

Judge Rips 'Rattlebrains,' Gives Brawlers 30 Days

Declaring "the good people of Atlanta cannot be made to suffer for the actions of rattlebrains," Municipal Judge Luke Arnold Monday sentenced two participants in a race battle to serve 30 days each in the city prison farm.

Arnold gave the sentence and blistering tongue lashing to Robert Harrington, 19, white of 275 Berean Ave., SE, and Robert Hill,

23, Negro of 511 Bedford PL., SE.

And the judge warned of equally harsh treatment for anyone who causes or participates in a clash involving whites and Negroes.

The melee early Sunday which resulted in the arrest of Harrington and Hill lasted less than 15 minutes, the judge said.

"Even at that, several dozen persons—including women in evening dresses—were slugging it out with everything from monkey wrenches to jack handles, tire irons and screw drivers," Arnold said.

"If a lone policeman hadn't stepped in and broken up the fight . . . if it had gone on for as much as two hours, we'd have had persons from 25 miles around charging into battle," he said.

"We would have had the na-

Continued on Page 10, Column 3



LASHES AT AGITATORS

Judge Arnold

2 Are Given 30 Days in Race Brawl

Continued From Page 1

tional guard, the state troopers and perhaps the army trying to restore order," The Judge said.

SPEAKS OF EXPERIENCE

Arnold said his 20 years' experience on the bench taught him that the good people on both sides—whites and Negroes wanted no trouble.

"If I had my way about it," he said, "I'd fence off a pasture somewhere, put these agitators in it armed with baseball bats and let them beat each other's brains out.

Harrington posted a \$50 collateral on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct-fighting and failed to appear at court. Arnold promptly issued a warrant for his arrest and had him brought into court Monday afternoon.

Hill was tried at the morning session.

LONE OFFICER ACTED

A lone member of the police night watch, Patrolman C. L. Somers, broke up the melee early Sunday at Spring and Alexander streets, NW, and arrested Harrington and Hill.

Hill said he and several companions were en route to the bus station and had stopped for a traffic light at Spring and Alexander streets, when several white persons on the sidewalk shouted: "I want the big man."

Hill maintained that the group attacked him.

Harrington told the court the Negroes attacked him and his companions.

"I was just trying to defend myself," he said.

As Arnold read out the 30-day sentence, Harrington said: "Sir, I was going to join the Army today—please let me."

"I can't let you join anything but the city prison," the judge replied.