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Howard Mobilizes For Brown

Aura Of Grim Planning, Reinforced Police Define Ellicott City As Trial Nears

By LOUIS P. PEDDICORD
[Ellicott City Bureau of The Sun]

"Well, if we had our druthers," Howard county's executive said yesterday morning, "we'd just as soon have let some other county take it, but it's ours now and we'll be able to deal with it."

The "it" referred to by Omar J. Jones, of course, was the trial of H. Rap Brown, suddenly transferred Wednesday to Ellicott City from Judge Harry E. Dyer Jr.'s courtroom in Bel Air.

While there was still no official word on when the trial will be held in the Howard County Circuit Court, attorneys for Mr. Brown announced in New York that Judge James Macgill has given them until March-30 to file motions with the court.

The attitude taken by the county executive—a noticeable lack of enthusiasm modified by a confidence in the county's "security preparations"—was reflected throughout Howard county yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Howard county chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union announced that



OMAR J. JONES
He "druther" not

it had invited William M Kunstler, Mr. Brown's defense attorney, to speak at Ellicott City High School next Thursday night.

According to Melvin Sachs, president of the ACLU chapter, Mr. Kunstler's office had accepted the invitation, but the acceptance could not immediately be confirmed yesterday.

In Ellicott City itself, a small, out-of-the-way town where antique shops seem to outnumber grocery stores, where parking tickets still cost \$1 and where Main street is just that, most of the county's officialdom was involved, in one way or another,

with arrangements for the trial.

Within an hour of Wednesday's announcement that the trial had been moved from Bel Air, representatives of county and state police—as well as the local sheriff's office—had gathered in a protracted "planning session."

Those sessions continued yesterday morning and afternoon, with more scheduled today.

Among the announcements that came from the meetings was a statement from the county executive that "all of our county policemen have been put on 12-hour shifts and all public meeting scheduled for the courthouse have been moved elsewhere."

No Problems, But . . .

"This is an emergency situation," Mr. Jones said. "We don't expect or anticipate any trouble, but you've got to prepare for any trouble."

Richard J. Kinlein, the county's state's attorney, commented: "We've never quite had a case of such notoriety and we'll just have to make some adjustments."

Those adjustments were most notably visible around Ellicott City's hilltop courthouse, an imposing 137-year-old structure where Mr. Brown is now scheduled to be tried on arson and riot charges which grew out of a night of racial disturbances in Cambridge, Md., during the summer of 1967.