

**SUFFRAGE PARADE: HEARINGS BEFORE
A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UNITED
STATES SENATE, 63RD CONGRESS, 1ST
SESSION, UNDER S. RES. 499; APRIL 16
AND 17, 1913, PART 2, PP 557-749**

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Helen H. ...

SUFFRAGE PARADE

HEARINGS

BEFORE A

**SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION**

UNDER

S. RES. 499

OF MARCH 4, 1913, DIRECTING SAID COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDUCT OF THE DISTRICT POLICE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE PARADE ON MARCH 3, 1913

APRIL 16 AND 17, 1913

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Printed for the use of the Committee on the District of Columbia *U. 2*

PART 2

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WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14, 1913.

Statement of Mrs. John T. Herbert, 322 I Street SW.:

Says that on March 3, 1913, she was at Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., on the parking near Hancock Statue, and had a good view of the parade and saw it all. She saw the police hard at work and knows that they did all in their power to protect the paraders and keep the route of parade open for them. The crowd was so great that it was impossible to keep them off the roadway. She heard both men and women make remarks about the paraders and heard them criticize the police for trying to protect them.

MRS. JOHN T. HERBERT.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 14th day of March, 1913.

[SEAL.]

EDWIN B. HESSE,
Notary Public, District of Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. We shall have to close now, and if there should be anything else you desire to state we will hear you when we meet again. The committee will have to adjourn now, subject to call.

(Thereupon at 12 o'clock m. the subcommittee adjourned, subject to the call of the chairman.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1913.

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee resumed its session at 10 o'clock a. m., at the call of the chairman.

Present: Senators Jones (chairman), Dillingham, and Pomerene.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. I have an affidavit made by Mrs. S. Hazen Bond that I will have placed in the record, and possibly we will not call Mrs. Bond.

(The affidavit is as follows:)

With a party of out-of-town friends I occupied seats on the south Treasury stand the afternoon of March 3. We arrived at the stand about 1.30 p. m. and reached our seats about 3.30 p. m. But one stairway was available for mounting to the seats. This was at the southeast corner of the stand—the northwest corner of Fifteenth Street—and wide enough for only one person to ascend at a time. On reaching the corner, we could see, over the heads of the multitude, persons moving toward this stairway along the south wall of the Treasury garden. We therefore endeavored to reach this moving line, but were unable either to gain access thereto or to discover whence it was being augmented. All inquiries of the many policemen stationed thereabouts elicited only directions to go elsewhere. The crowds at the ropes, apparently fearful lest we wished to usurp their positions, would not permit us to pass, although we exhibited our stand tickets and assured them that our only object was to get away from the ropes and out of the crowd. The gentlemen of our party appealed repeatedly to the five or six mounted police, who stood with their horses' heels perilously near the sidewalk crowds and their faces to the free street south of the Treasury, to request the crowd to allow us to pass, but they were as stolidly petrified and as brazenly unsympathetic as the bronze Sherman near by. Even the captain of these centaurs was unable to hear, speak, or even flicker an eyelash, though the stairway we desired to reach was less than 15 feet of his horse's heels.

Without official assistance we were finally enabled to crawl under the ropes and reached the moving line about 100 feet from the stairway. Here we found ladies in all stages of tears, hysterics, fright, and real illness. Children were crying and apparently nearly smothering. Men looked pale and ill. All were quiet, patient, and orderly. There was only an occasional request to the only police in sight—three very large ones stationed at the foot of the stairs—to urge the crowd along, to stop loitering on the stairs, and to keep the crowd from pushing into the line through

sudden periodic reinforcements from Fifteenth Street directly at the foot of the steps. At such times as this, when the moving line was thrown back upon itself and upon the stone wall because of the inexcusable inefficiency and indifference of several mounted and three other police, there were threats and commands issued to these police by the men of the trapped and suffering moving line.

Inch by inch we were moved along in the solid mass, unable to free an arm—eyes constantly menaced by from 2 to 4 inches of steel hatpins bobbing on all sides; each separated from his party; every man endeavoring to protect the lady jostled upon him by the crowd. At the foot of the stair, but upon the steps where the air was good and their movements unhampered, stood the three officers—two with their backs against the stone wall, one opposite them leaning against the posts of the stairway. During the hour or more that I was wedged in the crowd, within 10 feet of these gentlemen, I never once saw one of them offer the slightest reproof to jostlers upon the line, make the slightest effort to move the line along, or in any way attempt to control the crowd or to protect human life, which was in peril on all sides. I never heard one of the many, who mounted the stairs only to turn around and gaze back at the crowd from which they had emerged, asked to move on except by the yells of the crowd. Never did I see a policeman raise his eyes from the tickets in the hands of those immediately in front of him. One would have been justified in presuming that they were all drugged and nine-tenths asleep. Their functions appeared to be to examine tickets and to protect their own precious persons only.

At last my husband stepped upon the stair, and presuming that I would fall into the place vacated by him, he moved upward. I, however, was suddenly thrown into a pocket made by the stone wall, policeman No. 140, and the crowd. I very courteously requested policeman No. 140 to move the nearest trifle so that I could extricate myself. He turned and glared at me as one might at a rattlesnake. The crowd surged on and I was pushed more against him and the wall. I called to my husband to come back and help me. He turned to come, but policeman No. 140 shook his stick at him and said he would arrest him if he did not move on. I called to Mr. Bond: "Never mind if he does arrest you, come and get me out of this." No. 140 barred his way, bracing against me like an iron post, and filled the air with the things he would do to Mr. Bond if he did not move on and clear the stairs. There had not been one murmur from the crowd, for the situation was clear to all within sight or hearing. I said to No. 140: "But I am being injured. I feel that I am being seriously injured internally. I am almost unconscious. If you will but bend your body a little forward or sideways, I can get out and upon the step." He devoted himself to Mr. Bond, and in some way the gentlemen of the crowd nearest me pulled and screwed me out and got me on the step. I then said to No. 140: "We are personal friends of Maj. Sylvester's family. I shall see that your conduct to-day is brought to his attention." Policeman No. 140 jabbed his stick into my side, caught hold of me with his hands, and fairly threw me up the stairs as he said that I might report anything I liked to Maj. Sylvester, but that I would find that no attention would be paid to me.

I never knew how I reached my seat. I was ill and dizzy all the afternoon. For two days I sincerely believed that either my lungs or my liver had been injured. I still have a pain in my spine—which is probably only a severe strain and will pass away in time. There were many in the crowd who must have been much worse hurt than I, and if the sentiments freely expressed in my hearing were followed up, doubtless you have already heard from many of them. Little attention was paid by the occupants of the south Treasury stand to the parade, partly because the crowds on the Avenue prevented anything of the parade being seen except the tops of some of the banners, and partly because all appeared to be occupied with their own experiences in reaching the stand and with the fear of many serious accidents through the disorder which seemed apparent as far up the Avenue as could be seen from the Treasury.

Mrs. S. HAZEN BOND.

Personally appeared before me, Mrs. S. Hazen Bond, who, being duly sworn, says that the foregoing statements are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of March, 1913.

[SEAL.]

L. BERT NYE,
Notary Public.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Phillips, of the sewer department of the District of Columbia, submits some affidavits in regard to statements made by Capt. Schneider, which we will also have placed in the record, and they may take the place of calling these witnesses.

(The affidavits are as follows:)

AFFIDAVITS WITH RESPECT TO BREAKING OF WIRE CABLE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND FIFTEENTH STREET NW., MARCH 3, 1913.

JOINT AFFIDAVIT OF PATRICK GAINNEY, WILLIAM BECKETT, AND CHARLES HOLMES.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *City of Washington, to wit:*

Before me, the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on the 17th day of March, 1913, A. D., personally appeared Patrick Gainney, William Beckett, and Charles Holmes, employees of the Sewer Department, District of Columbia, and, being duly sworn, did jointly depose and say that on the 3d day of March, 1913, A. D., at about 2.30 o'clock p. m., the wire cable at the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifteenth Street NW., in the city of Washington, D. C. slipped from the small U-shaped clamp which had held it, and that 30 feet of the said wire cable dropped to the ground; and they further did depose and say that the fact of the dropping of the said wire cable was reported to them, the said Gainney, Beckett, and Holmes, who were stationed at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street NW., in the city and District aforesaid, and that they, the said Gainney, Beckett, and Holmes, proceeded immediately to the said northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifteenth Street, stretched the cable which had fallen, spliced the same together with a large clamp, and left the same in good condition; and they did further depose and say that this splicing was accomplished prior to the time cars stopped crossing Pennsylvania Avenue at Fourteenth Street NW., and approximately two hours prior to the time the suffrage parade reached the point of the above-mentioned splicing.

PATRICK (his x mark) GAINNEY.
WILLIAM (his x mark) BECKETT.
CHARLES (his x mark) HOLMES.

Witness:

WILLIAM J. WARD.
THOS. LANNIGAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1913, A. D.

[SEAL.]

DANIEL E. GARGES,
Notary Public, District of Columbia.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM J. WARD.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *City of Washington, to wit:*

Before me, the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on the 17th day of March, 1913, A. D., personally appeared William J. Ward, foreman employed in the sewer department of the District of Columbia, and being duly sworn, deposed and said that Patrick Gainney, William Beckett, and Charles Holmes, employees of the sewer department of the District of Columbia above mentioned, were with him, the said Ward, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street Northwest, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, from 3.00 o'clock p. m., on the 3d day of March, 1913, A. D., until the entire suffrage parade had passed the above mentioned intersection, and that during that time the said Gainney, Beckett, and Holmes did not once leave the said intersection.

WILLIAM J. WARD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1913, A. D.

[SEAL.]

DANIEL E. GARGES,
Notary Public, District of Columbia.

AFFIDAVIT OF R. H. LAMB.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *City of Washington, to wit:*

Before me, the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on the 17th day of March, 1913, A. D., personally appeared R. H. Lamb, employee of the sewer department of the District of Columbia, and being duly sworn, did depose and

say that on March 3, 1913, A. D., by order of Mr. Thomas Lanigan, foreman, employed by the aforesaid sewer department, put barricade posts in place at about 9.30 o'clock a. m. across Fifteenth Street NW., at the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, in the city of Washington, D. C., and that ropes were stretched on the said barricade posts at about 11 o'clock a. m., March 3; and he further deposed and said that the said ropes were kept in place until after the entire suffrage parade had passed Fifteenth Street NW., with the exception that at times ambulances and other vehicles having special permits were allowed to pass; and he further deposed and said that this rope was furnished by the police department of the District of Columbia, and that the said rope was not broken down at any time from the time it was put in place at about 11 o'clock a. m. until it was removed at about 6 o'clock p. m. on March 3, 1913.

R. H. LAMB.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1913, A. D.

[SEAL.]

DANIEL E. GARGES,

Notary Public, District of Columbia.

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES SWALES.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *City of Washington, to-wit:*

Before me, the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on the 17th day of March, 1913, A. D., personally appeared James Swales, an employee of the sewer department of the District of Columbia, and being duly sworn, deposed and said that on the 3d day of March, 1913, A. D., he was stationed, by order of Mr. Thomas Lanigan, foreman, employed by the aforesaid sewer department, to look after the ropes at Fifteenth and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. in the city of Washington, D. C.; and he further deposed and said that at about 11.30 o'clock a. m. on the said 3d day of March, 1913, he stretched a rope across the west side of Fifteenth Street NW. at Executive Avenue, and that the said rope remained in place until the troop of Cavalry came, at which time he lowered the rope to allow the Cavalry to pass through, and that he immediately restretched the rope after the Cavalry had passed; and he further deposed and said that the said rope remained in place from that time until the head of the suffrage parade arrived at the east side of the aforesaid Fifteenth Street NW., at which time he was ordered to remove the rope, but before he could remove the said rope a mounted policeman jumped off his horse and cut the rope with a knife; and he further deposed and said that the said rope was not again thereafter put in place.

JAMES (his mark) SWALES.

Witnesses:

TROS. LANIGAN.

WILLIAM J. WARD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1913, A. D.

[SEAL.]

DANIEL E. GARGES,

Notary Public, District of Columbia.

AFFIDAVIT OF PATRICK O'CONNOR.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *City of Washington, to wit:*

Before me, the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, on the 17th day of March, A. D. 1913, personally appeared Patrick O'Connor, an employee of the District of Columbia Sewer Department, and being duly sworn did depose and say that on the third day of March, A. D. 1913, he was detailed by Mr. Thomas Lanigan, foreman employed by the aforesaid sewer department at Fifteenth Street NW., about 100 feet north of Pennsylvania Avenue, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, to look after the stretching of rope across the said Fifteenth Street at that point; and he further deposed and said that the said Fifteenth Street was cut off by the said rope at about 2.30 o'clock, p. m., March 3, 1913, to prevent vehicles from the west from going east; and he further deposed and said that about 15 street cars and automobiles went west between 2.30 and 3.30 p. m., of the said 3d of March, and that the rope was taken down each time by orders of the police to allow the said street cars and automobiles to pass; and he further deposed and said that at no time during the time between 2.30 o'clock and 6 o'clock, p. m. on the said 3d of March, did the said

rope break, and that the same was in place at all times with the above-named exceptions when it was taken down to allow the said vehicles to pass; and he further deposed and said that the rope was taken down at about 6 o'clock, p. m., by orders of the police, after the entire suffrage parade had passed.

PATRICK O'CONNOR.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, A. D. 1913.

[SEAL.

DANIEL E. GARGAS,
Notary Public, District of Columbia.

TESTIMONY OF MR. FRANK C. WOOD, WASHINGTON, D. C.

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

The CHAIRMAN. Give your full name to the stenographer.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Frank C. Wood.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you reside here in the city?

Mr. WOOD. Yes, sir; I am assistant scout commissioner for the Boy Scouts.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you receive reports from the Boy Scouts in connection with the parade of March 3?

Mr. WOOD. Yes, sir; I have written reports from practically everybody who took part.

The CHAIRMAN. What was the general character of those reports?

Mr. WOOD. Sir, I think that the general character is that the boys did not generally criticize the police. The general character is that they reported what they did on that day.

The CHAIRMAN. Were there any reports with reference to the conduct of the police in connection with that parade?

Mr. WOOD. There were, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you those reports with you?

Mr. WOOD. I have not those reports with me; no, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you the reports in your possession?

Mr. WOOD. I have, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What was the general character of those reports?

Mr. WOOD. The general character of the reports, I think, generally did not say anything about the police.

The CHAIRMAN. What I am referring to now is the reports where the police were mentioned.

Mr. WOOD. Where the police were mentioned I think in a majority of instances they noticed that the police were having a hard time getting back the crowd, and that they proceeded to help do the best they could, to help the police. I think there are some isolated cases where boys criticized the police. There was probably an equal number of cases where the boys commended the work of the police.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you remember the general character of this criticism of the police?

Mr. WOOD. No, sir; I could not give them from memory. I think in most cases they were probably influenced by the general criticism of the police that was going on at the time.

The CHAIRMAN. When were these reports submitted, compared with the time of the parade?

Mr. WOOD. Those reports were submitted within a week—the majority of them within a week after the parade.

The CHAIRMAN. Were they generally delayed that long?