

Soviet Given Bleak Picture Of Baltimore As City Of Sin

By BRUCE WINTERS

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sures vicariously, the journalist described The Block's flourishing with traffic in pornography.

Baltimore is "overloaded with this stuff," he said.

It is peddled for only one reason, he added, "to distract the people from reality and to awaken in them some sexual desires and throw them into the world of illusion."

Concluded Mr. Bronyarek: "Such is the American reality."

Mayor Feels Writer Ignored City As Whole

Mayor McKeldin said yesterday that the Polish writer who criticized The Block in a Russian publication "obviously" was "too enticed by three blocks of Baltimore to look around and see a beautiful wholesome city, well known for its educational and cultural attractions."

"Indeed," the Mayor added, "if it is possible for this man to return to Baltimore before December 5, I would be glad personally to show him our city."

The Mayor described The Block as an entertainment center "similar to . . . Picadilly in London, Tivoli in Copenhagen, Place Pigalle in Paris."

"I am certain similar such sections can be found in large Russian cities," he added.

The Mayor issued his typewritten statement after newsmen questioned him repeatedly

about an article in Moscow's *Literary Gazette*, in which Sigmund Bronyarek described The Block as "a good place to start for anyone who wants to see and analyze the nightlife which is typical of America in general."

Mr. McKeldin, whom Mr. Bronyarek described as unable to overcome Mafia influence which he said maintains The Block, emphasized that Baltimore is "blessed with a port, fine museums, great universities, historic sites, churches, synagogues, magnificent cathedrals, excellent hospitals and many monumental projects."

"I am sorry the Polish writer of the article did not come to see me, because I would have shown him the many-faceted nature of Baltimore," the Mayor said.

"Of Great Interest"

Other attractions, in addition to The Block, have proved to be "of great interest to our residents and to visitors," the Mayor said.

Through a department spokesman, Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau declined to comment on specific charges leveled in the article.

But he said that, with each quarter year, beginning with the last quarter of 1966, Vice Section activities "are increasing" in the areas of pornography, prostitution, gambling and liquor law violations.

Jury Backs Tax Agents In Club Case

A Federal jury ruled yesterday on five questions concerning the claim of the Oasis Club on The Block that two safes on the premises were illegally drilled open.

After the jury ruling, Judge Frank A. Kaufman said he would ask the Internal Revenue Service for a legal memo on the case.

A key issue before the jury was whether the premises of the night club were illegally entered by tax agents accompanied by locksmiths from Diebold, Inc., a distributor of safes.

Authority Challenged

Lawyers for the night club asserted that Government tax collectors had no authority to be there and that employees of Diebold should have known that before picking locks.

During three days of testimony, Joseph Bruno, who said he was manager of Harry's Corral, which is located on top of the basement Oasis Club, recalled that he was one of the first persons to meet the locksmiths.

Mr. Bruno told the jury that on June 28, 1965, the men entered Harry's, thrust some papers at him and marched through an inside door to the basement club.

Questions Answered

The Frederick street door of the Oasis was locked at the time and the club was closed, Mr. Bruno said. Besides, he could not read very well, he added.

After hearing all the evidence, the jury was asked to reply to five specific questions. "Did Joseph Bruno have the authority to accept papers from the Internal Revenue Service?" was the first question asked.

"Yes," the jury replied.

"Did Joseph Bruno have authority to allow Internal Revenue Service agents to go into the Oasis?" The jury ruled that he did.

Papers Refused

On the other hand, the jury agreed that Mr. Bruno had no authority to open safes, drawers or cabinets in the Oasis.

The panel agreed that Philip J. Damario, a tax agent, tried to give Mr. Bruno some papers and that they were refused.

They replied "Yes" when asked whether Mr. Damario placed a copy of the papers on a table in the Oasis before ordering the locks picked.

David S. Harris, attorney for the Oasis, emphasized that the club directors only wanted the jury to tell the Government and Diebold "that breaking and entering into a business establishment of someone else" could not be done in America.

\$300 Repair Bill

The directors of the club, Julius Salisbury, Harry Bass and Max Cohen, said the most they had hoped to gain out of the case was payment of a \$300 repair bill.

Mr. Damario testified the Government had tax liens against the assets of the club and was determined to seize assets to protect them.

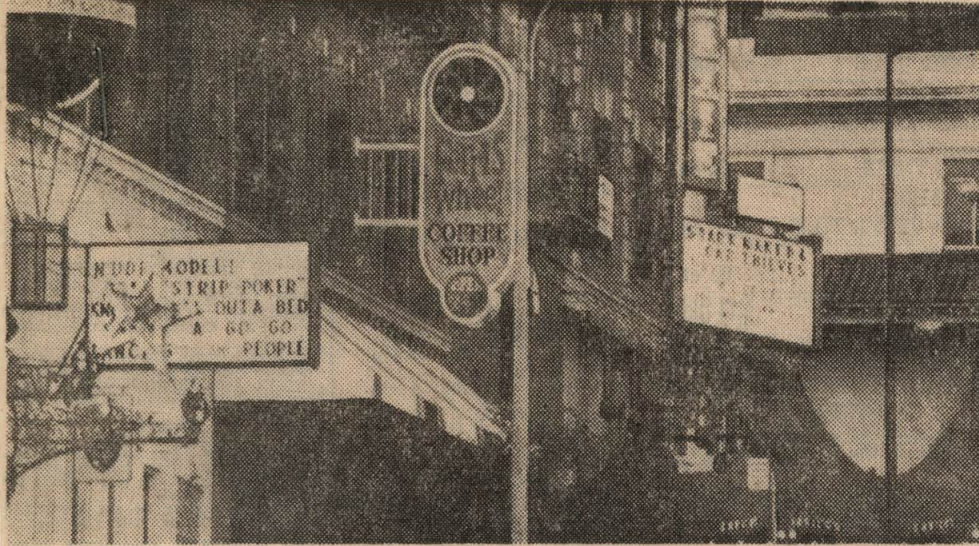
Lawyers for Diebold argued

that their locksmiths entered the club after getting a request from the Government tax agents.

They "never did anything they were not specifically told to do by the Government," George Beall, the attorney, argued.

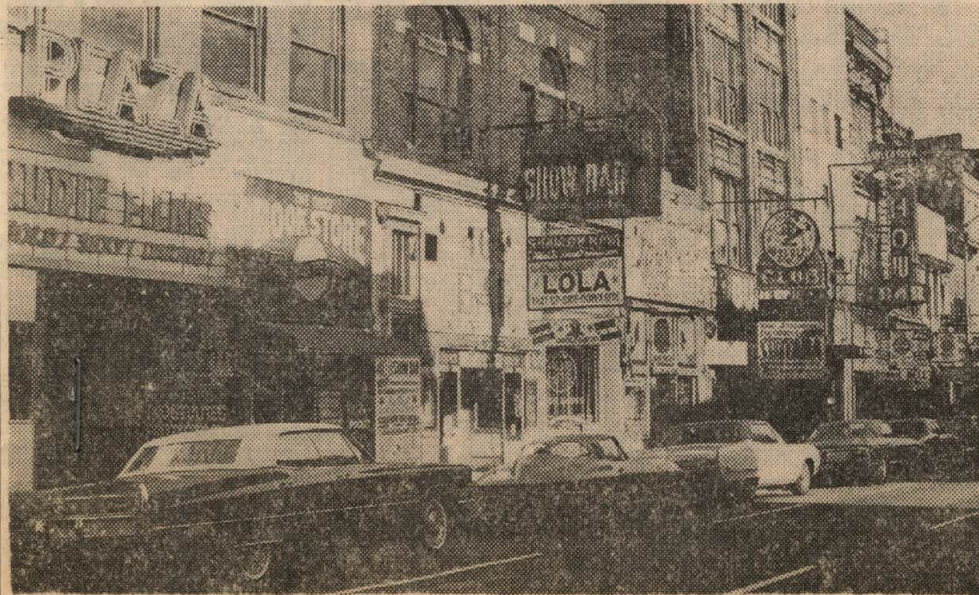
*The Sun F
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San Francisco Outdoes The Block--And More



AP Wirephoto

TOPLESS SAN FRANCISCO—Another Block, but minus pawn shops and palmists' parlors.



Sunpapers photo—LaForce

TAWDRY BALTIMORE—The Block shows its form in striptease bars and glaring neon.

By JOHN E. WOODRUFF
[Sun Staff Correspondent]

San Francisco, Dec. 17—Amateur night on The Block in Baltimore — the much discussed event that never seems to happen—goes on almost around the clock in this most topless of American cities.

The amateur show, in the form of a "contest" with prizes ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, takes place at regular intervals at each of four establishments clustered about the corner of Broadway and Kearny street. There, the road signs direct tourists down Broadway to Telegraph Hill and to The Coit Tower, but the same cars keep passing back and forth in the road jam that is the floor of the neon canyon called Broadway.

The four establishments, all of which claim to have "the original amateur topless" contest, are among those stretched along four blocks of Broadway, which constitutes the heart of the topless district.

Familiar Scene

Visitors to the three-block section of East Baltimore street known as The Block will readily recognize the photographs of scantily clad women adorning the outsides of establishments here.

But they will miss the pawn shops, bail bond offices, and palm reading "studios" which are interspersed among the clubs on The Block—as well as most of the gutter clutter that plagues much of downtown Baltimore.

In their places are expensive gift shops, a few expensive late-hour dress shops, and a some-

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San Francisco Outdoes The Block--And More

Entertainment Section Displays More Skin, Less Clutter

By JOHN E. WOODRUFF

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what higher concentration of liquor establishments.

The neon which blinks on The Block is not missing on San Francisco's Broadway.

"Topless ping-pong" it flashes in yellow from one side of the street.

"Topless shoe-shine" it blinks in red from the other side.

No Pasties

With an assist from techniques described by Vance Packard, Marshall McLuhan and numerous other scholars, the neon and the photographs get the men and their wives or dates inside where all drinks are \$1.50, just as they are in many establishments on The Block. But unlike The Block, the topless district requires each customer to buy at least two drinks at each establishment where he stops.

For this added investment, the customer sees girls who appear to be about 10 to 15 years younger than the average stripper on The Block.

He will see them without the "pasties" which are the standard equipment used in most places on The Block to meet Liquor Board decency rules.

Red Velvet Swings

He will also see them without constant gestures meant to suggest to customers on The Block that the performer is about to become bottomless as well as topless. And the dances—if dances are the show—will be the Boogaloo, or the Ding-a-Ling, rather than the "exotic" bumps and grinds that prevail on The Block.

But dances are not always the show.

Body-painters, trampolinists, and girls on red velvet swings also find ways to earn a living in the topless city.

The shows range from simple



BLOCK SCENERY—Trash awaits pickup on Gay street just north of Baltimore street, part of the seedy Block area.

and repetitious alternations of a singer with a pair of topless dancers atop a club's bar to elaborate musical productions.

Sugar Plums

At the Off-Broadway, the only club with a sign promising "topless waitresses," the featured act of the moment is a half hour reading from "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

As the woman narrator tells of sugar plums, two girls costumed—but still topless—as sugar plums begin dancing through the audience and across the stage to the music of "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" from the "Nutcracker Suite."

Minutes later, Santa Claus is on stage guiding three topless "reindeer."

Virtually all of the Broadway clubs are cleaner, more elabo-

rate and more recently decorated and furnished and better-equipped for stage, sound and lighting than those on The Block in Baltimore.

At The Gay 60's here where a girl in a gold-lame bikini dances as the "flame" in a giant simulated gas lantern high above the sidewalk, the first sight inside the door is a topless dancer behind the gilded bars of a gayly flowered circus cage next to the bar.

Farther inside, in the main lounge, a small lamp with a red glass marks the center of the crisp white table cloth covering each of the more than 150 tables.

Body Painter

As a body painter on stage took advantage of a girl's toplessness to create caricatures of Charley Brown, Snoopy, Mae West, and a Texas Ranger, mul-

ti-colored lights shifted in a marble-like effect on white screens behind the stage.

Mayor D'Alesandro, who was talked into making a brief visit to one of the topless clubs, quickly recognized that the action was something other than bumps and grinds.

But he also quickly decided that it was not his kind of entertainment and headed for the Fairmont Hotel, where he stayed for the two nights of his visit here to see mass transit facilities now being built here.

Like The Block

"But this is not San Francisco's version of The Block," a San Franciscan who had visited Baltimore was quick to point out to the tourists. "If you want that it is two miles away, at Ellis and Mason streets."

For \$1.25, a cab driver drove directly to Ellis and Mason streets, pointed down a street as he opened the door and warned: "Be sure you don't go that way—there's a lot of girls, but most of 'em ain't exactly girls."

As promised, the bars in this district were more like The Block.

The curtains were stained, the girls older, the dances "exotic," the bars littered with ashes and the rest rooms not clean.

No Drink Appeals

The girls were still topless but their dances were full of The Block-style suggestions that bottomlessness was soon to follow.

When they finished dancing, however, the girls did not walk up and put their arms around each customer until one is found who "might like to buy me a little drink, honey," as they do on The Block.

Here most of the rest rooms have the tiled floors and walls which the Liquor Board is now gradually getting Baltimore establishments to install.

And outside, even in the midst of what is said to be San Francisco's version of The Block, there were still no palm readers, bail bond officers, or pawn shops.

MORE POLICEMEN FOR BLOCK URGED

Bar Owners Sign Petition To Obtain Foot Patrol

Petitions are being circulated among bar owners and other business men on The Block requesting Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau to reassign foot patrolmen to the area.

Police, who once patrolled the area on foot, have been cruising in patrol cars for the past three to four months. They are told to cruise for an hour and walk for an hour, a police spokesman said.

"Keep It Safer"

Sam Munafa, owner of the Flamingo show bar in the 500 block East Baltimore street, took a different view, however. Mr. Munafa said an informal group of club and business owners is directing the petition drive.

"I'm afraid somebody's going to get hurt if something isn't done," Mr. Munafa said last night. "Some people think The Block doesn't like police, but they keep it safer and make it a more attractive place to come."

45 Sign Petition

"Since the foot patrolmen have been away from The Block," Mr. Munafa continued, "I've never seen as much trash [referring to people] as there has been in that time."

About 45 different owners, managers and business men have signed the petitions already, Mr. Munafa said.

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POLICE SEEK 'SITTERS' BAN

City Council Gets Bill To Prohibit All B-Girls

By JOHN E. WOODRUFF

The Police Department asked the City Council last night to make it illegal to be a B-girl on The Block—or anywhere else in Baltimore.

An existing State law already makes it illegal for a tavern owner to employ the girls, known legally as "female sitters," but police officials have found that it is virtually impossible to prove that the girls are employed by the owner, even when they are present on his premises.

The bill introduced by the department last night would make it illegal for the girls themselves to approach customers at the bars and ask them to buy drinks, food or other items for the girls.

Origin At First Unclear

The bill was introduced last night despite nearly two days of confusion in the Police Department as to whether the department actually was proposing the ban on B-girls.

A spokesman for the department said Friday that Donald D. Pomerleau, the commissioner, was "unaware" of the bill, and other officials of the department said that they, too, knew nothing of plans for its introduction.

But late yesterday afternoon, the spokesman said that further investigation had disclosed that the bill did originate within the department, after all, and will have Mr. Pomerleau's backing.

The bill would make it "unlawful for any female sitter (or by whatever other name she may be called) who is on the premises of any establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages to solicit any person or persons to purchase for herself or for any other person any food, tobacco or drinks, whether alcoholic or non-alcoholic, or to solicit any money with which to purchase food, tobacco or drinks, or to solicit money with which to play any music box or other entertainment device on those premises."

The bill establishes fines of from \$25 to \$50 for the first offense and from \$50 to \$100 for second and subsequent offenses.

The Sun

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Help Lonely, Claim Girls On 'Block'

By Harry Maravel

Edna Stevens and Vivian Salvo are industrious girls on The Block who will tell you it is they who make life bearable for the working man.

If the police department has its way, the workingman will have to look elsewhere for companionship, instead of the bars where Miss Stevens and Miss Salvo make conversation.

A bill introduced Monday night in the City Council would make it illegal for B-girls or "female sitters" to solicit drinks, food or other items.

A State law presently prohibits "female sitters" from being employed by tavern owners, but police officials have said it is almost impossible to prove the girls are employed by the owner.

Miss Stevens, 21, works afternoons in a black sweater and white tights gyrating to rock and roll music in the center of

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2 Girls On 'The Block' Claim To Aid Lonely

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Harry's Corral in the 500 block Florida Bar in the 600 block East Baltimore street.

Off stage, she says workingmen are eager to buy her a drink.

"I think we're helping a lot of lonely people," she says of her innumerable friendships that have developed since she began dancing two years ago on The Block.

Miss Stevens says her favorite drinks are a "Champagne cocktail" for \$2.50, a split of "Champagne" for \$10 and a "magnum of Champagne" for \$75.

Sees Business Drop

"If B-girls are outlawed," she said, "business will slack off and I'll probably take a government job."

Miss Salvo, a hostess at the

East Baltimore street, sounded a little like Gertrude Stein when she told a visitor yesterday that "The Block, is The Block and will always be The Block."

"B-girls are here to stay," she said. "If there weren't any B-girls business men would suffer from loneliness."

At the Gayety Musical Show Bar in the 400 block of East Baltimore street, the barmaid with laryngitis was eager to ask the City Council a question.

Wants to Know Why

"Why do they want to get rid of women? Aren't they men?" she asked.

"If you get rid of B-girls you might as well close the bars," she whispered to three young men sipping beer at the bar.

"Some people say the girls get a commission on the drinks," one of the three men said to the barmaid.

"So who makes the men buy the drinks," she replied with a trace of indignation in her reply and look.

At the far end of the bar a scantily dressed dancer was sipping her drink with a male companion.

"Did he buy her that drink?" the bartender was asked.

"Oh no," she replied, "they're married."

Evening Sun 55+
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PC32

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Vigil At Cicero's Causes Loss Of Liquor Permit

2 Undercover Agents Report Marihuana Usage, Homosexual Activity

By JOHN E. WOODRUFF

The Liquor Board permanently revoked the license of Cicero's Cafe yesterday.

The board acted after a State Police undercover man and a House of Correction guard testified that they frequently saw groups smoking marihuana, bought marihuana on the premises, arranged on the premises for the purchase of drugs and stolen goods, saw homosexuals arranging or trying to arrange dates and watched women dancing with other women and men dancing with other men.

Owner Shakes Finger

Cpl. Frank Mazzone, the undercover man, said that he and Francis G. Salvato, the guard, saw these and other sights while visiting Cicero's regularly for two months last March and April as part of an investigation into alleged smuggling of dope into the House of Correction.

Salvatore J. Cicero, the owner



MARIHUANA DISCUSSION—Vincent Cicero (left), Salvatore J. Cicero and former Senator George W. Della, their lawyer, hear witnesses tell of marihuana activities at Cicero's.

of the bar in the 500 block Forrest street, appeared at the hearing with his brother Vincent, who manages the place at night, and George W. Della, their lawyer.

The owner shook his finger at David Shay, the board's chairman, after the hearing and argued that the establishment should be given "some time" because "about 40 people may

be out of jobs" due to the immediate revocation.

But Mr. Shay replied that the board "has decided unanimously that this decision must stand."

License Removed

Mr. Della told Mr. Shay that the board's decision would be appealed, but minutes later, three Liquor Board inspectors arrived at the bar, took the license and instructed the em-

ployees not to sell any alcoholic beverages.

As Herman W. Fornoff, the chief inspector, and inspectors Stanley F. Janowicz and Henry Bowman waited for the bartender to get the license from the wall, a woman in a leopard-skin coat brushed by them carrying a baby that had squawked as the inspectors entered.

Then the juke box blared with

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2-Month Vigil At Cicero's Leads To Loss Of License

By JOHN E. WOODRUFF

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rock 'n roll music, a man in a red sweater and a black fedora swept a small pile of trash from the floor onto a dust pan and the inspectors walked out the door with the license.

Yesterday's hearing stemmed from a raid at Cicero's on May 3, 1967, which grew out of the investigation of alleged smuggling at the House of Correction.

Both the Cicero brothers were convicted by Judge James A. Perrott on June 29, 1967, on charges of maintaining and operating a disorderly house and a bawdy house.

Never Sentenced

The Cicero brothers have never been sentenced on that conviction, because Judge Perrott is still considering motions subsequently filed by Mr. Della.

But two musicians who were working at the club and six patrons who were present at the time of the raid have been given penalties ranging from suspended sentences to three years in prison on various marihuana and drug charges they faced after the raid.

Also weighing in the board's decision yesterday was a separate case in which Patty C. DeVan, 25, of 25 Stemmers Run road, a barmaid, was given probation before verdict and ordered to pay \$50 and court costs on charges of soliciting for

prostitution for a woman customer.

Salvatore Cicero was found innocent of maintaining a disorderly house in that case, and Elaine Thompson, 21, of the 4100 block Fernhill avenue, the customer, was found innocent of soliciting and procuring Patrolman Angel Elegino, of the Central district plainclothes squad, for prostitution.

In the May 3 raid that stemmed from the smuggling investigation, persons who were charged included:

ELISHA J. CHAVIS, a musician who was given a suspended five-year sentence for sale and possession of marihuana.

TOM MIX WILSON, a musician who was given probation before verdict on a charge of possessing marihuana.

RAYMOND F. VARSALONE, a customer who was given a five-year suspended sentence for sale and possession of marihuana.

JOHN G. POTETE, a customer who was given a five-year suspended sentence for possession of marihuana.

JERRY LEE DIXON, a customer who was given a two-year sentence for possession and sale of marihuana.

EARL BUTLER, a customer who was given a three-year sentence for sale of marihuana.

RICHARD C. VOGEL, a customer who was given a one-year sentence for sale of amphetamines.

JOHN G. CAMPBELL, a customer, who was given a suspended five-year sentence for a narcotics violation.

Yesterday's action was the ninth the Liquor Board has taken against Cicero's since 1942

30-Day Suspension In '66

The most recent previous action came in 1966, when the bar was handed a 30-day suspension and a special notation was put on its license banning dancing together by members of the same sex.

Other actions have included suspensions of 120 days in 1958, 10 days in 1953, 90 days in 1949 and 30 days in 1947, all for sales of liquor to minors, 45 days in 1944 for having liquor that had no Maryland stamps, 3 days in 1943 for a gambling violation and 14 days in 1942 for a sale to a minor.

Unless yesterday's action is overturned by a court, it will mean that the license will go out of existence.

Corporal Mazzone testified that he and Mr. Salvato began going to Cicero's March 1, 1967, and by mid-March the State policemen had been approached by "a girl named Kelly" who offered to "make a night of it" for \$25.

Cupped Their Hands

He testified that he sat with groups whose members sat in booths at Cicero's, cupped their hands over their mouths to smoke a marihuana cigarette and then passed the cigarette on to the next person.

Asked during cross-examination by Mr. Della whether Vincent Cicero, the night manager, would have know what the marihuana was, the corporal replied that he could have seen that the persons were cupping their hands in an unusual manner as they smoked, passing the cigarette from person to person, making an unusual odor with their cigarettes and sitting in the booths for a long time while buying no drinks.

Vincent Cicero said he never observed any of the aspects of marihuana use that Corporal Mazzone described.

Jury Indicts Block Figure On Gaming-Check Cashing

The special Federal grand jury probing gambling rackets handed down a three-count indictment against a figure on The Block yesterday accusing him of illegally cashing three checks acquired from gambling bets.

Charged in the indictment was William Weiss, 40, who is also known as Billy the Kid. He operated the Billy Weiss Pleasure Club, an establishment over a bar in the 400 block East Baltimore street.

The grand jury alleges that

Weiss cashed a \$4,000 check in June, 1966, owed to him as a gambling debt and caused it to travel in interstate commerce, in violation of laws against aiding racketeering enterprises.

Charges state that Weiss used the American Courier Corporation, of Bayside, N.Y. "with intent to promote, manage, establish . . . a business enter-

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BLOCK FIGURE IS INDICTED

Check-Cashing On Gambling Debts Is Alleged

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prise involving gambling offenses."

The firm was used to cash the check drawn on a Richmond bank for payment of a debt on "gambling, betting and wagering on sporting events in violation" of Federal law.

The second count alleges that Weiss used the same method to cash in Baltimore a \$2,200 check that was sent in interstate commerce in violation of Federal laws.

The final check reported discovered by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and detailed in the third count totaled \$1,134. It was dated November, 1966.

Paul R. Kramer and Alan I. Baron, assistant United States attorneys, obtained the charges from the jury. It was the third indictment handed down by the special panel which has been conducting secret probes since October.

Weiss has not been arrested and his present address is unknown to Federal prosecutors. They obtained a bench warrant for him, setting bail at \$2,500.

The indictment of Weiss was the third case handed down by the special jury under laws which prohibit the interstate transportation of gambling material. Earlier, the Supreme Court ruled illegal the use of the gambling tax stamp law.

The Sun #
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**Mourning Turns Off
Lights On The Block**

Most night clubs and bars on The Block observed the day of mourning for Senator Robert F. Kennedy by staying closed yesterday.

Here and there, a bookstore, movie theater or burlesque house was open, but for the most part The Block was devoid of its usual life.

Owners of the establishments met Saturday and voluntarily agreed to the dark day "because we felt it was proper," according to Sam Goldstein, a spokesman for the owners.

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WEISS FOUND DEAD BY FBI, CITY POLICE

Failure To Appear For Trial Spurs Search; Note, Pills Left

By THEODORE W. HENDRICKS

William Weiss, 48, sought on a Federal warrant after he failed to appear for the start of his Federal Court gambling trial, was found dead in a motel room yesterday.

Both FBI agents and police rushed to the Town House Motor Motel, in the 5800 block Reisterstown road, to probe the circumstances surrounding the death.

Note Found

A note to his wife and sleeping pills were also found in the room, according to reports. Federal agents and police said that an investigation was continuing.

A maid at the motel was unable to enter the room yesterday on a routine cleaning mission and heard a dog inside, according to Irvin Bergofsky, the motel manager.

Mr. Bergofsky said he called the pool-side motel room at about noon and soon after entered it to check on Mr. Weiss, who had registered on Sunday.

Had Operated Bar

Mr. Weiss, who was known as Billy the Kid, formerly operated a club over a bar in the 400 block East Baltimore street in The Block.

Gambling charges against Mr. Weiss, who lived in the first block Warren drive, Pikesville, were scheduled to open in Federal Court yesterday.

Mr. Weiss was accused in an indictment handed down last April of illegally cashing three checks acquired from backing bets in a gambling operation.

After waiting several hours yesterday for Mr. Weiss to appear, Judge R. Dorsey Watkins forfeited his \$15,000 bail and issued a warrant for his arrest.

Mr. Weiss was working in

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WEISS IS FOUND DEAD AT MOTEL

Failure To Appear At Trial Had Spurred Search

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Mexico at the time he posted \$15,000 bail on the Federal indictment. He had received special court permission to leave the country while awaiting trial.

Registered Sunday

Friends said he drove up from Mexico, arriving at his home Sunday morning. At that time, they said, he became involved in an argument with his wife.

He drove to the motel in his late-model Cadillac which had a Mexico City sticker on the windshield and registered Sunday morning.

Charges against Mr. Weiss state he cashed a \$4,000 check in June, 1966, that represented a gambling debt.

A \$2,200 check and a \$1,134 check cashed in November, 1966, were also alleged to be part of a gambling business that illegally used interstate facilities.

FBI Probe

FBI agents conducted the probe of the case that led to the three-count indictment obtained from a special Federal grand jury probing gambling rackets here since September.

Mr. Weiss was said to be despondent over the gambling charges, pending against him and had lost more than 35 pounds in worrying about the case.

Stephen H. Sachs, United States attorney, Paul R. Kramer and Alan I. Baron, two assistant prosecutors, are conducting the rackets probe.

One Postponement

Trial of the case had been scheduled in June but was postponed once at Mr. Weiss's request. Later he reported that he had broken an ankle and the trial was again delayed.

Prosecutors said they heard nothing from Mr. Weiss after a June 19 hearing in which his requests were aired in a court hearing.

The indictment against Mr. Weiss was drawn under Federal statutes which prohibit the interstate transportation of gambling material and is within the jurisdiction of the FBI to investigate.

Mr. Weiss appeared in Federal Court with his wife last month to enter an innocent plea to the gambling charges. At that time he was allowed to go to Mexico for purposes of working.

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Body Found In York Area Is That Of Block Stripper

A decomposed body found last Tuesday in the area of York, Pa., has been identified as that of an 18-year-old stripper on The Block, missing since July 18.

Pennsylvania authorities reported that the body of the girl, identified as Mrs. Beverly Yowell, was in such bad condition that it was difficult to determine cause of death.

York Township police who have said they did not know how or when the body got to the spot where it was found or how, where or when Mrs. Yowell died. Police said an autopsy proved inconclusive.

The young dancer was 5 feet

7 inches tall and weighed 125 pounds.

Mrs. Yowell's stage name was Beverly Lovejoy.

The girl's father, Hugh E. Painter, a plumber, 8100 block Dukie avenue, Edgemere area, said today he believes his daughter was murdered.

"It's just intuition," he said.

Worked At Several Clubs

Larry Saunders, theatrical agent at 1010 St. Paul street, said the youthful dancer had

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Body Identified As Stripper

(Continued From Page C 24)

worked at several of the major night clubs on The Block and at the time of her disappearance "I was getting ready to put her in the upper bracket."

The body was found by a York Water Company employe in the woods along the Susquehanna Trail—the old road from Baltimore to York—just north of the company's impounding dam bridge, about 40 miles north of Baltimore.

According to Pennsylvania authorities, the body was attired in a black and white shift dress and gold sandals and on one finger was an engagement ring containing one large diamond and four small diamonds. Scratched inside the ring was the name "Francis," police said. On another finger, they said, was a ten-carat gold wedding band. She had a blonde wig on.

Dental Charts

The body was identified Friday by Cpl. Farrell Maddox of Baltimore county police through Mrs. Yowell's dental charts. Corporal Maddox had been working on a missing person's report made to Baltimore county police by Mrs. Yowell's mother, Mrs. Hester Painter, July 29.

Mrs. Painter had reported that her daughter had been missing since July 18.

Mrs. Yowell's sailor husband, Louis, on his way to the United States from Vietnam, where he had served for a year, when informed of his wife's death. He has been granted an emergency leave home.

The couple had a 19-month-old son, Louis, Jr., living with Mr. and Mrs. Painter.

Kicked Habit

Mr. Saunders said Mrs. Yowell had been a narcotics addict but had "kicked the habit" about May 1 when he sent her to a physician for treatment.

"She was completely off to my knowledge," he said.

Mr. Saunders said she had been dancing about a year and had performed at these better-known Baltimore nightspots, Kay's Nightclub, Trocadero Bar, Flamingo Bar, El Dorado Bar and Boot's Place.

He said Mrs. Yowell had not worked since June 1—her last job was at Kay's—because she was recuperating from breast surgery at a Baltimore hospital.

Strippers—booking agents prefer to call them exotic dancers—commonly have silicone inserted into the breasts, Mr. Saunders noted.

Ballet Lessons

Mr. Painter said his daughter had wanted to be a dancer all her life and had taken ballet lessons for a year.

"She wanted to be in show business," he said.

Mr. Painter said his daughter lived at home and that the address listed by police as hers in the first block East Biddle street was the residence of a friend. The ring with the word "Francis" on it was given to her by a friend, he said.

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Stripper's Body Due More Tests

Police 'Suspicious,' But Manager Is Sure It Was Murder

Pennsylvania State Police sent the body of an 18-year-old block stripper to the State capital yesterday for further post-mortem tests while her manager in Baltimore said he was certain she had been murdered.

Pennsylvania police were listing the death of Mrs. Beverly Yowell as "suspicious" but declined to comment on the cause.

Her manager, Larry Saunders, said he understood the girl's body bore the marks of a beating.

Baltimore city and county police said they considered the case closed since they were concerned only with the missing person aspect.

Badly Decomposed

The girl's body, badly decomposed, was found a week ago in a wooded area near York, Pa., about 40 miles north of Baltimore.

Pennsylvania authorities said yesterday that the body was identified Friday by a Baltimore county policeman working through dental charts.

Mrs. Hester Painter, Mrs. Yowell's mother, reported the girl missing July 29, eleven days after she was last seen by an acquaintance who gave her a ride to The Block.

The young stripper danced under the name Beverly Lovejoy. She had stripped at the Club Troc, Kay's Cabaret, the Flamingo Bar and Boot's Place



MRS. BEVERLY YOWELL
As Beverly Lovejoy

during her brief year in show business on The Block, Mr. Saunders said.

"It was definitely not natural

causes. She had tremendous possibilities. She was too young, too gay, too full of life. I can't understand why anyone would want to kill her, though," he said.

Her father, Hugh E. Painter, an Edgemere plumber, also said he believes his daughter was murdered.

"It's just intuition," he said.

The girl's body was found by a York Water Company employee just north of the company's impounding dam off the Susquehanna Trail.

Pennsylvania police said she was dressed in a black and white shift and gold sandals. She was wearing a blonde wig, a diamond engagement ring with the name "Frances" engraved on it and a gold wedding band.

They said the body was so badly decomposed that it was initially impossible to determine a cause of death despite a three-day autopsy at a York hospital.

Husband In Navy

Mrs. Yowell's husband, Louis, is reported to be on the way back from serving with the Navy in Vietnam for a year. A 19-month-old son, Louis, Jr., lives with the Painters.

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PC6

CLUB TROC LOSES \$2,700 TO BANDIT

Bogus Deliveryman Holds Up Manager In Basement

A bandit posing as a deliveryman held up the manager of the Club Troc in a basement office on The Block yesterday and escaped with more than \$2,700 in cash.

The bandit dropped his disguise and pulled a pistol as the manager was phoning to check on an order of glasses from a Howard street 5-and-10-cent store the bandit claimed to be delivering.

The manager, Peter A. Ruotolo, 46, of the 5100 block Terrace avenue, was forced to kneel facing a wall as the bandit taped his mouth shut with a 1-inch-wide strip of adhesive tape.

Escaped On Foot

The bogus deliveryman stuffed cash and checks from an open safe into the empty whisky carton he was carrying. He forced Mr. Ruotolo to lie prone on a couch, took his wallet and warned him, "If you move, I'll shoot you," the manager related.

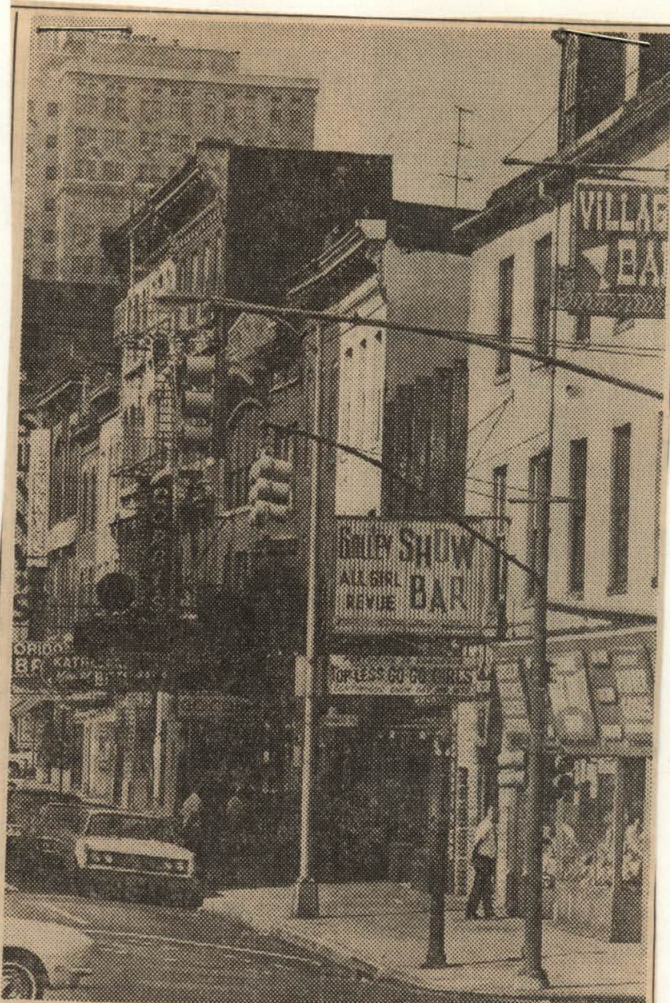
"The bandit darted up five steps to the street entrance and was last seen fleeing north on Holliday street on foot.

Mr. Ruotolo said that the bandit came into the office for the first time at 10 A.M., about a half hour before the holdup.

At that time, the bandit said he was a deliveryman and displayed a slip with the address of the nearby 408 Club written on it.

"I told him he had the wrong bar and he left," Mr. Ruotolo said.

See F
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BLOCK BUSTING—The Board of Estimates approved yesterday the “quick-take” of the 600 block East Baltimore street, at northeastern end of The Block. The okay clears the way for the city law department to obtain the strip of bars, bookstores and novelty nooks within a month. The new Police Department headquarters is scheduled to be built on the land that has helped make city famous.

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P C 9

City's Premiere Ecdysiast Peels \$40,000 For Club



Blaze Starr is paying \$40,000 for the "old homestead"

The Block's Two O'Clock Club has billed itself for years as "The Home of Blaze Starr" because Baltimore's premiere ecdysiast has peeled there steadily since she got her start in the business.

Now the club is really going to be her home. The Titian-tressed undresser is buying it for an announced \$40,000.

Miss Starr, under her real name, Bella Fleming, has applied to the City Liquor Board to transfer the license from Sol Goodman, who has operated the club for 33 years and who gave Blaze her chance when she emerged from the hills of West Virginia in 1953.

She recalled yesterday that when she first walked into the Two O'Clock Club looking for a job she said to herself, "Some day I'm going to own this place."

Grand Opening Monday

Mr. Goodman has been increasing his theatrical-booking business nation-wide, Miss Starr said, and there was an understanding that she would get first chance to buy the club when he decided to sell.

The stripper, who gave her age as 36 on the license application, said the club is to be redecorated "from top to bottom" in time for a grand opening next Monday.

Miss Starr said she plans to

continue Mr. Goodman's "family-type shows where a man can bring his wife without being embarrassed," will add a comedy team and will bring in top-name strippers.

She said she herself will star for the first six or eight weeks before going back on the bump-and-grind circuit around the country.

To Call Friends

Miss Starr plans to call on her many friends in the business to help her out. Among those she expects to appear is Lili St. Cyr, long a top-flight stripper, who should be on stage at the Two O'Clock Club after the first of the year.

The bosomy redhead has been in the publicity spotlight constantly since she became a star on the strip circuit. She is featured periodically in sophisticated magazines.

She hit the pages of *Life* a few years ago during her involvement with the late Gov. Earl K. Long of Louisiana. Miss Starr still carries the scars from a knife used by a burglar who attacked her in her home while stealing jewels she said the Governor had given her.

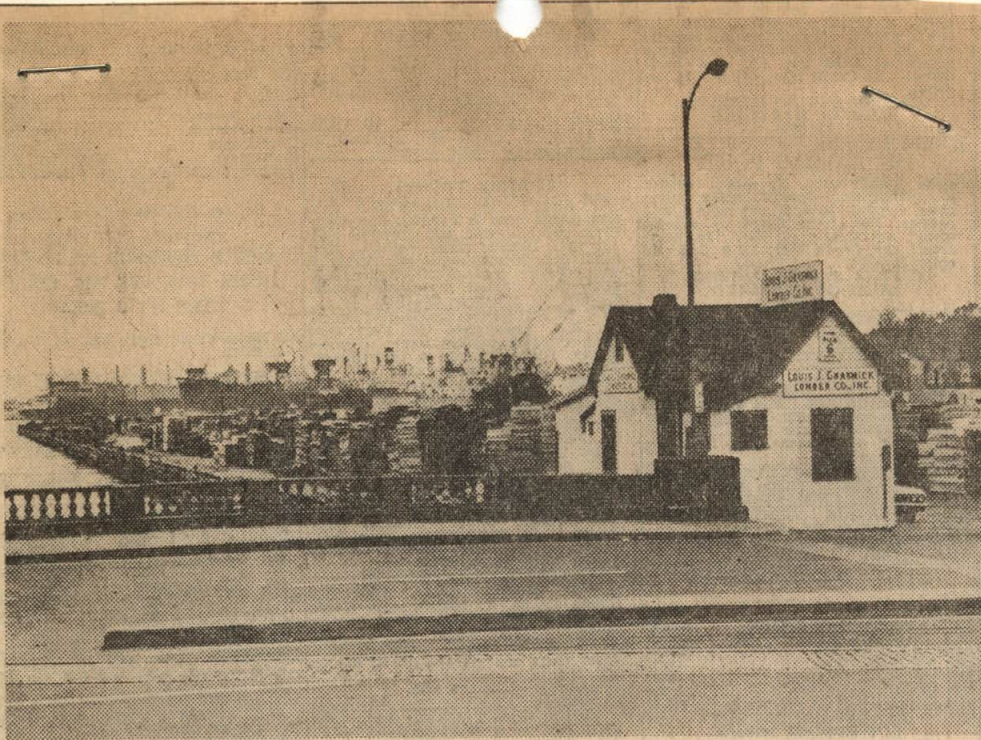
When she is away, Miss Starr said, "my brothers from West Virginia" will run the club.

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Sunpapers photo—Garrett

THE NEW BLOCK?—Pier Six, Pratt street, would be the new location of The Block's bars and striptease joints if David Shay, chairman of the Liquor Board, had his way.

Shay Would Shift Block To Pier 6— Lock, Stock, Booze And Broads

By Thomas B. Edsall

David Shay, chairman of the Liquor Board, would like to move The Block—lock, stock, booze and broads—to Pier 6 off Pratt street. "It could be like Bourbon

street in New Orleans," he commented with enthusiasm. The 24 bars which line the 400, 500 and 600 blocks of East Baltimore street, collectively known as The Block, all face the

choice of closing or moving to make way for expressways and renewal projects.

Board's Policy

The Liquor Board has taken the policy that they all have to move together and it will not permit striptease joints to be "atomized" all over the city.

Mr. Shay's idea is to put them all on Pier 6, add some good restaurants and perhaps the Gayety Theater, and turn the pier into a center of nightlife activity in Baltimore.

In fact, he would like Les Gals, on Mount Royal avenue; the Blue Onion, on Howard street, and the Eldorado and Murray's Show Bar, both on West Baltimore street, to join in the move to the pier.

Similar Entertainment

These four bars feature amusements similar to those on The Block.

But Mr. Shay is pessimistic about the possibility of joining the bars together in a united move because he doubts they can get together and agree on one location.

The bar owners are split into various groups including what is known somewhat humorously as

[Continued, Page C4, Col. 11

Shay Would Shift Block

[Continued From Page C 22]

the "Jewish Mafia" and the "Italian Mafia."

Mr. Shay said that Pier 6, off the 600 Block East Pratt street, is large enough at 700 feet long and 300 feet wide to accommodate the bars, theater and restaurants.

Mr. Shay added that he has had no reaction to the idea of moving The Block to the pier from the liquor licensees. The pier is presently occupied by the Louis J. Grasmick Lumber Company.

Mr. Grasmick said Mr. Shay's proposal came as a complete surprise to him. He added that he is considering the possibility because of the construction problems that will arise with the extension of the Jones Falls expressway right over the pier.

For seven of the bar operators, the decision is going to have to be made very quickly.

"Quick Take" Approved

The city approved a "quick take" procedure of buying up the 600 block of East Baltimore street three weeks ago.

This means that the Village Bar, the Galley Show Bar, the Miami Nite Club, the Florida Bar, Kathleen's Musical Bar, the Ritz Bar and the Club Diamond will have to relocate within months.

Mr. Shay said that he has considered two other possible locations for a new Block: the Camden Industrial Park off the Washington-Baltimore expressway and the area around Baltimore street and Central avenue.

Both of these areas, along with the piers, are nonresidential.

The Even. Sun 55*

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PISTOL PLAY IS REVIEWED

Tromberi Tells How He And Corbi Fought On Stairs

A Woodlawn man with an extensive record of assault convictions testified yesterday he was assaulted and pistol-whipped at a club on The Block.

Angelo Tromberi told Judge Shirley B. Jones that he was struck with the pistol by a man he called "Repeti," that he disarmed his attacker and then emptied the weapon at close range while struggling for it with Frank Corbi, 63, who is on trial for assault.

Testimony disclosed that Mr. Corbi was shot in the hand and bullets grazed his abdomen. Mr. Tromberi gave conflicting testimony as to whether Mr. Corbi kicked him during the tussle on stairs of a club in the 400 block East Baltimore street in December, 1966.

Went To Collect \$4,700

Alan H. Murrell, the defense attorney, noted on cross-examination that when he was testifying in a Pittsburgh extradition hearing, Mr. Tromberi had not complained of being assaulted by Mr. Corbi.

Reminded of that testimony, Mr. Tromberi said he thinks that Mr. Corbi may have kicked at him.

Mr. Tromberi contended that he went to the Villanova Club in the 400 block East Baltimore street on the night of the shooting and that when he saw Mr. Corbi he asked him for \$4,700 he said was owed him.

The witness testified that Mr. Corbi invited him to go to a Gay street office to talk over the alleged debut. He said he followed Mr. Corbi downstairs, and that a third man who was trailing them was told by the accused in Italian to "get him".

It was then, the witness continued, that the third man struck him in the head with the gun. Mr. Tromberi told the court he wrested the weapon from the man and then Mr. Corbi grappled with him for it. He said he fired the weapon until it was empty, shooting Mr. Corbi.

Mr. Tromberi said he had been told always to empty a gun during a struggle for it, or else it could be used on him.

He said he then got into his auto parked nearby and went to a bar on North Eutaw street to get a drink before reporting the shooting and giving himself up.

Asked by Mr. Murrell why he did not report the shooting of a man to the first person he saw, Mr. Tromberi replied: "I don't run to people like a baby. I wanted to get a drink first."

The Sun F

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p-16a

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CORBI FREED IN GUN CASE

Testimony Conflict Acquits Him Of Block Assault

By GEORGE J. HILTNER

Judge Shirley B. Jones acquitted Frank Corbi, 63, yesterday on a charge of assaulting another man during a shooting affray in December, 1966, outside a card club on The Block.

Judge Jones ruled that she was required to give the benefit of a reasonable doubt to Mr. Corbi after noting conflicts between the testimony of Angelo Tromberi, the alleged victim, and that of a number of defense witnesses.

One of the major conflicts involved the alleged pistol-whipping of Mr. Tromberi by a man he called "Repeti" or "Ripepi." Defense witnesses said that a third man was not involved in the incident and that no one by that name was on the scene.

Extradition Fought

Antonio Ripepi, 63, of Pittsburgh, also is accused of assaulting Mr. Tromberi, 55, but following the acquittal yesterday of Mr. Corbi there were indications that the charges against the Pennsylvania man would be dropped. Mr. Ripepi thus far has successfully fought extradition to Maryland.

Judge Jones said doubts also had been cast on other testimony by Mr. Tromberi in his version of what happened at the pleasure club in the 400 block East Baltimore street.

Mr. Tromberi had been accused of shooting Mr. Corbi, who was hospitalized with leg, hand and abdominal gunshot wounds, but was given immunity to testify for the State in the trial which ended yesterday.

Record Of Assaults

Mr. Tromberi, of Woodlawn, who has an extensive record of assault convictions, contended he was struck in the head by "Repeti" with a gun, that he disarmed his attacker and then shot Mr. Corbi during a struggle for the weapon.

The prosecuting witness said the shooting occurred during a quarrel over money. After the shooting of Mr. Corbi, who was left lying in a hallway, Mr. Tromberi said he went to a North Eutaw street bar to get a drink and then surrendered himself to police.

Mr. Corbi did not testify. His lawyer was Alan H. Murrell.

The Sun F

11-1-68

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5.7-14

SALSBUARY SHOT IN CAR

D GAME

Shotgun Blast Hits Block Club Owner, Man In Custody

Charles W. Toomey, charged on a warrant with shooting with intent to murder Julius Salsbury early today, turned himself in a short time after the warrant was issued, according to the state's attorney's office.

A man carrying a shotgun wrapped in newspaper broke up a card game in a private club on The Block early today and shot Julius Salsbury, owner of the Oasis night club.

Salsbury was admitted to Mercy Hospital with gunshot wounds of the thigh and upper legs at 4.15 A.M. His condition was called "satisfactory."

Police were seeking a 55-

year-old man widely known on The Block in connection with the shooting. He was identified in a warrant issued at 9 A.M. as Charles W. Toomey, of the 1100 block Park avenue.

The warrant charges Toomey with shooting with intent to murder.

Three other men were playing cards with Salsbury in the Veteran's Club, Inc., located above a restaurant at 424 East Baltimore street, when the gunman burst in.

Gunman Recognized

Witnesses told police Salsbury recognized the intruder, got up from his chair and struggled with him briefly before being shot.

Salsbury is under indictment by a Federal grand jury on two charges of illegally sending across State lines checks received to pay gambling debts. He is free on \$10,000 bail.

Salsbury, 53, lives in the 2900 block West Strathmore avenue.

Companions Listed

With him early today at the Veterans' Club, also known as the Democratic Club, were:

DAVID FISHBEIN, 55, of the 500 block East Baltimore street.

WILLIAM OMINSKY, 49, of the 2900 block Glen avenue, a bartender at the Oasis Club.

ALFRED DALCIN, 42, of the 7400 block Campfield road, a self-employed contractor.

Ominsky told police a man they all recognized hurried into the room and began unwrapping newspapers from a long, narrow package.



JULIUS SALSBUURY
Shot on The Block

Shotgun Blast Wounds Block Club Owner

[Continued From Page A 1]

the wounded night-club owner was in the hospital.

Salsbury's convictions date back to 1948 when he was fined \$1,000 on a bookmaking charge. Six years later, in 1954, he was convicted again on gambling charges and served six months in jail.

That same year, he was also convicted on charges of operating a disorderly house on The Block and was fined \$300.

In 1961, a charge of pandering was dismissed against Salsbury when the principal state's witness changed her testimony and said she had received threatening telephone calls.

Charges Dropped

Perjury charges against the woman, one of Salsbury's employees, were dropped when the Judge, J. Gilbert Pendergast, said he had received threatening calls himself telling him to be cautious in the Salsbury case.

In 1963, Salsbury was convicted of evading \$68,718 in back taxes in Federal Court and was

sentenced to one year in jail and fined \$5,000.

A federal gambling charge against Salsbury was dismissed earlier this year when the Supreme Court ruled invalid the law requiring bookies to obtain a \$50 tax stamp. At the time of his arrest, federal agents seized \$71,000 which was later returned to Salsbury.

Toomey has operated a check cashing business at 606 East Baltimore street for the last eight months. The small business is not open today.

Britain's China Imports

London (Reuters) — Britain's imports from China during the first nine months exceeded last year's total for the same period by more than \$7.2 million, the Sino-British Trade Council announced today. This year's total so far is \$60.8 million, compared with \$52.8 million dollars last year.

The man's face was "ashen white," Ominsky told police.

Salsbury jumped up from the card table and lunged at the man, police were told, just as the torn newspaper wrapping fell from the barrel of a shotgun.

Gunman Fires

The gunman pulled the trigger as Salsbury grabbed him, police added.

The blast struck him in the left thigh and leg and also wounded his right leg.

Ominsky told police he grabbed the gunman and forced him to sit in a corner of the room.

Tries To Help

He said he turned to help Salsbury, who was sprawled on the floor. But when he turned around, he added, the gunman was gone.

Ominsky said he called an ambulance and police.

By the time Patrolman William H. Curry arrived in the deserted night-life area, he said,

[Continued, Page A 2, Col. 3]

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5.7-14

Bookstores' Owner, Clerks Jailed On Obscenity Charge

By GEORGE J. HILTNER

The president of a book store company, which operates two locations on The Block, was imprisoned yesterday for five years and fined \$5,000 for possession or sale of obscene books, photographs and motion pictures.

One of the company clerks was fined \$4,000 and given a four-year prison term, a second was imprisoned for two years and fined \$2,000 and a third was given a one-year sentence and fined \$1,000.

In each case, the punishment imposed was the maximum available to Judge Charles D. Harris in Criminal Court.

Perrera's Sentence Stiffest

The stiffest sentence was imposed on William H. Perrera, 37, of the 3100 block Clifftmont avenue, president of R & W Book Store, Inc., which operates stores in the 500 and 600 blocks of East Baltimore street.

Mr. Perrera was accused in five cases and received the maximum of one year and a \$1,000 fine in each case.

The \$4,000 fine and four-year prison sentence was given Arthur William Beck, 45, of the 8500 block Water Oak road. Sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$2,000 was Charles W. Sutton, 34, of the 4200 block Sanner avenue.

Luke McDermott, 37, of the 600 block East Baltimore street, was imprisoned for one year and fined \$1,000.

Judge Harris set bail at \$2,000 for Perrera and \$1,000 for the other three when the accused announced the verdicts of guilty would be appealed. None of the defendants testified in his defense.

The charges grew out of four

raids on the stores, two last May 16 when both were entered simultaneously, a third on the store in the 600 block East Baltimore street and a fourth at the same shop on August 13, according to Fred Grant, prosecutor.

While city police were raiding the two book shops, FBI agents were raiding the warehouse of a magazine distributing company where truckloads of evidence were hauled away, Mr. Grant disclosed.

Approximately \$9,389 worth of magazines, photographs and motion-picture reels were seized by city police during the four raids, following purchases by plainclothes policemen who subsequently obtained search warrants.

Among the policemen making the purchases were Detective Patrolmen Joseph Nixon, Rich-

(Continued, Page B 6, Col. 5)

3 IMPRISONED FOR OBSCENITY

Block Bookstores' Owner Gets 5-Year Sentence

By GEORGE J. HILTNER

(Continued from Page B 20)

ard Nevin, Warren Moore and Robert Smith. Mr. Grant introduced into evidence copies of a "Modern Girls" magazine, as well as other materials.

Judge Harris viewed one of the films in chambers.

Prior to returning the verdicts of guilty, Judge Harris heard arguments on the legality of the arrests and whether the State had shown probable cause for the searches.

In each special motion, the judge overruled arguments by defense counsel.

Police who took part in the undercover investigation prior to the raids said they were able to buy copies of "Modern Girls," which the defense vigorously contended is not an obscene magazine.

Packages of allegedly obscene photographs of men and women also were bought by police, according to testimony.

The Sun

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5.7-14

Appeal Is Set By 4 On Block

A book store proprietor on The Block and three of his employes will appeal the maximum penalties they received on obscenity charges, their attorney said today.

David S. Harris, the attorney, said he would contend that the necessary element of probable cause was lacking in the police warrants which resulted in the arrest of the four men on charges of possessing obscene photographs, films, and magazines.

The same question was overruled at their trial by Criminal Court Judge Charles D. Harris, who imposed the maximum prison terms and fines yesterday on the defendants.

Defendants, Sentences

The defendants and their sentences are:

WILLIAM H. PERRERA, 37, 3100 block Clifmont avenue, proprietor of two book stores at 513 and 624 East Baltimore street, five charges, five years and \$5,000.

ARTHUR BECK, 45, 8500 block Water Oak road, a clerk at 624, four charges, four years and \$4,000.

CHARLES W. SUTTON, 34, 4200 block Sanner avenue, a clerk at 624, two charges, two years and \$2,000.

LUKE McDERMOTT, 37, 600 block East Baltimore street, a clerk at 513, one charge, one year and \$1,000.

All defendants were released on bail pending the appeal hearing.

Detectives Make Purchases

Charges grew out of raids at 513, Willie's Book Store, May

Continued, Page 12, Col. 1

Appeal Is Set By 4 On Block

[Continued From Page 20]

16 and at 624, Tom's Book Store, May 16, June 27, and August 13.

According to evidence presented by Fred Kelly Grant, assistant state's attorney, detectives purchased magazines or photographs at the store as a basis for securing search warrants for the raids.

Thousands of dollars worth of allegedly obscene materials were seized.

During the trial Judge Harris examined a sampling of the materials and viewed a film in his chamber.

The defense attorney contended that the evidence was insufficient to convict Perrera, who was absent from the book stores when the purchases and raids occurred.

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CITY TO ASK 'QUICK-TAKE' BLOCK ORDER

Condemnation Sought To Start Building Of Police Headquarters

By JOHN B. O'DONNELL, JR.

The city will seek court permission today to take over properties along a stretch of The Block which includes the Florida Bar and the Miami night club.

Attorneys will file papers in Superior Court asking for "quick-take" condemnation of most of the properties on the north side of the 600 block East Baltimore street, and of the Miami Club, which is on Frederick street just off Baltimore street.

Howard R. Owen, chief of the city's Bureau of Inspection, said the city needs the land immediately for the construction of the new police department headquarters building.

The city will agree to allow the property owners to remain there through the holiday season, but will ask that they be ordered off the properties immediately after January 1.

City's First Move

The 400, 500 and 600 blocks of East Baltimore, which together are known as The Block, are scheduled for demolition to make way for the police headquarters building and inner harbor redevelopment, but the north side of the 600 block is the first area in which the city has moved.

In quick-take proceedings, the city can deposit the appraised value of a property with the court, and then take over the property while any disagreement about that price is ironed out in court.

William Hoffman, the assistant city solicitor who prepared the condemnation papers to be filed today, said that the city will deposit sums ranging from \$16,000 to \$25,000 to cover the

(Continued, Page C 6, Col. 7)



BLOCK BUSTER — City officials plan to move today toward "quick take" of bars and businesses on the north side of the 600 block East Baltimore street where the new police headquarters is to be built. This part of The Block is to be vacated after New Year's.

City Seeks 'Block' Property

(Continued from Page C 24)

cost of taking over the eleven properties involved in the condemnation proceedings. \$500,000 in construction costs.

The city filed court petitions last month seeking the condemnation of the properties, but since then has decided to use the quick-take proceeding rather than follow the normal condemnation route.

Five Months Bonus

Mr. Owen said the city could expect to take over the properties, and subsequently complete construction of the \$11,000,000 police building five months earlier by using the quick-take proceeding.

He estimated construction costs are rising at the rate of 1 per cent a month, and that the move will save the city about

He also said that the Police Department will have to vacate its present building, at the Falls-way and Fayette streets, in about 30 months, and that the construction of the new police building is expected to take 24 to 30 months from the date construction begins.

He said the city must acquire The Block properties as soon as possible because the final design of the police building's foundation cannot be completed until further test borings are done on those properties.

The Police Department is being forced to vacate its headquarters because the building is in the way of the Jones Falls Expressway extension.

The Sun F 5.7.14

11-19-68

P C-24

City Takeover On The Block Is Challenged

By George J. Hiltner

Owners of properties on The Block went into Superior Court yesterday to challenge the city's right to condemn the properties to clear the way for the construction of a new Police Headquarters building.

In reply to "quick-take" condemnation action filed by the city last week, owners of seven of the thirteen properties challenged the constitutionality of Maryland law allowing the judiciary, rather than the Legislature, to condemn property.

In asking for the right to take immediate possession of properties in the 600 block East Baltimore street and on Frederick street, the city deposited a total of \$256,000 with the clerk of the court, Robert H. Bouse, as fair compensation.

Constitutionality Challenged

Through William Sinsky and Leroy W. Preston, attorneys, the property owners also challenged the validity of a city ordinance of last May 13 authorizing the taking, on the grounds that it violates the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments to the United States Constitution.

The ordinance is vague, discriminatory, has a defective title and denies due process of law, the court was told.

The challenge contended the condemnation is left to the "whim" of a particular judge and that the action denies the owners time to protect their interests.

The owners denied that an effort was made to negotiate a fair market value of the properties and contended they had been led to believe they would be given sufficient time to relocate their businesses.

Several well-known night spots are located in the properties the city is seeking to condemn.

Among them are the Miami nightclub, the Florida Bar, Corbi's restaurant, the Diamond Club, Kathleen's bar, the Ritz bar, a check-cashing business, a bookstore and a novelty business.

Sun F

11-26-68

P C-28

5.7-14

Block Property Owners Challenge 'Quick-Take'

Property owners on The Block are raising constitutional issues in an effort to stop the city from converting the night-life area into a police headquarters and harbor redevelopment projects.

Maryland law allowing government agencies to file "quick-take" proceedings in land condemnation cases is a violation of the due process and equal protection guarantees of the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution, Block owners allege.

The property owners' claims

were filed in Superior Court yesterday in answer to the city's request for immediate takeover of the properties.

13 Properties

Last week the city deposited \$256,500 with the court to compensate the owners of thirteen properties in the 600 block West Baltimore street and the first block North Frederick street.

Affacking the State law, the property owners asserted that the legislature improperly transferred its authority to the judiciary in condemnation cases.

The courts thus set up the procedure in condemnation matters, and a decision in any "quick-take" issue is left to "the whim of a particular judge," the owner's contended through Leroy West Preston and William Sinsky, counsel.

The "quick-take" action denies the owners time to protect their interests, it was alleged.

No Need

The property owners asserted that the land will not be used for public redevelopment purposes and that the city has no need to take immediate possession, which will be the result of a favorable court ruling on the "quick-take" petition.

Moreover, the owners contended, the city failed to set a fair market value for the properties and made no effort to negotiate with the owners.

The Even. Sun 5S*

11-26-68

P C-3

5.7-14

A Block Merchant Reacts In Anger To 'Quick-Take'

By John B. O'Donnell, Jr.

"Is this Hitler? Are we living in Germany? Won't we have any rights?"

Mrs. Helen Greenberg was angry, her voice pitched, the questions flowing rapidly.

She was on the edge of her chair, next to an old desk in the back room of a novelty shop she and her husband, Michael, operate on The Block.

The City's Wish

If the city has its way, though, they will not be there much longer.

The Greenberg's building is one of the properties on the north side of the 600 block East Baltimore street the city wants to demolish to make way for the new Police Department building.

City attorneys filed "quick take" proceedings in Superior Court last month, asking that the property owners be ordered

out of their buildings by early next month and that any disputes over prices for the buildings be settled later.

The Greenbergs do not want to leave. They do not like what the city is doing. The city, they feel, neither understands their problems, nor understands The Block.

Disagree On Price

They also do not like the price it has offered for their building.

The city has offered \$16,500. The Greenbergs say they should get \$40,000.

"Mike and I have been here 35 years," Mrs. Greenberg says. She talks non-stop, as though talking might make the problem go away.

"We struggled plenty. Many

(Continued, Page C 7, Col. 1)

Block Merchant Blasts C

Owner Of Novelty Store Dislikes Quick-Take, Disagrees On Price

(Continued from Page C 18)

times, my engagement ring went into pawn to pay the bills.

"The building's paid for. We're senior citizens. And, all of a sudden, the city comes along and tells us it's going to take the property and not give half of what it's worth."

"Sixteen thousand, five hundred dollars!" She almost spit it out. "We'd have to go in debt \$20,000 to get another building like it."

"I'm not against progress, but if I have to get another building and go in debt \$20,000, I couldn't stand it. They don't know what sweat, what tears, what hours went into this."

The three-story building is long and narrow, the bare floors well-worn, plain shelves and counters lining both sides of the front room.

Typical Store

The store is a typical Block novelty shop. It sells a wide range of inexpensive merchandise, much of it based on The Block's chief commodity—sex.

Mrs. Greenberg is 63, a short, stocky woman, her grey hair piled neatly atop her head.

"We struggle along, and then this comes along and kills us," she says.

"Where am I going to get a building?"

Talked To Pressman

"What are we fighting in Vietnam for?"

"North Vietnam wants to take a quick-take of South Vietnam, and that's what we're fighting against."

Mrs. Pearl Petasky, a friend who, with her husband, operates a rooming house a few doors away, said she had gone to City Hall to talk to Hyman A. Pressman, the city comptroller.

"He politely opened the door and showed us out. Said he didn't know anything about The Block," she said.

Mr. Pressman said several Block property owners have visited him but were interested only in getting more money for their property.

The matter is in court and out of his hands, he says.

"A plush office, Pressman



"Quick take" proceedings on The Block

has," says Mrs. Petasky. other.

"What's so important there that up to a She they have to have paneled offices? Who's paying for it?" go and

Mrs. Petasky is 68 and says she has been on The Block since she married her 70-year-old hus-

band, David, half a century ago. During the Depression, they oper-

ated a lunchroom which advertised, among other things, "beef stew and a loaf of bread"

for a nickel.

Have 40 Tenants

They own two buildings and have 40 tenants, who pay \$40 a month board. A gypsy parlor and check-cashing business are on the ground floor.

The city has offered them \$32,500. They claim they should get \$100,000.

The Block is a nice place, where merchants help each other, they say.

"I've been here 50 years," declares Mrs. Petasky. "I've never been insulted.

The merchants help each

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Block Merchant Blasts City Tactic

Owner Of Novelty Store Dislikes Quick-Take, Disagrees On Price

(Continued from Page C 18)

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"The merchants help each

Block Merchant Reacts Anger To 'Quick-Take'

By John B. O'Donnell, Jr.

Are we living out of their buildings by early next month and that any disputes over prices for the buildings be settled later.

Greenberg was pitched, the edge of her old desk in the a novelty shop band, Michael, Block.

Wish its way, though, e there much

g's building is perties on the 600 block East the city wants make way for e Department

filed "quick- gs in Superior h, asking that ers be ordered

un F

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7-19

Liquor Unit Delays Bar Decision

Cabaret Asks Transfer Of License Within The Block

The first application to move a bar on the Block because of city takeover of the property was held up by the Liquor Board yesterday pending further investigation in the case.

The board decided after holding a hearing to delay action on an application to transfer the license of Kathleen's Musical Bar, in the 600 block East Baltimore street, to the 400 block East Baltimore street.

Transfer To Son

David Shay, the board chairman, would say only that a decision was delayed so the board can "look further" into the application.

The board also is being asked to transfer the bar's license from Mrs. Joanna M. Corbi to Edward F. Corbi, her son.

The bar is one of the proper-

ties in the 600 block East Baltimore street that is scheduled for demolition to make way for the new Police Department headquarters building.

The 400 and 500 block East Baltimore street, which together with the 600 block make up the area known as The Block, are eventually scheduled for demolition as part of the inner harbor project.

Owned By Salsbury

Mr. Corbi testified at the hearing that the building into which Kathleen's hopes to move is owned by Julius Salsbury, a well-known Block figure.

The building now is the site of a dry cleaning business, which, he said, does not have a lease with the owner.

Under questioning, Mr. Corbi said that Mr. Salsbury, who is one of the licensees at another Block bar, does not have a financial interest in his business, other than owning the property

into which he plans to move.

Mr. Corbi said that he will have a five-year lease, with an option to renew it for five years, on the property. He said he will pay \$400 a month rent.

\$20,000 For Remodeling

He said that he plans to spend about \$20,000 on remodeling the building, and that the funds would come from the proceeds of the sale to the city of the building in which Kathleen's Bar now is located.

He said he has received no official notification on when he will be required to move, but city officials plan to start demolition of the buildings on the north side of the 600 block East Baltimore street on February 10.

The Board of Estimates approved yesterday the advertising today of the contract for demolition of the buildings and for the construction of a new police headquarters building.

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Tax Agent Will Take Stand

By George Hanst

An internal revenue agent who spent 5½ months as a secret investigator on The Block was scheduled to testify today at the trial of five persons charged with conspiracy to violate the lottery laws.

Edward Kelly, the agent, was assigned to the Florida Bar, 600 block East Baltimore street, during the investigation from May to October, 1967, according to Robert C. Ozer, prosecutor in the case.

Defendants are Philip Silbert, known as Pacey, of the 3400 block Janellen drive; his broth-

er, Michael Sibert, bartender at the Florida Bar in the 600 block East Baltimore street; Jesse Bondroff, of the 6400 block Chippewa drive, owner of a club on North Charles street; William Shreck, known as Wimple, of the 3300 block Richmond avenue, and Delores O. Wilt, of the 6100 block Plantview way, a barmaid at the Florida Bar.

Trial In 4th Day

The trial, which enters its fourth day today, is being heard by a Criminal Court jury under Judge Charles D. Harris.

Yesterday a former revenue

agent testified he visited the Florida Bar in undercover assignment 12 times in May and June, 1967, and saw Philip Silbert there nine times.

On each occasion Mr. Silbert received and placed numerous telephone calls, said the agent, Dominic Germano, who is now with the Secret Service.

Mr. Silbert would receive a call, then place a call, each conversation lasting less than a minute, Mr. Germano said. The pattern was repeated as many as ten times on each occasion he saw Mr. Silbert, the agent testified.

Told To Leave

After June 24, when Michael Silbert told Mr. Germano to leave the bar and not come back, the agent was assigned to surveillance work near two East Baltimore houses, a Centre street parking lot, and Mr. Bondroff's club, testimony disclosed.

Mr. Germano said he saw Mr. Shreck take a brown paper bag into a house on Ann street August 30 and leave five minutes later.

The agent mentioned several occasions in which Maurice Silbert was seen carrying a brown paper bag into a home in the 1500 block East Baltimore street and into an apartment building on Centre street.

Maurice Silbert, known as Mooky, of the 8200 block Brattle road, and Edward J. Griffin, of the 2800 block Chatham road, also are charged with conspiracy with the other defendants but chose to have separate, non-jury trials later.

Even. Sun 5S*

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MONEY GIVEN 2 POLICEMEN, COURT IS TOLD

Witnesses Tell Jury At Gambling Trial Of Pay-Offs

By George J. Hiltner

Two policemen were observed receiving money from a gambling-conspiracy defendant, and a police captain stopped in a bar on The Block "for his cigars," according to testimony before a Criminal Court jury yesterday.

At another alleged numbers spot, Harold's Club on North Charles street, two other policemen, identified as "Augie and Larry," accepted free drinks and on one occasion "Larry" went into a back office and stayed for 10 minutes, testimony also revealed.

The evidence was presented at the trial of five persons accused of conspiring to violate the gambling laws of Maryland. Testimony so far has come from Internal Revenue agents who took part in undercover or surveillance work for about five months in 1967.

IRS Testimony

Edward J. Kelly, one of the IRS agents testified that he saw money being given by William Shreck, also known as "Wimple," to two patrolmen in plain clothes known to him as "Ritter" and James Novak.

Neither of the two officers is any longer on the force.

Mr. Kelly told the jurors he was in the Florida Bar, on The Block, on August 31, 1967, when "Ritter" entered and began conversing with Mr. Shreck.

The witness said he saw Mr. Shreck peel off several bills from a roll of money, place them in the palm of his hand and shake hands with the policeman. The patrolman then placed the money in his pocket.

Patrolman Novak later entered the establishment, talked

(Continued, Page C 13, Col. 5)

COURT TOLD OF PAY-OFFS

Witnesses Recount Police Acts In Gambling Trial

(Continued from Page C 24)

to Mr. Shreck and Ritter. Mr. Shreck again peeled off several bills, put them on an adjacent bar stool and Patrolman Novak picked them up and pocketed them, the jurors were told.

The witness recalled that on the following October 11, Capt. Fred Gladstone pulled up in a marked police vehicle and in full uniform and that another of the defendants, Mrs. Delores O. Wilt, barmaid and cashier, was heard to say:

"Here comes the captain for his cigars."

The agent said the police official asked for "Mike," was told that "Mike" was not there but that "Fred" was in the back room. The police officer went into the back room, stayed about ten minutes and then left, the witness stated.

Another undercover agent, James J. Lane, who made observations at Harold's Club in the 1800 block North Charles street, testified that the two policemen known to him only as "Augie" and "Larry" were introduced to him by Jesse Bondroff, another defendant and owner of that bar.

The agent testified that on August 22, 1967, the two policemen were served three or four drinks for which they did not pay.

On the following October 19, "Larry" went into a rear office where he found Philip Silbert, also known as "Pacey," and remained there for about ten minutes, the jurors were told.

Philip Silbert and Mr. Bondroff were alleged by Robert Ozer, prosecutor, to be the "top men" in the city's lottery syndicate.

The fifth defendant being tried on the conspiracy charge is Michael Silbert, brother of Philip Silbert, who works at the Florida bar.

Mr. Lane testified that he posed as a computer salesman while doing undercover work at Harold's Club, telling the jurors that Philip Silbert expressed a keen interest in using computers in conducting a numbers business.

The agent was interested in learning whether a computer could quickly determine how many persons had played a certain number, and whether a piece of 8-by-11-inch paper containing many names and figures could be fed into a computer.

Mr. Lane said he replied that the numbers would have to be put on punch cards, evoking a query as to whether a writer could write on such cards.

The agent testified that he told Mr. Silbert a key punch would have to be used, and that the defendant appeared genuinely interested in the use of computers.

When he asked Mr. Silbert how much he would be willing to pay for a computer to do the work, the accused replied: "Don't worry about the cost."

Mr. Lane said the paper he was shown by Mr. Silbert contained many totals in the \$100 range and some in the \$1,000 range.

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Gaming Case

Testimony Continues

More testimony from Internal Revenue Service undercover agents is expected today as the trial against five alleged Baltimore gambling leaders continues in criminal court.

Yesterday, two of the agents summoned to investigate the reported multi-million dollar gambling setup here in the spring of 1967 testified that four off-duty policemen accepted favors from two alleged gamblers and that a police captain stopped at a night spot on The Block "for his cigars."

One of the agents told the jury that Jesse Bondroff, one of the five defendants (two more have asked for a trial by a Judge) and owner of Harold's Club on N. Charles St., expressed an interest in computer machines for a numbers business.

THE AGENT, James J. Lane, posed as a computer salesman and was questioned at length by Bondroff on whether a computer could quickly determine how many persons had played a certain number.

He also asked Lane if a piece of 8-by-11 inch paper containing names and figures could be fed into a computer.

Lane said he was introduced to "Augie" and "Larry" in Harold's Club and was told the two were Baltimore City policemen. He testified that both accepted several drinks without charge and that Larry held a ten-minute conversation in a back room with Philip (Pacey) Silber, one of the defendants.

Another agent, Edward J. Kelly told of observing two policemen known to him as "Ritter" and James Novak accept an undetermined amount of money from defendant William (Wimple) Shreck in the Florida Bar on The Block.

HE SAID that in October of 1967 he watched then District Captain Fred Gladstone drive an unmarked car to the Florida Bar and heard the tavern cashier — another defendant — Mrs. Delores Wilt, say "Here comes the captain for his cigars."

Kelly testified that Gladstone went to a back room, stayed about ten minutes and then left.

Gladstone has retired and James Novak was dropped from the force for reportedly taking money from Shreck.

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5.7-14

BARS ON BLOCK SEEK EXTENSION

The General Electric Corp.
**Little Encouragement Given
On Deadline To Vacate**

Bar operators on The Block whose properties are to be taken over by the new Police Headquarters building sought an extension from Mayor D'Alesandro yesterday of the deadline by which they have to vacate, but they received little encouragement.

After meeting yesterday afternoon with the bar operators and the First district city councilmen, the Mayor said that the most he might be able to offer the bar owners would be an additional weekend of doing business, but he was not optimistic about that.

The property owners and lessees on the north side of the 100 block East Baltimore street have been given until February 10 to vacate their properties, and demolition there to make way for the new police building is expected to begin February 10.

"Time Of Essence"

Councilman Dominic DiPietro (D., 1st) said the businessmen had been promised by someone in the city solicitor's office that they would get between 60 and 90 days notice before being forced out, and he displayed a letter, dated January 13, which told one of the bar operators that he had to vacate the premises by February 5.

"We asked the Mayor for 60 to 90 days more," the councilman declared.

The Mayor said "time is of the essence" in the construction of the new police headquarters but he would check with the Department of Public Works to see if the businesses on The

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MURRAY'S BAR CLOSED 10 DAYS

Liquor Board Hears About Stripper's Solicitation

By JOHN B. O'DONNELL, JR.

The Liquor Board handed a ten-day liquor license suspension to Murray's Show Bar, in the 400 block West Baltimore street, yesterday after finding that a woman employee had solicited a policeman there for purposes of prostitution.

Testimony at the hearing indicated that a stripper at the show bar made the initial arrangements with the policeman for a meeting later at a hotel in the 900 block Cathedral street. The stripper and another stripper she brought to a meeting at the hotel, were arrested there.

Hold Ross Responsible

Sanford H. Franklin, a member of Governor Mandel's former law firm and the attorney for Murray B. Ross, the licensee at the bar, claimed that the board should not penalize his client because there was no evidence that the bar owner knew the girl was soliciting. The board turned the objection

(Continued, Page C6, Col. 1)

Bar's License Suspended After Immoral Soliciting



LICENSE SUSPENDED—Licensees at the Village Bar, left to right, Harry A. Buckner, George A. Finecey and Eugene Adler, are sworn in at the Liquor Board hearing yesterday.

(Continued from Page C 22)

aside, declaring that the licensee is responsible for the actions of his employees on the premises.

Patrolman Jack Cook, of the Vice Squad, testified that he went to Murray's at about 12.15 A.M. November 10 with some members of the grand jury, and took a seat at the bar while the jurors sat along a back wall.

About three minutes later, he said, a woman he identified as Elizabeth Carroll, 30, of Minnehaha South, Minn., approached him and solicited him to have sexual relations for a price of \$5.

After he expressed interest in the proposition, the woman gave him a slip of paper with a room number in a hotel in the 900 block Cathedral street written on it, and told him to call her there at 3 P.M. the same day, Patrolman Cook declared.

At the same time, he said, Miss Carroll, motioned to a stripper on stage and said she had a friend who was interested in "turning a trick." She suggested that Patrolman Cook bring a friend to the hotel.

At 3 P.M. that day Patrolman Cook said he called the hotel, and told the girl he had a friend with him. She told the policeman to come to the hotel and get a room, he testified.

Women Came To Room

Patrolman Cook and Patrolman Lawrence P. Strassner then went to the hotel, got a room, and called Miss Carroll in her room, according to testimony. The woman and her companion, identified as Susan M. Kern, 19, also of Minnehaha South, Minn., came to the room shortly thereafter.

Patrolman Strassner testified that the two women came to the room, disrobed, approached the policemen and asked for \$50 each. After the policemen turned the money over to them, another policeman was admitted to the room and the two women were

in Central Municipal Court November 11 to charges brought by the policemen. Each was fined \$50 and court costs.

Mr. Ross testified at yesterday's hearing that the women had worked for him for eight days and that he fired them the day after the incident took place.

He said he did not know of their activities until they called and asked him to post bail for them. He said he refused the request.

Seven Day Suspension

The board suspended the license of the Village Bar, in the first block of Harrison street, for seven days after finding that a 63-year old woman who had worked there for three years solicited a policeman for immoral purposes.

Patrolman Robert Smith, of the Vice Squad, testified that a woman, identified as June A. Flore, approached him at the bar there on the evening of November 4 and made a proposal to him, after which he handed the woman a \$5 bill.

When the woman was later searched at Police Headquarters, she was found to be carrying \$5,280 in cash in a paper sack which was inside her purse, Patrolman Smith declared.

The Village Bar is one of the businesses being forced to move to make way for the new Police Department headquarters and has received orders to vacate the premises by February 5.

As in all suspension cases, the licensees were told that the suspension can begin at any time they choose within ten days.

They will be able, then, to decide that the suspension begins after their bar on Harrison street closes, according to David Shay, the Liquor Board chairman.

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The only effect of the suspension, he said, would be a Liquor Board record.

Sum F

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Charges Dropped In Shooting Case

Charges of assault with intent to murder against two men alleged to have been involved in a shooting affray and pistol-whipping at a Block gambling club in December, 1966, were dropped yesterday by the state's attorney's office.

Hilary Caplan, an assistant prosecutor, dropped charges against Antonio Ripepi, a 63-year-old Pittsburgh man, and Angelo Tromberi, 55, of Woodlawn.

Mr. Caplan also dismissed a warrant for Mr. Ripepi, who had fought extradition to Maryland in a Pittsburgh court. The Pennsylvania judge who heard that case has never decided whether to grant Maryland's extradition request. Mr. Ripepi denied being in the Block club, or even in Baltimore, at the time of the shooting.

Mr. Caplan said the evidence against Mr. Ripepi would have been the same as was produced against Frank Corbi at a trial last October. Mr. Corbi was acquitted of assaulting Mr. Tromberi.

Judge Shirley B. Jones, who acquitted Mr. Corbi, stated yesterday that testimony given by the prosecution witness was not believable because of conflicts in testimony.

Mr. Corbi, who was shot at the club in the 400 block East Baltimore street, did not testify at his trial. Mr. Tromberi had been given immunity in return for testifying against Mr. Corbi.

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New Police HQ

Block Is Stripped Of A Block

The Block, Baltimore's bawdy fun and games strip, was a block shorter today after a weekend evacuation to make way for a new police headquarters.

The bars and the barber shops and the bookstores in the east end of The Block were empty and a man from the city was turning off the water.

"They better be out," the man in the manhole said. "I'm turning off all the water."

Water Consumption

The populace of the 600 block East Baltimore street never were noted for their consumption of water.

But for the first time since Prohibition there was nothing else to drink today on Baltimore street between Frederick street and Market place.

The Florida Bar was closed and boarded up and pigeons were resting on the fire escapes and the sign in the window advertising GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS! was merely a forlorn footnote to a ribald history.

Green Eyeshade Left

The "Stage Full of Twisters" at the Club Diamond Show Bar was empty and the only remnants in the Baltimore Magic and Novelty Shop were a 59-cent green eyeshade and a false mustache.

After watching for nudity and naughtiness on this end of The Block for generations, the Police Department had

[Continued, Page C 2, Col. 1]



Sunpapers photo—Mortimer
MOVED—Workmen move a loan company office from a section of The Block condemned to make way for a redevelopment as a new police headquarters.

Block Stripped Of A Block

[Continued from Page C 281]

finally begun to clean it up permanently by planning a building on its remains.

The department left barely 24 hours for mourners who might miss the shabby gayety the empty buildings once enclosed.

The police were holding ground-breaking for their new headquarters today as demolition began at Fayette and Harrison streets.

Corbi's Restaurant and Kathleen's Musical Bar and the flophouse in the middle of the block and Benny's Surplus Store, will come down, and the fat men with 60-inch waists and 22-inch collars will have to look elsewhere for their clothes.

And the only people moving on the street in front of the empty shops this morning were going to work.

It all seemed a little sad.

Even. Sun 53 *

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5 Block Club Relocations Okayed

Five liquor licenses forced out of The Block and nearby areas because of the taking of land for the planned new police station and the Jones Falls Expressway have received approval of the Liquor Board for relocation in the immediate Block vicinity.

David Shay, board chairman, commented as the five transfer applications were approved yesterday that the shifts "will not substantially change the area, except to make it cozier."

The license transfer approved were:

The Club Diamond, from 622 East Baltimore street to 607 and 609 East Baltimore street.

The Village Bar, from 8-14 North Harrison street to 615 East Baltimore street.

The Ritz Bar, from 620 East Baltimore street, to 500 East Baltimore street.

The Miami Night Club, from 11 North Frederick street to 1 North Gay street.

The License of the Pepper Hill, formerly located at 213-215 North Gay street, to 415 East Baltimore street with the name changed to The Block Show Bar.

*Even. Sun 55**

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AGENT TESTIFIES IN MORALS CASE

Tells Of Being Solicited
For Drinks In Bar

Testimony was offered yesterday in Criminal Court against nine persons alleged to be responsible for the operation of a Block bar which the prosecutor described as a "disorderly house of the worst type and an obnoxious place."

The accused include the licensees of the Florida Bar, three barmaids, the manager and others alleged to have been habitués of the establishment.

Robert Ozer, an assistant state's attorney, told the jurors that the state would prove that there was sexual perversion, solicitations for drinks and gambling activities in the bar during the summer and fall of 1967.

(Continued, Page C7, Col. 8)

AGENT HEARD IN BAR CASE

Tells Of Being Solicited
For Drinks, Betting

(Continued from Page C24)

ing the summer and fall of 1967.

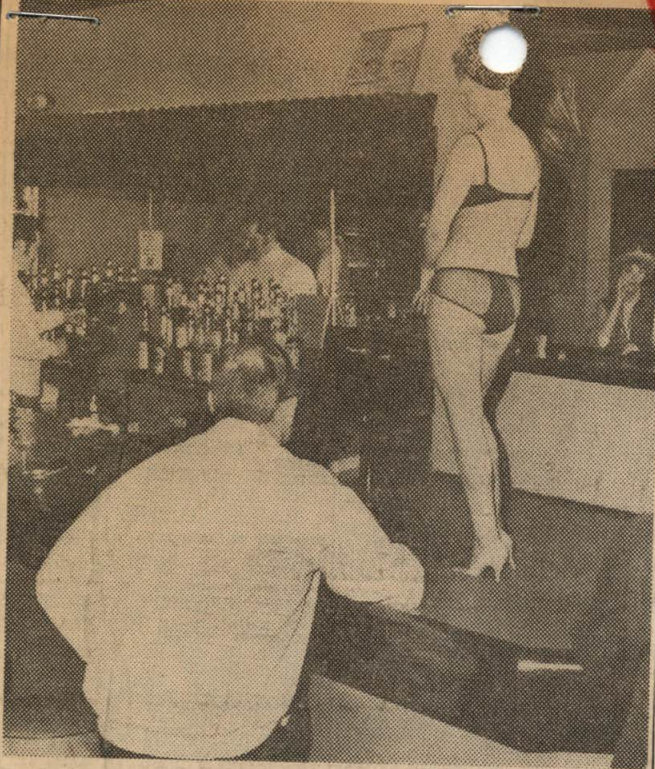
Dominic Germano, an Internal Revenue agent, was the first witness called late yesterday to tell of observations he had made at the bar during a five-month undercover surveillance by five agents.

Another agent who conducted more extensive surveillance after Mr. Germano was ordered out of the bar because he was suspected of being a "cop" is expected to take the witness stand when the trial resumes today.

Mr. Germano told the jurors that during 13 visits to the bar he observed barmaids asking customers to buy them drinks, and that he himself was solicited for that purpose. He said he refused.

After the drinks had been bought, the women employees would take their benefactors to dark booths in the rear of the establishment, Mr. Germano testified.

The nine defendants on trial are Fred Silbert; his wife, Lucille and their son, Arnold the licensees; Michael Silbert, bartender; Mrs. Delores O. Wilt, Flora M. Cabbage and Connie DeVenney, barmaids, Maurice Silbert and William Shreck.



Sunpapers photo—Pearson

SOUTH SIDE—Meanwhile, across the street, an exotic dancer performs in a newly opened spot that used to be a pool hall.

Block Clubs Thrive In Wrecker's Shadow

By John Pappenheimer

The boys from Al's Wrecking Corporation were having quite a time.

They were leveling the landscape in the 600 block East Baltimore street, and this crane was browsing on the front wall bricks of the Florida Bar like some brontosaurus.

The spectators across the street weren't saying anything.

Maybe they were the mourners for the seven nightclubs that bit the dust last week and the week before.

Like The Tanks

The whole operation was making quite a bit of noise and raising a small dust storm.

It was the beginning of the demise of Baltimore's Block. It was a little like watching the tanks rumbling outside the city before the siege.

The man on the bulldozer looked as content as a kid in a sandbox, and it didn't take too much imagination to see him rumbling down the aisles of the Gayety Burlesk Theater ten years from now.

And this appears certain since few have appeared to argue The Block's case against urban renewal.

Business Up

Certainly not the merchants and nightclub managers. The tempo of business, they report is picking up on what remains of The Block, and they have their hands full just ringing in the coins.

"All that urban renewal has done so far is to compress more bars into the 400 block," said the

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owner of the pawnshop Gay and Baltimore streets.

"The way urban renewal is, it'll be 10 maybe 20 years before they get around to closing this block down," speculated the manager of the Circus Bar, Samuel Holtzman. He's been on The Block for at least 25 years.

He and his compatriots are not the kind of businessmen who worry about what's going to happen in the year 2000 or even perhaps the year 1970. They accept urban renewal pretty much the way people accept a dormant volcano when they are living under one.

You couldn't have sold them a berth on the last boat out of Pompeii. You couldn't have given away reservations on Noah's Ark with the water rising over Lombard street.

Seven Nightclubs

When the mandate came down from the Board of Estimates to take the 600 block East Baltimore street, there were seven nightclubs caught without a place to relocate.

Did the managers seek to establish permanent businesses? They did not; they scrambled for shelter elsewhere on The Block into places that are only two or six or maybe ten years away from demolition.

By the end of February the Galley Show Bar had reopened in a converted pool hall across the street from its old site. On the same block the Diamond Club Show Bar was going into a former light fixtures store and the Vollage Bar was going into a shoe store.

Corbi's Restaurant and Kathleen's Musical Bar were moving into a dry cleaning store in the 400 block Baltimore street, and the Pepper Hill Club was going into a pizza shop next door.

Old Pawn Shop

The Ritz Bar was going into a clothing store at Gay and Baltimore streets, and the Miami Bar was going into an old pawn shop a few doors down on Gay street.

Of the seven nightclubs evacuated February 10 all but the Florida Bar has been relocated.

Above the Blood Bank, "Abe" the manager of the Diamond Club Show Bar was already thinking of the new image of his club.

"It'll be the first second floor bar on the block," he said.

"We'll call it ... 'The Stairway to the Stars.'"

Already that frantic Sunday morning when the music stopped in the Diamond Bar was a thing of the past.

Rapid Shift

Next door in the Galley Show Bar, manager Tom Ferrera was still recovering from the rapid shift.

"Seven days it took us, seven days," he said about the quick conversion of the Eight Ball Pool Hall into a dim bar, so dim you needed a spelunker's lamp just to see your way around.

"We're really going to have quite an atmosphere," he said. "How would you like to be stranded on this island?" he chuckled, pointing out a mural of women in various stages of deshabille.

Not Concerned

He didn't seem too concerned by the fact that his new place on the north side of the 600 block East Baltimore street was slated to fall to urban renewal within two years.

The door of his bar was shut against the dust from the wrecking across the street. But the music was blaring and the girls were dancing.

The Historians, Too

If the owners are unconcerned, so are the historians.

If you would so much as haul out a surveyor's sextant in Mount Vernon place every historical society in town would be on the phone to the Mayor.

But when it comes to saving the Gayety Burlesk Theater, not so much as a peep has been heard.

"What's historical about the Gayety," the director of the Peale Museum wanted to know "it's just a common theater, another striptease joint. I wouldn't lift a finger or pay 5 cents to save it."

"What can you do with an old theater?" Wilbur H. Hunter asked, "put wax models of strippers on the stage?"

"Oh yes, maybe Gypsy Rose Lee once played there," he conceded, "maybe it is well known."

It had been 2 A.M. and the customers and the girls had just dispersed into the street, when a large crew headed by a man known as "Mike the Greek" moved in.

Whisky, the bar, booths, tables, mirrors all had to be taken out and moved to a warehouse before midnight of that same day.

It had cost Al about \$10,000 more than the approximate \$10,000 he had been given by urban renewal to get back in business, he said.

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file*

7 CONVICTED ON ACTIONS IN 'FLORIDA' BAR

2 Licensees Guilty Of Permitting Gambling, Perverted Acts

By GEORGE J. HILTNER

Seven persons were convicted yesterday by a Criminal Court jury of disorderly house charges involving gambling and immorality at a bar on The Block.

The jurors under Judge Charles D. Harris convicted two of the three licensees of permitting gambling and acts of sexual perversion in the bar. Also convicted of allowing the illegal acts were the bartender-manager and a barmaid-manager.

Waitress Convicted

Found guilty of conducting gambling activities in the Florida Bar, was William Shreck, also known as Wimple. Two waitresses were convicted of a count based on their alleged immoral conduct with customers.

Judge Harris deferred sentencing pending a new-trial motion.

The jury panel deliberated for more than three hours.

The licensees convicted were Fred Silbert and his son, Arnold Silbert. The panel acquitted Mrs. Lucille Silbert, the wife of Fred and mother of Arnold Silbert.

Others were Michael Silbert, brother of Fred Silbert, who served as bartender and manager; Mrs. Delores O. Wilt, a barmaid and part-time manager, and Flora M. Cabbage and Connie DeVenney, waitresses.

Michael Silbert, Shreck and Mrs. Wilt were among five persons recently found guilty by another jury under Judge Harris of conspiring to violate the numbers-rackets laws in the operation of an alleged \$2,500,000 lottery syndicate at the bar on The Block and at a North Charles street club.

Others convicted of the lottery conspiracy charge were Jesse Bondroff, an owner of Harold's Club, in the 1800 block North Charles street, and Philip Silbert, also known as Pacey and brother of Fred and Michael Silbert.

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The Block file
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Morning Sun 3-19-69 Sec C p. 28

New Law Aids Policing Block Club Shows

The City Council has passed a bill to give the long arm of the law some muscle in policing performances on the Block and in other city nightspots.

Specifically, the measure — if signed into law by Mayor D'Alesandro — would ban producing or participating in an indecent show in the city.

It replaces an old former city law which was struck down as unconstitutional by the courts.

The new measure — sponsored by Mrs. Victorine Q. Adams (D., 4th) — is worded to conform with recent Supreme Court decisions retarding morality in the arts.

In line with the decisions, the new city bill includes a provision that persons — to be guilty — must "willfully" produce or perform in a show "knowing that it is indecent." Each violation would carry a fine of up to \$100 upon conviction.

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CIACCIO BAIL SET AT \$5,000

Block Club Owner Charged With Grieco's Murder

Leonard J. Ciaccio, one of the owners of the Miami Nite Club on The Block, was released on \$5,000 bail yesterday to await trial for the murder early last Thursday of Joseph Grieco.

Mr. Ciaccio, 36, of the 4000 block Loch Raven boulevard, was freed on a writ of habeas corpus signed by Judge Robert B. Watts.

The defendant told police that he and Mr. Grieco, the husband of another of the club's licensees, were abducted by three unknown men as they left a bar on Charles street, and were driven around the city in Mr. Grieco's blue Cadillac.

Mr. Grieco, riding in the front passenger seat, was riddled with bullets from a .45-caliber automatic held by one of the abductors, Mr. Ciaccio said.

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Morning Sun 3-25-69 p. A-13

RESIDU.

BLOCK FIGURE FOUND GUILTY

Judge Convicts Silbert In Gambling Charge

By GEORGE J. HILTNER

Philip Silbert, also known as Pacey, who is alleged to be one of the two top figures in the city's numbers-racket syndicates, was convicted yesterday of disorderly-house charges growing out of alleged gambling at the Florida Bar, on The Block.

Judge Shirley B. Jones found that Silbert was an "integral part" of gambling activity at the East Baltimore street bar. Last week, the judge acquitted Silbert of another count linking him to immorality at the Florida Bar.

Sentencing was deferred pending a new-trial motion, which was promptly filed by E. Thomas Maxwell, Jr., the defense lawyer. Robert Ozer, the prosecutor, asked that arguments be heard on the motion on Monday.

Yesterday's sentence completed the third trial involving Sil-

(Continued, Page C 7, Col. 1)

Silbert Convicted In Gambling Case

(Continued from Page C 24)

Silbert as a result of evidence obtained during a 1967 undercover surveillance at that bar, a North Charles street club and other locations in the city and Baltimore county by five agents of the Internal Revenue Service.

He was one of seven persons found guilty of conspiring to violate the lottery laws in the operation of an alleged \$2,500,000 syndicate.

Seven other persons were previously found guilty of maintaining a disorderly house at the Block spot by a jury under Judge Charles D. Harris. Silbert had elected to be tried without jury, causing the case to be sent to Judge Jones.

Second Offender

In still another trial, he was convicted of three charges of being a second offender of the lottery laws by Judge James A. Perrott. That conviction subjects him to a maximum prison term of 15 years.

At that trial, evidence revealed that Silbert accepted lottery bets or had lottery evidence in his possession at Harold's Club, in the 1800 block North Charles street, and that he handled lottery bets totaling about \$30,000 daily.

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Morning Sun 3-28-69 PC-24

Appeals Pending

9 Sentenced In Lottery Case Are Freed On Bail

By George Hanst

Nine persons sentenced to prison terms on lottery-conspiracy or disorderly house charge growing out of illegal activities on The Block have been freed on bail pending appeals.

Judge Charles D. Harris imposed sentences and fines on the defendants yesterday in Criminal Court after he denied their new-trial motions.

The defendants are:

WILLIAM (WIMPLE) SHRECK, 49, of the 3300 block Richmond avenue, sentenced to 5½ years and fined \$5,300 for conspiracy, selling or possessing lottery numbers on four occasions, and operating a disorderly house at the Florida Bar.

PHILIP (PACEY) SILBERT, 55, of the 3400 block Janellen drive, one year and \$1,000 for participating in the alleged \$2,500,000 lottery-racket conspiracy between May and October, 1967.

JESSE BONDROFF, of the 6600 block Chippewa drive, proprietor of Harold's Club in the 1800 block North Charles street, 1 year and \$1,000 on the conspiracy charge.

MICHAEL SILBERT, manager of the Florida Bar in the 600 block East Baltimore street, 18 months and \$1,300 on the conspiracy and disorderly house charges.

MRS. DELORES O. WILT, of the 6100 block Plantview way, former barmaid at the Florida Bar, 18 months and \$1,300 on the same two charges.

EDWARD J. GRIFFIN, of the 3300 block Chatham road, 1 year and \$1,000 for the numbers-racket conspiracy.

ARNOLD SILBERT, 33, a licensee of the Florida Bar, 6 months and \$300 for operating a disorderly house.

owner of the Oasis, had illegally "tainted" the later undercover investigation, the defendants argued.

Robert C. Ozer, assistant state's attorney who prosecuted the cases, contended yesterday he has evidence that Shreck is still operating a lottery business.

The prosecutor asked that Shreck be held without bail, but Judge Harris refused.

MRS. FLORA M. CUBBAGE, and **MRS. CONNIE DEVENNEY**, workers at the Florida Bar, 6 months and \$300 each on the disorderly house charge.

Sentencing was deferred for Maurice (Mooky) Silbert, convicted of the conspiracy; Fred Silbert, a Florida Bar licensee convicted of the disorderly house charge, and Philip Silbert, who was convicted by other judges on the disorderly house charge and three counts of possessing lottery numbers.

The defendants were arrested following an undercover investigation by Internal Revenue Service agents, who testified they observed gambling and vice violations during the six-month surveillance.

Denying new-trial motions, Judge Harris ruled that wiretaps made at the Oasis Nite Club on The Block from 1963 to 1965 did not invalidate the evidence against the defendants.

The wiretaps, which recorded four conversations with Maurice Silbert and Julius Salsbury,

State's Attorney's Office Shying

The Baltimore state's attorney's office is shying away from smut raids.

Prosecutors are now encouraging police to seize suspected pornography without them, according to Robert S. Fertitta, chief of the office's organized crime division.

Fertitta said he instituted the change in policy several weeks ago after realizing that prosecutors were spending too much time spearheading investigations which fell within the jurisdiction of the police department.

"NO MORE ATTORNEYS on raids unless specifically requested by the police," he added.

In the past, State's Attorney Charles E. Moylan Jr. has led his men and police on highly publicized raids into bookstores on The Block, seizing cartons of magazines.

"Police will just seize samples," Fertitta said. "They will no longer clean out the store."

It's unfair to deprive a man of his livelihood before a court has decided whether or not he's dealing in contraband, he added.

THERE IS STILL SOME liaison between police and the legal experts. Police have been instructed to consult the state's attorney's office and or the Maryland attorney general's office before embarking on a bookstore raid.

This enables state lawyers to examine search warrants for legal flaws and to take a look at magazines and movies before the raid to determine whether or not the materials might be obscene.

The state's attorney's office has also discontinued the practice of bringing pornography cases before the grand jury, and then waiting a year or more to bring the charges to trial in Criminal Court.

NOW CASES ARE BEING directed to the Municipal Courts, the day after their arrest.

The Municipal Courts are not only more expedient, they are also the only courts with jurisdiction over pornography charges.

"I don't know how the law was

overlooked for so long, but there is no reason to make Criminal Court trials out of those cases," Fertitta said.

He said when smut cases were

from Smut Raids

referred to the Criminal Courts in the past, they were delayed indefinitely because of the massive backlog, approaching 7,000 untried cases a year.

Narcotics, gambling and violent court calendar. Pornography crimes have top priority on the charges are rarely reached.

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Shreck Arrested In Bet Raid At Custom House

William James Shreck, a Block figure who is known as Wimble, was arrested yesterday in a parking garage under the United States Custom House and charged with two counts of conspiring to violate Maryland's gambling laws.

John Henry Woolford, 44, an attendant at the privately-owned Customs House Garage, was also arrested in the noontime raid by vice unit detectives. He was charged with both a lottery violation and a conspiracy count.

Shreck, who is 49, is free on bail pending appeal of an April 1 Criminal Court sentencing after conviction on four lottery charges, a conspiracy charge, and a conviction for maintaining a disorderly house at the Florida Bar on The Block.

Judge Charles D. Harris set jail terms totaling 5½ years and \$5,300 in fines after the April 1 convictions.

Charles E. Moylan, Jr., the city states attorney, said last night that his office "will ask Judge Harris to revoke the appellate bail bond" on which Mr. Shreck has been free since the April 1 sentencing.

"He is a threat to the community and has demonstrated a propensity to continue in the same kind of illegal activity he was convicted for before," Mr. Moylan said.

Mr. Moylan also said that the new charges against Shreck "will be specialized to the grand jury in order to bring him to as immediate a trial as we can."

He said his office will ask the grand jury "that he be indicted as a second offender."

Second offenders convicted of lottery charges face minimum

(Continued, Page C 6, Col. 7)

Shreck Charged Anew After Raid

(Continued from Page C 24)

two-year sentences under state law. The maximum penalty for a first offender is a \$1,000 fine and/or a year in prison.

Shreck, of the 3800 block Richmond avenue—who listed his occupation as "unemployed"—and M. Woodford of the 4000 block Fairfax road, were freed in \$2,000 bail each on the new charges. They will face preliminary hearings this morning in the Central Municipal Court.

The police said yesterday that they made the arrests after observing the men for three days, then obtaining a search-and-seizure warrant.

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A Matter of Taste

BALTIMORE'S notorious "Block" is in the headlines again. But this time, it's not for bad behavior.

On the contrary. The "Block," a tourist attraction which up to now has been conspicuously absent from Baltimore's promotional literature for reasons that need not be discussed, is now about to emerge into the broad light of the magenta spot.

It will be the subject of a color brochure being prepared by the city's newest visitor's bureau, the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Council, Inc. A picture of stripper Blaze Starr stopping traffic in the middle of Baltimore Street will adorn the brochure's cover.

There is no denying the block's attractiveness to convention-goers, and others. On the other hand, at the risk of seeming prudish, we wonder **if a promotion** booklet proclaiming and embellishing its seedy virtues as a tourist attraction is really necessary.

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