a Youth commission worker, who seeks to start a program in the church to teach neighborhood youths how to box.

SHELTON TO APPEAL BLAMES NEGRO JURORS

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Robert M. Shelton, imperial wizard, United Klans of America, has announced he will appeal to the Supreme Court his conviction for contempt of Congress. He was found guilty on charges of refusing last Oct. 20 to turn over Klan records to the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

He blamed his conviction, in part, on the three Negro members of the jury which found him guilty. "I don't think Negroes on the jury gave an unbiased verdict," he said.

The leader of the nation's largest Klan group was not behind bars, however. He was released on \$500 bail pending a probation investigation.

The most punishment he could get is one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Prosecution Persecution

LYNCHBURG, Va. - (NPI)--The four-year effort to execute 21-year-old Thomas Wansley on rape charges, still is being pushed by Prosecutor Royston Jester III, who last week obtained a new indictment on charges that Wansley raped a Japanese woman nearly four years ago.

THE CASE began in 1962 when Wansley was accused of raping the Japanese woman and raping and robbing a white woman. He was convicted on all three counts, although he testified that he had previously had sexual relations with the Japanese woman and the white woman could not positively identify him at the first trial.

Wansley was sentenced to death twice and given a 20-year jail sentence on the robbery charge. The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the convictions and ordered new trials in 1964. The state was unable to retry him on the first charge because the Japanese woman, who had moved to Hawaii, refused to come back to Lynchburg to testify.

When she returned recently, the court placed her under a bench warrant to assure that she would testify, and set the retrial. The white woman reversed her previous testimony and identified Wansley as the man who attacked her during a retrial of the robbery charge last November. The charge involved 12 cents and two bus tokens. However, the jury deadlocked and a mistrial was declared.

ON SEPT. 13, Wansley was convicted in U.S. District court. He plans to appeal the decision to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Wansley, only 17 when the case began, has spent the last four years in prison, including 18 months on death row. He still faces two capital charges.

During the same period, a white man convicted of raping a 11-year-old Negro girl was sentenced to five years in prison. He has already been released.

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