

Md. Town Defends Injunction as Vital To Avoid Violence

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The Supreme Court was told yesterday that the little community of Princess Anne, Md., "would have blown up" two summers ago if the racist National States Rights Party had had its way.

And if the Party had not been forbidden to rally by court order, "there would not have been enough police in the State of Maryland" to control the violence, attorney Alexander G. Jones told the Court.

Jones, an attorney and chairman of the Somerset County Biracial Commission that sought racial peace on the Eastern Shore, said anti-rally court injunctions were fully justified by tensions created by the white supremacist Party.

Clear Danger

Jones said that no matter what standard the Court used to determine whether court injunctions were justified, the Party and its leaders posed a "clear and present danger" to the population of "my little town."

The case has assumed national significance in view of the Court's long standing reluctance to let judges impose "prior restraint" on free speech. Principles going back 50 years are being tested in the context of the rioting of the past few years.

Before hearing yesterday's argument the Court denied review to party leaders Charles (Connie) Lynch, Joseph Carroll and Richard Berry Norton, who are under two-year prison sentences for inciting Baltimore riots in July, 1966.

Court Order

The Baltimore violence, coupled with a rally in Princess Anne on Aug. 6, and announcement of another rally the following night, prompted officials to obtain a temporary ten-day court order against further demonstrations.

That injunction was ex-

tended for another ten months to cover the school term of a nearby Negro college. Maryland's Court of Appeals approved the short injunction but set aside the longer injunction as unwarranted.

Jones said he again would seek such injunctions and probably could get them under the State courts' rulings. His argument undercut the contention of Maryland Assistant Attorney General S. Leonard Rottman that the case became legally dead with the expirations of the injunctions.

The Party and its leaders, including Lynch, Carroll and Norton, were represented in yesterday's argument by Eleanor Holmes Norton, assistant legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU, which says it favors free speech by anyone no matter what his cause, issued a special press release emphasizing that Mrs. Norton is a Negro.

Racist Platform

Mrs. Norton acknowledged the Party's racist platform but said it was mostly dedicated to political action rather than violence.

She conceded a "possible" reference to violence in one speaker's statement at the Aug. 6 rally that Negroes should leave for Africa and could take their choice of transportation, including "in a box." About 200 persons attended the rally, one-fourth of them Negro.

Jones replied that the rally had created an "ugly crowd" that was "ripe for violence," which was "precisely why they were there. Only the police prevented this town from going up in flames.

Everybody knew about the racial disturbances in East Baltimore, said Jones. In these mass communications days," he said, "there is no such thing as an isolated racial incident."