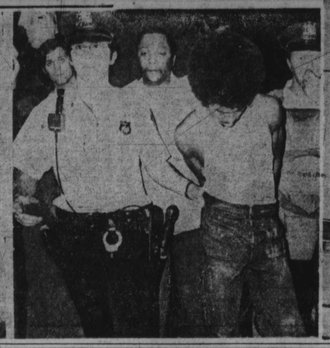

WENDELL BEARD CAPTURED AGAIN, THIS TIME HE'S SHOT — Once again Baltimore's Wendell Beard pulled his now famous escape act, this time as he was being transported by prison guards Tuesday afternoon. Beard jumped out the window of the prison van at Fremont Ave. and Pratt St., (right) and was chased by a guard to Fremont and Fayette St. where he was shot. In left panel the ambulance that carried him to University Hospital, where he was treated for a gunshot wound to the left side, leaves the scene where the chase ended. In the center panel, Beard is seen being escorted by police after he was captured in the Bolton Hill area during October, 1975. Beard was listed by a hospital spokesman as being in stable condition.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

-Woodlawn Highlights

(Continued from Page 10)

Further Affirmations — Frequently through the day, say to yourself something like this: God has been with me even when I have not been thinking about Him. He is the origin of all that I am. He is the source of all the strength that I possess. He gives me the very breath that I draw at this moment. I will trust Him. I will rejoice in Him.

At the noon and evening meals: Table Graces — God who gives all, I thank You for what You give me here. Touch with gratitude, I pray, both my own heart and the hearts of those around me, and keep us ever mindful of the need to give.

For all the wondrous world of Your creation, we give You thanks, our Father: for distant lands and near, for folk of every creed and color and now for the food of our table and the joy of our love. Grant that being strengthened in body, we may be kept in Your way and that being freshened in spirit we may be led toward Your will.

At the end of the day: A Prayer — Now the day is over, God. Some things I have done well and some things poorly. If everything depended on me, the final result might be failure. but everything does not depend on me. You have the power to take my little efforts and bend them to Your plan.

So I leave this day with You — asking You to forgive the things that I have wrongly done and to give me tomorrow the wisdom both to avoid the mistakes of today and to recall what evil I can and make it good. This day is beyond my strength.

I leave it with You and — unworthy though my part in it is — I offer it to the praise and glory of Your Holy name. Amen.

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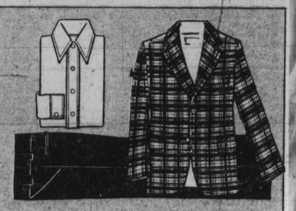

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Dr. Patterson's firing highlights the 1975 Baltimore school year

THE EXECUTIONERS—Members of the School Board during whose term Baltimore school system's $50,000 a year superintendent Dr. Roland Patterson was fired after 11 days of unprecedented hearings. He won the first round of a civil rights suit this December when a federal judge granted him permission to sue the School Board members individually. The board members in the above photograph are from left Dr. Eugene Scott, Robert Schaefer, Dr. Beryl Williams, David E. Sloan, Norman P. Ramsey, Howard E. Marshall, Grover McCrea, Mrs. Sheila Sachs and Oscar Heim.

Dr. Patterson refused to give up, remained to sue for $1 million

Supporters stood by him till end

By Clarence W. Hunter

The firing of Dr. Roland N. Patterson as superintendent of the Baltimore schools highlighted the events that occurred in the schools during 1975.

The hearings and dismissal, which came between May and July of this year, had been termed by supporters as a "designed, carefully orchestrated attack," "a lynching" and "the old slavery time method to get rid of a qualified brother who refused to bow and scrape."

Dr. Patterson was doomed the moment he took the job three years ago. The problem was he is black; he received $50,000 a year and he refused to bend. For some, that was enough to start plans to get rid of him.

It began like most things do; as a rumor. In August, 1974 600 supporters of Dr. Patterson appeared at a School Board meeting because they had heard there was a plan to oust the superintendent.

Forty minutes into the meeting, School Commissioner Robert Schaefer made a motion calling for a change in leadership. Although he had some praise of Dr. Patterson, he stated the system needed a superintendent "who is less hampered by political or physical symbols."

That was the beginning in 1974. In the months that followed there was an uneasy truce between supporters of Dr. Patterson and the members of the School Board. Then April, 1975, the School Board announced it would have a hearing to evaluate the performance of the superintendent in order to determine whether or not the Board should renew his contract.

Baltimore held its breath, waiting for the other shoe to drop.

When it did, it came in the form of a letter to Dr. Patterson telling him that the Board found his performance as superintendent unsatisfactory and gave him until June 24, 1975 to resign. If he did not resign on the 24th, he would be fired the following day.

The letter ordered his presence at the reading of the "Resign or be Fired" resolution June 9. He also had until June 14 to request a public hearing which would be held on June 20.

On June 20, the School Board received an injunction from Judge Joseph A. Howard halting the hearings for at least 10 days. The injunction was later vacated by a higher court.

The hearings began on July 2, after another injunction by Justice Thurgood Marshall delayed them another day. When they did get started and reached a peak, it was clear the Board was going to end the reign of Dr. Patterson.

Then 11 days into the hearings, Judge Howard delivered another court order stating the Board could not fire Dr. Patterson. The order came after Larry S. Gibson, Dr. Patterson's attorney, stated the constitutional rights of his client had been violated.

However, on July 17, Dr. Patterson was fired and Dr. John L. Crew was put in his place.

Dr. Patterson filed a $1 million civil rights suit the following month and in December won the first round when it was ordered he could sue members of the Board individually.

In other school events highlighting 1975:

JANUARY: School Board met on Desegregation Plan.

FEBRUARY: Dr. Frances Welsing, well-known psychiatrist, took part in Black History Week with discussions of mental health and the black American.

MARCH: Public meeting of School Board held on Desegregation Plan.

APRIL: Sen. Clarence Blount discussed the origin and status of the state accountability program; Dunbar High School held Career Emphasis Day.

MAY: New ID cards ready for students; Desegregation Plan meeting was held for junior high level; Patterson evaluation hearing came to an end; Desegregation Plan rejected by HEW.

JUNE: Dr. Patterson received his letter asking him to resign; Justice Thurgood Marshall awarded diplomas at the Douglass High School graduation; Resolution by School Board demanded Dr. Patterson resign or be fired; court order delayed scheduled Patterson hearings.

JULY: Patterson hearings are held; Dr. John L. Crew replaced Dr. Patterson stating he will follow his policy.

AUGUST: Dr. Patterson filed suit for $1 million against members of the School Board and the Baltimore public schools.

SEPTEMBER: Dr. Crew addressed 9,000 teachers for the first time as superintendent; system initiated the FAST plan to help students who had not received proper assignments under Desegregation Plan.

OCTOBER: Dunbar High School choir and jazz and concert band appeared at the White House; Court okayed spanking in schools; Monthly reporting system for complaints received by Security Office established by Dr. Crew.

NOVEMBER: Marines celebrated their 200th anniversary with a Bicentennial tree planting ceremony at Lake Clifton Sr. High.

DECEMBER: Mark K. Joseph appointed new president of the School Board; Dr. Patterson won first round in court battle to be reinstated as superintendent; Robert Schaefer, school commissioner, resigns.

DR. PATTERSON AND his lawyer Larry Gibson and administrative assistant Dr. N. Neobert Jaffa. In right panel, Dr. Beryl Williams and David E. Sloan whose minority report had little effect in saving the already sealed fate of Dr. Patterson.

WHILE HE WAS speaking at Shiloh Baptist Church as shown above with the Rev. Dr. Harold Carter, pastor of the church and James Griffin, former member of the School Board, the board, in an emergency meeting, voted 7-2 to have Dr. Patterson fired.

DR. JOHN L. CREW, who moved up to the post of interim superintendent after Dr. Patterson's dismissal, July 17 addressed over 9,000 teachers for the first time at Memorial Stadium prior to the opening of the fall term. Dr. Crew had said in July, right after taking over, that he would follow the same policy used by Dr. Patterson.

Crime is not rampant in the schools

Crime was not a major issue during 1975 in Baltimore schools, according to a security report released in October.

According to Larry Burgan, chief of school security, the record reflected a "serious cause for concern but not a cause for alarm."

The October file, which was the second monthly report under the revised format, said there was a 77.5 per cent increase in juvenile arrests made by all law enforcement agencies.

Chief Burgan says recent student incidents are due to the uneasiness in various communities over the newly-implemented desegregation. He said the occurrances were intensified by publicity and that tension increased noticeably in several areas.

"Such tension resulted in the increased anti-social behavior," he said. "Rumor feeds on rumor, minor discourtesies have resulted in violent reactions."

Mr. Burgan noted that early in October, when reports of violence were allegedly at the highest, there were almost daily media reports relating to bus incidents, neighborhood disturbances that involved young persons after school dismissed and incidents occurring at specific schools. He said situations like this knocked the incidents out of proportion.

Though there was an increase in violence, school officials reported most of the situations occurred outside school grounds. Officials said the incidents that happened inside the schools were nothing but the ordinary school incidents.

MARK K. JOSEPH was sworn in as new school Board president Dec. 3 after the resignation of Norman P. Ramsey a few months before. His taking over the post angered some black citizens who felt a black person was equally qualified to run the board.

War between HEW, schools here may end in loss of $23 million

Federal Court in February, 1976 may be the final battleground of the 1975 war between HEW and the city schools on the Desegregation Plan.

If HEW should emerge victorious, it could mean that Baltimore schools could lose about $23 million in federal aid.

The issue of desegregation in the city schools arose in a letter sent to former superintendent Dr. Roland N. Patterson dated Feb. 5, 1974 from Peter E. Holmes, former director of the Office of Civil Rights.

In the letter Mr. Holmes told Dr. Patterson that further desegregation of the schools was necessary and he had 30 days in which to submit a plan for further student and faculty desegregation.

Dr. Patterson responded to the letter requesting more time to come up with a plan. HEW granted the extra time and the School Board set to work.

By Feb. 3 the board had come up with a plan to desegregate junior and senior high schools using a zone attendance system.

HEW rejected the plan in May informing the city schools the plan was "not adequate to bring your district into compliance with federal requirements."

Mr. Holmes, in a letter rejecting the plan, had said that 13 of the 23 junior high schools and 10 of the 17 senior highs fell outside the range of 50 to 90 per cent black, the required variable for compliance based on the system-wide composition of about 70 per cent black. He had also said he would be willing to meet with the School Board, even though administrative hearings jeopardizing the $23 million in federal aid was being schedified.

The School Board sent a letter to Mr. Holmes stating that the Office of Civil Rights criticisms were based on "inaccurate factual assumptions and upon misunderstandings of the plans which were submitted."

The administrative hearing was held Aug. 4 and later postponed after the first day. When the fall term began, the city schools went ahead and implemented their plans.

Then on Nov. 5, Mr. Holmes sent another letter to the School Board rejecting the elementary school desegregation plan, stating it was in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

The Board responded saying it had no intentions of changing the plan on Mr. Holmes' request. They also said the letter did not add any new dimensions to the board's efforts but confirmed the position taken by HEW at the hearing.

The threat of losing the $23 million came into view again at the second administration hearing when Judge Irvin N. Hackerman set the trial date for the first week in February.

PEACEFUL GATHERING AT Lake Clifton Sr. High School at the opening of schools under HEW's order of full integration of the Baltimore public schools.

27 DEC 27