

Young Men of the lower area of Pryor Street along with Representative John Hood came to the Extension Manager's Office with a community problem. This problem was centered around a place of business known as "Murray's Liquor Store, Wine and Beer Super-rett" and "Carrol's Drive-in Tavern, all located on the corner of Pryor and Ridge. There have been numerous counts of disorder over the years at this location. Very little was done to correct the situation until a sixteen year old young man was killed by Security Guards of scurrilous nature.

The Extension Manager called a meeting of the community to get more information as to the reason of the young man's death and the vice of the business corner. The meeting at the Church of God brought forth more information. Young men, young ladies and adults expressed the following information which proved to be facts. The management of the liquor store, beer and wine store and Tavern was selling alcoholic beverages to minors. The Security Guard beat up numerous and septuagenarian citizens who were not on Murray's or Carrol's property, and the ones who were, were beaten into submission. There was talk of rape but no facts provided. Activities of all kinds are done in cars on the lot and behind the tavern.

The Extension Manager was told of a plot to burn down the corner by many young men and women of the neighborhood. The group was found, an appeal was made by the Extension Manager, Representative Hood and Mr. Peters, CNAC Chairman to let us try to use the avenues of the law and refrain from violence. After hours of talking, the young people agreed to use the courts of law to close the corner but assured us if the court did not close the three businesses, the neighborhood would without regard to life or property.

The following action was put into operation: The investigation of the young man's death; proof was established from the coroner's report that the bullet came from a .22 calibre gun carried secretly on one of the Security Guards. The Guard claimed one of the young men in the group shot the young man. The Guard has been bound over to the State for murder. With what information the citizens had, a committee was sent to the Police Committee at City Hall.

Extension Manager *Sum - Mc*
August, 1966
Page 2

After hearing the complaint, the Police Committee booked the case for August 31, at which time the owners would be present to show cause as to why their license should not be revoked.

The Extension Manager obtained information that the owner, Mr. Murray has unusual power in the city structure. His long arm reaches very deeply into the ranks of the police force and some of the city officials. Reports show that many charges have been brought against his business but never seem to get to court. The community citizens were organized into groups to produce evidence that could not be thrown out of court. The Citizens committee feels sure Mr. Murray cannot control every alderman of the Police Committee chaired by Alderman Richard Freeman.

The Extension Manager was visited by Captain Mullens of the Atlanta Police Department. Captain Mullens assured me this would be a very hard case to win due to lack of evidence. The Extension Manager called on City officials whom he had worked with before and obtained the following evidence from police reports: Over 87 serious accounts of disorder this year, an average of 34 people are arrested each week-end. Sots of all kinds are forever present in and around the area. The Guard who shot the young man had a police record in Florida and Georgia.

With this evidence city officials who attended the next meeting said this was enough to declare the corner a "Public Nuisance." Now the citizens deeply hope that the Police Committee will vote to close this corner for the improvement of the community, and prevent the violence of the young people, who are tired of waiting for the results of the court August 31, 1966. Not only are the young people of the area a problem alone, the Vine City agitators plus the Black Power Organization are standing by to move in on the action.