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'Court of Appeals Intimidates Me,' Judge Halleck Says in Open Court

Superior Court Judge Charles W. Halleck said yesterday in open court that he is "intimidated" by the D.C. Court of Appeals.

"Every time the government has worked an appeal on one of my decisions on a motion to suppress evidence, it's been reversed," the judge later told a reporter.

"I've been intimidated," he continued. "Between the Justice Department, the chief of police (Jerry V. Wilson) and the Court of Appeals..." The judge was slumped in a leather easy chair in his chambers during the interview.

"The government has a phenomenally high success rate in the Court of Appeals," he said. No statistics were immediately available. But sources indi-

cated the government had won all of the 12 to 15 appeals it had made since last February on motions to suppress.

A motion to suppress is made by a defense attorney to have evidence in a case suppressed, usually on the grounds that it was gained illegally by the police. Suppression of evidence generally results in charges being dropped or cases being dismissed.

The case before Judge Halleck yesterday was that of a man named Napoleon Gray, who was charged with carrying a dangerous weapon—a gun, possession of unregistered ammunition and an unregistered firearm.

"All the police saw" said Halleck, "was one guy pass another money. They just walked up and searched him," and found the pistol, prior to making an arrest.

According to defense attorney Joel Skirble, after hearing the evidence Halleck said, "I should grant your motion, but I'm not going to. The Court of Appeals would just reverse me."

Skirble said he then asked the judge something to the effect of, "Your Honor are you intimidated by the Court of Appeals?"

"Yes, I'm intimidated," Skirble quoted Halleck as replying, "and I'm damn sick of this."

Halleck told a reporter that afterward "I am faced with

the chief of police and WMAL saying it's the judges who are responsible for the guns on the street, what do you do?"

Thief in Canada Has a \$5 Limit

Reuter

TORONTO Jan. 14 — Ruth Karlsen, 17, was walking along a downtown Toronto street yesterday when a youth with a pistol pushed her into an alley.

She handed over \$10. "I only want five," he said, returning \$5 dollars change.