

tax structure of the State, with instructions to report back to the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations at the earliest possible date on or after the first Wednesday in January, 1963.

Approved March 23, 1962.

No. 2

(Senate Joint Resolution 2)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Board of Public Works to provide compensation to Horace Alexander Spriggs.

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland have considered the unfortunate imprisonment of Horace Alexander Spriggs and believe that some compensation should be made to him for the time he was imprisoned.

Horace A. Spriggs was arrested on August 8, 1957, on the complaint of one John Ford, who charged Mr. Spriggs with perpetrating a robbery upon him the preceding day. Horace A. Spriggs was tried in the Criminal Court of Baltimore City on August 19, 1957, and found guilty. He was sentenced to serve nine years in the Maryland State Penitentiary. Rumors persisted in the neighborhood after the arrest and conviction of Mr. Spriggs that the crime had actually been committed by two men named Byrd and Fields, and that Spriggs was innocent. Mr. Spriggs attempted to provide this information to various State officials to no avail. Finally, in June of 1960, a Sergeant of the Baltimore City Police Department took an interest in the case and on his own time investigated the matter.

Mr. Byrd was located in confinement and readily confessed the crime, also implicating Fields. Fields was placed in a line-up and immediately identified by the victim, Ford. At the preliminary hearing in Western Police Court and later at the trial before Judge Prendergast, Ford testified that he was mistaken in his prior identification of Horace Spriggs. Following Byrd's conviction, a Petition for Pardon was filed with Governor Tawes. A pardon was granted to Horace Spriggs and he was released from prison after serving three years, one month and seventeen days for a crime in which he had no part.

Horace Spriggs was born August 23, 1923, in Bel Air, Maryland. He attended school until the fifth grade in Baltimore City. He was employed as a truck driver for John Matricciani at the time of his arrest. He earned \$60.00 a week. Prior to this employment, Spriggs was employed by the Continental Construction Company as a pipe-fitter-laborer earning \$84.00 a week.

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*
 [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
 CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.