

Attorney Outlines Specific Charges Against Dishman

Bill of Particulars Ordered by Court

Commonwealth's Attorney Horace T. Morrison, pressing his fight to oust Sheriff J. S. Dishman, yesterday filed 18 specific charges of lax law-enforcement in King George County.

They include an accusation that the sheriff failed to give a full report of a death which may have been a murder. Other charges include failing to investigate reports of burglaries, assaults and illegal liquor sales, being evasive on the witness stand and being hard to contact.

The allegations are contained in a bill of particulars which Circuit Judge Leon M. Bazile last week ordered Morrison to prepare before a jury is called May 29 to decide whether the 68-year-old sheriff will be allowed to stay in the office he has held since 1942.

Morrison raised a question over the death of James Thomas Merritt in a house near Dahlgren in September, 1952. "The sheriff was called in. The defendant had a private physician from Stafford pronounce the death and our coroner made no investigation. There is evidence that the deceased may have been poisoned. There was no report to me by said sheriff."

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Charges Against Dishman Outlined in Prosecutor's Bill

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excuse he had a headache.

Taking a week to get to a home after he was told of its being robbed of \$500 worth of property. Morrison said a number of calls were placed before the sheriff came to the residence, owned by Col. J. B. Cralle, near Owens, and the sheriff made a poor investigation when he did come. The crime occurred in March.

OTHER CHARGES

Being lax in checking on three break-ins in 1952—failing to come after asked to the home of N. W. Staples, near Edgemoor; making a poor investigation at the service station of W. N. Jones, at Chestnut Hill; and turning over to state police responsibility for looking into the theft of 16 tires from the service

station of D. E. Derby near Dahlgren.

Not acting on reports of criminal activities in a house near Potomac Beach, then owned by Missouri Berry and occupied by Pearl Brown and others. State Police later obtained an injunction closing the house.

Taking no interest in a 1951 case involving the theft of "some very valuable 1812 cannon balls" stolen from the home of Henry S. Fitzhugh, of Owens, and refusing a request to accompany the victim and commonwealth's attorney to Washington to check on a lead.

Impeding efficient law enforcement, by being extremely hard to find when wanted for investigation of complaints.

Weakening a grand larceny prosecution by lack of frank testimony.

ARREST THERE LATER

The house was the same one outside which a 27-year-old woman was arrested April 30 on a charge of managing a numbers racket, Morrison said.

Morrison also raised a charge against Dishman in that case, asserting the sheriff failed to summons a witness, Edward R. Crusoe, of Owens, who was arrested the same afternoon and fined \$100 for selling numbers. Morrison asserted Dishman had been specifically asked to summons Crusoe, a federal employe, who was likely to leave the state for a Civil Service hearing.

Other accusations made by the Commonwealth's Attorney accuse Dishman:

Failing to summons five witnesses for a trial justice case in April, 1952.

After being told numerous times of complaints that two country residents were selling whiskey illegally, saying he would act only if papers were put in his hands.

Refusing to accompany two state ABC investigators on a raid at the home of Allean Jackson of Owens, in 1952, using the

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