

He was employed as an independent contractor by the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to drive a school bus. He was on a route between Chaptico and Helen. During evenings, he operated as a barber in the Town of Mechanicsville, Maryland.

On the day of the accident there had recently been a severe snow-storm and the roads were filled with snow. While driving his school bus on Maryland Route 234 he came upon a section of the road which was blocked by a snowdrift. Ahead of him, he noted a snowplow operated by Mr. Lacey, a State Roads Commission employee. Mr. Wood stopped his bus and proceeded in an adjoining field to inquire how long it would be before the road would be opened. While so doing, Mr. Wood was struck by the snow plow.

He was immobilized in a hospital for many months while physicians and surgeons were testing the progress of severe injuries to his leg. Approximately seven months later, it finally proved necessary to amputate one leg below the knee.

Mr. Wood's medical and surgical fees amounted to approximately \$5,000. His annual income at the time amounted, in the aggregate, to approximately \$5,100. He has a present life expectancy of some thirteen years.

After suit was brought on this case, it was settled by agreement carrying a verdict in the amount of \$65,000 against the defendant. However, the defendant is covered only in the sum of \$25,000 in the liability policy carried by the State Roads Commission.

This is a clear case in which personal injury was caused by an employee of the State of Maryland. The equities of the case are strengthened by the fact that the plaintiff is a contractor for one of the school systems of Maryland, and at the time of his injuries, was engaged in his work as a school bus driver.

There is a clear obligation here of the State of Maryland to reimburse Mr. Ambrose E. Wood in the amount of \$40,000; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor of Maryland be requested to investigate the facts of this case and to insert into the supplemental budget an item of \$40,000 as reimbursement for the most unfortunate injury incurred by Mr. Ambrose E. Wood, of St. Mary's County; AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, THAT AFTER HEARING A FULL REPORT OF THE ACCIDENT AND CONSIDERING THE LEGAL LIABILITY AND EQUITIES OF THE CASE IT IS THE SENSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE GOVERNOR BE REQUESTED TO INSERT INTO THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AN ITEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,000. AS REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE INJURY INCURRED BY MR. AMBROSE E. WOOD PROVIDED HE FURNISH A FULL AND COMPLETE RELEASE TO MR. THOMAS L. LACEY FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE OUTSTANDING JUDGMENT AGAINST HIM AS A RESULT OF THIS ACCIDENT.

Approved May 3, 1961.