

# Shooting By Deputy Ruled 'Self-Defense'

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Staff Writer

Berrien Prosecutor Paul Maloney has ruled Sheriff's Deputy Abbott Taylor acted "in lawful self-defense" when he shot a suspect during a drug raid Oct. 27 at a house in Benton Harbor.

Maloney announced today an investigation into the incident showed the suspect, Clinton Orr, was "groping" under a couch, leading Taylor to believe he was reaching for a weapon. Maloney said no weapons were found in the house.

Orr, 32, 1583 E. Main St., Benton Township, was charged with possession of heroin and possession of talwin (a heroin substitute) in warrants issued today, Maloney said. Sheriff's detectives reported Orr was arrested Thursday upon his release from Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo where he had been under treatment for a gunshot wound to the face.

Police said Orr was shot during a drug raid at a house at 367 Riford St. conducted by Berrien Metro Narcotics officers, with assistance from uniformed sheriff's deputies. Narcotics officers said four other people in the house were arrested and charged.

Maloney today said laboratory tests of suspected drugs seized from

the house showed them to be cocaine and heroin. He said a laboratory test of a blood sample taken from Orr showed traces of talwin.

The prosecutor said an investigation into the shooting, conducted by the Benton Harbor police department because it occurred in the city, showed Taylor had ordered Orr to "freeze" several times as the suspect "groped" under a couch. Maloney said the "circumstances of the situa-

tion" led the deputy to believe Orr had a gun.

Maloney said Taylor "acted in lawful self-defense of himself and his fellow officers in firing one shot at Clinton Orr." Maloney said the ruling was based on state law which says an officer may use "deadly force" if he "honestly believes" himself or others to be in danger of being killed or seriously injured.

Maloney said Orr claimed

he was standing with his hands above his head when he was shot, but that was "inconsistent with the facts of the wound." Maloney said the bullet entered Orr's cheek and traveled downward, exiting at the back of his neck.

Statements given by two others suspects arrested at the house were also inconsistent with Orr's claim, Maloney said. He said all of the suspects in the house, along with all police officers present, were interviewed or gave statements as part of the investigation into the shooting. Sheriff's officers also said Orr was served with four warrants charging non-support when he was released from the hospital.

**BUFFALO BRIDGE**  
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — An international railway bridge was completed across the Niagara River here in 1873.



ABBOTT TAYLOR  
'Self-defense'



CLINTON ORR  
Faces drug charges

