

State Board Asks SBI Probe In Voting Blood Group Meets

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registered on the books. This made a discrepancy of 206 votes. The unsuspecting witness continued by saying that he had seen Williams put extra ballots into the Democratic box. "He used his left hand," Mast testified, "taking the ballots from his pocket (later specified by Mast as being Williams' left coat pocket) and stuffing the ballots into the box."

"Williams had to force the ballots through the opening by pounding on them," Mast stated with a gesture, which brought laughter from the nearly 100 persons viewing the proceedings. Responding to attorney Brown's question, Mast said that he was approximately fifteen to twenty feet from Williams when the alleged stuffing occurred.

Mast maintained that when the votes were counted that night, he noticed a "bunch" of ballots folded together. He Lewis noticed the bundle, too," Mast commented.

Furthermore he testified that he had seen Williams early that election day drop what appeared to be a bundle of ballots held together with a rubber band. "But," he added, "I made no mention of the incident until that night when the apparent irregularity was found."

Mast described the ballot boxes as being approximately three feet high, sitting on the floor. The Democratic box had an opening about one and one-half inches by six inches in size—"somewhat larger than the openings in the Republican boxes," he added. The boxes were sealed with heavy locks, Mast concluded.

Second to take the stand was Mont Thomas who had acted as Republican clerk at the Cove Creek precinct.

"The ballot boxes were about ten to twelve feet apart," he stated. "Claude Williams stood at the Democratic box. I saw him take Mr. and Mrs. (Lee) Thomas' ballots in his right hand and with his left hand insert a bunch of ballots under the Thomas ballots. Then he forced all of the ballots into the opening of the box. He had to knock them through the hole like this," motioned Thomas. Again the court room echoed with laughter.

The folded bundle was described by Thomas as being approximately one and one-half inches thick.

However, unlike Mast's testimony, Thomas said that he did not notice a "bunch of ballots" among those that were emptied from the boxes that night.

Frank Thomas was next to be called to the stand. He had acted as Republican judge at the Cove Creek voting area May 26 and was one of the officials who was to have signed the official returns for the precinct but had refused to do so "because the

count wasn't correct—too many ballots."

Thomas testified that although a discrepancy was found, he himself did not recollect Williams doing anything out of order during the day. "I stood about twenty-five to thirty feet from him (Williams) most of the day," Thomas, chin resting in hand, testified.

High Williams, nephew of the accused, followed Frank Thomas to the stand and in rapidly spoken sentences said that he had signed the official returns of the election the morning of May 26—"even though all the ballots had not been cast and the figures were not in." Such a practice, he explained, is not uncommon in that precinct.

"I saw nothing irregular during the day," the deeply tanned witness stated.

He then explained that he had picked up the sealed box of ballots from Stacy C. Eggers the preceding Wednesday (May 23) and had had the box in his possession until Saturday morning. He and two other officials examined the box Saturday before the polls opened and, Williams related, saw that the seal had not been broken.

Lee Thomas was then called to the stand and estimated his time for voting as being between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. that Saturday. He related the procedure as follows:

"When we (he and his wife) went back to vote, we were the only ones in the voting area except the officials. After we had marked our ballots, my wife handed me her ballot and started towards the door (exit). I handed our (two) ballots to (Claude) Williams who put them and some others, which I saw him take from his pocket, into the box."

Thomas testified that he had made no mention of the incident to Williams when the alleged stuffing occurred. He, rather, left the arena, pausing briefly outside the building to talk with a sister of his. Shortly afterwards, Thomas said, he told his wife what he had seen at the balloting box.

The board then offered A. C. Williams the right to take the stand. "The board is not requesting that you do or do not take the stand," Brown explained. "It only wants you to know that you have the opportunity to make comments on your behalf if you so desire."

Attorney McElwee, speaking for Williams, said that he saw no need for Williams to take the stand. Williams, thus, did not appear before the board.

The man who was door keeper at the Cove Creek polls May 26 was the sixth witness called to the stand. He is Charlie Mitchell.

Mitchell remarked that in line to vote while the Thomases

were voting were a Mr. and Mrs. Smith, a Mr. and Mrs. Isley, and two other ladies. While the Thomases were voting, Williams had called to Mitchell who walked over to Williams to converse. At this time, Williams and Mitchell were ten feet from the balloting box, Mitchell said.

He continued his testimony, saying that he had not actually seen Thomas put his ballots in the box, but while he (Mitchell) and Williams were talking, Mrs. Thomas was leaving and Mr. Thomas was back at the ballot box, apparently having dropped his ballots in the box.

Hike Dishman took the stand and explained that as folder of the ballots he was about ten feet away from the box in question.

The Board then called for other witnesses. Isaac Lewis, sitting three rows from the front of the court room, stepped forward. He testified that he had voted about 7:00 a. m. Saturday and had been in and about the building most of the day.

"That night," Lewis told the board, "I helped unfold the ballots." I paid no attention to the

ballots until I noticed a bunch of them together. Then I began noticing how they were marked.

"I noticed only a few of them," Lewis explained, "but I did see that (Emmett) Oliver's name was checked most of the time on most of the ballots. Also, Jack Edminsten's and (W. B.) Lentr's names were marked."

Lewis estimated the thickness of the bundle as being one-half inch, unfolded.

After being dismissed from the stand Lewis was called back to answer an additional question. Asked if he knew who had chosen which box for the Democratic ballots and which for the Republican ballots, Lewis replied negatively.

The hearing then came to an end at 1:44 p.m., two hours and thirty-two minutes after beginning.

TREND INDEFINITE

Despite the deluge of mail Government officials and congressmen are receiving from the people concerning President Kennedy's proposals for health care for the aged, it is not possible to spot a definite trend at this time.

(Continued from page one) tion of the Piedmont Carolinas Regional Blood Center of Charlotte, was presented to the group by Dr. Inez W. Elrod, Center Director, who informed the members of the other products other than whole blood that were available from the Red Cross Blood Center, and listed them as fresh frozen plasma, packed red cells, serum albumin, gamma globulin, fibrinogen, and vaccinia immune globulin.

William H. Cade, Public Information Director, of the Charlotte Center, stressed the importance of proper use of P. I. material and announced the new material that would soon be available to the local chapters.

The estimated blood quota for 1962-63, as released at the Boone meeting, is set at 73,000 pints. The total Red Cross expenditure, calls for \$374,545.

The group discussed the quota and all agreed that better planning on the parts of each local chapter were needed in order to meet the challenge placed before them in the interest of their participating hospitals, local doctors, and re-

sidents of their respective areas.

"Red Cross Blood is free, and it is each Chapter's job to see that their quotas are met," McClung added.

A number of local members of the Red Cross were on hand for the meeting. Among them were S. M. Ayers, Chapter Chairman who welcomed the visitors to Boone.

Refreshments were served by a Circle of the Methodist Church, and flower arrangements were done by Mrs. Mae Miller of the Blue Ridge Garden Club.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

RUSS SHIPS SNOOP

Soviet ships have been snooping just outside the range area, while the United States completed a month of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

TRADE AT HOME

Kennedy says need for conservation is urgent.

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