

Pomerleau's Anger Builds Up Slowly During His Testimony About ISD

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By John Schulian

Annapolis — The anger built slowly in Donald D. Pomerleau yesterday.

It didn't show when the Baltimore city police commissioner was virtually challenging the General Assembly to investigate his department's clandestine Inspectional Services Division.

It didn't even show when Senator John A. Cade (R., 33d, Anne Arundel) made him backpedal on how he defines civil disobedience and on what happened to the ISD reports forwarded to the FBI and military intelligence agencies.

No, Mr. Pomerleau endured three hours before the Senate's Constitutional and Public Law Committee and then he walked up to a News American reporter named Michael Olesker and blasted him for writing a story about how ISD members

were trained by the Army at Fort Holabird.

True But Incomplete

The story was true, the commissioner had admitted during the hearing, but it wasn't complete, and now he was seeing to it that Mr. Olesker got his message.

"Have more substance," the commissioner growled. "Have more substance."

For just a moment, Mr. Pomerleau was a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps again and Mr. Olesker, bearded and looking almost meek, was simply one more bothersome enlisted man who had to be dealt with.

You could see a lot of the old soldier in Mr. Pomerleau as soon as he walked into the glare of the TV lights yesterday.

Troops To Be Reviewed

He has a face that seems to be made of corrugated steel, and not a trace of emotion

showed on it as he glanced over the crowd in the fourth-floor hearing room of the Senate Building like troops to be reviewed.

He said he wanted a chair to sit in while he addressed the committee that will decide whether there is to be an investigation of the ISD, and he got one.

The first thing he did when he was in the chair was read the cover letter for his report to Governor Mandel on the ISD activities. Mr. Mandel refused to make the letter public last week, but the commissioner's tone implied that he couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

"The Nation's Colors"

In his letter, Mr. Pomerleau talked about protecting "the nation's colors" and about those who wanted to "bomb the seat of government . . . kill the honky cops . . . distribute information to incite citizens to riot and loot."

Those are the reasons, he said when he looked up from the letter, that the ISD wound up spying on private citizens who don't fit the standard definition of criminal.

The idea at the turn of the Seventies was to prevent "potential disorder, revolution and strife," the commissioner went on, but he insisted that to accomplish that he "never knowingly violated the law."

Some Say Otherwise

There were a lot of people who said otherwise in the two hours before Mr. Pomerleau made his first public appearance regarding the ISD controversy.

Senator Clarence M. Mitchell 3d (D., City, 38th) hinted broadly that the police were behind at least two of the three burglaries at his West Baltimore law office.

John Roemer, executive director of the Maryland branch of the American Civil

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Liberties Union, described harassment of everyday businessmen as well as activists by what he called "the Red Squad."

Important Papers

William Carrier, a Baltimore lawyer who defended John E. (Liddie) Jones, the narcotics kingpin, claimed he had an affidavit describing how an ISD informer took important

papers from his office.

The charges poured forth like sludge from a sewer pipe, and when Commissioner Pomerleau finally showed up, he said he knew all about them even if he hadn't been present to hear them.

"Tabloid Fashiin"

"I'm hearing a lot of inference and inuendo, but no one has produced any information of substance," he said.

He stared darkly at the press table through his bifocals and said: "I'm getting a little tired of fiction-writing in the tabloid fashion."

He would return to the subject of the press intermittently until the grand finale with Mr. Olesker, but his real purpose was to defend the ISD and to say he would be glad to have its good name cleared with any kind of investigation the legislators could think of.

Of course, he wasn't terribly happy when Senator Cade asked if the constitutional committee could see the names that were attached to the report to the Governor and still haven't been made public.

Advice Of Counsel

"I'll have to seek the advice of counsel on that," Mr. Pomerleau said.

And he had to concede to Senator Cade that the department has no definition of civil disorder, even though civil disorder was the reason for the ISD branching out from its usual interests of organized crime and departmental integrity.

Senator Cade stayed on the attack. The ISD may have destroyed its files on private citizens, he said, but what about the copies of them that were forwarded to other agencies?

Will Be Destroyed

Mr. Pomerleau said something about how the copies will be destroyed as soon as federal law permits.

The Commissioner didn't like being on the defensive, he didn't like being thought of as some kind of fascist cop, and finally he said it.

"When will we get over this syndrome?" he asked, almost plaintively. "We're really no longer the bad guys."