

Behind Police Expose

By EARL BROWN

EDWARD JACKO, Jr., lawyer for the New York Branch of the NAACP, and Frederick Woltman, reporter for the World Telegram & Sun, are responsible for breaking the story about the agreement between Police Commissioner George P. Monaghan and the Department of Justice, whereby the New York police would by-pass the FBI in handling all civil rights complaints lodged with the latter.

Jacko is a hard working, dedicated lawyer who labors long, hard hours on cases involving police brutality and other complaints against them.

He gets nothing for his services, except the satisfaction of working for his people. The Jacob Jackson case, which has led to a blow-up of the Police Department, is only one of numerous cases Jacko has handled for the NAACP.

No New Yorker deserves greater praise than Jacko for his untiring, relentless fight to win justice for many unknown citizens, such as Jacob Jackson, who had been brutalized by the police. In the Jackson case and others, he laid the legal groundwork for the present exposure of the police and their nefarious scheme to by-pass the FBI and beat the people's heads with their guns and clubs without risk of being exposed.

Woltman learned of the deal between Monaghan and the Department of Justice about six weeks ago. Like all good reporters, he went to work and pieced together the facts. Then he interviewed Police Commissioner Monaghan who, at first, stated that he knew nothing of any agreement. Later he said none existed. Woltman, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on Com-



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munist in the USA, broke his story about the deal only after he had proved its veracity beyond any doubt.

By breaking it, he and his paper have performed an outstanding service to the citizens of New York.

Congressman Adam Powell acted quickly in the House of Representatives to bring to the attention of that body the seriousness of the Monaghan agreement to let the New York police investigate themselves, and his action helped to hurry an investigation of it by the subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and also by the Department of Justice.

In the meantime, Commissioner Monaghan had had sufficient warnings that brutal acts perpetrated by his policemen against citizens would some day blow up his department. As long ago as August, 1951, I told him that if he did not do something to teach his cops to treat people like human beings, he would be sorry. To my knowledge, he has done absolutely nothing.

Four different citizens had won huge awards of approximately \$250,000 from juries in the Supreme Court on complaints of police brutality. The city, that is, the taxpayers, had to pay them.

I told Commissioner Monaghan that the fact these complainants had won such large sums of money in damage suits was at least prima facie evidence of police brutality, and urged him to reopen departmental investigations of the cases to ascertain if errors had not been made in the original findings.

I pointed out to him that the policemen who were involved in the cases, including one killing, were still on the force, and that if they were guilty, as indicated by the decisions of the juries in the Supreme Court, they ought to be brought up on trial in the department and disciplined immediately.

Nothing happened. Except the cops beat more heads. Including Jacob Jackson's.

(For the views of other columnists on the Police Brutality 'Deal', see pieces below.)