State's Desegregation 'Comes In All Shapes, Sizes'

NAACP refiles Harford case

An injuction restraining Harford County School Board from limiting applications to integrated schools from the first three elementary grades, is scheduled to be filed in Federal Court, Tuesday.

The court action is brought by Tucker Dearing, attorney for the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, upon the approval of the organization's Legal Redress Committee, which met this week.

This is the second time that the Harford County School case has been in court.

Last spring, the NAACP agreed to drop the case before Judge Roszel C. Thomsen, when the county school board said it would accept applications on basis other than race.

Subsequently, the school authorities have limited applications to integrate schools to only the elementary grades of one to three, Mr. Dearing said.

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AS FOR the Charles County school situation, Mr. Dearing told the Legal Redress Committee that he had appeared before the school board this week, and, at his request, the date for accepting applications for integrated schools was changed from Aug. 20 to Aug. 24.

The county school board said it was accepting these applications for enrollment into the first grade only, but Mr. Dearing urged the board to accept applications for all grades in the elementary schools.

The NAACP has distributed application blanks to parents in the Charles County community.

The parents were advised to apply for enrollment of their children in any elementary school which is closer to them the colored school where they have been forced to attain previously.

IN OTHER matters the Legl Redress Committee did the following:

1. Directed NAACP attorneys to confer with the Civil Liberties Union to determine whether the NAACP should file a brief as "friend of the court" in the case of Miss Shirley Howard, the attractive blonde girl who faces criminal court trial for giving birth to a tan baby.

Without entering the merits of the case, this brief would declare the ancient statute, under which the 20-year-old mother is indicted, unconstitutional based on discrimination against race and the fact that color is specified in the law.

2. In the case of Thlymos Ingram, woh was arrested and charged with loitering on Pennsylvania Ave.; and is awaiting grand jury action, the committee was advised of the following:

When the matter originally came before the magistrate, in Northwestern Police Court, the case was postponed and no bail was fixed on the defendant.

However, when the case was resumed in the afternoon, bail on the defendant was set at $1,000 over protests of the NAACP attorney, Jay G. McRae Jr. and there was a murmur of dissent in the court room.

SOMEONE BURNED THIS—An idea of the size of the improvised cross burned outside the Fullerton School on Tuesday night can be gained by this picture. Shown is Officer Paul Bressler who put the cross out and who is now investigaoting the incident. The cross bar is made from an old door, aind the shaft is a new two by four. The dark places show where oil soaked rags were placed and then set afire.

Over two years after court decision, few schools mixed

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

Two years and three months after the Supreme Court decision on the school question, integration in the counties of Maryland comes in all shapes, sizes, and descriptions.

There are 23 counties in Maryland, and only one of these, Garrett, has no report to make on desegregation since it has no colored pupils.

In the other 22 counties the attitudes toward integration start at one end of the scale in Allegany where half the colored children are in integrated schools, and filters down to St. Marys County where the superintendent of schools reports the citizenry is hot ready for desegregation.

But even in spite of the differences in the treatment of desegregation, a county by county survey showed that edfinite patterns are being established in Maryland.

The area where the least progress is reported is the Eastern Shore, and the area where the greatest progress has been charted is the upper part of the state, near Baltimore and the Pennsylvania border.

* * *

AS WITH OTHER segregated states in the nation, Maryland was faced with the question of integration on May 17, 1954, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision.

Baltimore, the largest city in a state with strong southern ties, was the first place in Maryland to break with custom as it ended segregation in September of the same year.

In the counties, school officials either appointed citizen committees to study the problem, or else they did nothing.

By 1955 the solid wall of segregation had begun to spring leaks in several places as Montgomery, Prince Georges, Allegany, Carroll, Queen Annes, Washington, Wicomico, and Baltimore Counties, began the process of desegregation.

This year, Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard, Talbot, and Frederick Counties, have been added to the list of those with at least partial integration.

Six other counties, Kent, Cecil, Somerset, Dorchester, Worchester, and Wicomico, have said they will entertain requests for transfers from colored to white schools, but note that they have received no such applications.

In other counties, St. Marys, Caroline, and Calvert, no reports have been received of any integration.

* *

SINCE THE Supreme Court decision, the state has seen two counties taken to court over the question of desegregation. One was St. Mary's and the other was Harford.

The Harford County case was dropped when the county voted to end segregation, but recently when only 15 of 59 pupils who applied for admittance to white schools were accepted, there were indications that the case would go back to the courts.

In the St. Mary's case, the the plaintiffs were ordered to take their case back to the local level and seek satisfaction through "administrative" channels.

The net result of this is to give Maryland 18 counties in which integration is accomplished in fact or in theory, and three in which there are no steps noted toward integration.

Taking each county in order, the survey showed the following results:

* * *

ALLEGANY—With a total of 201 colored children out of a school population of 15,362, the county has 50 per cent of the colored children in integrated schools.

ANNE ARUNDEL — This county has 5,289 colored children forming 18.3 per cent of the school population. The County Board of Education voted to begin desegregation this year in the first three grades.

There were 54 children to apply for transfers and 26 were approved. One will go to the Arnold School, four to Davidsonville, one to Eastport, three to Germantown, three to West Annapolis, six to Glendale in Glenburnie, one to Jacobsville, two to Meade Primary, three to Severna Park.

Dr. David S. Jenkins said those applications disproved were on the basis that the school the children wanted to attend was not closer than the nearest bus route.

Also integrated are schools for trainable children and one for victims of cerebral palsy.

Annapolis is the county seat. There are 5,289 school children forming 18.3 per cent of the total.

BALTIMORE - Desegregation started last year with 28 schools; extended this year to include additional 25 schools. More an expected to be added as the county moves ahead with its building program to solve a critical shortage of spaces.

County seat is Towson, There are 3,988 colored child equalling 6.3 per cent of the school population.

CALVERT - Citizen's committee apponted. County has a 50.9 percentage of colored children in the school population. Prince Frederick is the county seat. There are 1,763 colored children. They form 50.9 per cent of the total.

CAROLINE ½ "The board of education has been and still is giving the problem of integration in the schools very careful study.

"It has previously requested a committee of its own members to summarize the thinking and submit a policy for consideration at a future board meeting. This report was received at the regular board meeting for August and is now under consideration," said Wilbur S. Hoppengarden, superintendent of education.

County has 936 colored pupils for a percentage total of 23.4 per cent. County seat is Denton.

* * *

CARROLL - last year 14 pupils were enrolled in the New Windsor and Union Bridge Schools. All pupils in the county were free to make application for transfers but there have been no additional ones this year.

There were disturbances at the two schools last year and according to an informed source the same people linked with the initial complaints are still complaining.

There are 474 colored pupils in the county, equalling 5.1 per cent of the total enrollment. County seat is Westminster.

* * *

CECIL - This county reports that it is accepting applications for transfers from colored to white schools, but has received none. Only school integrated in the county is at Bainbridge serving Navy children.

There are 510 colored children representing 6.1 of the school population. County seat is Elkton.

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CHARLES—The board of education voted in June to begin desegregation at the first grade So far a number of applications have been received. They are now being processed and the exact number will be released later, according to C. Paul Barnhardt, superintendent.

There are 2,787 colored school children in the county. They form 44.8 per cent of the school population. County seat is La Plata.

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DORCHESTER - Musical programs assemblies, and athletic events are open by choice to all pupils. County teacher meetings are integrated. Requests for transfers to the 12th grade form colored to white schools will be considered. To date no such applications have been received. All requests are to be considered in the light of present enrollment, availability of space, and teacher assignment.

There are 1,762 colored pupils in the county equalling 32.2 of the school population. County seat is Cambridge.

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FREDERICK — Desegregation has started in the town of Brunswick where the first, second and seventh grades in the formerly all-colored school, will be moved to the white school next month. A total of 22 pupils are involved in the move. Still left segregated in the town are the fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

Frederick is the county seat. Colored children number 1,124 and form 9.1 of the school population.

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HARFORD Applications were received from June 15 to July 15 for transfers in the first three grades. A total of 59 were received and only 14 were approved. School officials said others were disapproved because of time element.

Colored school population is 1,428, or 10.7 per cent of the total. County seat is Bel Air.

* * *

HOWARD COUNTY — Eleven applications have been approved this year for transfer to Elkdridge and two for St. John's School. Grades one to five are to be desegregated.

"No one was turned away," was the statement of John E. Yingling, superintendent of education.

Colored school population is 1,085 or 19.5 per cent of the total enrollment. County seat is Elicott City.

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KENT—At the board of education meeting on April 15 it was unanimously voted that desegregation should began on the elementary level and if possible it should be extended to the upper grades.

This was in line with a recommendation from the citizens' committee. Principals were instructed to receive applications and forward them to the board of education. The time limit was set as May 18 and no such requests were received, according to school officials.

There are 897 colored schools children in the county. They form 29.5 per cent of the total school population. The county seat is Chestertown.

* * *

MONTGOMERY—All schools are open to all pupils. When a teacher feels that a pupil will be benefited by a move from one school to another, he may make application for such a move, or the application may be made by the pupil's parents.

Last year, four colored schools were closed and the pupils moved to formerly all white schools. Voluntary tranfers were permitted in suburban area schools according to space limitations.

An estimated 450 pupils were in integrated classes last year. This year the number is expected to be increased by 175-250 children.

Rockville is the county seat. There are 2,947 colored children in the county and they account for 5.6 of the school population.

* * *

PRINCE GEORGES — Last year saw the start of desegregation in the county. When 96 children were admitted to formerly all white schools. This year the number will be doubled. All schools in the county are opened.

The transfer privilege has been extended now so that a child can attend the school nearest his home. There are 6,360 colored children in the county. They total 12.7 per cent of the school population. County seat is Upper Marlboro.

QUEEN ANNE'S—The county offered limited transfers in 1955 and this year opend all schools for transfers. Harry C. Rhodes, superintendent, said there were no applications either last year or this year.

Centerville is the county seat. There are 934 colored children in the community for 28. per cent of the school population.

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ST. MARY'S - "We are not anticipating any desegregation that will be effective this September. We had a very good lay committee that reported our county was not ready for integration and recommended that it not begin before 1957. Our board adopted that recommendation," says Mrs. Lettie M. Dent, superintendent.

Leonardtown is the county seat. There are 1,327 colored pupils, making them equal 29.7 per cent of the school population.

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SOMERSET—This is the second year that Somerset has offered children the privilege of filing for transfers but no such requests have been made, according to C. Allen Carlson, superintendent.

Mr. Carlson said that if a pupil did apply for a course that was not offered at a colored school, he was confident the board of education would approve a transfer.

Princess Anne is the county seat. Colored pupils number 1,663 or 41.1 percent of the school population.

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TALBOT—Integration begins in grades one, two and three. There will be ten children attending formerly all white schools. One school which they will attend is located in Easton and the other in Oxford.

The transfers came after the pupils made application to the board. There are 1,269 colored children in the county. They equal 32.8 per cent of the school population. Easton is the county seat.

* * *

WASHINGTON — Last year the county ended the practices of bringing colored children from the counties to the all colored North St. School in Hagerstown. Instead, the children attended the school nearest their homes. An estimated 40 children were affected by the move.

This year the decision was made to open the ninth, tenth, 11th, and 12th grades in Hagerstown and move the children from the colored to the white school. An estimated 100 children are affected this year. Still segregated are grades one through eight at the North St. School.

The county had 336 colored pupils equalling 2 per cent of the school enrollment. The county seat is Hagerstown.

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WICOMICO — "Anyone who wishes to transfer from one school to another fills out the same applications blanks that we have used for years. We have not received any applications for colored children to transfer to white schools or vice versa. This is a voluntary thing. No one is forcing anyone or holding anyone back," said James M. Bennett, superintendent of education.

The county seat is Salisbury. There are 2,139 colored children comprising 25.4 per cent of the school population.

* * *

WORCESTER—Paul D. Cooper, superintendent, said that on July 12 the board of education voted unanimously that if any child desires to enter a school other than the one he attended, a parent may make request for such a transfer.

No applications have been received and Mr. Cooper said he expected none. The county seat is Snow Hill. Colored children number 1,819 and form 36.9 per cent of the school population.

$50 A WEEK for news tips and photos. Be on the alert—call in your tips to the AFRO City Desk. Phones: MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1812 or 1813. Say "I've got a News Tip." If no answer, call LA. 3-2811 or RI. 4-0508.

PALMA car winner will 'learn to drive'

"I had about 10 tickets that I got from different stores. I didn't think I was going to win. I wasn't there PALMA night or Saturday afternoon.

"I just came home Monday from visiting my sister in Severn. I had the tickets with me. Nobody knew I had won."

Miss Christine Murray, 20, 500 block Wilson St., was excitedly speaking Thursday in the AFRO city department. She had belatedly discovered that Ticket No. 16226, one of her 10, was the winning number.

This magic number enabled Miss Murray to win a late model, fully-equipped Mercury.

"MY BROTHER, ELMER," Miss Murray continued, "had a long white sheet of paper and told me to look and see if I had a number on it.

"I looked and saw my number. I couldn't believe it. I kept checking to make sure."

The irony of the good fortune is that Miss Murray can't drive.

"I want to learn how to drive, so I guess I'll keep it and take lessons," the lucky winner said.

Miss Murray, who attended Douglass High School, lives with her parents.

Second place winner was Mrs. Mary Frank, 1300 block Etting St., who received a $50 merchandise certificate.

Teacher's estate shared by widow, five children

The estate of Charles M. Woodford, former city teacher, has been distributed between his widow, Mrs. Mamie Woodford, and five children, a report to Orphans Court shows.

Two of the children are those of Mrs. Woodford and three are of a former marriage of the deceased.

Mr. Woodford, according to an inventory filed, left an estate of $5,880.85. This included property at 1203 Harlem Ave., which Mrs. Woodford bought in for $5,000 and an automobile for $350.

Payments out of the estate amounted to $2,964.84. The $2,925.01 balance was distributed as follows:

Mrs. Woodford, $741.64; and $436.66 each to Charles Jr., Carroll, William Woodford, sons; and Mesdames Elaine Reid and Charlotte Keene, daughters.

Nude dancing girl statue case goes to grand jury

"I'm not sure we can duplicate it now. Bronze is so hard to get. It was insured for vandalism but not for larceny."

Miss Marjorie Martinet, noted artist, of the 4100 block Ridgewood Ave., speaking Tuesday in Northwestern District Court was referring to the larceny of an irreplaceable bronze statue from the rear of her home last Friday night or early Saturday morning.

The eight-foot tall statue was the work of Beatrice Fenton, a Philadelphia sculptress and a personal friend of Miss Martinet's. It portrayed a nude girl dancing on three dolphin fish with arms raised and weighed about 600 pounds.

Charged with the larceny are: Robert A. Scovens, 29, 400 block N. Greene St.; Ernest Scovens, 22, 600 block E. Biddle St.; Herbert Harris, 21, 100 block Welcome Alley; and James Cooper, 23, 600 block S. Hanover St.

* * *

SGT. WILLIAM CARBERRY testified that with three men at the base of the statue and one at the arms, they carried it to a truck parked nearby.

Sgt. Carberry further explained: "Cooper was the driver. They parked the truck and the next day moved the truck to Welcome Alley and chopped up the statue."

Each defendant was held on $3,000 bail for grand jury action. "Was anything done to the junk man? He encouraged this," the magistrate remarked. "It never reached the junk man," Sgt. Carberry replied.

Following the hearing Miss Martinet said to an AFRO reporter:

"I have no ill-feeling toward anyone, It is a sad situation. It was a work of art and as such is irreplaceable. I have the friendliest feeling toward colored people.

"IT WAS IGNORANCE on the part of these four boys. They had no idea of the artistic value of the work. The question is: 'What can we do to prevent this from happening again?'"

Speaking softly the artist continued: "I think the magistrate had a point when he asked about the junk man. The boys must have talked to some junk man before taking in. We must not let this sort of thing happen again."

3 Police killings in Baltimore in four-week period

JUNE 25, 1956—Harry Boyd Jr., 1417 N. Broadway, shot in back by Northeastern Patrolman Charles Fennell, who arrived on scene after a street fight. Magistrate Meyer Cardin ruled the officer acted in line of duty and the killing was justified.

JULY 7, 1956 — Robert Harper, 1614 Barclay St., shot in leg and bled to death following shooting by Southwestern Patrolman Walter Mina Jr., who told superiors he was breaking up a disorderly crowd. Officer Mina was exonerated of the killing by Magistrate Meyer Cardin, who ruled he acted in line of duty.

AUGUST 15, 1956—Frank J. Williams, 24, was shot and killed by Sgt. Albert Heck as a suspect in two hold ups and the non-fatal shooting of a tailor shop proprietor. Sgt. Heck was exonerated o the killing in Central Police Court.

Sgt. cleared in slaying

They struggled and the sergeant's gun went off."

In Central Police Court Tuesday, that is what fellow police officers testified to before a Southwestern District officer was found not guilty of shooting an ex-convict.

The fatal shooting charge against Sgt. Albert F. Heck was dismissed by Magistrate Meyer Cardin following testimony that Frank J. Williams, 24, of the 600 block N. Vine St., was shot in the abdomen as he grabbed the sergeant's wrists.

The shooting at Saratoga and Stricker Sts., occurred a week ago while police were searching for a suspect in two holdups.

In one, a 71-year-old man in a tailor shop at Saratoga and Fulton Ave., was shot in the neck.

Prior to the report of that shooting, police were notified that a tailor shop at Carey St., and Riggs Ave., had been held up and $1 and a watch taken.

* * *

WHEN THE SECOND holdup was broadcast, two plainclothes officers arrived in time to see a man answering the suspect's description running.

The suspect ran into a house through a rear window and through the front door.

As he ran out of an alley, he was chased by Sgt. Heck.

When the officer tried to subdue Williams, police said he dug his fingernails into Sgt. Heck's wrist and in the struggle that followed the officer's gun went off.

'I still can't eat anything but soup'

"I still can't eat anything but soup. The left side of my face is aching and still swollen. I've missed work since Monday."

Thlymos Ingram, 400 block N. Monroe St., a 33-year-old employee of a local Meat Co., who testified Monday in Northwestern District Court that he had been beaten by police was speaking Wednesday to an AFRO reporter.

Mr. Ingram was arrested early Monday morning in the 1400 block of Pennsylvania Ave. and charged with disorderly conduct and with striking Officer Fred Johnson.

* * *

CAPTAIN MILLARD B. HORTON of Northwestern District Police Station told the AFRO Thursday: "I have no comment about the Ingram case. Besides, it has gone downtown.

"However, I don't think the AFRO report was a fair one. So far as his bleeding and holding a handkerchief is concerned, he could have hurt himselfin the cell or had a toothache.

"I have received no official complaint from anyone. Naturally, in my five years here I have not condoned police brutality."

* * *

RELEASED ON BAIL, Mr. Ingram further told the AFRO: "About 15 minutes after they took me to Northwest, two different officers took me to another police station, where I received first-aid.

"There, one of the officers took his billy and hit me on the left leg and bottom of my foot. After this he took his billy and said: 'I don't like n-----s anyway; and shoved his billy in my stomach four or five times.

* * *

"COMING BACK to Northwest another officer said: "You black son of a b---, you think you're as good as we are!

"They beat me again. They kicked and beat me all the way to my cell. I ran in the cell."

Mr. Ingram does not know the names of the officers who he said beat him at the first-aid station and returning from there, but said that he would recognize them by sight.

* * *

FOLLOWING THE REQUEST of Mr. Ingram Monday for a witness to support his charge of being beaten and for a lawyer to represent him, he was released on his own recognizance and the case was postponed until Monday's afternoon session.

When Mr. Ingram returned Monday afternoon he had both a woman witness and an attorney. Officer Johnson was not present.

A jury trial was prayed by the magistrate and a bail of $1,000 set. $500 for disorderly conduct and $500 for striking an officer.

'I knew she was in there'

"I knew she was in there. "But when my brother and I knocked at the door and asked for Johnny, his cousin said that Johnny was out. We listened and heard Johnny ask if I had been to the door.

"So we went around to the back, up to the porch and listened at the bedroom window.

"Sure enough, she and Johnny were in there...talking about me."

Thus, Merlin Thomas of 2207 Presbury St., testified before a master of Circuit Court of the grounds on which he won a divorce from Mrs. Rose M. Thomas.

* * *

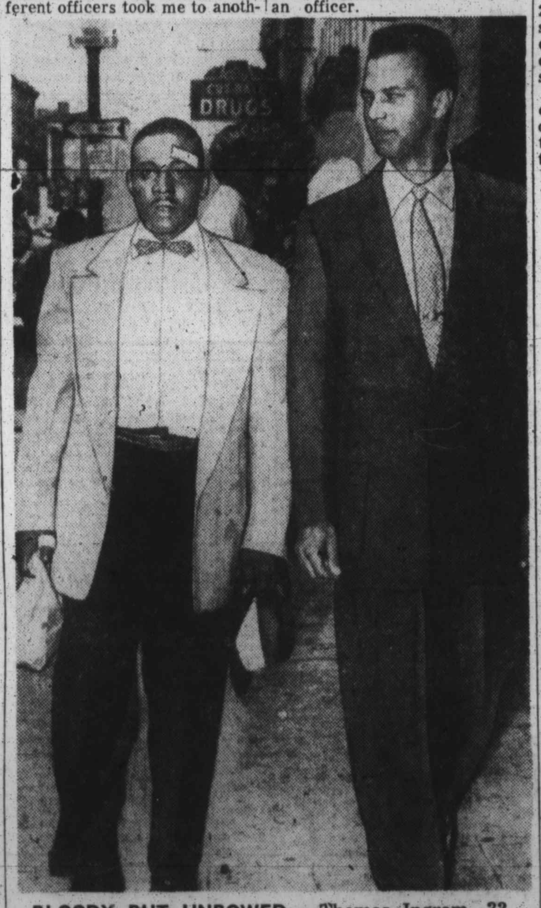
"AFTER THIS I talked to her like you would to a kid. She told me first that she was sorry and that she wouldn't do this again. I decided to forgive her, but on the next Saturday night she went right back again."

Mr. Thomas said that on his second visit to the porch off Johnny's room, he again heard Mrs. Thomas and her friend talking.

"When I struck a match, Johnny cracked the door, I snatched the door open and there was my wife on the bed," the husband added.

Mr. Thomas told the Master that following this incident, he had another talk with his wife. Mrs. Thomas told him that she just couldn't help herself...that Johnny must be doping her or something, he said.

Mr. Thomas wasn't so sure that his wife was correct on the dope issue, especially after he had Western Union produce copies of six telegrams in which Mrs. Thomas had summoned Johnny to get in touch with her at the Wolfe St. rendezvous, where she visited her friend.



BLOODY BUT UNBOWED — Thomas Ingram, 33, 400 block N. Monroe St. explains to his attorney, Jay G. McRae Jr. the circumstances surrounding his early Monday morning arrest. Mr. Ingram, charged with striking an officer said in court: "He (a police officer) hauled off and hit me, loosened my bridge work and told me to run."

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