

Deprivation of Constitutional Rights

UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska law stydent. Dennis Winkle, has filed a suit in Federal District Court alleging deprivation of his constitutional rights by a recent detention of Winkle by Lincoln police.

This may prove to be a breakthrough in bringing to a halt oppressive and unconstitutional action by Lincoln police. Unlawful seizures, detentions, as well as threats and attempts at intimidation must not be allowed to remain part of law enforcement in a democratic society.

FURTHER, SUCH actions often result in the frustration of justice as, witness the fiasco involving the Les Elgart narcotics episode. It is regrettable that this must be the result of police incompetence. University students have not been immune from the unconscionable practices sometimes maintained by law enforcement officials. It is refreshing to find a student aware of his rights and liberties under the Constitutional guaranties of both the state and federal systems and possessing sufficient courage to challenge infractions by the municipal officials.

Perhaps the action taken by Winkle will help substantially to eliminate the tactics which are so explicitly condemned by the Constitution of both the United States and of Nebraska. It may be that police officers may even be cautioned to avoid such practices and receive a minimum of instruction of the constitutional limitations placed on the arrest and detention of individuals.

IF DRIVING down the street at 3:00 a.m. constitutes cause for arrest and detention, then we have indeed reached the police state which cannot exist in the United States.

It may appear to be a trifling matter unworthy of the cognizance of a federal court, but it is obvious that such infractions would snowball into a wholesale forfeiture of constitutional liberties. Such is the enviable position of the American student to fear this depredation and to challenge it whenever it encroaches.

THERE HAS been a steady progression of cases decided by the United States Supreme Court evidencing an increasingly growing concern for the rights of the individual to be secure in his person from unlawful searches and seizures. One cannot be arrested without probable cause and informed of the charges and accusations against him. Further, without undue delay he must be presented before a magistrate.

In the situation presented by Dennis Winkle, we see a multitude of violations of constitutional rights. There was no probable cause for the arrest; he was not advised of the charges against him or presented for arraignment before a magistrate, he was not allowed to retail counsel. It is unquestionable that an individual cannot be detained without cause and yet, when Winkle asked to leave, he was detained against his will. THERE IS NO frivolity involved; no

miniscule of harm. If one is not to be accorded a remedy for the deprivation of his rights, there is no sanction to eliminate the deplorable conduct by the Lincoln police. Winkle has prayed for a \$48,000 judgment and that the defendants be "permanently enjoined" from further violations of his constitutional rights.

Regrettable is the fact that many persons do not understand the basis of the constitutional guarantees of which Winkle was deprived. Certainly, the maintenance of these liberties and freedoms involves a certain cost to society. Admittedly guilty persons are allowed to go free sometimes when their convictions were obtained through the use of an unconstitutional search and seizure, an unlawful arrest or detention, or a coerced confession. It is clear that such a result is a small price to pay for the sanctity of you and I as individuals to remain free from police oppression.

IT IS TO be hoped that responsible persons in the Lincoln and University communities are aware of the momentous issues involved in the principle presented by Winkle's petition for relief. It cannot be tolerated that innocent citizens are subjected to such oppressive and clearly illegal tactics.

If this writer's desires were to be fulfilled, each and every reader of this writing would personally apply himself to the eradication of unlawful police action.

FURTHER, IT is urged that Winkle be encouraged and congratulated in his fight for the principles of constitutional liberty and his justifiable vindication of the gross deprivation of his rights. -S.C.

CAMPUS FORUM

On Racial Discrimination . . .

attend school functions open to the student body without receiving harsh glances?

4) Can black-skinned foreigners enter any of the local pubs without either being ejected forcibily or served contemptuosly?

5) Can any one of them (male or female) dare enter a barber shop or beauty parlor in down-town Lincoln?

I could go on endlessly. However, I'll stop. From my own short and unpleasant experience, I will tell you that he or she just can't. This situation is primarily so because the Negro student, is not accepted as an equal. He is tolerated.

This toleration has persisted and will continue to persist because of the feeling of white invincibility and superiority that permeate all facets of the university life Even the

professors are the biggest hypocrites. Ostensibly there are those people who appear liberal or international - minded, because this is the fashionable thing in some social circles, that extend a triendly hand conveniently, but when given the acid test are found terribly wanting.

The same applies to the proliferation of existing organizations professing to foster better human relations. Sometimes I wonder whether it would not have been much better to put the signs as they do down South rather than subjecting the individual to this subtle, pernicious type of discrimination which has a lasting and devastating effect on the emotional make-up. The paradox is that to-

morrow these same white Roman gods and virginal goddesses will join the Peace Corps to go to some distant Latin American

country where they will mix with black-skinned illiterate natives to preach about the wonderful United States of America where there is equality for all, regardless of race, creed or color. How long will the farce continue? Who is fooling whom? Incidentally, in some of these countries there is racial harmony. If anyone believes

that the situation described above is not true, please check with any black - skinned foreigner on campus. The results would be interesting. The results may indicate that the various agencies concerned should re-assess their thinking and values in terms of what constitutes decent treatment to another human.

Or, maybe they believe he is not a fellow human because of his color. Think about it.

ARTHUR RILEY JONES

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wer affirmatively any of these questions the author will retract his state-1) Can any dark-skinned or "Negro" foreigner secure decent housing

around the immediate periphery of the university, especially if he has a family? 2) Can anyone of the male species fraternize with the "white" girls without invoking wrath of the powers (sororities, fraternities, univer sity

A receit issue of Life

(March 15, 1963) carried

a Special Report (page

15) in which the author

commented on the rude

treatment extended to

dark-skinned African stu-

dents studying at Iron

Curtain universities, spe-

To me, the most poig-

nant thing was that in

many ways the situation

described paralleled

closely the conditions to

which a black-skinned or

dark-skinned foreigner is

subjected to here on the

campus of the University

Further, many humili-

ations and embarrass-

ments are piled on out-

side the "sanctuary" of

the university grounds,

especially in the outlying

Many hypocrites and

pseudo - internationalists

are going to deny violent-

ly the above mentioned

ideas. But if they can ans-

100

of Nebraska.

suburban towns.

ments.

cifically Bulgaria.

3) Can anyone of them

Nebraskan

officials)?