

Fire Bomb Tossed Through Window Of Rehm Barber Shop

PHOTO BY J. S. - 11-23-64 P.M.
A gasoline fire-bomb was tossed through the front plate glass window of the Big B Barber shop, 1305 W. Main St., operated by Edward Rehm, shortly before 3 this morning.

Rehm's shop has been the target of demonstrations by the Peoria chapter, National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, for six months because of his alleged refusal to cut the hair of Negroes.

The homemade bomb which was a soft drink bottle filled with gasoline—a so-called "Molotov cocktail" — was ignited and tossed through the shop's window. The flaming missile struck the back of a chair and landed inside on the window sill.

REHM, who lives above the barbershop, extinguished the blaze before the arrival of the fire department. The loss is estimated at about \$150.

Rehm and John R. Grimshaw, who occupies an apartment directly behind the shop, were awakened by the crash. Both said they thought the noise was caused by an automobile crash.

"I ran downstairs and saw the shop filling with smoke and flames spreading across the window sill," Rehm said. "I tossed water on the flames and put out the fire."

Rehm said he has been receiving threatening phone calls several times each week.

Two men were seen running between the buildings and to the rear of the shop building by Grimshaw. He said it was too dark to see whether the persons were old or young or whether they were white or colored.

DON LUEHRING, another occupant of the building, said he heard male voices immediately after the crash. One of the men said "Let's get the hell out of here," and both ran.

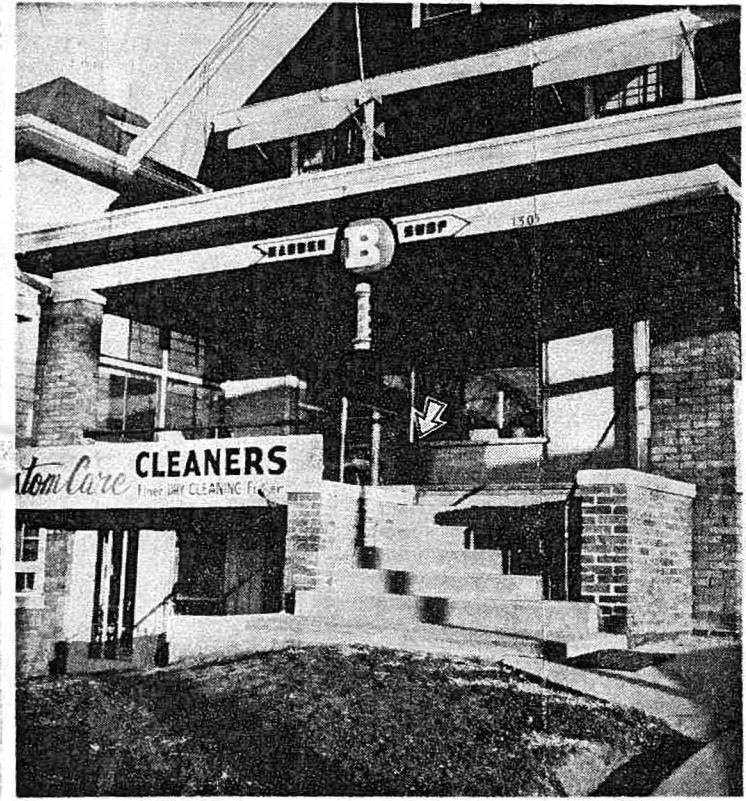
The soft drink bottle and a rag used for the bomb are being analyzed by police and fire inspectors.

Rehm was charged with the violation of the Illinois Civil Rights Act by the local NAACP, but a jury found him innocent Oct. 14.

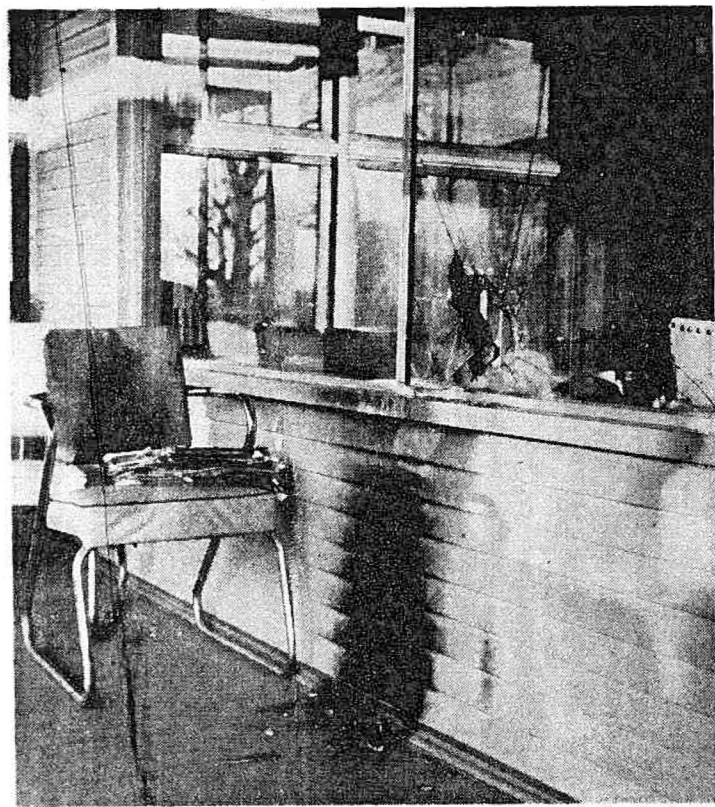
A group of 26 Bradley students demonstrated in front of the shop May 23, and crowds that gathered caused a near riot.

Rehm's barber license was suspended for 10 days in September by the Illinois Department of Registration and Education on charges he refused to cut the hair of two Negroes.

Through his attorney, Rehm filed a petition for a rehearing which was scheduled to be heard Nov. 18. Atty. James Reynolds obtained a continuance and the hearing now is scheduled for Nov. 30.



EXTERIOR VIEW of the Big "B" Barber shop at 1305 W. Main St. shows the burned spot (arrow) under the picture window where a "molotov cocktail" hit the building.



Picture at the right shows a burned chair, broken window, and scorched siding where the homemade bomb's contents spilled out and burned.