

Arlington Ruffles His Immunity

No red light

Rep. Pool Jailed for 5 Hours

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By Katharine Gresham
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Rep. Joe Pool (D-Tex.) spent about five of yesterday's early hours in the Arlington County Jail insisting that his congressional immunity entitled him to freedom—and he may have been right.

But Arlington Police Pvt. Stanley Shannon Jr. said the 56-year-old Dallas legislator was in the wrong about 2:45 a.m. when the car he was driving slammed into the rear of another at Arlington Boulevard and Pershing Drive.

Shannon's report on the mishap said a car driven by Army Cpl. John D. Perry, 22, was stopped for a red light when the 1964 Lincoln driven by Pool ran into it from behind. The impact sent the soldier's car 100 feet forward, doing \$400 worth of rear-end damage, the report said.

Pool was unhurt, but the Lincoln received about \$500 worth of front-end damage. Cpl. Perry and a passenger, Pvt. Thomas Duffield, 20, stationed with Perry at the U.S. Army Security Agency in Arlington Hall, suffered "whiplash" injuries for which both



REP. JOE POOL

refused treatment, according to Shannon's report.

The policeman ticketed Pool for reckless driving and failure to exhibit his car's registration, noting on his accident report that the Texan had been drinking enough so that his driving ability was impaired.

However, Pool refused to sign the ticket signifying an agreement to appear in court on the

charge next month, so Shannon took Pool to the Central Violations Bureau at Arlington Courthouse. There Special Justice Andrew L. Geisler explained to Pool the necessity for signing the summons, but again Pool refused, so Geisler set bond at \$200.

When Pool didn't post the bond, Geisler ordered him committed and off he went to a third-floor detention cell behind the Courthouse.

"I didn't know what he was," Geisler commented later. "He claimed he was a Congressman, but he didn't act or sound like one. You get them claiming they're White House aides, too.

"He kept telling us, 'I'm a member of Congress and I cannot be arrested,' but it was pretty late at night and I was very tired and I set the bond."

Geisler said he didn't ask Pool for identification, nor did Pool offer him any, in the course of their session in the Violations Bureau.

At 9 a.m. Pool went before County Court Judge Thomas W. Dodge, who released the

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Congressman on his own recognition and vacated the \$200 bond. Trial on the traffic charges was set for Aug. 22. Commenting on Pool's jail

stay, Judge Dodge said he assumed Pool "didn't understand the procedure."

"It's embarrassing to happen to anybody," the judge said, adding "I would assume there was a breakdown of communications."

On his action in releasing Pool, he said "I'd do it for anybody under those circumstances." He refused to comment on the legality or illegality of Pool's arrest, but a spokesman for the House Parliamentarian cited regulations that hold members of Congress immune from arrest while "going to or from a session of Congress." Pool himself could not be reached for comment on the incident.

If Pool keeps his Aug. 22 court date, it will be his second such Virginia appointment within a month. He is due in Fairfax Circuit Court on July 26 for trial of a Navy captain's damage suit against him.

In that action, Navy Capt. and Mrs. Charles P. Muckenthaler are seeking \$7771 in damages they charge the House Un-American Affairs Committee member did to their home at 3303 Gay la. in Ravenwood while he occupied it as a tenant from January, 1963, to October, 1965. Pool lives at 3021 Sylvan dr., Falls Church.