

## Judge Kersten Defends Constitutional Rights

William Saunders, 24 years old, 4117 Dearborn street, was discharged for carrying concealed weapons by Judge George Kersten of the Criminal Court. The evidence showed that Saunders was an exemplary young man, had been



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here two years and worked continuously at one place since his coming; he was possessed of a revolver that had belonged to his father and had been sent him by his mother when he married and made a home for himself; that on the evening of July 29 last (during the recent race riot) a report had been spread that the whites were coming through his neighborhood and set fire to the Colored homes, he then took his gun out of his trunk, put it in his pocket, was on his own premises when arrested by Officers Troy and Sweeney (white), fourth police precinct.

Attorney W. J. Latham, for the defense, argued that a man armed at his own home was not carrying concealed weapons, and reports were being verified that many were losing their lives at this particular time, and that Saunders had armed himself for the protection of his home. Quoting from volume 224 Ill., page 212, John Filippo vs. State of Illinois: "The defendant had an undoubted right to arm himself, if it was only for his own protection against a possible assault from a man stronger than he who had already violently assaulted him."

Judge Kersten, always an upholder of the statutory privileges, concurred in this and ordered the prisoner's discharge.