

Courthouse races include a little bit of everything

C FRASER SMITH

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By C. FRASER SMITH

You can't tell the players in Baltimore's Courthouse contests without a program—or a ballot, or several ballots, to use a combination of sports-page and political jargon.

This year's city Courthouse races offer a little bit of everything in the way of geographical, racial, political and personal variations on the political art of ticket-making and balancing.

The race for sheriff and for clerk in three courts illustrates the many combinations facing the voters this year.

George W. Freeberger, the incumbent sheriff, faces seven opponents, who including three named Smith (one named Phillip Smith, another named Philip Smith), two of Mr. Freeberger's own assistants and a bare knuckle challenger in

Today's article on the city Courthouse races is part of a series by reporters for The Sun around the state, examining, area by area, the September 12 Democratic and Republican primary elections and the candidates.

Ronald D. Jones, a former city policeman and Fells Point bar owner.

Mr. Jones, who says he has marshalled considerable support from political forces on the north side of the city, acknowledged this week that his workers were responsible for a campaign newspaper accusing Mr. Freeberger of various indiscretions and charging that he "disgraces" the office.

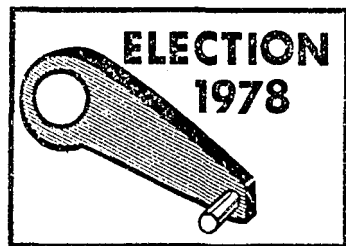
Mr. Freeberger, a former state legislator, says the attack has really "gotten to him." He says this will be his last race.

Mr. Jones calls it political civil war, involving forces north of Pratt street, where patronage from the sheriff's office has been scant recently, and south of Pratt, the domain of state Senator Harry J. McGuirk (D., 37th) and his Stonewall Democratic organization.

Mr. Freeberger says the charge is nonsense. He just hired two people from Baltimore county, he says.

Mr. McGuirk and Senator **Robert L. Douglass (D., 45th)** have put their organizations behind Sheriff Freeberger.

Mr. Jones says he has the support of state Senators Julian L. Lapidus (D., 39th)



and his Mount Royal Democratic Club, Clarence M. Mitchell 3d (D., 38th) and John Carroll Byrnes (D., 44th) and his Herring Run Democratic Club.

"Those senators didn't back me for nothing. They must have thought I had a shot," the 26-year-old contender said.

The challenger says he expects to cut into Mr. Freeberger's home base as well. He says the young, aggressive team put together by Salvatore E. Anello 3d, Mr. McGuirk's challenger, has endorsed him and is "working hard."

Also in this race are Phillip Smith, 53-year-old owner of a detective and limousine agency, who says the sheriff should take a leadership role in law enforcement. He says Mr. Jones is too young, inexperienced and too much a part of the "machines."

Luther R. Smith 4th and Ferdinand J. Mongeon are both employees of Sheriff Freeberger. Grover Adkins, Jr., Philip Jo-

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Courthouse races marked by confusion

COURTHOUSE, from D1

Joseph Smith and Paul Vince, also in the race, could not be reached for comment.

There is also a race for five judgeships on the Supreme Bench.

Five incumbents and Leonard J. Kerpelman, a lawyer, are competing for the five seats: the incumbent judges are Milton B. Allen, Joseph H. H. Kaplan, Solomon Baylor, Shirley B. Jones and Edgar P. Silver.

Many people are also involved in the race for the office of clerk of common pleas, where incumbent J. Randall Carroll battles five challengers, including one deputy clerk in his office, Patricia M. Bertorelli, and the supervisor of court clerks in the Criminal Court, Roland (Gill) Baker.

The field also includes an employee of the radio station at Morgan State University, Sandra E. Banks; Shelton Stewart, and Eugene Tuer.

Mr. Carroll inherited his office from Paul Chester, the first black candidate to win a city-wide race back in 1970. When Mr. Chester was indicted for malfeasance in office, Mr. Carroll

testified before the grand jury.

Some black political officials, he charges, have not forgiven him and will not endorse him.

One of these, Senator Douglass of the 45th district, says Mr. Carroll is not being punished for his testimony. He concedes that the black legislative caucus felt it was inappropriate for Mr. Carroll to take over the chief clerk's job under the circumstances.

It was suggested, Senator Douglass said, that Mr. Carroll step aside for the time being in return for later consideration. Mr. Carroll decided to take the \$25,000-a-year post while it was available. He was given the job over a number of other candidates in a vote by the judges of the court.

Mr. Carroll now contends that the political coalition involving Senators McGuirk and Douglass threatens to rob the black community of an important office it fought hard to secure. This could happen, he says, if the black community's votes are split and a majority of the rest of the votes goes to a white candidate.

The McGuirk-Douglass candidate is Miss Banks, who says she had some management experience as an employee of the Social Security

Administration in Baltimore and New York. She says she was sought-out by the two organizations after she declared her candidacy.

Mr. Baker, who says most people know him as Gill, charges that there is poor leadership and management in the clerk's office. He refers to Miss Banks as "a disc jockey at Morgan."

"The composition of a political ticket," he says, "is not what interests a citizen seeking justice in a courthouse. His hope of getting justice should be based on the integrity of the judicial system and not the health of a political organization."

In the race for clerk of the Superior Court, Robert H. Bouse, who is president of the State Court Clerks Association, has been re-elected twice before and has 10 years experience in the job. He is opposed by William Allen, a deputy clerk in the Criminal Court.

The race for clerk in the Baltimore City Court includes, Elmer O. Harris, a member of the city Liquor Board with McGuirk-Douglass backing. Mr. Harris is opposed by Robert R. Ayd, a 54-year-old employee of the city's Urban Services Agency.

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