—Barrett School

(Continued from Page 1)

meeting in favor of Mr. Brown's proposal.

• • •

THE BOARD very briefly noted that a resolution to launch an investigation into the school, was now before the House Ways and Means Committee in Annapolis.

The resolution, introduced in the House of Delegates on Feb. 1, by John C. Luber (D., 5th); Lloyd L. Simpkins (D., Somerset); and A. Gordon Boone (D., Baltimore), asks that a joint committee of 16 members from the House and Senate be named to investigate the management and administration of the school.

It also asks the committee to make recommendations to the assembly for "the enactment of any remedial legislation necessary to correct such unsatisfactory situations."

• • •

IN THE FALL of last year, the Board of Managers conducted an investigation into complaints lodged against Mrs. McCane by some members of her staff.

The board found no justification for the charges lodged against the superintendent, but they did return a list of recommendations for improved relations at the institution.

Indications that the matter was not a closed issue, were voiced in January when Dr. Eugene D. Byrd announced that he had resigned from the board over "problems," which he said continued to exist at Barrett.

• • •

MR. BROWN told the AFRO that the board has received no official notice of Dr. Byrd's resignation.

"We are still carrying him on our rolls and expected to see him at the meeting today," Mr. Brown said.

"If he has resigned, I am extremely sorry," the board chairman said.

• • •

THE REVELATION at Wednesday's meeting that the matter of relations at the school had been discussed in January at a closed-door session, added fuel to the fire.

It was reported last week, that Mrs. McCane had submitted her resignation to the board, but it had been turned down.

The superintendent said on Wednesday, that the report was false.

"I have a job to do here," Mrs. McCane said, "and I am not quitting."

Although there have been protests lodged against Mrs. McCain, it is generally acknowledged that conditions at the school have improved under her administration.

Mrs. McCane outlined to the board, Wednesday, a seven-point plan for in-service training of the school's staff.

• • •

FOLLOWING THE board meeting, Mrs. McCane left for Chicago to attend the Conference of Women Superintendents of Women and Girls Correctional Institutions which will be held at the Conrad-Hilton Hotel, Feb. 21-23. Among other action taken at Wednesday's meeting was the formation of a Grievance Committee. The Rev. Frank Fryer was named chairman. Mrs. Bertha Winston and Mrs. Anita Williams are the other members.

The board unanimously adopted the following procedure for staff members who have grievances:

1. **Present Complaint in writing, to immediate supervisor.**
2. **Supervisor must summarize conference with complaint and forward information immediately, in writing, to superintendent.**
3. **If employee is still dissatisfied, he may write to supervisor requesting conference with superintendent. Request must be forwarded to superintendent within 24 hours.**
4. **If this fails, employee may then write superintendent for audience before Grievance Committee.**
5. **If employee is not satisfied with committee ruling, may request in writing, opportunity to present matter to full board.**

The board informed Mrs. McCane that two letters had been received from members of her staff and the senders would be instructed to follow the adopted procedure.

• • •

THE STATE Legislature will hold hearings on March 3, to consider the budget and capital improvement bills for 1956 relating to the State Department of Public Welfare and the four training schools in the state.

The Barrett School has asked for a $209,000 budget for next year.

In addition to Mr. Brown, others in attendance present at Wednesday's meeting were Mrs. Esther Harris, Mrs. Lillian Lollier, the Rev. Mr. Fryer, Mrs. Winston and Mrs. Williams.

—Young skaters

(Continued from Page 1)

Horton, Mr. Jackson and the Rev. Robert Newbold, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, was held after the NAACP learned that on Wednesday afternoon, Northwestern district officers had taken almost 20 pairs of skates from children found skating in the streets.

The children were informed that their skates would be taken to the Northwestern station house, where their parents would have to claim them.

When this information reached the NAACP office, an investigation was started which ended with Mr. Jackson expressing approval of Captain Horton's campaign to keep the children out of the streets, with the reservation that the captain should have notified parents before enforcing his plan.

• • •

ACCORDING TO Captain Horton, the Northwestern District has received several complaints of groups of children skating in the streets and these children had ignored warnings to stay on the sidewalks.

When these warnings were ignored, Captain Horton said orders were issued to pick up the skates of children found skating in the streets and to tell the youngsters their parents would have to come to the station house to reclaim them.

As the parents appeared at the station house the skates were returned, Captain Horton said, along with the advice that their children should not be allowed to use them in the street.

• • •

"IT WAS simply a preventive measure, a way of stopping the children from placing their own lives in danger. The children could have been taken to juvenile court after ignoring warnings to get out of the street, but it seemed better to call the parents in and, to ask for their cooperation in keeping the children out of the streets where they might be hit by a car and killed."

Captain Horton said that all of the 15 parents who had appeared at the station house to pick up the skates had agreed that the police acted wisely, and several had thanked him for bringing it to their attention that their child was skating in the street.

In expressing approval of plans to keep the children out of the street, Mr. Jackson said the NAACP would write letters to civic organizations asking them to contact city officials requesting that streets be set aside for skaters.

The Rev. Mr. Newbold also said that he agreed with the campaign and said he would contact city churches to obtain their cooperation.

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—Harrington

(Continued from Page 1)

dolph meeting was Dr. R. Walter Graham, heavily endorsed candidate for comptroller who repeated his statements that if elected he'll appoint anyone to a position in his office provided he's qualified, regardless of race.

• • •

OTHER SPEAKERS included Richard Rombro and Morton Perry, two members of the anti-Pollack coalition ticket in the Fourth District headed by Mr. Randolph.

The Randolph meeting was only one of many precinct level meetings held in the Fourth and Fifth Districts this week as various candidates appeared upbeat in bids for votes.

• • •

MAYOR D'ALESANDRO appeared Wednesday night at a meeting held in the home of Dr. Robert L. Jackson in the 600 block N. Arlington Ave. and again at a meeting in the 1800 block Edmondson Ave.

D'Alesandro asked that the voters re-elect him on the basis of his record. He was enthusiastically received.

• • •

ARTHUR B. Price, president of the City Council and also seeking the Democratic nomination, appeared on Wednesday night before a Fifth District organization in the 2400 block of Harlem Ave.

He spoke at a meeting headed by Leonard Hicks, strong leader in the Fifth, for John F. Kennedy, his running mate for president of the Council, Thomas D'Alesandro.

Another speaker was Charles R. Law, the only colored Democratic candidate to accept the City Council in the Fifth District.

"I have not violated my oath of office as president of the City Council and I will not violate it when I am elected Mayor of this great city," said Mr. Price.

He was introduced by the gathering by S. Edward Smith.

AMONG THOSE present were Mesdames Lydia Jackson, Harvey Howell, Charles Smith, Ethel Sollers, Margaret Lee, Louis Smith, Mary Manns, James Murrett, G. Burks Raiford, Charlotte Sims, Mary White, Juanita Greene and Harvey Howell.

Also Mesdames Gertrude Sollers, Vera Shell, Elizabeth Johnson, Elcelia B. Peters, Inez Kinner, Dora T. Hicks and Clara J. Hicks.

• • •

ON TUESDAY the Cherry Hill Democratic Club, headed by Alexander Brown, endorsed Mr. Price for mayor, H. Wendell Buckler for president of the City Council and Joseph Mullan for comptroller.

The meeting was held at the home of Thomas Philmore, 3053 Ascension St.

• • •

SAMUEL HOPKINS, Republican candidate for the mayoralty nomination, has also been speaking before colored groups.

On Monday he spoke before the Methodist ministers' meeting at Bethel AME Church and on Monday night before the Inter-racial Citizens Republican Club, headed by Dr. John Woodland and comprising the Third and Fifth Districts.

On Wednesday night Mr. Hopkins appeared before the Neighborhood League at 1098 N. Rosedale and on Thursday night before the Theodore R. McKeldin Club at 1400 W. Lafayette Ave. Dr. Robert L. Gill heads this group.

• • •

THE MEMBERSHIP meeting of the Baltimore Branch NAACP, meeting Tuesday, also heard H. Warren Buckler.

Meanwhile, it was learned, several candidates have asked to appear at the Founder's Day celebration of the NAACP, Sunday at Sharp St. Methodist Church. Those that appear will be introduced but no political speeches will be permitted.

Other endorsements for Charles R. Law's campaign in the Fifth District were also announced this week. They included those of the Local No. 181, Motion Picture Operators' Union, and members of the Sparrows Point Plant of the Bethlehem Steelworkers Local Union 2610.

—Bathroom

(Continued from Page 1)

ed Tyson of second degree murder.

• • •

However at the last moment, for some unexplained reason, Mr. Rosenthal withdrew his motion, and Tyson lost all hope of escaping a prison sentence in the brutal and fatal beating of the woman he once intended to marry.

While Mr. Rosenthal gave no reason for withdrawing his motion, it was learned from other sources that there was a belief in some quarters that a new trial for Tyson might result in a first degree murder conviction, in which case he could be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

• • •

USUALLY A man must serve one third of his sentence before he is eligible for parole which would mean Tyson would not be eligible until May, 1960.

However, a new law contains a special provision whereby a man is eligible at any time. But because of the heavy backlog of cases handled by the parole board, it was learned that only a few men have been released under this new provision.

Before imposing the sentence, Judge Tucker said:

"The evidence indicates that this woman was resisting the attentions of this man and he persisted in forcing his attentions on her maybe for some evil purpose, not at the moment murder.

"He definitely was the agressor to the woman who did not want his attentions under the present conditions. The evidence showed he was drinking considerably—and became enraged because of her resistance to his efforts.

• • •

"FOR A TIME he acted like a mad man. The interest of the woman in this case is obvious, though unfortunately she lost her life.

"The interest of the family and friends is obvious. But society also has an interest. People do not want these things to happen. And it's against their interest when these things do happen.

"In this case, the defendant escaped the conviction of murder in the first degree and the sentence would have been much higher."

• • •

THESE WORDS were sounded in the same courtroom that earlier this month had been the scene of a dramatic two-day trial that was featured by an almost blow by blow account of how the pretty and frail actress-teacher met her death in a violent fashion that was far removed from the quiet way in which she lived.

From the opening statements of the state and the defense it was evident that Tyson had little hope of escaping conviction in Mrs. Nicholson's death, the only question was whether the jury would convict him of manslaughter, second degree murder, or first degree murder.

Like a doomed man, Tyson sat motionless in the courtroom as a series of witnesses took the stand to describe in detail how Mrs. Nicholson was beaten so badly that the bones at the rear of her nose had been driven back into the base of her skull.

JAMES O. GENTRY, the prosecutor, told the jury how James Wilson, a tenant of Mrs. Nicholson's home, had been awakened by the sounds of her screams, and how he (Wilson) had fled from the house to find police.

Locating two officers, Wilson returned to the house where the policemen went to the second floor bathroom where they found the battered body of Mrs. Nicholson stood near the wash basin son stood near the wass basin bleeding from a cut over his eye.

While the hushed courtroom listened carefully to every word Tyson took the stand to tell of "several company" with Mrs. Nicholson for four and a half years and of his love for the woman who was his senior by six years.

He told of how on the night before he slayin he had visited the teacher and how he had left the house to purchase an order of shrimps.

TYSON TOLD how he returned to the house without the shrimps, and how this fact plus the fact that he smelled of a perfumed lotion, were enough to cause a quarrel with his sweetheart.

And then Tyson told of being struck by Mrs. Nicholson and of returning the blow after how Mrs. Nicholson slumped to the bathroom floor. Then the hagyard defendant made the statement:

"I don't believe she is dead. I still don't believe it."

This was the same statement Tyson reportedly made when police first confronted him with the fact that Mrs. Nicholson was dead, and the same statement he had reportedly repeated to his friends who visited him at the City Jail while he was awaiting trial.

• • •

TYSON LEFT the stand and the prosecution began a summation of its case against him, as Mr. Gentry declared:

"The force in this brutal beating shows malice behind it. I assure you this is murder."

With tears in his eyes, Mr. Rosenthal arose to defend his client with a dramatic plea for mercy as he told the jury:

"Judge not that ye be judged, for what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again."

And on that note, the jury of 11 men and one woman took almost three hours to find Tyson guilty of second degree murder.

LEWIS n. MUKKAT
Educatin' dice . . .

—Holdup

(Continued from Page 1)

with two bullet holes in his head.

His alleged accomplice, Joseph Sampson, 30, of New York, appeared in court, Wednesday, with his attorney, Irving Reamer, and several plainclothes men.

• • •

JUDGE TUCKER postponed the trial, however, when Mr. Reamer complained that the publicity given to the murder would prevent the defendant from getting a fair and impartial jury.

At the request of State's Attorney Anselm Sodaro and Deputy State's Attorney Harold Grady, Judge Tucker increased Sampson's bail from $10,000 to $30,000.

Sampson, who was nattily dressed in light gray suit, dark blue overcoat, did not post the bond and is now being held in the "security company" with Mrs. Nicholson for four and a half years and of his love for the woman who was his senior by six years.

He told of how on the night before the slaying he had visited the teacher and how he had left the house to purchase an order of shrimps.

Teacher pays

(Continued from Page 1)

Lloyd, beautician, testified that Miss Franchetta Wright had whipped him with a hair brush, Feb. 12, 1953, when he became sick at his stomach.

Admitting that she had struck the child, Miss Wright, who operates the Lilliput Nursery at 1445 N. Fulton Ave., told the jurors that she felt the child's illness was deliberate.

• • •

"GRAY HAD a habit of getting sick anytime he couldn't have his way," she testified, adding that at one time his illness soiled the clothes of a visiting parent.

She said that on Feb. 12, 1953, the child (then 4 years old) had been slow in eating his lunch and she had told him to move to another table to finish his meal.

While eating an orange, he became sick, she said.

Asked by Chief Judge Emory H. Niles why he beat the child, Miss Wright replied, "She made me eat the orange and I didn't want anything more because my stomach was full."

• • •

TESTIMONY by G. Franklin Phillips, who treated the youngster, showed that Gray suffered multiple bruises on the back of his body from the waist down to the head of the knee, as results of the whipping.

Immediately after the incident, Miss Wright was summoned to Pine St. Station on a warrant where she pleaded guilty to the charge of assaulting the child by whipping him and paid a $50 fine.

A defense motion for a new trial was filed by W. A. C. Hughes and Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell Friday.

CHILD FREEZES TO DEATH

EASTON, Md.—Found frozen in a shed on W. Dover St., here, Saturday, 12-year-old Priscilla Benson died in Memorial Hospital. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe Benson, searched in vain for her until 2 a.m. when they called juvenile welfare officials. It is reported that the child feared going home because she had been scolded for getting into mischief.

—Lewis Murray

(Continued from Page 1)

largest schools.

HE GRADUATED from the first high school here in 1951, enrolled in the Teacher's Training School, and became one of the first non-white teachers in the system.

Among posts he held was acting principal of what is now Coppin State Teachers College and teacher-in-charge of School No. 130-A.

Mr. Murray, a bachelor, had devoted his life to the interests of rearing of his nieces and nephews, who now include his only survivors. They are:

Mrs. Grace M. Grynn, this city; Mrs. Mildred F. Fearing, Washington; William H. Murray, Jr., this city; Miss Pauli Murray, New York City; Mrs. Rosetta M. Stevens, Washington; and Raymond R. Murray, New York City.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed at press time this (Friday) morning.

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—Race baiters take over

(Continued from Page 1)

Mississippi also gave encouragement to Chief Stein's smear, commenting that in Mississippi "colored persons refer to colored persons as 'nigras.' He continued doing so after the "smear session."

• • •

REPORTERS listening to Stein's testimony thought at first that he was using the word as Representative Davis had said it, and could hardly believe their ears when the fire chief's words came out crystal clear "n—rs."

Representative Kein halted Stein's testimony to ask the fire official to repeat his language.

"I, for one, oppose the disrespectful use of the word as you have said it. I thought I had misunderstood you, and I will appreciate your not using that term any more," Representative Klein said.

It was then that Stein fired back: "I've lived in Washington 50 years, and I'm 50 years old. It's been n—r, and it's still n—r."

He said that practically everybody had referred to colored Washingtonians as "n—rs" and that he was accustomed to doing so.

"It's just natural, I can't help it," he declared, amid the cheers of the white firemen, their wives and whites who are members of the Randle Highlands Citizens Association, a group which sponsored the court of the bill under discussion.

• • •

THE BILL, HR 3753, would rescind the order of the District Commissioners on Aug. 30, 1954, integrating the fire department.

Four witnesses — all of them white firemen and opposed to integration — preceded Stein. No witnesses had been called who favor integration.

Representative Davis told the court that he intended to call Commissioner Samuel Spencer and Fire Chief Millard H. Smith, to testify at another hearing to be held later. He gave no indication when that hearing would be called.

"Do you intend to call other witnesses who are in favor of integration?" the AFRO reporter asked Representative Davis.

"Yes, we intend to let them be heard," the Georgia Democrat answered.

THE ALL-TIME low level to which the hearings descended by virtue of the lengthy diatribe against colored persons dominated any atmosphere of legislative deliberation which is to be expected of a Congressional body.

A woman reporter for a weekly, apparently filled with disgust, got up and left the hearing room.

No effort was made by Rep. Davis, as the presiding officer, to lend dignity to the hearing as the anti-race smears expanded into full-blown discussions of colored people and why they should, or should not be respected.

Each of the witnesses who testified against integration of the fire department contended there was a drop in efficiency in the department as a result of integration.

However, when they were requested by Representatives Klein and Steed to point out specific instances of this alleged drop, none of them could be specific.

At that point each witness took refuge in the excuse that "morale" had dropped.

• • •

CAPT. GEORGE E. Tacey, president of Local 36 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, said his organization represented 90 per cent of the District firemen and they are "unanimously opposed" to integration.

Tacey said his group was opposed to the "social integration" which he said was being forced upon white firemen "through the demands of minority pressure groups."

Tacey called the "social integration" a radical move and said that efficiency in the fire department has not improved as a result, but had been crippled.

When questioned as to detailed instances, Captain Tacey said: "Actually, I have had little opportunity to observe it myself."

He charged, though, that there has been a lot of friction in local firehouses since integration and that colored firemen have not been accepted by their white fellow workers.

OTHERS TESTIFYING were Capt. Z. O. Law, who formerly commanded Engine Co. 18 at 4 Rhode Island Ave. and Brentwood Rd., NE, and Sergeant Stewart Wood, Co. 18.

Their testimony followed the same pattern as that of Captain Tacey and Battalion Chief Stein.

Representative Williams brought the name of President Eisenhower into the picture by relating how the President had testified some years ago before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he opposed integration in the armed forces.

"Would the President's attitude toward the armed forces be equally applicable to the District of Columbia Fire Department?" asked Representative Williams.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS took blasts at Commissioner Spencer. He asked if Mr. Spencer lived in a neighborhood where he had colored neighbors, or if he had ever invited any colored firemen to his home.

A chorus of "No's" rose from the white audience. Stein said he had seen pictures of Mr. Spencer shaking hands "with some of these colored dignitaries who visit here."

Stein's parting shot before leaving the stand was this:

"You've got me in quite a strain here, having to say 'colored' or 'Negroes.'"

The hearing assumed the atmosphere of a cheap slapstick comedy, the colored newsmen and newswomen who were present, declared.

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Storm over civil rights

Is Mississippi bluffing?

Reporter sees state backing down on Supreme Court's decision

WASHINGTON

(Fifth in a Series of Articles)

Before moving on from the interview last week with Rep. John Bell Williams (Dem., Miss.), called "an arch foe of integration," there are two or three more phases of the discussion which should be revealed.

For example, Rep. Williams, perhaps inadvertently, showed the vulnerability of his state in the blazing issue of civil rights which now has his state government in a dither.

Referring to the election last year for the U.S. Senate, Rep. Williams pointed out that both Mississippi senators—James O. Eastland and John Stennis—are "both opposed to this type of legislation and were outspoken about it."

"In the Governor's race next summer," he said "Are five candidates, all outspoken against this, but each has a progressive program to better conditions."

That betterment Rep. Williams spoke of is on the "separate but equal" basis.

• • •

MEANWHILE, HE let fall this illuminating bit of information:

"The Mississippi Legislature is now in session. Why? To equalize our schools, by raising taxes and appropriating funds.

"This is a last resort if the Supreme Court rules for integration," he added.

What did this mean to the AFRO reporter? It meant this:

In spite of all the loud noise and defiance breathed by Mississippi in recent months, the heads of the state are going ahead with plans "to take low" if the dice are against them in the battle.

Mississippi, in other words, does—after all—intend to abide by the final decision of the Supreme Court regardless of all of the bluster the state has put on.

There will be no defiance of the edict of the nation's highest tribunal when the chips are down.

• • •

ANOTHER ARCH FOE of integration in the House is the athletic-built congressman from the First District of South Carolina, Rep. L. Mendel Rivers of Charleston. S.C., now in his eighth term.

Rep. Rivers said he didn't mind discussing the civil rights issue "objectively," but said he was not going to be drawn into any type of discussion which was intended to inflame opinion.

"We believe in segregation," he said. "We believe in the dignity of man. We believe that the only way is to let local folks work out their own problems."

"We don't like for these Northerners to tell us what to do," he declared.

"The fellows up North tell you folks they support civil rights legislation," he went on. "But what the hell good is that if you can't get it out of committee?"

• • •

AS FOR his own state, Rep. Rivers said: "We have spent $125 million on colored schools in South Carolina. I just dedicated one a couple of weeks ago down in Georgetown.

"We hire more colored teachers in South Carolina than the entire New England area combined," he went on.

"We have raised millions of dollars to improve our colored schools through the sales tax," he said, "and we spend more on colored schools than we do for white."

Rep. Rivers then spoke of the friendly relationship which he said exists between colored and white leaders in his state. He spoke cordially of his friendship with the president of South Carolina A. and M. College at Orangeburg.

• • •

ASKED WHY he opposed civil rights legislation, Rep. Rivers declared:

"I am opposed to special legislation for special groups, no matter who they are.

"We're not damned fools. We know that advancing the good of people advances the good of the country."

But, inherent in his thinking was the feeling that it is strictly a sectional battle, with Northern liberals on one side and the Southern bloc on the other.

That was obvious from the heated manner in which he had referred to "these Northerners" telling the South "What to do."

AS FOR the coalition between Northern Republicans and Southern Democrats, he said:

"I don't think there is such a thing."

However, the record shows that there has always been a Southern bloc — well organized with one "whip" for each state—which has risen to challenge any and all civil rights legislation brought before Congress.

CLARENCE MITCHELL, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, points out an illustration:

The 30-member House Committee on Education and Labor is headed by Rep. Graham Barden of North Carolina. This committee Mr. Mitchell says, is packed with "pro-labor" Democrats.

"Why?" askes Mrs. Mitchell. "Is this an 'arrangement'? It seems that it is okay for the South to get labor gains through legislation, but not civil rights."

Rep. Jere Cooper (Dem., Tenn.), heads the House Ways and Means Committee which set up the composition of the various committees.

Thus, it may be possible that certain committees are so set up that they have pro-this members who can strike "deals" with "anti - that" members in exchange for bringing certain desirable legislation out of committee and to the floor of the House for consideration.

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REP. ADAM Clayton Powell (Dem., N.Y.) says:

"President Eisenhower's stand has just about dissolved the group which came along with the election. But, there'll still be a coalition."

Continues Rep. Powell: "In the Senate you may run into trouble. They can bargain there better for what they personally want."

The plan devised Rep. Powell said—leader of the House strategy to secure action on civil rights—embraces the "whip" idea also.

WHAT REP. Powell is working on is this: to secure a congressmen alert and in case of emergency maneuvers "to get them into Washington and on the floor of the House."

What he wants is a team of 22 "whips," Rep. Powell says, and they will give support to any civil rights a voting strength of 220 congressmen when the need arises for a vote. A quorum consists of 218 Congressmen.

"There are lots of simple parliamentary maneuvers the opposition can use, 'Rep. Powell says, "and we would be prepared to counter them