



LYNCHING DELAWARE COUNTY STYLE

A REPORT

TWO STANDARDS OF JUSTICE

OBSERVE WHITE JUSTICE IN DELAWARE COUNTY

DARBY-COLWYN FIGHT INJURES FOUR STUDENTS

Delaware County Daily Times Jan. 29, 1969

DARBY - At least four teenagers were injured this morning in a crowbar-swinging melee outside Darby-Colwyn High School, Summit St. and Greenway Ave.

A spokesman at Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital here said four youths were treated in the accident room for a variety of minor injuries, although two were detained for X-rays.

An accident ward nurse said the four had been "savagely beaten" with what one youth described as a crowbar.

She said Darby Police Chief Albert (Bart) Raffaele had ordered her not to release the names of the injured students.

Two were to undergo X-rays for possible fractures of the nose and ankle, and the others were to receive tetanus shots and further treatment for their cuts.

The disturbance broke out at the high school about 11 a.m. while school officials were meeting with students in the auditorium to attempt to cool tempers heated by a fight Friday night after a basketball game between Darby-Colwyn and Sharon Hill.

Today's disturbance came when several persons who had been involved in the Friday night fracas appeared in school and challenged other students to fight, according to police.

Schools Supt. Harry Burger said today's disturbance involved about 12 youths who had been involved in Friday night's incident.

He said tempers flared while classes were changing this morning and other youths became involved.

About 20 students walked out of classes and a fight ensued.

About five police cars were sent to the school to prevent further fighting.

Two youths were arrested Friday night after the game and held in \$300 bail each on charges of disorderly conduct and breach of the peace. They will have a hearing on Feb. 3.

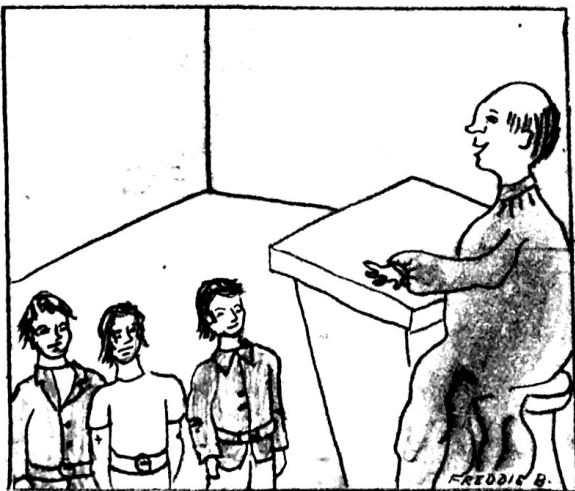
Raffaele said neither of the two youths arrested was a Darby-Colwyn student.

The two youths allegedly "gave policemen a lot of stuff, so they went back to headquarters to secure warrants," Raffaele said.

There were reports of two students, including a girl, being injured after the game.

(NOTE: A couple of these white youths were fined \$150 and given a warning.)

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JUDGE: YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN VERY BAD AND MISCHIEVIOUS AND THE COURT WILL GIVE YOU A SLAP ON THE WRIST TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T DO ANYMORE FIGHTING AGAIN.

LAWYER: BUT YOUR HONOR, THEY HAVE HOSPITALIZED PEOPLE, BROKE ARMS AND LEGS, STABBED AND CLUBBED PEOPLE WITH CROWBARS, DESTROYED PROPERTY, AND THEY HAVE...

JUDGE: WE KNOW...BUT WE OWE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO APOLOGIZE. THEIR PARENTS ARE WELL-KNOWN PERSONS -- DR. STEIN, ATTY. LANSCI, FATHER SORDI.... THEY SHALL ALL BE CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND FINED \$10 EACH. NOW BEHAVE YOURSELF KIDS! COURT DISMISSED!

CLEARLY THIS IS NOT JUSTICE

OBSERVE BLACK JUSTICE IN DELAWARE COUNTY

IT COULD BE A FORM OF LYNCH LAW

JUDGE PRAISED FOR SENTENCE GIVEN 7 CHESTER YOUTHS

By JOE SULLIVAN

Daily Times Staff Writer

MEDIA COURTHOUSE- Judge Francis J. Catania's sentencing of seven Chester rioters Friday to 4 to 11 years in Eastern State Correctional Institution has won widespread favor among Delaware County residents, law enforcement officers and educators.

The judge imposed fines as high as \$1,600 against several of the defendants, in addition to ordering the seven to serve their terms in the maximum security prison in Philadelphia rather than at Broadmeadows Prison, Thornbury.

The seven youths and an eighth defendant, John O. Townsend, 18, a Chester High School senior, pleaded guilty last Tuesday to charges rising from disturbances during and after an Oct. 5 football game in Chester between Chester and Sun Valley High Schools.

Judge Catania deferred sentencing of Townsend until Feb. 14. He is charged with riot, inciting to riot, conspiracy, obstructing a public highway and public nuisance.

Eight other Chester youths were convicted Thursday of similar charges resulting from the near-riot and placed in Broadmeadows Prison under \$2,500 each. Three of them have since been released after posting bail.

Public reaction to Judge Catania's sentences has been positive, with many persons expressing hopes other judges throughout the nation will take a cue from the Delaware County jurist by dealing swiftly and firmly with law violators.

Rocco P. Urella chief of the county's Criminal Investigation Division (CID), lauded Judge Catania for levying the prison terms, ranging from 4 to 11 years.

"Justice was certainly meted out," said Urella, a former Pennsylvania State Police major who served last year on the President's task force investigating riots.

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JUDGE: I FIND THESE THUGS GUILTY OF RIOTING, INCITING TO RIOT, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT AND BATTERY AFFRAY, UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY, INTENT TO KILL, CONSPIRACY..

LAWYER: BUT YOUR HONOR! THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJURIES....

JUDGE: SHUT UP ! VANDALISM, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, TRESSPASSING... 6 YEARS, 10 years, 11 years, 11years, 13 years, \$800 fine, \$1,000 fine, \$1,600... AD NAUSEUM, AS ABSURDUM

"I've learned quite a lot about riots and violence through the years, and I commend Justice Catania to the highest for dealing firmly with the rioters."

Broadmeadows Warden John L. Gable minced no words in praising Judge Catania.

"You ask me what I think of Judge Catania's sentences," Gable said. "Well, there's one word for them - beautiful... very beautiful!"

Gable, who has been Broadmeadows warden for 15 years, said the seven youths who were sentenced Friday were taken immediately to Broadmeadows for routine processing and within two hours were on their way to Eastern Correctional Institution.

"Judge Catania works fast," he said. "I hope other judges throughout the country get the message and begin throwing the book at criminals instead of tapping them on the wrists."

Chester School Board President Clarence H. Roberts also praised the decision during Monday's school board meeting.

"This proves that it will not be pleasant for anyone who breaks the law by vandalizing Chester school activities," said Roberts.

He said the Chester School District would "use the law to its full extent whenever violence breaks out."

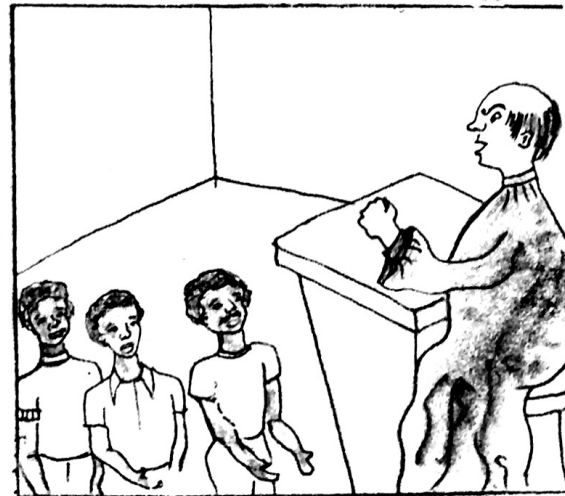
Referring to recent fires at some Chester schools, Roberts said it was his belief that the "arson was a result of students conduct and they would pay when and if caught."

Judge Catania, declined comment on the sentences.

"I decide each case on its own merits," he said.

Arguments on motions for a new trial for the eight youths convicted Thursday will be heard in March.

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AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

For many Black youths in Chester, whose sea is the Delaware River and whose beach is the mud along the Chester Creek, things are different. The dull grey wren is their sea gull; the thickets, the trees, and floating waste matter are their scenes and scents; rocks and broken bottles, their sea shells.

Yet these youths were hot by the same sun, stirred by the same desire to laugh and play and swim - but there were no lifeguards, no blankets, no umbrellas. These waters were dangerous - sharp glass, sharp rocks, sharp cans, the sharp smell of filth and disease, and the ever-present fear of the undercurrent and suction pipes!

The youth is gone - JAILED and GONE - where no mother's kindness can bless him, nor where a mother's arms may caress him. He, with his friends, is gone - JAILED and GONE! He was sentenced to 11 years in prison for the cruel crime of being Black and fighting, for no other reason, for no other rhyme.

But Judge Catania chose to refer to this "fighting" as "rioting," "inciting to riot," "aggravated assault and battery," and "conspiracy." The same youth was fined \$1,600. And surely the judge knows that even when the 11 years are served, the family will not have the \$1,600 to pay the fine. The judge also knows that the same youth is fast approaching a mental breakdown, but what does the judge care! What does he care how or where a Black youth or a Black parent gets the money. His only concern is that the time be served and the money be gotten.

Certainly rent must be paid, food must be eaten, money must be spent - to live! And you must live in the conditions of the ghetto, for where else will little income take you. Fighting in the streets, drinking in the alley, cussing, loud laughing, playing are parts of the whole scene. Gangs are common, just as clubs and organizations.

...the football game at Chester High drew a crowd. Our children were there. Other problems were there. The spark was there - and there was a fight! common but unfortunate; to be deplored but not unexpected. These boys are now gone, but the SAME PROBLEMS are still around: WHITE RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, POVERTY, DISEASE which are the factors which bring about crime.

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OUR OBJECTIVE IN THIS REPORT IS TO FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON THE INEQUALITIES OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF DELAWARE COUNTY; ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE RECENT INJUSTICES METED TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY. THE APPEAL IS TWO FOLD: 1) TO MOBILIZE A UNITED STAND OF CONCERNED CITIZENS OF DELAWARE COUNTY FOR JUSTICE, 2) TO RAISE FUNDS TO HIRE COMPETENT LAWYERS FOR A RETRIAL.

Funds can be sent to the Parents Committee for Justice at:

Friends Project House
317 Tilgham Street
Chester, Pa.

For more information call TR 2 8424.

