

Sheriff Appeals to Public Against Pretrial Judgment of Beating

(See Story on Page 1. Also)

A plea to the public to reserve judgment until after a trial jury has rendered its verdict was voiced in a statement by Sheriff Martin T. Pratt Tuesday shortly after the Multnomah county grand jury indicted Deputy Sheriff Robert F. Dillon on a charge of assault and battery in connection with the capture of John E. Drew, convicted murderer, who had escaped from the county jail.

The sheriff's statement follows:

"There has been much said in the columns of the press both from a news standpoint and from letters that have been published in regard to the alleged abuse of John Drew, murderer of Sgt. Al Bowe of the sheriff's office. It is indeed refreshing to know that so many citizens of our county do take an interest in their public officials.

"Notwithstanding the severe criticisms that I have been subjected to, we evidently all agree on one thing, that is, that Drew should have had the death penalty.

Sheriff Outlines Position

"Fortunately, I prepared a written statement for the press and submitted it to them; and I am responsible for that statement only and not for what some one may have written into it. The following is what was submitted to the press:

"I have been asked several times this morning by the press to explain the reason that when Drew was returned to the county jail after his capture, he had several bruises on his face. As I was not at the scene when the two men were captured, I am not able to give this information first-hand. However, I do wish to say that when all my officers were in the field, they carried explicit instructions from me personally not to take the slightest chances with Drew, as he had already demonstrated that he was a murderer at heart, and to kill him on sight if he offered the least token of resistance.

Deputies Admired Bowe

"Those men who captured Drew had worked under Sgt. Al Bowe for many years and all members of the uniform division highly respected and admired him. If he said word or action, Drew did it, and something that aroused the anger of the officers, it was not surprising that they gave him a rough time.

"I have been asked whether I was going to make an investigation as to what happened. The answer is most emphatically 'no.' Insofar as I am concerned, the case is closed. Many of these men took up the chase at the time of the escape and went without eating or sleeping until the capture was accomplished. All the men who participated in Drew's capture are to be highly commended in their efforts.

"No place in that statement is

there the least indication that I approve or condone the misuse of prisoners. As a matter of fact, there is a standing order in my office, having been in effect for many years, that calls for the immediate dismissal of any officer who uses undue force or violence to secure evidence or confessions from a person accused of a crime. The fact that the district attorney's office has never been embarrassed by a defense attorney, surprising him in the midst of a trial with a charge of this kind, should be sufficient proof of itself of how I stand in matters of this kind.

"There is only one remark in my written statement that I wish to explain, that being the one wherein I stated I was not going to make an investigation. I frankly admit that it carries the implication at least that I was not interested. I did not intend to convey that idea at all and I most humbly offer my regrets for making a statement that carried that implication.

District Attorney Investigates

"The facts are that a few moments after Drew was brought in, the district attorney advised me that he was going to ask for an investigation as to why Drew apparently received some visible injuries. At that time I stated to Mr. Handley that I thought it was the right thing to do and that it would then be unnecessary for me to conduct an investigation of my own. That is the reason I made that statement.

"I assure the good bishop and all the other correspondents that the law as represented by my office has not broken down nor is there any chance of it doing so. On the other hand, the law, as represented by the courts, has twice in the past ten years let the officers down; just ten years ago deputy sheriff Ernest Loll was shot down in cold blood by a couple of pheasant hunters. The man who fired the shot that killed the officer received a sentence of manslaughter and was sentenced to 15 years; the other one received life imprisonment. Both are on the streets of the city of Portland at the present time enjoying all the privileges of society—Ernest Loll is still dead.

Terms Seldom Fulfilled

"The life imprisonment meted out to Drew and Ogley does not mean life imprisonment. The records of the state show that eight years is the average time they serve, so ordinarily at the end of that time both these murderers may be on the street. . . . Al Bowe will still be dead.

"Is it any wonder that the law enforcement agency as represented by the officers who daily face death, that you may be safe, feel bitterly towards verdicts of this kind? You will have to look further than the arresting officers to find the breakdown of law enforcement, if it comes.

"The pictures of Drew as published by the press, to be sure, showed how he looked but not what actually happened to him. After the blood had been washed from his face, he showed two superficial cuts on his face, one on his forehead and one under his left eye. There was no indication whatsoever of the alleged beating as was claimed by a group of citizens who offered their testimony to the grand jury.

Complainants Rebuked

"All the letters I have received personally and all those published in the press decry the fact that the officers took the law in their own hands and without exception inform us that the courts are for that purpose. Yet they are all doing just what they accuse us of doing; that is, trying us and finding us guilty without the benefit of a trial by our peers.

"There were between 30 and 40 officers engaged in the final phase of the capture of Drew and I feel perfectly justified in commending them for their efforts. There is nothing in my written statements that indicate I was commending them for any alleged abuse that they may have been inflicted upon Drew.

"May I ask, in all sincerity and in justice to the fine group of men who represent the sheriff's office, that you give the officers the same right that Drew was given, that is, the right to appear before a court of justice in their own behalf.

Indictment Not Guilt

"The fact that the grand jury may indict someone does not mean that the indicted person is guilty. It is merely an indication that they have received evidence to such a degree that they feel the accused should be held for trial, and it is not until the trial jury brings in its verdict that the guilt or innocence of the accused is finally established. That right is guaranteed every citizen and because a man wears a uniform should not deprive him of that right.

"In conclusion may I suggest, and I wish to include the good bishop, that ye judge not others lest you yourselves be judged.

"MARTIN T. PRATT, Sheriff."

The grand jury's statement follows:

"We, the duly drawn, qualified and acting grand jury for Multnomah county, for the April, 1946, term of said court, have inquired into the alleged manhandling of one John Drew on Tuesday, April 23, 1946, and have reached the following conclusion:

"That John Drew, while in lawful custody of the sheriff of Multnomah county, and legally

confined in the Multnomah county jail, did unlawfully and willfully, in company with one Kenneth L. Teague, escape from said custody and confinement on Monday, April 22.

"That when John Drew and Teague were finally located in the vicinity of S. E. 160th avenue and Powell boulevard, they being surrounded by a sheriff's posse, surrendered to the officers.

"That thereafter, while John Drew was handcuffed, Deputy Sheriff Robert F. Dillon, who was bringing this prisoner in from the place of capture, used excessive force and violence toward the prisoner.

"This accusation of assault and battery against Dillon has been substantiated by a thorough investigation of the facts and by interviewing some 21 witnesses, including Drew himself.

Other Deputies Exonerated

"It is further concluded from the testimony of Drew and others, that Deputy Sheriff Dillon was the only officer who engaged in such tactics.

"In conclusion, the grand jury feels that this is an isolated instance of an officer of the law exceeding his authority and duty, and should in no way reflect upon the other deputy sheriffs or members of law enforcement who assisted in the capture of this dangerous murderer, and who in no way condoned such force after the prisoner was handcuffed.

"The grand jury feels that Sheriff Martin T. Pratt should be held blameless for the conduct of his deputy inasmuch as Sheriff Pratt was not present at the time and the acts were in direct violation of his specific and long-standing orders.

"MULTNOMAH COUNTY GRAND JURY."

Great Northern To Exhibit Cars

A special exhibit of railway refrigerator cars will be open to the public at Portland May 10-11, the Great Northern railway announced Tuesday.

Seven cars of various types and sizes, including several of the latest designed for transporting apples and the growing volume of frozen foods, will be parked on the Great Northern team track at N. W. 10th avenue and Hoyt street. Guides will be on duty between 9 A. M. and 5 P. M. to explain the cars and their equipment.

The cars to be displayed belong to the Western Fruit Express company and two of its affiliates.

Firm to Remodel, Occupy Floor

West Coast Lumbermen's association has awarded a contract to Hord & Stuart, local firm, for general remodeling of the top floor of the Neighbors of Woodcraft building, which by mid-summer will become the association's headquarters.

Aim is to have the work done by June, when the Portland offices of the association will be moved from the Yeon building to the new location, J. R. Blunt, Portland district manager, said Tuesday. As soon as possible thereafter, the association's general headquarters, now in Seattle, will also move into the new location, he added.

Student Nurses Design Posters

Doris Wagner, student nurse at Emanuel hospital, and May Andringa, student at St. Vincent's hospital, were first and second prize winners, respectively, in the recently completed poster contest held by the state league of nursing education.

The contest was held as part of student recruitment and hospital week which commemorates the birthday of Florence Nightingale May 12.

Honorable mention awards went to Doris Rice, Emanuel hospital; Colleen Heideman, St. Vincent's hospital; Annette Miller and Mollie O'Donnell, of University of Oregon and Providence hospital, respectively, and Martha Millsap, Sacred Heart hospital, Eugene. The posters were displayed in windows at Olds, Wortman & King.

A second feature of the observation was the display in windows of Meier & Frank company of dolls collected by Sister Elizabeth Clare of St. Vincent's hospital. The display showed the progress of the nursing profession.



Doris Wagner May Andringa Lead poster contest.

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Doctors say your kidneys contain 15 miles of tiny tubes or filters which help to purify the blood and keep you healthy. When they get tired and don't work right in the daytime, many people have to get up at night. Frequent urination, passages with smarting and burning sometimes shows there is something wrong with your kidneys or bladder. Don't neglect this condition and lose valuable, restful sleep. It may also cause nagging backache, rheumatic pains, leg pains, etc. When there is swelling, puffiness under the eyes, headaches and dizziness.

Don't wait! Ask your druggist for Doan's Pills, a stimulant diuretic, used successfully by millions for over 40 years. Doan's gives happy relief and makes it easy to rid your kidneys of waste. Get Doan's Pills.

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Men, Women! Old at 40, 50, 60! Get Pep Feel Years Younger, Full of Vim

Do you blame exhausted, worn-out feeling on age? Thousands of men and women are getting their spring back again. Contains tonic many need at 40, 50, 60. For body and mind. Try it today. For more information see also Try Oxy-Tonic Tablets for new and old. Also Oxy-Tonic Tablets for men and women. Also Oxy-Tonic Tablets for men and women. For sale at all drug stores everywhere.