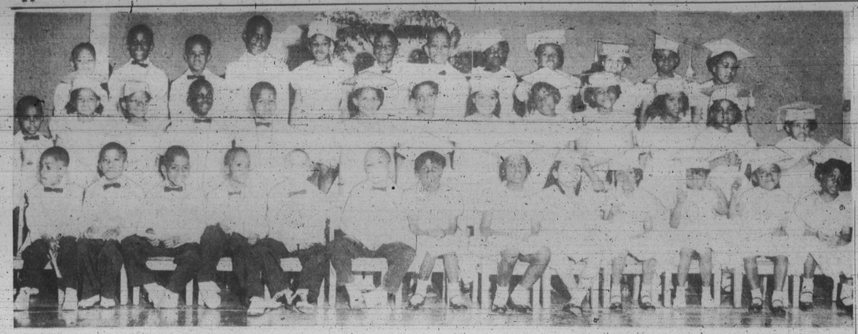

MUSICAL GRADUATION — Young students of the St Pius Kindergarten are shown as they appeared at their recent graduation program which was held at Saint Pius Auditorium last Sunday. Rev. Fr. Stephen J. Hogan, S. S. J., is pastor.

Your school honors... Fannie Jackson Coppin

By GARFIELD HINTON

"Miss Jackson was not only the recognized scholar among school teachers, but gained a reputation of being a platform speaker with few equals . . .

"These facts, backed up by an irreproachable character, gave her undisputed leadership in all matters of race advancement. She was the only person whom the whole city would follow. . . "

The Rev. Levi Jenkins Coppin, recalling the year 1881, when he and Miss Fannie Jackson were married, was writing, not as a theologian but as a young man in love.

This was his fourth year in Philadelphia and already he was pastor of the AME Mother Church, there, as well as pastor of Bethel, in Baltimore.

His first wife had died shortly after their marriage, and now, he was not exactly adverse to a second marriage.

* * *

AT THIS TIME, Miss Jackson was principal of Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth, an academy supported by funds bequeathed 25 years previously by a Quaker, Richard Humphreys.

The year 1881 found the AME Church concerned with raising money to save the "Christian Recorder," an old Methodist publication.

A huge Fair was held to raise money for the periodical. Miss Jackson, although she was Episcopalian, became the prime mover and president of the Fair Committee. The Fair was a big success.

It was during this period that romance blossomed between the young minister and the school teacher. Clearly a similen young man, the Rev. Mr. Coppin, writing in memorable prose, describes the affair in this manner:

"Miss Jackson, a hard and constant worker for the public good, was not a society woman. She was conspicuous absent from dance, public and private, and from such delicate tributes as flowers, as she was particularly and pointedly the child of sorrow and the exile of society people. Dear . . .

"She was just as conspicuous for her prudence, however, at all public gatherings for social and moral uplift.

"Before the Fair closed, I was seeing Miss Jackson home every night, and more, was having business with her during some of the days intervening pertaining to the Fair, of course.

"At the same business that made it necessary for me to call at the Institute about the middle of the fair, I became interested in Miss Jackson and she became interested in me.

"She had a fixed course in life, and stubbornly maintained it, and it became a fixed habit. Perhaps she admired my course, I found much in her to admire. Our coming together was like the dropping of seed into the earth, which grew.

"Miss Jackson had a heart with a deep well. How to reach it was the only question. I did not appear upon the surface. Darting intellect is what was seen and constantly spoken of.

"But there was a heart, which it once reached, would pour out its love like a perennial spring. Intellect was great, but her heart was greater. Such was Fannie Jackson in 1881, and such Bishop L. Payne in the 19th Century, Washington in the 20th."

* * *

THE YOUNG MINISTER wanted his beautiful and no less prominent bride, to give up teaching and settle down. He was, however, too wise a man to demand this of her.

With characteristic enthusiasm, Mrs. Coppin took a spirited interest in her husband's work, and began helping the Methodist Church raise money to carry on its missionary program.

Mrs. Coppin continued her work as an educator, civic leader and public speaker. In 1900, her husband became the 30th bishop of the AME Church. Bishop Coppin was assigned to South Africa.

A life-long dream realized, he sailed for South Africa. Mrs. Coppin, by his side. At Capetown, South Africa, Bishop Coppin founded Bethel Institute, for training African youth.

Once in South Africa, Mrs. Coppin dedicated herself to the uplift of the native South Africans.

* * *

THE COUPLE RETURNED to the United States in 1904. Shortly after this, Mrs. Coppin began to decline in health. Eventually, she was confined to bed.

Even so, she kept her mind active by reading, and was an unfailing source of encouragement to her ambitious husband.

It was during these long sick years that she wrote a simple little narrative: "Reminiscences of School Life, and Hints on Teaching."

As Mrs. Coppin lay bedridden, recapitulating her life, she had many memories of which to be proud. Perhaps she remembered some of the following:

She was born a slave in Washington about 1837. It was her aunt, Mrs. Sarah Clark, who noticed that Fannie was an exceptional child, and purchased the child's freedom for $175.

This was shortly after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, and Mrs. Clark didn't want to take any chances with her niece's future.

When the girl, Fannie, was 15, she went to Newport, Rhode Island, where she worked as a maid for the wealthy Calvert family. Although of Baltimore, the Calverts had moved to Rhode Island.

Mrs. Calvert had no children of her own, and took kindly to Fannie. Fannie, however, saved her money. Her little leisure hours she spent in studying the piano and guitar.

Word of this bright young girl reached Bishop Daniel A. Payne of Baltimore. He offered her a scholarship to Oberlin College, Ohio. The offer was eagerly accepted by Fannie.

Once at Oberlin, she put her knowledge of music to good advantage by teaching piano and guitar to children of faculty members.

* * *

A SIGNAL HONOR came to her, while at Oberlin. She was placed in charge of a preparatory class of white students by the college president. Liberal as Oberlin was, this was the first time a colored student had been so honored.

The class grew to 100 students, who refused to leave, after college officials attempted to reduce the size of the class.

In the wake of the Civil War, the young teacher along with Miss Mary M. Patterson, began teaching at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia.

Four years later in 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Ebenezer D. Bassett, brother of the former ambassador to Haiti, The young teacher, even then, was the natural choice to fill the vacancy.

* * *

PERHAPS, AS MRS. Coppin lay in her sick bed, she recalled that she had shared the speakers' platform with such notables of the day as Frederick Douglass and John M. Langston.

The mayor of Philadelphia, once upon listening to her speak, immediately appointed her as a member of the Board of City Examiners. Fluent in speech, she sometimes served as court interpreter.

Most of her life had been spent in the Philadelphia-Washington, Baltimore area, but she had in 1888 attended a Missionary Congress in England.

She was called: "a leader in every good cause for the promotion of the betterment of her people."

* * *

ON THE TANGIBLE side, she organized the Colored Woman's Exchange, which gave the people of Philadelphia an opportunity to see first hand what colored people could do, make, and create.

The Exchange received many orders for wares displayed. She and Bishop Coppin maintained a home for girls for several years.

Most creditable, however, in terms of things that could be seen and felt was the establishment of an industrial school for colored youth, as part of the curriculum at Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth.

* * *

MRS. COPPIN lecured until the whole community supported her program. She is quoted as having said, that the only time a colored youth learned a trade was when he was sent to the House of Correction.

This was a slap at discrimination on the part of industries in Philadelphia as most refused to train colored apprentices.

Writing autobiographically some years later, Mrs. Coppin's husband, wrote: "I think it is not generally known that industrial education for colored youth had its origin in Philadelphia and not at Tuskegee.

"It is none the better for that, but, it is a historical fact, and perhaps, unwritten."

"Miss Fanny" as generations of students called her, died quietly at home on January 21, 1913.

Of the many eulogies that were given her, the one her husband, Bishop Coppin remembered most meaningfully, is: "For 40 years she was the inspiration of thousands. Her name was a synonym for character, for high inspiration, for purity, for thoroughness and for righteousness."

* * *

COPPIN ELEMENTARY School No. 132 at Mount St., near Riggs Ave. was named in 1931 in honor of this educator.

Mrs. Rosalie J. McGuire is principal of the school and Charles Mason, vice-principal. Coppin Elementary School has a faculty of 25 and a pupil enrollment of 1007. Subjects through grade sixth are served.

Coppin State Teachers College now at 2500 West North Ave., was, prior to 1950, when the Maryland State Department of Education took over the school, a normal teachers' training school.

* * *

THE NORMAL training school for teachers in the Baltimore public school system and Coppin Elementary school shared the same building. The training school was on the third floor.

A close relationship between the two schools has been maintained. Coppin Elementary school serves as a laboratory for the college.

Mr. Mason vice-principal of plains that the college faculty arranges demonstrations at the elementary school and also that some Coppin State Teachers College students practice teaching at the Fannie Jackson Coppin Elementary School No. 132.

FANNIE JACKSON COPPIN

Douglass inducts top pupils

By DAISY WILSON

One of the most significant assemblies of the school year was presented in the Douglass High School auditorium on May 23 for the purpose of inducting eligible students into the Douglass Honor Society.

Those inducted were James Brown, Phyllis Brooks, Carolyn Ford, Patricia Morton, Carol Perkins, Phylis Stevenson, Patricia Hudson, Lily Wilkes, Emily Forbes, Mary Martin, Ernestine Arnett, Beverly Kent and Gwendolyn Richardson.

Members of the Student Council of Douglass are busy preparing and campaigning for the election of the Council's officers for 1957-1958.

* * *

THE CANDIDATES are president—Melvena Green, and Barbara Finney, vice president—Lillian Jones and Patricia Cooper; secretary—Vivian Wallace, and Marian Smith; treasurer, Joseph Brown.

When the National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce opened their doors to students, giving them an opportunity to tour the building, 40 Douglass students were on hand to view the interesting and modern laboratories. H. M. Frisby, head of the science Department of Douglass, accompanied the group.

As a part of their class unit on the study of Shakespeare and his writings, an 11 A class from Douglass visited the Shakespearean Library in Washington.

Miss Betty Williams is their teacher.

Warner Traynham, a senior at Dartmouth College, has been awarded the Reynolds-Fellowship to study at Oxford University, England.

A television set and a Timex controlled reading machine were presented to Douglass through the efforts of the members of the PTA of Douglass.

THE KINGS — A highlight of the recent talent show at P.S. No. 161 was the appearance of this singing aggregation shown above. The young sters, shown left to right, are: Bobby Hall, Wallace Gladney, Charles Bethea, Carl Garrett and Ralph Bailey.

THESE YOUNG artists were heard at the talent show sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks at P.S. No. 161 last week. Billed as "The Imperial Juniors," they are from the Chick Webb Center, and are L to R: Phillip Dean, 11; James Hardy, 8, and Kermit Arnold, 11.

Baltimore Afro-American SCHOOL PAGE

GARFIELD HINTON, School Reporter

The AFRO solicits news from all public and parochial schools. Address releases to City Desk, AFRO-AMERICAN, Baltimore 1, Md. — Tuesday edition deadline Friday noon. Friday edition Tuesday noon. If you desire photos of school events call City Desk, MU. 5-6015 at least one week prior to event.

School 109 wins grand prize award

A total of 33 Baltimore schools received special awards Tuesday evening, at the climax of the annual Clean-up, Fix-up Neighborhood Improvement Campaign.

Sponsored jointly by the Department of Education and the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the campaign is intended to foster citizen responsibility for neighborhood improvement through curricular and action programs in Baltimore schools. 95 schools participated in the campaign this year.

The award-giving ceremony was held at the Lyric Theatre, prior to the showing of a movie on urban renewal entitled "Our Living Future," produced by ACTION.

Dr. Harry Bard of the Department of Education, and Mr. Warren Buckler Jr., president of CPHA, presented the awards.

* * *

GRAND AWARDS for elementary school went to Cromwell School (No. 74) and the Broadway Elementary School (No. 109).

The Broadway School was honored for conducting a year-round improvement program, consisting of a door-to-door educational campaign, an effective rat control program in cooperation with city agencies, and the beautification of an adjoining lot.

In the Elementary School Class, the Henry Winter Davis School (No. 125) received a "Continuing Award" for carrying out a five-year improvement campaign which has transformed a blighted section of Baltimore into a pleasant residential area. This achievement was brought about by school activities, and by persuading local landlords and homeowners to improve their properties.

In addition, 20 first prizes were presented to elementary schools.

* * *

THE GRAND AWARD for Junior High Schools went to the Saratoga Junior High School No. 30 for keeping the neighborhood aware of the need for community clean-up through publicity stunts and consistent checking of trouble spots.

First Award went to the Hampstead Hill Junior High School (No. 45) for organizing clean-up squads to promote cleanliness both within the school and in the neighborhood. Two Special Awards went to Junior High School No. 183 and Francis Scott Key Junior High School (No. 76).

Finally, five "Honorable Mentions" were presented to Senior High Schools, which made valuable contributions to the campaign.

Cherry Hill carnival set June 1-6

The Cherry Hill Carnival which will be held July 1-6, on the grounds of the Cherry Hill Community Building, 2700 Spelman Rd., represents the combined efforts of all the organized groups within the community.

The proceeds from the carnival will be used for community recreation and equipment.

Shephard Burge, chairman of the carnival committee, said that the plans got off to a good start at a "Kick-off-Banquet" in February.

Among the organizations participating are: The Original Democratic Women, Ladies Sodality of St. Veronica Church, Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill Methodist Church, Parent Teacher Associations of Schools 159, 160, 163, and 180.

Also the Cherry Hill A. A. Group, The Golden Age Club, La Rue Square Improvement Association, Mothers' Club, Ladies Auxiliary and the "Y" Wives.

Joseph H. Fitts Jr. and Miss Miriam Gwynn of the Cherry Hill Homes Staff are working in an advisory capacity to the group.

Baltimore Trio plays at No. 145

The Baltimore Trio, through the courtesy of the Music Department, presented to the pupils of Mary E. Rodman School No. 145 a demonstration of percussion instruments on Tuesday.

Mr. Minnick, Mr. Shelley and Mr. Strathmeyer discussed and demonstrated playing techniques. Mrs. Charlotte Swan is music specialist. George E. Simms, principal.

Safety program stressed at B. T. Washington

By EMMA DORSEY

The Safety Board of Booker T. Washington Junior High School No. 130 presented Lieutenant Carl Pike of the Michigan State Police in the school auditorium on Monday.

The Safety Board which is composed of the officers of the Safety Patrol and Girls' Auxiliary, was able to get Lieutenant Pike through Mr. Frank Bennett of the Baltimore Department of Education.

At the beginning of the program, Alvin Covington of the Safety Patrol and Girls' Auxiliary, was able to get Lieutenant Pike through Mr. Frank Bennett of the Baltimore Department of Education.

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FRANCENE PORTER, Milton Dugger Jr., and Pamela Jones emerged first, second, and third respectively in the declamation contest presented by the English Department of Booker T. on Friday.

The judges were Mrs. Josie G. Smith, supervisor of English, junior high schools; Clarence De Haven, specialists in dramatics, secondary schools; Mrs. Wheatley, head of the English Department, Dunbar High School; and Miss Nellie Buchanan, romance language teacher, Douglass High School.

TEEN AGE MEDLEY

By LAVANIA RICE

On Friday the Elipson gave their last dance of the season at the YWCA on Madison Avenue.

The club consists of members from Douglass, Dunbar, St. Francis and Carver.

The officers of the club are: Gordon Ayres, president; Helen Flemmings, vice president; Arthur Waters, treasurer; Sara Cousins, secretary.

* * *

THOSE WHO attended the dance were: Jean Walker, Shirley Soden, Martha Wrington, Phillis Hammond, Del Edwards, Carlyle Pierce, Michael Moses, Lorrian Blake, Beverly Johnson, Stuart Gardner, Douglass Farmer, Gilbert Hints, Rosemary and Sadie Haviell, Eugene Mooring.

Also Vickie Lipscomb, Barbara Goldsmith, Roland Lee, Robert Moore, Bernard Bell, Kay Neal and James Johnson.

The guests of the Elipson were the Storks and a coed organization of the YWCA, a few of those members were: Leroy Hawthorne, Jimmy Gordon, Eugene Flisher and Roland Gregory.

U. of Md. services to be held June 2

COLLEGE PARK — Baccalaureate services for University of Maryland graduating seniors will be held at 4 p.m. on June 2, at the university's Memorial Chapel, led by Dr. Lee Shane, pastor of the National Baptist Memorial Church, Washington, D.C.

A native of Indianapolis, Ind., Dr. Shane was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Charleston, W. Va., for 10 years, prior to taking his present position last February.

School 131 pupils carry flowers to Provident Hospital

The Junior Red Cross Club of Elementary School 131 sponsored by Mrs. Geneva B. Woods, visited the patients of Provident Hospital Friday.

They carried beautiful red, pink, and white carnations; made from crepe paper under the skillful direction of Mrs. Margaret Finch, art teacher.

Those participating were Edward Mason, Carl Whidby, Maurice Sample, James Spender, Johnny Hook, James Taylor, Johnnie Murray, Glenn Conner, Levie Johnson and Sylvester Stokes.

Fashions displayed at Dunbar

The Sewing Department of the Dunbar Evening School under the direction of Mrs. June B. Gould, Mrs. Elizabeth Scribner and Miss Hazel Scott presented their annual fashion review in the school auditorium.

The program began with a waltz by Miss Marie White and Author Scribner. The little tots had their part as they displayed the workmanship of their parents.

Mrs. Ruth Boyd and Mrs. Irene Hadley of Dunbar Evening school were recent models in the fashion show of Carver Evening School in Hillcrest.

Miss Cornelia Wilkes, Mrs. Violetta Jones, Mr. Alfred Wise and Mr. James White were guest models from Carver Evening School.

* * *

MRS. MATTIE BOYKINS from School No. 182 Evening School also joined the family of fashions.

The make-up artist, Mrs. Ida G. Milbourne, donated her services.

Dates for High School Commencement exercises

June 14—Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School No. 410, 35th St. and Hillen Rd.

June 17—George Washington Carver Vocational High School No. 454, Pressman and Bentalou Sts.

June 17—Patterson Park High School, No. 43, Pratt St. and Ellwood Ave.

June 18—Forest Park High School No. 406, Chatham Rd. and Eldorado Ave.

June 19—Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Senior High School No. 403, North Ave. and Calvert St.

June 20—Baltimore City College, Senior High School No. 408, 33rd St. and Miss Alameda.

June 21—Paul Laurence Dunbar High School No. 133, McElderry and Caroline Sts.

June 24—Eastern High School No. 404, 33rd St. and Loch Raven Rd.

June 25—Western High School No. 407, Howard and Centre Sts.

June 26—Southern High School No. 70, Warren Ave. and William St.

June 27—Frederick Douglass High School No. 450, Gwynns Falls Pkwy. and Pulaski St.

Note: All the commencement programs will be held at 8 p.m. at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, North Ave. and Calvert St., except Carver. Carver's commencement program will be in Carver's own auditorium, at Pressman and Bentalou Sts. at 8 p.m.

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U.S. in conspiracy with banks to bar us from homes—Mitchell

Top officials in FHA help to perpetuate discrimination; colored firms making heroic effort to meet financing needs; many urban renewal plans are in reality removing colored people; whites who flee from incoming colored people wind up in cracker-box suburban dwellings; absentee exploiters put in taverns, poolrooms, junk shops as soon as colored move in; real estate brokers urged to help new residents organize against such practices

"There is a virtual conspiracy between lending institutions and the U.S. Government to deprive colored citizens of their right to purchase the homes of their choice.

"There is hardly a top official in the Federal Housing Agencies who does not know that this is happening...

Many of these officials cooperate fully in the strengthening and extension of such discriminatory policies . . .

The speaker of these words was Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP.

* * *

HE WAS speaking Friday evening at Morgan Christian Center at the annual banquet of the Real Estate Brokers of Baltimore Inc.

Mr. Mitchell was cited by the brokers for his leadership in efforts to eliminate racial discrimination in housing, education, employment and armed forces.

The full text of Mr. Mitchell's remarks follows:

On May 3, 1948, the U.S. Supreme Court destroyed the last legal base for residential segregation by outlawing judicial enforcement of covenants requiring racial restriction in the use and purchase of property.

This was the closing chapter of the work begun in 1917 when the Court held that housing segregation laws and ordinances were un-Constitutional.

Thousands who live in decent housing today were able to purchase their homes because Americans such as Charles Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Carl Murphy, Mrs. Lillie Jackson and many persons of various races and faiths continued to press the fight against legislative and court imposed restrictions.

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IT IS a fact of history that much of the reasoning of the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1948 restrictive covenant cases had been used earlier by a Baltimore lawyer, W. A. C. Hughes, Jr., in a case arising in this city, in this effort to prevent the ouster of a prominent clergyman from a home that colored neighbors had for years which only.

It is a good thing for this community that the roster of those who must carry on the struggle for the right to live in a decent home includes that brilliant and resourceful son of a distinguished father, Linwood G. Koger, Jr.

It is also gratifying to note that Clarence A. Parham and my associate, Daniel Donald Jackson, are among the leaders in campaigns for more and better housing.

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LIKE MOST of his fellow Americans, a colored man may buy a Cadillac or a foreign make automobile with relative ease.

This is because the companies and financial institutions that control the industry and sales are primarily interested in making a profit, they are not the self-appointed guardians of white supremacy and racial segregation.

Unlike his fellow Americans who are white, a colored man who is a good credit risk, a desirable neighbor, and a man of some cultural accomplishment may be denied accommodation when he tries to purchase the home he wants, if those who control the housing industry and lending institutions have decreed that whites only may buy the property.

* * *

INCREDIBLE as it may seem, there is a virtual conspiracy between lending institutions and the U.S. Government to deprive colored citizens of their right to purchase the home of their choice.

President Eisenhower has declared at press conferences that he and representatives of the Federal Government must not be used to promote racial discrimination in housing.

Yet, those who have new housing to sell or land that is available for development must give assurances to lending institutions and often to local Government officials that whites only will be permitted to buy or rent the property for residence.

There is hardly a top official in the Federal Housing Agencies who does not know that this is happening.

Most of these officials cooperate fully in the strengthening and extension of such discriminatory policies.

Some of them even refuse to permit subordinates to quote the press conference statements made by the President in public speeches.

* * *

IT IS estimated that housing needs of non-farm colored people in the United States amount to 2 million 5 hundred thousand units which must be obtained through new construction.

Colored lending institutions are making a heroic effort to meet the financing needs. Colored life insurance companies have over 46 million in mortgage loans and nearly 9 million and a half in FHA insured mortgages.

Savings and Loan Companies have 43 million in mortgage loans and 2 million in FHA insured mortgages. Commercial Banks have over 6 and a quarter million in mortgage loans and approximately 714 thousand in FHA insured mortgages.

The total assets of colored companies amounts to approximately 253 million dollars.

* * *

THIS SOUNDS impressive until one realizes that total assets of similar white institutions amount to 338 billion.

There are between major companies with assets of over 25 billion that promote and extend racial discrimination in housing by refusing to finance housing that is sold to colored persons without regard to race.

At present, Federal policies are designed to prod the colored lending institutions into making more loans from their limited resources.

At the same time, virtually nothing is being done to control the practices of the companies that control the billions.

With Federal sanction, whole areas of cities are arising. Bucks County, Pennsylvania is a classic example.

In this county, there is severe restriction against colored people who seek new housing.

Yet the FHA has insured mortgages amounting to approximately a third and a half million dollars without making an effective effort to reduce racial discrimination in the housing sales.

* * *

IN ADDITION to the restrictive practices on housing built on open land, the Federal Government is engaged in promoting an extensive program of urban renewal.

National experience with this program shows that when the bulldozers move in to clear slum areas, approximately two-thirds to three-fourths of the people displaced are colored.

But when the new building plans are completed, it is expected that three-fourths of the occupants will be white.

It is obvious that if the present trend continues in urban renewal, it will also be colored removal.

By a special touch of irony, the practice barring colored families from new housing in suburban areas has developed an interesting by-product.

* * *

IF THE present flight of white persons to the suburbs continues, there is a strong possibility that several major cities, including New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, will elect colored mayors within the next five to ten years.

Already, there are Congressional Districts in Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio that may send new colored men to Congress by the next Presidential election.

Dozens of brown faces are appearing in the city councils and state legislatures of the North because of changing neighborhood patterns.

These patterns are artificially created by lending policies of private institutions and the apathy or direct aid of the Federal Government.

* * *

THIS EFFECT of housing on the political picture is not new in our country.

Before the turn of the Century, the Irish, Italians, Jews, and many other groups were at the bottom of the prestige ladder with the colored people.

Using their tightly restricted neighborhoods as jumping off places, these groups have steadily expanded their political participation.

Today, the people of Rhode Island send an Italian to the U.S. Senate, the Majority Leader in the House of Representatives is a man who was considered less acceptable as a boy because he was Irish. In Yankee dominated Boston, the people of Connecticut have overwhelmingly placed their confidence in a man of the Irish faith by electing him Governor.

* * *

THE BIG difference between what has happened to these groups and what is happening to the colored people in the housing field is that they are now accepted into the mainstream of American life still judged on skin rather than ability.

An excellent illustration of this may be found in the Naval Academy.

There is an area known as Spring Valley which is notorious for racial restrictions in housing.

Senator Pastore of Rhode Island and Majority Leader McCormack of Boston could buy a house there because they are white.

Not one of the three colored members of Congress could purchase a house in the area simply because of race.

Lest anyone be led to rejoice because housing restrictions are producing more elected officials, I hasten to point out that as the northern and national legislative bodies become more integrated, the public schools, hospitals, and even city recreation areas are becoming more segregated.

In Illinois, for example, it is estimated that 90 per cent of colored children attend segregated schools because of the housing situation.

* * *

IN ANY fair election where men are judged on merit and not on race, most of the present and future qualified colored officials would win the support of white and colored voters.

I believe, for example, that many people of this community regardless of their race would support Dr. Jenkins if he ran for the public office on his merits.

I say to you with all the force at my command that we do not need segregation in housing to get officials elected to public office.

If our children are permitted to grow up in non-segregated neighborhoods and attend schools without regard to race, they will be sent to city halls as mayors and the governor's mansion on merit and not because they come from a ghetto.

Neither white nor colored home seekers escape trouble under the present practices in the housing field.

* * *

MOST OF the whites who flee from incoming colored people wind up in cracker-box suburban housing, built with monotonous uniformity.

In winter, they wrestle with heating problems caused by faulty insulation.

In summer, they may have the unpleasant surprise of finding sewer water in the basement. They battle miles of traffic to get to work or to shop in downtown areas.

When there is a sudden and complete change of a residential area, from all white to all colored, destructive forces that lurk at the edge of every decent neighborhood try to move in with the new residents.

Always, there are absentee exploiters who want to open a poolroom on the corner, a tavern across the street from a church, and a junk shop in any vacant garage.

* * *

IF THE new residents are not organized to combat these forces, the neighborhood is sure to become a slum in short time.

City officials, who would not dare to permit such misuse of property when whites live in a neighborhood, are quick to approve almost any kind of nuisance when colored people move in.

Somehow has been fortunate in having a number of neighborhood associations that are trying to combat slum producing conditions.

One of the first of these, the Northwest Baltimore Protective Association, founded by Mrs. Wheaton Scarlett, has spent thousands of dollars to prevent property misuse.

More of these groups are needed.

But you who are real estate men and women must also get in the business of preventing the spread of housing blight.

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