

OUR CENTURY

1966

AT A GLANCE

City approves an income tax

After a dramatic debate in City Council on Nov. 28, Cleveland became the 103rd Ohio city with an income tax. It was 0.5 percent.

Jack Russell, former City Council president, told his colleagues: "I predict if this is passed, a lot of people in these chambers will be missing next year." But Charles Carr, the majority leader, told them, "You took an oath to represent the people of this city all the time, not just when it is easy."

The audience of 175 — mostly city employees — cheered Carr. They cheered louder when the vote was announced as 23-10, one more than the two-thirds needed to make the ordinance effective Jan. 1.

The tax had been recommended by the Little Hoover Commission, a group of business and civic leaders named by Mayor Ralph Locher to find a way out of the city's financial crisis. Locher also accepted a number of efficiencies, such as raising Munny Light rates to the same level as the Illuminating Co.'s.

Shaken by his close call in the 1965 election, Locher shook up his Cabinet. He fired Urban Renewal Director James Lister, who was good at starting projects but not at finishing them. Locher had trouble finding someone to take the job, but settled on Barton Clausen, who had been a critic of the program as editorial director of Channel 3 WKYC.

Rumor had it that Locher might be offered a job in President Lyndon Johnson's administration to ease him out of the way. When asked about the rumors by Russell, Locher replied, "I have every intention of being the chief administrative officer next year."

Carl Stokes, meanwhile, was building support for another run in 1967, particularly among business leaders miffed at Locher's tough stand against utilities. At year end, Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference announced that Cleveland would be a target city in its drive to elect black public officials.

Sidney Peck, a Western Reserve University sociology professor, proposed organizing anti-war protesters around the country to march on Washington in April 1967. His idea grew into the Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

Southpaw fireballer Sam McDowell pitched back-to-back one-hitters as the Indians jumped off to an early lead in the pennant race. Then he injured his shoulder and pitched inconsistently the rest of the season. In September, he struck out 14 Tigers in six innings, in view of the single-game record. Then he reinjured his shoulder and had to leave the game. He finished the season with a 9-8 record and a league-leading 225 strikeouts.

Like McDowell, the Indians started fast and tailed off. Sonny Siebert won 16 games, including a no-hitter, and Rocky Colavito hit 30 home runs, but the Tribe finished fifth. Birdie Tebbetts resigned as manager in August and George Strickland finished the season.

In midseason, frozen-food magnate Vernon Stouffer bought the Indians for \$8 million, with a promise to keep them in Cleveland.

Leroy Kelly gained 1,141 yards rushing and led the NFL with 15 touchdowns. Ernie Green gained another 750 to help fill the void left by Jim Brown's retirement. But the Browns finished second to the New York Giants in the Eastern Division. The Giants, in turn, lost the NFL championship to the Green Bay Packers, who went on to defeat the American Football League champion Kansas City Chiefs in the first Super Bowl.

Alex "Shondor" Birns, who had beaten a gambling charge in 1965 when Judge Hugh Corrigan threw out the search warrant that was the basis for the evidence, wasn't so lucky in 1966. He was convicted of making false statements to the Internal Revenue Service.

One of Birns' associates, Donald "the Kid" King, was also in the news. The future wild-haired boxing impresario was convicted of second-degree murder for stomping one of his employees to death.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Jan. 12: A Louisville draft board refuses to consider a request to grant a draft exemption to heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali. In April, Ali is stripped of his title for refusing to join the armed forces.

Jan. 27: Astronauts Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee are killed when their Apollo I spacecraft catches fire on the launchpad at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

June 28: Israel wins the Six-Day War with its Arab enemies.

Aug. 1: Black power advocates H. Rapp Brown and Stokely Carmichael call for a black revolution in the United States.

Aug. 30: Thurgood Marshall becomes the first black to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Oct. 16: Singer Joan Baez is arrested during an anti-war protest in California.

Dec. 21: Louis Washkansky of South Africa, the world's first heart transplant patient, dies 18 days after receiving the heart of a 25-year-old woman.

Born: Boris Becker, Sandra Bullock, Pamela Anderson.

Died: American poets and authors Carl Sandburg and Langston Hughes; film stars Spencer Tracy, Vivien Leigh, Basil Rathbone, Claude Rains and Jayne Mansfield; American nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, Jack Ruby, magazine magnate Henry Luce.

The city's six nights of rage

By Fred McGunagle

"Burn, baby, burn!"

They'd heard that phrase shouted on television in city after city. Now, as older residents watched in horror, rampaging young blacks shouted it as they poured out their rage and frustration.

It was July 18, a Monday night, and Hough was ablaze. Not all of it at once — a storefront here, an abandoned tenement there, then another storefront. Angry youths hurled rocks at firefighters and police. "Black power! Black power!" they shouted.

At E. 85th St. and Hough Ave., a mob pulled hoses from firemen. Snipers fired at police and, it seemed, everybody and nobody. Looters shattered store windows, ran in and helped themselves.

A police helicopter hovering overhead reported fires and looting everywhere, but firefighters were ordered back to their stations until the area was secured, and police could grab only one or two looters while dozens more ran off with their booty.

Police set up a mobile command post at E. 73rd St. and Hough and shot out the streetlights to make it harder for snipers to see them. They shepherded 26-year-old Joyce Arnett into an apartment building to get her out of the gunfire. Panicking, she leaned from an upstairs window to call her children. A bullet struck her in the head and she fell dead.

In the light of dawn on Tuesday, safety forces added up the totals: One Hough resident dead and three wounded; seven police, one firefighter and eight others injured by rocks or bottles; damage that would take days to total.

Dazed storekeepers surveyed the wreckage of their businesses. "I'm getting out," said Al Rosenberg, a white druggist. "There's nothing for me here anymore." R.S. Milner, the black manager of a white-owned shoe store, said, "They are burning up their homes and their jobs. They are burning up their payday and hurting our own people."

Many residents had a different take. "We showed we ain't scared of them," said a youth. An older woman chimed in, "You reap what you sow — the Bible says that." Another observed sarcastically, "We've done the city a favor. Look at all the urban renewal we've accomplished."

The trouble had started with a disturbance outside the 79er Cafe at 7900 Hough. It was ostensibly about the owners' refusal to serve people water — because, the owners said, they poured it out and used the glasses for their own wine. Police responded to an early call by breaking up the crowd, but it reassembled and police failed to respond to four more calls from the owners. By the time they did, the crowd was raging up and down the street.

Tuesday night was a repeat of Monday. Now Mayor Ralph Locher called for the National Guard. By morning, 275 guardsmen had arrived, the first of 1,700 under the command of Col. Robert Canterbury. They were too late to help Percy Giles, a 36-year-old lakes sailor who had volunteered to help a friend protect his business. He was shot and killed on Hough Ave. at 8:55 p.m.

Guard patrols brought peace during the day Wednesday. At night the fires broke out again, and they spread to other neighborhoods. At 3:30 a.m. Thursday, Sam Winchester, 54, was walking to catch a bus at E. 116th St. and Kinsman Ave. when he was shot to death.

Twelve police and 12 others were injured. By now, the riots in West Chicago had eased and the national media were pouring into Cleveland, to the dismay of the Chamber of Commerce.

"The massive, pervasive and prejudicial publicity attending petitioner's prosecution prevented him from receiving a fair trial consistent with the Due Process clause of the 14th Amendment."

That alliterative statement, read by Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark on June 6, made Sam Sheppard legally an innocent man 12 years after he was convicted of murdering his wife, Marilyn. He had spent 10 of those years in prison.

Speaking for eight of the nine justices, Clark recited a list of errors by trial judge Edwin Blythin.

The judge let newspapers publish the names and addresses of jurors before the trial. "As a consequence, anonymous letters and telephone calls, as well as calls from friends, were received by prospective jurors."



At 4 a.m. Thursday, a fire at the University Party Center on Cedar Ave. turned into an inferno. Henry Towns, who lived across the street, loaded his family into his car to head for his in-laws' house in East Cleveland. Finding the street blocked by police and fire equipment, he roared off across a lawn. Police poured 21 shots into the car, wounding his wife, brother and two sons — the wife and a 3-year-old critically.

The violence continued on Friday night. Early Saturday, Benoris Toney, a 29-year-old father of five, got a phone call from a friend asking for a ride home and left to pick him up. As he passed 12100 Euclid Ave., three white men in a car fired a shotgun at him. He died the next day, the fourth and final victim; all were black. Two white Murray Hill residents were arrested. One was acquitted after two trials; charges against the other were dropped.

Sporadic fires and shots continued Saturday night. On Sunday, torrential rains drove everyone from the streets. The riot was over after 240 fires and four deaths in six nights that left Hough looking like bombed-out London. The supermarkets and drugstores that hadn't been burned reopened, allowing residents again to buy necessities.

A stricken city asked: "Why did it happen?"

Police Chief Richard Wagner blamed agitators and especially Lewis Robinson's JFK (Jomo Freedom Kenyatta) House for youths. It was, Wagner charged, a "bomb school." A hastily called grand jury agreed that outsiders and agitators were to blame.

Residents saw some strangers with out-of-state license plates were among the rioters, but said most of the rioters were neighborhood youths spoiling for a chance to vent their rage against the system. As a black lawyer, referring to the kerchiefs the youths wore over their pomaded hair, put it: "There is no Negro leadership. The leadership in Hough today is the 'do-rag' kid."

McGunagle is a free-lance writer in Cleveland.



PLAIN DEALER FILES

Scenes from six days of anger and destruction: Top, the National Guard on patrol; a major fire burns on Crawford Rd.; and Deanne Towns sits in the front seat of a car after she was wounded as she and her family tried to escape the rioting.

A new verdict for Sam Sheppard

Although Blythin barred prospective witnesses from the courtroom, they could read verbatim testimony in the newspapers, as well as stories about evidence that was never presented in court. Jurors were not sequestered until deliberation, and then they were allowed to make unsupervised phone calls.

Walter Winchell broadcast a report that a New York woman said she had borne Sheppard's child. The court said that when defense attorney William Corrigan protested that 20 jurors could have heard it, Blythin should have done more than say, "Well, even so, Mr. Corrigan, how are you ever going to prevent these things in any event?"

Many of the "errors" had been standard practice in 1954, and had been upheld by appeals courts under the laws in effect at the time. But this

was the Warren Court, which was taking strong stands on defendants' rights.

The second trial began Nov. 1, with the jury sequestered from the beginning. Judge Francis Talty set strict rules for the few reporters allowed in the courtroom.

The prosecution case went quickly. For reasons not made clear, Susan Hayes was not called to testify about her affair with Sheppard and his talk of divorcing his wife.

Unlike Corrigan, F. Lee Bailey had an expert defense witness — Dr. Paul Leland Kirk, who impressed the jury with his analysis of blood spatter indicating the killer was left-handed; Sheppard was right-handed. He found blood that was neither Sam's nor Marilyn's and said Marilyn had bitten the killer's hand, causing it to bleed heavily; Sheppard had no external bleeding.

In the first trial, Coroner Samuel Gerber had said a bloody impression on Marilyn's pillowcase showed the death weapon appeared to be a surgical instrument; Sheppard was a surgeon. Gerber did not mention the bloodstain now. On cross-examination, he had to say he had searched the nation and could find no surgical instrument that matched the bloodstain.

The case went to the jury after lunch on Nov. 16. The verdict came at 9:20 p.m.: not guilty.

Sheppard started to jump to his feet, but his lawyers restrained him until the judge left the courtroom. Then he stood and called for his wife, Arianne — just like a fictional Rocky 10 years later, standing in the ring calling, "Adrienne."

— Fred McGunagle