

# Abbott and Frymier on Stand Assert Extortion Cash Passed

## Draffen's Wife Pawns Ring To Assist Husband

### Testifies Anderson Told Her Husband Would Go to Penitentiary

(Continued from Page One)

"I went back to duty," said Abbott. "Duty! DUTY!" interposed Judge Collier. "Court is adjourned until tomorrow morning."

### Attorneys Argue

When court opened yesterday morning attorneys argued for 45 minutes over a point of law. Deputy Costello wished to introduce testimony regarding Abbott's trip to Troy and other events which took place after Abbott testified he received the \$150. Attorney Fletcher for Morewood and Montedeleon on the grounds that the trip to Troy had nothing directly to do with the charges on which the two men are being tried. The court ruled that the testimony would be admitted, but would later be stricken out if Costello fails to establish that Cit-

ty Recorder James L. King was a co-conspirator with Anderson and Morewood. When Abbott resumed the stand Costello asked him to identify an affidavit. Abbott said it was the one he had made before Briney and Torrence, during the investigation in Torrence.

Costello then switched back to questions regarding the \$150. He asked what Abbott did with the money. The witness asserted that he gave it to his father on Aug. 4 and that his father gave him in return a check for \$125, deducting \$25 which Abbott owed him. In response to questions Abbott then declared that he deposited this check at the bank.

The cancelled check, made out to and endorsed by Abbott, was introduced in evidence.

Abbott declared that Anderson came to his house on the night of his (Anderson's) arrival back to Torrence from his vacation, and said: "You have got us into a mess. Why didn't you 'speak up to us'?"

Abbott testified he answered: "The reason I signed that affidavit was because they knew all the facts."

### Meet at Road's End

The witness said he made an appointment with Anderson at the end of the state road in Lomita for the next day at 11:30. At this re-

turned to meet Anderson at an attorney's office in Los Angeles the following day. In response to questioning, Abbott then asserted that Anderson wanted him to go to Los Angeles to make another affidavit denying his first statement.

He testified that he made such an affidavit "because Anderson said 'if you don't I'll bring charges of extortion against you.'"

He said Anderson insisted he put in the affidavit the statement that he and Torrence threatened him with extortion charges in order to get him to make the original statement.

Said Costello: "Did Briney or Torrence make such a threat?"

Answer: "They did not."

Abbott said he went to the home of his sister-in-law after making the affidavit for Anderson and that Anderson and King came to the house that night. The witness asserted that Anderson told him that the grand jury was investigating the case, that there were subpoenas out for all of them, and that Abbott would have to leave the state. Abbott says Anderson agreed to supply him with money. He declared on the stand he objected to leaving the state until he was sure that he could not be brought back.

He testified that during this conversation he and Anderson had walked down the street, but that King did not accompany them. He asserted that Anderson twice went

back to King, ostensibly to ask the recorder if it would be possible for the authorities to bring Abbott the money. Abbott testified that Anderson reported that King was sure they could not make him (Abbott) return.

### Back to Torrence

The witness said that Anderson and King then drove to Torrence and that he followed shortly. He stated that he went to Anderson's home, where Anderson told him he had raised \$35 for the trip, and get more. Before leaving, according to the testimony of Abbott, Anderson told the motorcycle officer to come back to the Anderson home at 10 o'clock. The witness asserted that Anderson said: "If I am not back by that time, knock at the bedroom window and the \$35 will be handed out to you."

Abbott testified that he went back at 10 o'clock, that Anderson was not there, and that he knocked at the window, through which Mrs. Anderson handed him \$35.

He stated that he then left for Los Angeles, found that he could not catch a eastbound through train until 8 a. m., and slept in a hotel instead of at his sister-in-law's, where the subpoena servers "might have found him."

On his return from Troy, Abbott testified, Anderson asked him to meet him in Los Angeles again at the same place, but that he did

not keep the appointment.

### Cross-Examined

Steven Montedeleon, Anderson's attorney, then took up the cross-examination.

He asked: "Were you informed by anyone, or promised by anyone, that if you would testify at this trial your case would be dismissed?"

Abbott replied in the negative, but added that although no promise was made he had reached the conclusion that they would dismiss the charges.

The attorney then asked when Abbott had his first conversation with anyone regarding the extortion of money from the five Compton men. Abbott said it was on Sunday night, July 27. Montedeleon then read part of Abbott's testimony before the grand jury, in which the former officer stated that such a conversation took place on Saturday night, July 26.

The judge asked Montedeleon to explain what he was trying to establish.

"I am trying to show that this witness has no regard for an oath," shouted the attorney.

Costello leaped to his feet with a retort regarding Anderson's respect for an oath which was stricken from the record. Montedeleon then asked Abbott if it was customary in Torrence for the city recorder to make out complaints for police officers to

sign, and Abbott said that it was. Court then adjourned until Friday morning.

### Frymier on Stand

B. F. Frymier was the first witness to testify regarding the payment of money, which the prosecution contends was extorted from the Compton men under duress and with the promise of release. Frymier related in detail the alleged transactions he had with Morewood in the police station washroom.

The witness declared that while he was at the jail he heard Mrs. Draffen and Anderson in conversation. He declared that Anderson told Mrs. Draffen that her husband couldn't get out of jail with any bail and that he would "get five years at least."

Frymier asserted that shortly after his arrest the police handcuffed the Compton men to take them to supper, but that he refused to eat because he would not suffer the humiliation of walking through the streets handcuffed.

In answer to questions by Deputy District Attorney Costello, Frymier declared that he never retained Morewood as an attorney.

Released from jail by order of City Recorder King on Sunday afternoon, Frymier declared he met Morewood at the Torrance jail Monday morning. He testified that Morewood told him the following in effect:

"You know you fellows are in pretty bad. You are charged with felonies and misdemeanors. It will cost you at least \$5000 to fight the charges and you wouldn't do less than five or ten years if convicted. We will fix this up without suspicion for \$800."

Frymier declared he asked if Morewood was sure "it was all arranged," and that Morewood gave his word it was "all fixed."

### Tells of Payment

The witness testified that he then asked the attorney what he was going to do with the \$800, and that Morewood answered it would be divided among the chief, the complaining officer, and the political boss of Torrence. According to the testimony, Frymier then asked Morewood what his fee would be and Morewood replied that his fee would be "very nominal."

Then, according to Frymier, Morewood left the police station, returning in about twenty minutes with the word that everything was all arranged, but that to avoid suspicion Morewood would have to answer the reckless driving charge and pay a fine of \$100.

It was then, according to Frymier, that he agreed to pay \$750, one hundred dollars of which was to go in payment of Draffen's fine.

He says that he left the station then, returning about 4:30 p. m., and met Morewood again in the washroom, where he told Morewood he had the money. Asked by Judge Collier if Morewood counted the money after he gave it to him, Frymier testified that "Morewood was in no condition to count the money," being, according to the witness, under the influence of liquor.

Frymier asserted on the stand that Morewood objected because the bills were of too high denomination, saying that "the way we've got to split it, we've got to have smaller money."

Frymier testified he retorted "Who's going to get four bits?" and added, "I thought that might be his 'nominal fee.'"

### Says They Had a Drink

After the trial, Frymier testified, he and Abbott drove out on Carson street in Morewood's car and had a drink, and that returning to Torrence, he got out of the car at the Ferncroft cafe.

"At this point Judge Collier said: 'Mr. Frymier has just been released from a charge, has had a good drink, and is now at a cafe for something to eat. Let's leave him there until tomorrow morning. Court is adjourned.'"

Wednesday morning Attorney Fletcher, representing Morewood, cross-examined Frymier. He asked the witness if he was convinced at the time that he gave Morewood the money that it was to be used as a bribe, and the witness an-

swered in the affirmative. "Did Morewood specify who the political boss of Torrence was?" asked Fletcher.

"No," was the response, "he merely said this political boss was to receive \$200."

Fletcher then read Frymier a portion of his (Frymier's) testimony given before the grand jury on Sept. 4. In this testimony Frymier had testified that Morewood told him that \$200 was to go to J. S. Torrence.

"Does that refresh your memory?" asked Fletcher.

"Now that you call it to my attention, it does," replied the witness. "Morewood did make that statement, but he did not refer to Mr. Torrence as the political boss."

Mrs. J. A. Draffen, attractively groomed, proved a positive witness for the prosecution. She detailed her conversations with Anderson at the police station while her husband was in jail, declaring that he told her repeatedly that her husband could not get out on bail and that he was going over the road.

This testimony was considered important by the prosecution as substantiating the state's contention that the money paid to Morewood was extorted by threats.

### Goes to King's House

On Sunday morning, she said in answer to questions, she went to the Arlington street home of City Recorder King, in company with Frymier's brother.

Mrs. Draffen asserted that Frymier's brother came out of the King's home with an order for Frymier's release, and that as soon as Frymier got out of jail she gave him a check for \$115. She was present at the station at 9:30 Monday morning, when the hearing was scheduled to take place.

As soon as the hearing was adjourned until 5 o'clock, she testified, she went to San Pedro, where she pawned her husband's diamond ring for \$200; that she went from San Pedro to Long Beach, where she drew out \$385 from the bank—all that was left in her husband's account.

Mrs. Draffen testified that she went to Compton and gave Frymier \$555 in cash, which, with the \$115 she had previously given him, made a total of \$650 she had raised. She testified that she sat in her car while Frymier was talking to Morewood, and later went to the trial at the police station.

Attorney Montedeleon, representing Anderson, asked Mrs. Draffen if Anderson had told her that her husband could be released if \$3000 bail was furnished.

"He did not," she replied. "He said my husband couldn't get out and that he was going to the penitentiary."

### Identifies Affidavit

Draffen was recalled to the stand. (Continued on Last Page)

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