

16 Year Old Youngster Near Hysterics as Case Started Today

A sixteen year old girl was saved from virtual sacrifice to the determination of grim-visaged parents of the old school to exact their pound of flesh through the courts from her lover in an unorthodox affair, when Deputy District Attorney Roger Foley moved to dismiss the statutory charge against Walter Albert Price, former Boulder City resident, this afternoon.

The charge was preferred by the parents of Lois Virginia Lambert in June of this year, but after a jury had been selected and the girl called to the witness stand, the fireworks began.

Despite glowering looks from her parents, she steadfastly refused to testify against her lover, until Judge Wm. E. Orr, presiding, threatened to send her to jail for contempt of court.

On the verge of hysterics, the girl then changed her refusal to a series of "I don't know" and "I don't remember," and as great sobs shook her body, she ripped a handkerchief to bits as she tried to figure out some way to save herself from sending her lover to jail.

A few minutes of this was enough to convince Judge Orr that a recess was necessary before proceeding and at 11 o'clock he adjourned court until two o'clock this afternoon.

With a large crowd in attendance in anticipation of witnessing the baring of the young girl's soul on the witness stand, Foley moved to dismiss the case because of the attitude of the witness, declaring that the district attorney's office had gone as far as it could in the matter, and that he didn't believe justice would be served by dragging the testimony from the witness by extreme measures.

Foley was complimented by Judge Orr for his "courageous ac-
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Price Statutory

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tion," which the jurist pointed out was the "only course," in making the order.

The girl shouted to Foley as he passed her, "I would have testified," as the aroused mother and father both started to berate the officer at once.

Price, after shaking hands with his attorney, Fred S. Alward, walked quickly to the girl, threw his arms around her and kissed her, holding her close to him as she buried her head in his shoulder.

This precipitated a battle when Mrs. Lambert attempted to force them apart and the aged mother of Price, loudly crying "Thank

God, Thank God, my boy is free," did her best to protect them from the irate Mrs. Lambert.

Muttering threats against the girl, the district attorney and all others connected with the case, the girl's parents dragged her to the head of the stairs, as she begged them to let her alone.

Finally she broke away and ran into the sheriff's office asking that they protect her from her parents, declaring they had threatened her with physical violence if she continued to testify, and that she was afraid to go home.

A friend agreed to take her to her own home in North Las Vegas for the time being, but asked Deputy Sheriff Mott for protection against the parents.

Price, according to his attorney, Fred Alward, wants to marry the girl, and she has signified her desire to marry him, Alward said.

"The consent of the parents is what's lacking, and since she is not of legal age, there's nothing that can be done about it," Alward said.

The mother had given her written consent early in the summer and before Price's arrest, but withdrew it at the behest of her husband, she told newspaper reporters.

Price was employed for several months at a service station in Boulder City, while Miss Lambert worked as a clerk in one of the stores there. Price has spent the past three and a half months in the county jail awaiting trial.

At the preliminary hearing the girl admitted intimate relations with Price, but said they intended

to get married all along as soon as they could get the consent of her parents.

"I'm glad he's free," she told

Deputy Sheriff Mott as he attempted to calm her in the sheriff's office following the courtroom scene.