Unemployment–

(Continued from page 16)

n welfare, but chose to find more elf - supporting means, to pull imself out of the dregs.

Up until eleven months ago Jacks vorked as a cook at Freestate Race Track in Laurel. But when the racing eason ended last October, so did his ive - month - old job.

Since then, Jacks' situation has een one of faded hope, frustration nd anger at the joblessness he and 1,000 blacks are experiencing.

"Unemployment is a bummer, it tinks. Nobody wants to give you a hance," the 26 - year - old said.

The "$155 - 160" he brought home s a cook has been reduced to a poradic "$125 to $150" he splits with ive members of a band in which he lays lead guitar some weekends.

"He had stood in the lines for nemployment only to have the aseworker turn him down because e hadn't made enough money.

Without a wife and kids, Jacks said e has no outstanding bills—just igarettes, clothes, and the rent he ays every now and then to his randmother.

"I'm definitely not doing great, but 'm not doing bad. I'm not completely broke,"

The Douglass High School raduated who had only trained for a usic career, saw forming a band as is financial possibility. He said,

"I've been looking in newspapers nd by word of mouth. But all they kept telling me is 'come back' or 'we'll call you.'

It was getting discouraging. That's when I formed the band.

"We try to play every week so we can have a little money in our pockets." For outside gigs, the band pulls in $125 for the entire group, and for inside performances $150.

Jacks said he will continue to job hunt, but in the meantime use the band to get him through hard times.

"And", he said, "it will keep me off the streets."

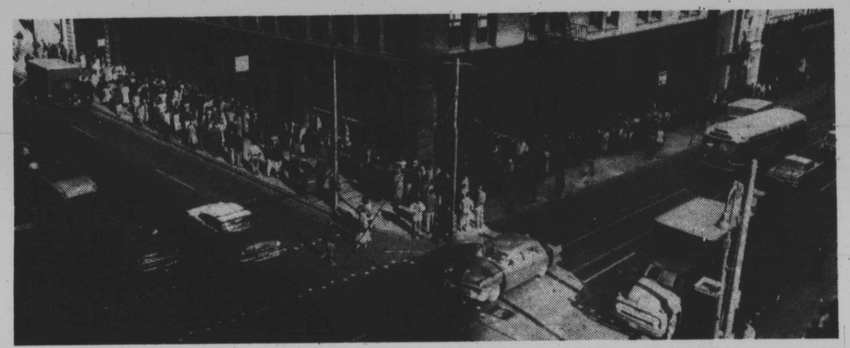
Too many black teenagers, are slipping through the educational system with weak writing and communications skills, and consequently making themselves the most vulnerable to the cancer of unemployment.

As Reagan phases out CETA and cuts federal dollars for previously funded summer jobs for Baltimore youth resulting in some 10,000 fewer jobs available this year, the Black teenage unemployment climbed to almost 50 percent.

The private sector is moving, albeit slowly, to help take up the slack. Starters, an agency originally formed to help youth being phased out of the CETA program find jobs, screens minorities referred from Man Power, Jobs Plus and other training programs, and sends them out on company interviews.

Matthews Wright, an employment consultant at the South Street

(Continued on Page 57)



HOW MUCH HAVE THINGS CHANGED? This AFRO file photo, taken Dec. 12, 1957, shows a two-block long line of unemployed people in front of the Department of Employment Security offices then at 39 Hopkins Pl. In 1957, an eligible jobless person with four minor children could draw $43 a week in benefits. A jobless person without children was eligible for $35 a week of unemployment benefits.

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