

Twin Brothers Appear in Court Voluntarily

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The Pyles twins, who twice in the last week were tear-gassed by Correction Department personnel and carried to their trial, appeared in court yesterday without coercion.

They said they had ceased their resistance to avert a riot in the Manhattan House of Detention for Men.

But before the day was over they were ordered removed.

Their appearance before Justice Myles J. Lane marked the first time since the trial actually got under way last Thursday that the 26-year-old twins were in the courtroom at 100 Centre Street.

On Monday, Justice Lane ordered them tried in absentia because, he said, they had refused to conduct themselves "with the decorum befitting an American court."

As yesterday's session began, the neatly dressed twins, Timbuk and Sonii Pyles, sat quietly next to their court-appointed lawyers, who the defendants say they have dismissed.

Accused of Robberies

The prosecution made its opening statement, contending it would prove that the brothers were the men who took a total of about \$500 from desk clerks at the Mansfield and Mansfield Hall Hotels in two separate robberies last February.

Then Timbuk Pyles rose to address the jury.

A tall, thin black man who came here from Mississippi with his brother eight years ago, he said he had worked as a cook and studied jazz at the Manhattan School of Music.

The brothers describe themselves as deeply religious spiritualists. They have never been convicted, but have been arrested several times and are currently detained on five other indictments.

Timbuk Pyles said the only reason he and his brother came willingly to court yesterday was to prevent bloodshed at the Tombs, where fellow inmates were reported to have organized protests in the event of more tear-gassing.

Justice Lane admonished him to limit his statements to his defense.

"We do not have a defense," he replied. "We have asked the court for an adjournment to prepare one."

The justice again broke in, saying the remarks were inappropriate, but Mr. Pyles continued.

"All we're asking for is due process," he said. "It is the right of the accused to a speedy trial. We waive that right. What we want is a fair trial."

The justice replied that the prosecution had been ready since last May and that the defendants had three times dismissed teams of lawyers and filed preliminary motions, which were heard. And he ordered the defendant to sit down and be still.

Instead, Mr. Pyles said he

and his brother had been "unconscious" during Monday's hearing, when the court proceedings were broadcast into an adjoining pen where the two men were held.

At this point Justice Lane ordered the defendants removed and guards escorted them to the adjoining room.

After the men were taken

out, Justice Pyles said the men's statement that they had been unconscious was a lie. He said he had a report of a medical examination that showed no neurological effects of the tear gas.

"As far as the court is concerned, these men were conscious and heard everything that happened."

During the rest of yesterday's session, the prosecution introduced two hotel clerks who identified the brothers as the men who took money from them on Feb. 25 and Feb. 28 last year.

The court-appointed lawyers conferred with their clients and then declined to cross-examine.