WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

Dr. Fischer says good-bye to school system he grew up with

By MOSES NEWSON
AFRO City Editor

The average intelligence of Baltimore students is steadily declining and the city's standing as a major metropolitan center is at stake, but the odds are that the educational challenge will be met.

These facts and views came this week from Dr. John H. Fischer, Baltimore's home-grown schools superintendent who steps down today (Friday) after holding the post since 1953.

He talked with the AFRO about the system's progress, problems and prospects before starting a vacation that ends on Sept. 1 when he becomes dean of Teachers College, Columbia University.

Before moving up to the college ranks, genial Dr. Fischer took a last stand with fellow educators against complaints from colleges that high school graduates come to them unprepared.

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"THEY HAVE complained from time immemorial and it is more or less traditional," Dr. Fischer said.

"But they haven't had anyone on it," he pointed out.

"Secondary schools complain the elementary grades don't teach them the Three R's and the elementary grades complain that the homes haven't properly prepared their children."

Furthermore, Dr. Fischer added, "Our college graduates are dealing successfully with social and technical problems greater than ever before.

"If our people are so unprepared I don't know where the competence is coming from."

Going even further, Dr. Fischer suggested that the colleges could be responsible for the situation they complain of by their admission policies or their expectations from the students.

"When we certify our graduates as ready for college we are ready to stand behind them but we will not accept responsibility for those people the colleges take without recommendation," he said.

Dr. Fischer noted that "hundreds of young people graduate each year who are not prepared for college and we find nothing wrong with this."

To deny graduation to students who are not prepared for college would be to reduce graduation classes by 50 per cent, he estimated.

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BALTIMORE'S SCHOOL problems, and Dr. Fischer says race and integration are not among them, include money, buildings, teachers and all the other factors administrators face but they all boil down to the people, in and out of the schools.

The problems always start with people and can easily be properly measured in view of what happens to people — we've had a fine building program but the real test of those buildings is what they do for education for the children who attend them."

Baltimore's critical problems today, in Dr. Fischer's experienced view are both in the school ones and the out-school ones.

The big in-school problem is that of more and more children entering the system from lower income homes of limited cultural backgrounds, while more students from higher level homes move to the suburbs.

Some parents could be called criminal in their treatment of their children," he suggested.

The average intelligence of our students, as measured by intelligence tests, is steadily declining in our Baltimore schools.

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"IT DOES not mean we are getting more students with inferior natural ability but it does mean we are getting more students with limited cultural backgrounds.

They present the schools with problems, but problems which we should not view pessimistically.

"I am optimistic about it because I know Baltimore can meet the challenge if it will.

"If it fails, then its future as a major metropolitan center is a very dim future."

Some of what has been done to offset the situation includes three stage group training centers for slow (trainable) pupils at the elementary level; an accelerated, regular and basic curriculum at the junior high level and a number of course divisions in senior high school aimed at meeting the capabilities and interests of the students.

"We are now planning programs for children of lower than normal ability at the high school level," Dr. Fischer disclosed.

"We're going to have to provide more programs for the children of lower than normal ability."

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ONE REASON for this Dr. Fischer said is that children are staying in school longer these days, necessarily so, because of raised qualifications for getting jobs.

He pointed out that at the turn of the century 50 percent of the nation's workers were unskilled while now it is less than 20 percent and by 1970 not more than 10 percent will be unskilled.

The dominant role that money is to play brings in the out-school angle. The people must be willing to pay the costs.

"There is no question that money is one of the factors necessary for a solution.

"But we're going to need the best thinking we can get, good leadership in and out of the schools.

"If we don't get the money we need the best thinking in the world won't be able to help.

"What we will need is a voluntary investment attitude — has to be looked upon as a long term investment — not like money being spent for the repaving of streets or something like that.

"I think the prospect for Baltimore meeting the challenge are excellent.

"I think we now have a greater awareness of the importance of education to the welfare of Baltimore and more than ever before are ready to do something about it."

ONE OF Dr. Fischer's notable achievements in Baltimore has been his firm leadership in the integration of the public schools system and the manner in which he met what ever problems came on.

However, he shrugs off any personal plaudits, insisting it was more going in the direction in which the community was already moving, rather than the doing of any one person.

Still there is no escaping the importance which a firm hand at the top has meant to the success of the changeover.

Looking at the situation as it exists now, Dr. Fischer says:

"I don't think we have any problem now that are not part of the normal process of education. Race is not a problem with us.

"We don't find it necessary to have any special person for integration problems (this in answer to a query). We just don't recognize race as a problem."

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DR. FISCHER has had a long association with the Baltimore school system, in fact as long as one could have grown from pupil to schools superintendent.

Born in Baltimore, he attended the old Elementary School No. 20, City College, Towson College and Johns Hopkins University.

He started as an elementary teacher in 1930 and moved into the Central office in 1542 as director of attendance and child guidance (now the division of special services).

In 1945 he became assistant superintendent for general administration, deputy superintendent in 1953 and superintendent in 1953, succeeding the late William H. Lemmel.

His new job will be considerably different.

"Here my work has been universal education with a responsibility to all from children to adults. There it will be graduate work, a much more specialized work. Here it has been public, and there it will be private."

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THE FAMILY, she is married to the former Miss Norma Frederick of Baltimore) moves to New York on August 18.

They have two sons, David, 23, a Princeton graduate working toward his doctorate in history at Johns Hopkins, and Miles, a Yale graduate, also in history, who goes to Germany in September to study on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Keeping up with things here and familiarizing himself with his police in custody of his work in New York has kept Dr. Fischer so busy he has had to neglect his flower garden (call but the rose bed which required no real effort) this year.

While both Dr. and Mrs. Fischer feel leaving Baltimore is the least pleasant part of his new job, getting into a city with much more theatre advantages will be one of the things they will appreciate about New York.

Our Colts and Orioles won't miss Dr. Fischer too much from the stands because he admitedly is not too sports minded and smilingly concedes that the Colts and Orioles had to depend on people like me they would not be in the best of shape.

Returning the compliment Baltimoreans have proffered him since the announcement of his resignation, Dr. Fischer said that his statements that his days always been a happy social and professional relationship "is not just a polite comment but a sincere and deep feeling."

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HE ALSO paid a tribute to his successor, Dr. Georg S. Brain, superintendent of Bellevue Washington schools, who succeeds him on Jan 1.

"Sometimes when a man leaves a job he wonders about what the next fellow will do with it, how things are likely to go.

"I'm happy to say I have no such concern about my successor. Dr. Brain Baltimore is most fortunate in getting such a man.

It has certainly been Baltimore's great fortune to have had a man such as Dr. Fischer.

LAST DAY AT DESK — Dr. John H. Fischer ends reign as schools superintendent here, his home town and the nation's sixth largest school system, today (Friday). He leaves city on August 18 and starts new job on Sept. 1.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT of public schools, Dr. George B. Brain meet representatives of the Baltimore press-tv-radio corps on Wednesday and one of the newsmen on hand was who interviewed Dr Brain in Bellevue the AFRO's Moses J. Newson right. Brain said he was "looking and listening" during three-day visit. He assumes his duties here Jan.1

'Sharper fight in labor unions'

NEW YORK — According to an article in "The Reporter" magazine by Paul Jacobs, the fight against racial discrimination in labor unions has taken a sharper turn, marked by a new militancy by colored people.

His article is entitled "The Negro Worker Asserts His Rights."

Jacobs points up a new feeling of aggressiveness and self confidence, which has been building up in the colored leaders and members of the local unions as a solution to the problem.

The NAACP recently criticized labor unions for a variety of discriminatory practices.

The problem, according to Jacobs, is with the affiliate or local union of the international unions of the AFL-CIO.

He suggests education of the leaders and members of the local unions as a solution to the problem.

TO HER STUDENTS at Morgan State College, Mrs. Winder Gilkes points out that Carnation is the safest form of milk for baby's bottle.

What does it take to live happily ever after?

College child-development teacher tells why doctors

RECOMMEND CARNATION FOR INFANT FEEDING

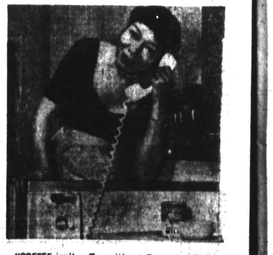
Professionally, Mrs. Winder-Gilkes is known as Dr. T. Vivian Winder. Her doctorate is in home economics. She teaches nutrition, marriage and family life, and child development at Morgan State College in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Winder is definite about Carnation's superior qualities for infant feeding as well as for cooking.

"Carnation is the most digestible and the most nourishing form of milk for infant formulas," Dr. Winder states. "It is used in more hospital formula rooms than all other brands combined.

"And this milk that is best for babies is best for cooking, too. That's not surprising when you realize Carnation is double rich. "It is pure, whole milk, evaporated to remove more than half the water. Nothing else is taken out, nothing is added but Vitamin D. Every drop is simply twice as rich as ordinary milk. That's why Carnation looks like cream, pours like cream — and even whips!"

Dr. Winder says no other form of milk will do for "creamy" recipes, like the lump-free cream sauce below. "This cream sauce requires only half the usual butter and flour because Carnation itself is so rich. I use it for creamed chicken, tuna, chipped beef and casseroles."

MRS. WINDER-GILKES is shown here with her husband, Evan Gilkes, M.D., a gynecologist and obstetrician in Baltimore. The Gilkes are shown in one of their rare interludes of leisure—Saturday at lunch.



"COFFEE isn't coffee without Carnation," Mrs. Winder-Gilkes declares. "There's nothing better." Carnation in the red and white can—the milk "from Contented Cows"—is the world's leading brand of evaporated milk.

RECIPE:

CARNATION CREAM SAUCE
(makes about 2 cups)

2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 2/3 cups (large can) undiluted CARNATION EVAPORATED MILK

Blend butter, flour, salt and pepper in saucepan over low heat until smooth. Gradually add undiluted Carnation Evaporated Milk. Continue stirring until thickened and sm

Electricity, for one thing—and it takes lots of it!

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WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

WHAT THE RETIRED DO

He loves his classic library, Wellington Ridout, retired

By BILL SLATER

"What have I been doing since my retirement? Well, take a look for yourself."

Thus spoke Wellington Ridout, retired postal carrier, exhibiting in the living room of his comfortable home at 2307 N. Ellamont St. two bookshelves of today's most celebrated classics.

"I'm not going to tell you I've read all these, because some are fairly new and I haven't gotten to," added Mr. Ridout.

Recently retired, (April 30, 1959) he served as a letter carrier in the upper Eutaw St area for 29 years.

"I thought I'd like to enjoy my retirement while I was still in good health," said Mr. Ridout.

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GETTING BACK to the subject of his retirement activities, the 60-year-old man continued.

"I've got a good $100 or more tied up in these books. It's self-worth everyone.

"It's very difficult to say which of these book I like best but if you pinned me down, I suppose I'd have to say 'The Brothers Karamazov'.

"I am interested in all of these works, though.

Observing closely the library which represented books from "Gulliver's Travels" to the works of Dickens, Chaucer and Hugo, an empty space was noticed.

"The book that belongs there is "Representative Works of Leo Tolstoy."

"I'm reading it now, and as usual of Tolstoy's works, it's proving to very interesting," said Mr. Ridout.

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SEATED COMFORTABLY on his sofa, with his legs crossed, he motioned to a painting on his wall.

"That's a copy of Picasso's 'Clown'.

"Collecting paintings is another of my hobbies.

"I have other of his works, and some of the works of Van Gough."

"I like to do a little sketching myself when I have the time. I don't draw any masterpieces, but it's good enough to keep me happy."

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WHERE DID Mr. Ridout acquire most of his classics?

"Some of my books come from stores around the city," he replied. "And others from the book club of which I am a member.

He belongs to the Heritage Book Club, and is a charter member of the Story Classics Club.

One of the oldest books in his library is a family Bible, he said.

"To me it's a family heirloom. It was dated 1868, and belonged to my grandmother, who I believe imported it from the Holy Land."

The Bible was bound in black leather with a gold cross embracing the front cover. Its pages smelled of age.

Another antique was a prayer book bound in wood which was said to be from the Mount of Olives.

"These," said Mr. Ridout, "are my most precious possessions."

To what does Mr. Ridout attribute his reading habits? He says,

"When I was a kid, I lived with my aunts who were school teachers, and they taught me to read at the age of four.

"It sort of became a habit, a good one too."

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CHANGING THE SUBJECT to his days as a working man, Mr. Ridout added:

"I enjoyed my days at the post office because I got to meet so many interesting people."

He said he served such persons as Gov. Harry Nice, City Councilman Jerome Sliscman, and Rabbi Israel Goldman.

Speaking of things he remembers best about his working days, he said.

Quite often I used to get some peculiar objects out of the mail boxes.

"On one occasion, I found a ladies purse in one where some pick-pocket had probably taken the money out and left it there."

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BORN IN EASTON, MD., Jan. 12, 1889 he was the only child of Irving and Clara Augusta Ridout.

His father was also a letter carrier.

"The Ridout family moved to Baltimore where the younger member of the family attended the public schools and graduated from Douglass High School in 1917.

"I had planned to go to college but the war came on and I had to go to work," said Mr. Ridout.

He said he worked in an ammunition plant during the war, and in 1920 was appointed to the Post Office and I stayed until his retirement.

WHY DID MR. Ridout decide to make the post office his life's work? He replied:

"At that time there wasn't much for a colored man to do and the post office was considerated one of the best jobs.

"My father might have had some influence on me also. He worked in the department for 33 years."

In 1920, he married the former Miss Estelle Banks. They had three daughters, Mesdames Marie Reynolds, Doris Reynolds, and Roberta Joiner.

"And numerous grandchildren," said Mr. Ridout.

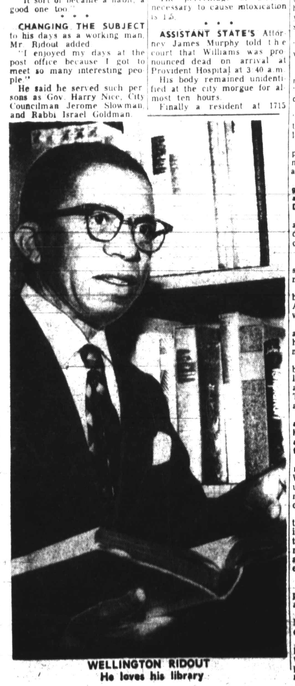
He and Mrs. Ridout are longtime members of St. James P.E. Church where Mr. Ridout served as Vestryman.

Would Mr. Ridout advise work at the post office for other citizens.

"I would advise anyone to try to get into the post office. It's a nice vocation and it gives you a chance to meet all kinds of people."

With many years of experience behind him, and in a position to give advice, Mr. Ridout offers this:

"Try to practice the golden rule as you understand it. In other words, treat people as you would like to be treated."



WELLINGTON RIDOUT
He loves his library

Free patrolmen in death of axe man

"The officer said stop, please stop or something like that.

"I thought it was rather odd. I don't know whether he realized what he was saying or not. The officer really pleaded with him to stop.

"Every time he would tell him to stop the man would take a swip at him. He swung at him three times.

"That was the testimony of John F. Kuger Jr. of the 300 block Robert St. before murder charges against three police officers were dismissed.

THE TESTIMONY of the 35-year-old witness in Central Homicide Court Tuesday afternoon was instrumental in clearing the men who were charged with shooting a man who had been armed with an axe and hatchet.

Patrolmen Ellis S. Baldwin, 25, 300 block Wallford Dr., of the Northwestern District, and Jr. Bernard J. Digleman, 33, 2500 block Plainfield Ave., and Calvin M. Cason, 31, of the 700 block Springfield Ave., both of the Southern District entered pleas of not guilty.

They were charged with shooting Rufus Williams of the 2300 block Pennsylvania Ave.

Williams was a World War II vet and former patient at Crownsville State Hospital.

The body of the 40-year-old **lement mixer was riddled with four bullets on July 26 when he threatened the life of Patrolman Baldwin.**

An autopsy report disclosed that Williams was shot in the brain, right shoulder and left side.

"The cause of death was attributed to a gunshot wound of the head.

The report said that two of the four gunshot wounds did not cause death. Seven shots were fired in all.

The autopsy also showed that the body of the deceased man contained 0.06 per cent alcohol.

The percentage of alcohol necessary to cause intoxication is 1.5.

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ASSISTANT STATE'S Attorney James Murphy told the court that Williams was pronounced dead on arrival at Provident Hospital at 3:40 a.m.

His body remained undentified at the city morgue for almost ten hours.

Finally a resident at 1712 Woodyear St., told police that Williams had resided at that address "on and off."

Crownsville authorities reported that Williams was committed in June of 1957 after he was "arrested for looking into cars and talking to imaginary people."

He was released on June 24 after undergoing treatment for "alcoholic tremor."

The body of the deceased was turned over to Eulaw Ala., for burial.

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AT THE hearing before Chief Magistrate Joseph Kolodny, Lt. Colonel E. Taylor of the Northern District who was promoted to Captain last Friday effective Aug. 13) identified and also read the officers' statements. Lt. Taylor said:

"While in No. 40 car we were called to Madison and Preston to assist an officer. We reached and at the scene met Lt. Raymond Landsman and we conducted an investigation.

"I was investigating we found a carpenter's hatchet under an automobile. Near 2030 Madison Ave. on the pavement we found a wood axe. The body was removed to Provident.

"During the investigation, we questioned Officer Calvin Cason of the Northern District who said he responded and saw an officer in uniform from the Northwestern District pursuing a man waving an axe.

"Cason said that when aid arrived Baldwin shouted, "he's trying to kill me with the axe." The man said, "I'll kill you" and then threw the hatchet at Baldwin and then made a sweep.

"Cason said he fired and officer Baldwin and others fired and the man fell still grasping the axe.

"We talked to other officers who saw the man with an axe and a hatchet.

"They said the man was chased down Madison and that when he faced Baldwin, he (Baldwin) fell to avoid being hit. The man yelled 'I'll kill you' and Baldwin fired two shots.

"Baldwin repeatedly shouted 'police stop,' and blew his whistle.

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"IN MORRIS ALLEY the man raised the axe and said 'Don't come near me. Don't come near me. I'll kill you.'"

At Bloom St., the man said 'I'm telling you for the last time. I'll kill you if you don't let me go.'

Baldwin said that when the police arrived he told them the man was trying to kill him and then the hatchet was thrown.

"He (Baldwin) fell to the ground and the hatchet struck an Oldsmobile owned by Clara Diggs.

"All said, 'drop it, drop it' and Cason and Digleman also drew and fired" Lt. Taylor concluded.

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FOUR WITNESSES were sworn in by Magistrate Kolodny.

One witness, a 24-year-old blonde of the 1300 block Linden Ave., testified that from her window:

"I saw a colored man with an axe and a hatchet in his hands walking and then running.

"I thought he was going to break into something so I followed him. He ducked into an alley and I sat on a door step. There was no one near him at the time.

"I saw him go up Bolton St and I followed him again and he jumped over a stone wall and I lost him. He was talking to himself.

"I looked around for a policeman but I didn't see one. While I was running one came up and asked me what I was running for. I told him a colored man was running."

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that he was in his home reading when he heard a commotion in an alley and "saw this man out there. He was swinging axe and had something else in his hand."

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The witness said he called police to come to the officer's assistance.

In dismissing the charges, Magistrate Kolodny commented:

"I wish to compliment the police on trying to avoid doing what they did. They were heavy pleading with the man. I now dismiss the three officers".

Mrs. Diggs strives to prevent divorce

By ALBERT WASHINGTON
(Special To The AFRO)

DETROIT — "I know our problems can be worked out. They will have to be. Some times I wonder why, but I still love him."

This expression was made by Mrs. Juanita Diggs, wife of Michigan's Congressman Charles F. Diggs Jr.

She was speaking against her husband's divorce action last week and said she would fight to the highest courts to keep her family together.

The Diggses' three children are Denise, 9, Charles, 11, and Alexis, 8.

Diggs filed a supressed divorce action against his wife in circuit court, charging cruelty.

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IN AN ANSWER filed by her attorney, Robert J. Colombo, Mrs. Diggs denied her husband's charges and said he neglected her and the children for his career.

Both the congressman's bills of complaint and his wife's answer are restrained but Colombo said:

"It might be necessary before the trial to amend our answer, making it stronger and more specific."

He would not comment further.

"You can't divorce three children," Mrs. Diggs said. "I want my husband back and our home preserved."

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DIGGS' BILL says the couple was married Aug. 2, 1947, and separated last December. He said his political activity keeps him away from home for long periods and that his wife objects strenuously.

He also charges he finds it "unbearable at home because of her constant nagging and fault-finding."

His divorce bill states further that she refused to accompany him on trips and that she complains because he does not give her more money than his "economic status permits." He says he has admonished her not to run up bills but she persists.

Thirty-six year-old Diggs is Michigan's first colored congressman and is now serving his third term from the Thirteenth District. The family home is at 2522 W. Boston Blvd.

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MRS. DIGGS was 19 when she met her husband, she worked as a secretary in the enterprises operated by Diggs and his father.

The progressive Diggs' enterprises comprise a funeral home, real estate, insurance business and a flower shop.

Recently Charles C. Diggs Sr. announced a proposal to build a $2,000,000 business complex for Detroit's proposed medical center.

Mrs. Diggs said: "He can't find his home so terrible as he comes back from Washington almost every weekend. We had a large party at our house last Saturday night, and I drove him to the airport with the children the next day.

"I certainly would move to Washington with the children and accompany him on his many trips around the world. The only trouble is, he doesn't want us in Washington or with him on the trips."

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IN HER COURT answer, Mrs. Diggs said that her husband has a lavishly furnished apartment in Washington for himself but has not offered to get a home there for the family.

Her answer further says Diggs Jr. developed his political ambitions three years after they were married and that she begged him to let her participate in his activities, buut he has "treated me indifferently and ignored me entirely."

Mrs. Diggs' formal answer says her husband enjoys a large income in addition to his salary of $22,500 as Congressman and spends great sums on "personal entertainment and enjoyment."

She says he will not provide the necessities for her and the children, although he finances many of his trips from his own income.

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MRS. DIGGS SAID: "But there are trips the government pays for and the expenses of wives are included. I have never been allowed to go. I accompanied him only once, last year to Trinidad for three or four days when my doctor ordered me to rest."

She said he began neglecting his family when he was first elected to the state Senate and then to Congress.

"I'm not opposed to his political career," she declared. "I would be for it if he did not sacrifice his family, if he maintained the right attitude and balance.

"I think he is tired of me and wants someone with a greater cultural background."

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MRS. DIGGS has studied at the University of Detroit and Wayne University. Afterward she took a business course.

Atty. Colombo said Diggs grossed $44,000 last year. But added "we are not interested in a property settlement. We just want to keep this family together."

A Democrat, Rep. Diggs Jr was elected to Congress from the 13th District in 1954 and was re-elected in 1956 and in 1958.

CONG. CHARLES DIGGS AND WIFE
He sues for divorce, but she fights back

Noteworthy

By HERBERT MANGRUM

Thanks to traffic czar Henry Barnes, Baltimore drivers half the time don't know whether they are coming or going.

Between twilight and dawn, a driver is apt to find traffic lights in places where there were no lights before, streets that used to run from west to east running from east to west, street cars going in the opposite direction on a one-way street and enough traffic signs, painted buckets and poles to try the patience of Job.

It's gotten so that when a man drives home now he needs a road map to get back into the city the next morning.

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IN THE INTEREST of safety, the traffic commissioner turned Pratt St., end over end last Sunday.

At Pratt and Light Sts., seven Gen. Sam Smith, whose status stands in an adjoining park, ran for cover when confused drivers headed in his direction.

Driving through the poles and markers at that intersection without prior notice was like running into the muzzle of a cannon.

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SUCH CUSSING and swearing you never heard as the drivers fought their way through the obstacle course.

The following day I read where this intersection said traffic in the area was flowing smoothly and without confusion.

Mr. Barnes you should have been around Sunday morning before the surprise, wore off.

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HOMICIDE COURT at Central was crowded to the rafters Tuesday when that Charles St., rape case came up.

Word had leaked out that the victim was a stunner.

The person who circulated the rumor didn't lie.

The Eastern Shore brunette had the boys in the press gallery stepping all over each other.

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A NEW YORK lonely hearts club published this ad last week under the heading "Zazzo phile":

"Man, I am a swinging chick 28 years old, tall and in good shape.

"Would like to meet a moving cat who digs jazz the most, and see if we couldn't reach the moon together.

"If you have no loot lose the box number.

Apparently those Beatniks are restless again.

Ike names new envoy to Liberia

President Eisenhower this week nominated Elbert G. Mathews, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Policy Planning, to be new United States Ambassador to Liberia.

Mathews, whose home is in Lafayette, Calif., is a career man who has been a foreign service officer since 1935.

THE MOSTEST—That's what these members of the Sir Charles Teen Center and the Hi-Fi Club of Radio Station WCBM think of having had the chance to appear as guests of the Hi-Fi show and deejay Lee Case on Friday night. The Hi-Fi show reaches a surprisingly large number of teenagers and any of them may become a member of the club by writing the station, care of the Hi-Fi Club, Harford and North Aves.

COMING EVENTS

JULY 30 AUGUST 2
41st session of the North Baltimore Conference of the Washington Annual Conference of the Methodist Church at Edgewood Methodist Church, Lutherville, Md.

AUGUST 1
The Colts stage their annual intra-squad game at Memorial Stadium for the benefit of the Police Boys Club. Festivities will start at 2:45 p.m.

AUGUST 2
Annual combined concert by the No. 2 Municipal and Park Bands. Time is 3 p.m. at the Druid Park Grove No. 2.

AUGUST 4
Baltimore Orioles salute Baltimore County on its 300th anniversary. There will be fireworks display, an air to ground battle between a tank and a fighter plane, the war of the planets and the fight of the flying saucers. The game will pit the Orioles against the White Sox.

AUGUST 4
Crownsville State Hospital presents Dr. Benjamin Karpman psychoanalyst, Researcher and author in a lecture entitled "A Reflection on 40 Years of Psychiatry." 8 p.m. in gymnasium of the Meyer Building at Crownsville.

AUGUST 8
J. J. Barnes Wesley Service Guild sponsors bus trip to Fort Smallwood. Buses leave Mt. Zion Church, Gilmor and Riggs, at 9 a.m. Tickets at the church. Mrs. Mary Brown, chairman and Mrs. Irene Smith, president.

AUGUST 9
Annual memorial service at Masonic Temple, 1307 Eutaw Place, 3 p.m.

AUGUST 10-11
Annual Grand Lodge meeting of the Masons at the Temple, 1307 Eutaw Place.

Sparrows Point residents settle down for long wait

By FRANK HUNT

Wednesday marked the beginning of the third week of the steel strike.

It also marked the end of the last week that the workers will receive payments from the Bethlehem Steel Co.

Earlier during the day a long line could be seen leading to the paymaster's window at the plant, as workers picked up money which had been held back for just such an eventuality.

Now the residents of Sparrows Point are tightening their belts and their budgets. Many are without other sources of income, unprepared for the hand which fate has dealt them.

Others have reckoned for such a rainy day, wise in the ways of the labor - management cycle which seems to end in a strike about once every three years.

Some were bitter over the intricate maneuvers which made necessary giving up so much to obtain an unknown quantity.

But like an adroit poker player, the group consciousness of the community seemed to be a lightehearted one, many treating the strike as a vacation and an extended holiday.

LATE WEDNESDAY afternoon on "J" St. a queer half-light peaked from behind clouds and the heavy humidity heralded rain.

More than the usual number of cars were parked on the street, and it seemed that an abnormal number of Sparrows Point residents were sitting on their front lawns, despite the impending rain.

On one corner, a man was washing his car, ignoring the threat of rain with the impertinent turbability of one who has time on his hands.

On the other side of the street a small gathering had congregated around a newly-painted 16-foot cabin cruiser, observing and giving advice from time to time.

The tingle of an ice cream truck coolness set at plays in the sultry atmosphere. It passed down the tree - bordered street, stopped, the bell clanged a plaintive plea and disappeared around the corner.

Mrs. Dorothy Beasley was sitting in a comfortable chair in front of her neat frame house, an attractive quick-smiling mother of six. She explained that things had taken an unexpected turn for the worse for her family.

Her husband had fallen ill Monday, and was in the hospital with pneumonia.

"He hasn't been able to pick up his payments yet, but we are doing pretty good, so far everybody seems to be taking it well.

"I don't think we'll have too much trouble if it (the strike) doesn't last too long," she added on an optimistic note.

Her husband, Paul Beasley, has been employed at the steel mill for 20 years.

FIFTY-NINE year old Thomas Crisp, a lean wry man who has put 34 years into the steel company, was outspoken and to the point in his analogy of the situation.

"A raise for the next three years won't gain for us what we have lost during the past two weeks," he asserted.

"As it stands now, the union is asking the impossible. A raise in pay won't help us any. We won't be getting as much as we would like to in the long run.

"What we really need is a paid - up insurance, everybody would benefit from that."

"If we do get the raise, merchants in every steel community in the country will up prices so that the cost of living will be higher. In the end we won't even have inflation to worry about, much less hope to benefit from an increase in pay."

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THE SKIES fulfilled their watery promise and large raindrops splattered on the sidewalks of J St., rapidly becoming a heavy deluge, then settling back to beat a persistent tatto against an already-damp earth.

Eddie Bartie sat in his front door 808 "J" St. in blue swimming trunks, casually enjoying the shower.

"This is more like a long holiday than three years ago."

"The last strike caught me unawares, but I got ready for this one three years ago."

The 26-year old father of two has been employed in the plant for three years. His tanned face turned serious as he discussed the strike.

"I don't think we can afford to up our salary if they want to; I don't think there's anything in this talk about inflation, he said.

A lot of people have the wrong ideas about working conditions for steel workers and how much money we are making."

"The average steel worker makes $90 a week; some make a hundred, and there are the skilled and semi - skilled workers who make about $3.10 an hour.

"But for the work we do, and with the high cost of living, that's not a great deal of money.

"I think the real facts are exaggerated and distorted. All we want is better working conditions" he declared in a serious manner.

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UP THE STREET further, a small group of people were still observing the men working on the boat.

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TWO MEN HAD a four-by-four which they were using as a lever to lift the boat high enough to paint as underneath.

It's blue and white hull glistened in the light rain as the men strained, faces contorted with the effort.

With a final push, their efforts were rewarded and a block was placed under the boat.

A slim, lightly - tanned man in a maroon shirt stepped back and observed the painting of the hull with grim satisfaction."

He introduced himself as Raphael McKenney, the owner of the boat.

"Everybody has helped me work on it, but nobody thinks it's going to float except me," he said with a wry smile.

His smile grew into a grin when the subject of the strike came up.

"It's given me more time to work on my boat, he said. I'll be ready to lauch it this evening."

He said it had taken him four and a - half months to complete the boat, the first he has ever built.

"Up one time, down the next, that's the way it always is," he said, speaking of the strike.

Mr. McKenney said that he was doing "fairly well" and was not feeling the pinch yet.

"We'll make out if it doesn't last too long," he added.

The father of six said he thought the strike would last until September unless the government stepped in.

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THE STEADY drizzle had paused, as if gathering ammunition for another attack later.

Like a hibernating animal "J" St. shook itself and came alive as residents of Sparrows Point came out of their frame dwellings and looked up at a still cloudy sky.

The weatherman had predicted another two weeks of rain and cloudy weather. But the dark forboding clouds hanging low over Sparrow's Point are not altogether rain clouds.

They are also clouds of fear; fear of the unknown and of what might happen; clouds of frustration from inactivity; and a particularly forboding cloud of expectancy threaded with a confused feeling of quite knowing what to expect.

VETERAN employee at the Sparrows Point steel mill is George S. White, 801 I St. He has spent 31 years at the plant. Mr White is one of the steelworkers currently out on strike.

Concert band plays tonight

The Number 2 Municipal Concert Band, conducted by Weldon J. Irvine, will play this evening (Friday), July 31, from 8:30 p.m. at Calhoun and Laurens Sts., School 112.

A most interesting program has been arranged for this concert, including: The Student Prince Overture, by Romberg; Mexican Hat Dance, Onward Christian Soldiers; New Dawn Overture, by Russell, and the Old Timers' Waltz.