

COUNTY GRAND JURY TO START INVESTIGATION OF MURDERS AND COMMUNISTS

**In Charge To Tribunal Judge Bailey Instructs Jurors To Make
Sweeping Inquiry Into Elliott Murder, Lynching And
Communistic Agitation**

**REVIEWS "INTERFERENCE" AND "FALSE ACCUSATION"
OF COMMUNISTS WHICH PRECEDED TWO CRIMES**

**List Of 102 Witnesses Summoned To Give Testimony Tomorrow;
Attorney General Lane To Assist State's Attorney
Bailey In Conducting Probe**

The Wicomico county grand jury was instructed today to make a sweeping investigation into the murder of Daniel J. Elliott, prominent lumber manufacturer here on December 4, the lynching of Mathew Williams, negro, the confessed slayer of Mr. Elliott, and the activities of communist organizations which preceded these two crimes.

State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey handed Sheriff G. Murray Phillips a list of 102 witnesses, whose testimony is to be heard by the jury in making its investigations. The summons are returnable at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Attorney General William Preston Lane, who has co-operated with the county prosecutor in conducting a quiet investigation, will come to Salisbury to assist in placing the results of the probe before the grand jurors.

In a lengthy charge that consumed more than a half hour, Judge Joseph L. Bailey brought the two crimes and the communistic activities on the lower Eastern Shore to the attention of the grand jury. The jurist spoke meditatively as though weighing his words well before speaking.

He reviewed the sequence of events which aroused the Shore following the murder of the four members of the Green Davis family in adjacent Worcester county and the activities of the representatives of the International Labor Defense. While not referring to the communist organization by name, he spoke of "an organization with headquarters outside of this state, but with a branch with members in this state and recalled statements of the organization's members that the public officials were seeking to "legally lynch an innocent man charged with the crime of committing these four murders".

"To the sting of foreign interference and I might say to the sting of false accusation the people not only of Worcester county but throughout this entire action of the state became much disturbed," Judge Bailey asserted.

It was during this turmoil, the jurist recalled, that Williams murdered the Salisbury manufacturer and was himself murdered by a mob.

The charge to the grand jury revives the report that a communist meeting was held here on the night prior to the murder of Mr. Elliott.

The court appointed A. Percy White, former Powellville school teacher and former legislator, foreman of the grand jury. The other jurors drawn were:

Leonard M. Morris, C. Herbert Chatham, Wm. T. Vincent, Wm. C. Brewington, Roger Malone, Edmund Humphreys, Thomas R. Phillips, Lloyd Jones, Lee C. Messick, Benjamin W. Turner, Leslie Truitt, Lemuel J. Harrington, William C. Gray, Josiah Johnson, Charles Elmer Parker, Harvey W. Mariner, J. Herman Downes, Irving A. Covington, Claude E. Russell, C. Jerome Brown, William L. Smith, Sampson E. Truitt.

The grand jury immediately launched upon the investigation of the criminal work that regularly comes before such a tribunal when the jurors went to their room at 11:30 this morning.

The lynching will not be taken up until tomorrow afternoon.

The special list of witnesses summoned includes city, county and state officers, physicians, nurses and other attaches at Peninsula General Hospital, and a number of others residing in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties. There are also two negroes who were patients in the ward from which William was taken.

The list includes the following officers: Sheriff G. Murray Phillips, Deputy Sheriffs Charles H. Truitt and Don Parks, Chief of Police N. H. Holland. Patrolmen John M. Goslee, Carl W. Wilson, Samuel C. Broughton, Sergeant M. B. Brubaker and Officer J. C. Peroutka, of the state police.

Miss Helen V. Wise, hospital superintendent and the following nurses, Florence S. Smith, Helen E. Fisher, Myrtle Nock, Miss Wright, Miss Robinson.

The physicians are Dr. R. H. Nock, Dr. J. McFadden Dick, Dr. Creston Collins, Dr. S. H. Hurdle, Dr. Hunter R. Mann.

The three colored hospital attaches are James Handy, Leah Brewington, John Easton.

Others from the city and county are:

Mrs. Charles H. Truitt, wife of the deputy sheriff William L. Otis, Elmer