

DORSEY AND BURNS

HAVE WARM WORDS

Noted Detective Declines to Allow Solicitor to See His Report at This Time.

There were exciting prospects of a clash between Detective William J. Burns and Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey yesterday afternoon in Mr. Dorsey's office, when the solicitor requested that the noted sleuth present him with a copy of the report on the Frank case, which, it is stated, Burns has already divulged to Leo Frank's attorneys.

Burns went upon the expedition late in the afternoon of interviewing the leading figures in Frank's prosecution—Solicitor Dorsey, Bill Smith, Conley's counsel, and Chief Newport A. Lanford, head of the detective department at police headquarters. He visited the solicitor directly after he had talked with Lanford, at Lanford's office.

Mr. Dorsey, at the time of Burns' appearance, was submerged in a mass of work on the Frank case. Detectives from police headquarters and private investigators flocked in swarms around his office, and just as Burns arrived, the solicitor was interviewing a witness who was making an affidavit which will be used by the prosecution to combat the re-trial motion of the defense.

Greetings Cordial.

The greetings between Dorsey and Burns were cordial. They conversed for a short time, and presently the conversation resolved into remarks upon the Frank case. At which, Dorsey made the bold request that Burns furnish the solicitor's office with a copy of the report of which the detective declares he has informed the attorneys for Frank.

Some little discussion arose. While it still was in progress, the solicitor general—with Dan Lehon and Harry Alexander, who had accompanied Burns—arose with Burns and proceeded toward the door. Their words were above the normal note, and could be heard into the hallway, where the group of detectives and investigators were gathered.

As Dorsey and his visitors emerged into the doorway from his office, these words were heard:

"Before I could present you with my report, I will have to consult my employers." This from Burns.

"But," injected Solicitor Dorsey, "here is Mr. Alexander, who is a member of Frank's counsel. What do you say about it, Mr. Alexander?"

Alexander answered that it would be alright for the detective to give Dorsey a copy of the report.

"Good! Good! Very good!" exclaimed Dorsey, rubbing his hands together. "Now, Mr. Burns—would you do it under those circumstances?"

At this point, some dissention arose among the visitors to the solicitor's office, in the midst of which Detective Burns said that, although he had not intended anticipating his report before it was submitted, that he would declare in it that Leo Frank was innocent, and would show sufficient proof to corroborate the declaration.

"I am going to hold my mind open until I have heard all sides of the case," Dorsey answered, "and I thought you, Mr. Burns, were going to proceed along similar lines."

"However, Mr. Dorsey," Burns answered, "I'll come back to see you if you can convince me that I am mistaken."

Dorsey replied:

"But I understood, Mr. Burns, that you were going to undertake to convince me."

There were a few heated words, at which Dorsey said:

"I don't care, Mr. Burns, whether you are convinced or not."

"Well, we won't discuss it out here," said Burns.

The conference ended here, Burns and his companions leaving the solicitor's office.

To Interview Conley.

Burns appeared at the office of William Smith, counsel for Jim Conley, at 7 o'clock, presumably with the object of arranging an interview with Jim Conley, the convicted accessory.

The meeting was tranquil, although a statement to the public from Mr. Smith recently was a scalding attack upon the noted sleuth. Smith informed Burns that Conley was willing and ready to greet him under fair conditions, and that he had never shown any hesitancy in offering to see the detective.

Burns stated that he wanted to see the negro, but did not state any definite time at which he would go to Conley. Smith answered that any time would be agreeable. The interview lasted less than thirty minutes. Burns was accompanied by Dan Lehon.

"The mistake was made, Mr. Burns," Conley's attorney told him, "by your failure to see me when you first came to Atlanta, as I was as much interested in finding the truth as you yourself could possibly be."

"I believe that you are fair, Mr. Smith," replied Burns, "and I will come to see you again."

He supplemented the request that any new developments in Conley's side of the case be forwarded to either Burns or Lehon. Burns said that he wanted to see Conley, and that he would communicate with Smith some time soon.

"Whether Leo Frank is guilty or someone else," he said, "I will state who in my report—and my report will be convincing. The man who killed Mary Phagan is a pervert of the rankiest type, and I will reveal him in my report."

He also stated that his report had not yet been completed, which was contrary to reports published Tuesday afternoon.

May Postpone Hearing.

*On account of the death of the mother of Herbert Haas, one of the attorneys for Frank, it is possible that the hearing of the extraordinary motion for a new trial before Judge Ben Hill may be postponed today.