BEARING THE expensive, two-toned metal casket containing the body of Johnnie Pratt are these friends of the popular East Side business man and sports figure. They are: Alvin Brown, Mark Yorkmah, Roosevelt Shaw, Freddie Williams, Thomas Chambers and Samuel Daniels. In the rear is Charles B. Lewis—at whose Broadway funeral home the services were held.

MOURN HUSBAND, FATHER—Mrs. Marie Pratt, widow of sportsman Johnnie Pratt, leaves the Charles B. Lewis Mortuary with their two children, Johnnie Jr., 6, and Joan Marie, 5. In the background are some of the more than 300 persons who jammed the funeral home Wednesday for the funeral.

Braddish Ave. residents ask defeat of gas station bill

A decision on Ordinance 963, which proposes to convert the use of a vacant lot at Braddish Ave. and Gwynns Falls into a gasoline station, to be owned and operated by Claude (Buddy) Young, Baltimore Colt team executive, is not expected before Monday.

Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, representing the Braddish Avenue Neighborhood Club and other groups, a month ago, made a dynamic appeal to the zoning committee of the City Council not to convert the vacant lot into a gasoline station.

Mrs. Mitchell is attorney for the NAACP Legal Redress Committee here.

Also, at the hearing Jay G. Rae, Jr., another NAACP lawyer, and counsel for the proponents of the ordinance, presented Robert V. McCurdy, professional appraiser and realtor, who listed three reasons for rezoning the area commercial.

* * *

HE SAID that the size of the lot and the location made it a bad banking risk and that the best use of the property would be by rezoning it commercial.

An open letter to Mayor D'Alesandro and City Council signed by the Braddish Avenue Neighborhood Club, was made public this week.

The Rev. Albert Hammond is president of the club.

The letter urging the Council and Mayor to defeat the ordinance, reads as follows:—

* * *

"Dear Sirs: As the representatives of the voters of Baltimore City, please do not approve "slum-making" ordinance No. 963."

This measure proposes to rezone from residential to first commercial use the property situated at the corner of Gwynns Falls Parkway and Braddish Avenue.

"The surrounding area has already dealt many hardships to us, the residents of Braddish Avenue and other streets in the vicinity.

"We are slowly but surely being strangled by commercial interests.

"Three years ago we were forced to fight a zoning change requested by the Diamond Cab Company. Although we fought hard, we lost and the things we feared have become a reality.

Our street is being used as one of the main exits and entrances for the cabs. The dangerous manner in which the cabs travel has caused us to protest to the company.

* * *

"TWO YEARS ago we protested the rezoning of an area situated west of Douglass High School.

"Our fight was in vain!

"Our time, money and efforts were wasted! Today the area is commercialized with all its attendant evils.

"Millions of dollars are being spent for schools in the immediate area. But how safe will it be for our children? Already children have been injured in accidents attributable to increased traffic.

"One year ago we were faced with an ordinance attempting to rezone this same area.

"This was the third time such an ordinance was introduced. Each time the vibration of heavy truck traffic which is steadily increasing.

"As commercialization has increased, crime has increased. Vandalism has increased. How long must we be plagued with these situations?

"At the moment, the city can be proud of this neighborhood. We have spent hundreds of dollars, plus time and untiring efforts to keep it so. Help us to keep it so!

"In the past you have often ignored the wishes of the voters all over the city in relation to similar ordinances.

"Stop this practice now! You represent us. We consider this disregard of the people's wishes: "taxation without representation."

* * *

"THE CITY is planning to spend $300,000,000 in the next twenty years to eliminate neighborhood blight.

"Are you going to allow this city to set up "slum-making" passing this ordinance that will eat into our residential areas?

"The City Planning Commission, the Urban League, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association and numerous neighborhood clubs have joined forces with us to protest this "slum-making" ordinance.

"We appeal to you as our representatives to help keep our city beautiful.

"Don't let one commercial enterprise destroy the efforts and desires of hundreds of property owners and registered voters.

"Vote "NAY!" on ordinance No. 963."

Tax data available for 30c

To help taxpayers prepare accurate returns quickly and with the least possible difficulty, the Internal Revenue Service has made available a new, comprehensive 112-page edition of "Your Federal Income Tax," for 30 cents.

With page sizes the same as those in Form 1040, the dozens of illustrated examples and simple explanations of how to do it, nearly every taxpayer who needs information on dependencies, medical expenses, taxes and interest payments, and many other subjects, can get a big helping hand from this carefully prepared work.

"Your Federal Income Tax" can be obtained at the following locations:

IN BALTIMORE: Room 130 Custom House; Baltimore Association of Commerce, Room 22 Light Street, and the Provident Savings Bank main office and all branches.

IN WASHINGTON: The Internal Revenue Building, 12th and Constitution Ave., Room 1503. Also the National Bank of Washington main office and all branches.

COUNTY OFFICES: The Internal Revenue offices in your area with the exception of Hilton, Westminster and Havre de Grace.

The booklet may also be obtained in the same way in Washington by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

'He told me he fell, that's all I can say'

"I believe him. I believe what he-told me — it's all I can believe."

"Detectives have come here several times asking questions but I just don't know anything to tell them."

Mrs. Marie Pratt, the 25-year-old widow of sportsman Johnnie Pratt, was solemn as she discussed the rumors of her husband's mysterious death.

Asked if she had heard that the cause of death was a severe beating rather than a fall, she answered:

"He came home that Sunday morning (Dec. 30) with a big lump on his head. He said he fell down — that's all I can say.

"When I saw the lump and the bruises, I told him to go to St. Joseph's Hospital and get them fixed up. When he got back, we thought he was going to be all right in a couple days.

"I got a little worried when he had to go back in the hospital but when I heard of his death naturally I was shocked.

"He never did say any different than that he fell down at the corner of Wilson and McCulloh. I believe him."

* * *

AS THE ATTRACTIVE, long-haired young widow spoke, her two children, Johnnie Jr., 6, and Joan Marie, 5, played around she be escused.

AT JOHNNIE'S FUNERAL: Shown above are some of the more than 300 relatives and friends who attended funeral services for Johnnie Pratt, popular East Side sportsman. Pratt died at St. Joseph's hospital after two emergency brain operations. Although he maintained that his injuries were gotten in a fall, detectives are investigating a report that Pratt was beaten.

—Who killed Johnnie?

(Continued from page 1)

in a similar manner previously) jumped Pratt and beat him severely.

Another rumor was that Pratt was beaten by the soldier-husband of a woman acquaintance.

* * *

AS THE rumors grew, the matter reached the Northeastern District Police station where a team of investigators set to work sifting fact from fiction in the conflicting reports.

Also at this time, it was reported that small-time numbers bankers individually made "statements of policy" which reduced the official odds on winning numbers from 800 to one down to 500 and even 400 to one.

* * *

PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE in and out of the funeral parlor during the four days the body was on public view.

On Wednesday morning, known acquaintances of Pratt were seen in the Northeastern Police Station undergoing questioning by three policemen.

Only word police would give reporters was that they were still investigating his death. They refused to say whether his death was linked to the numbers racket.

Nor would they deny nor admit that they were exploring the possibility that Pratt died as a result of a beating rather than a fall.

* * *

ON WEDNESDAY at 1 p.m., acquaintances of the dead sportsman gathered from all over the city in the Charles B. Lewis Mortuary for Pratt's funeral services.

The crowd filled the main chapel, the rear chapel, the downstairs chapel and the business offices of the funeral home.

Those who could not get inside stood outside on icy feet to get a glimpse of the expensive black and white metal casket and the mourning widow, the former Miss Marie Harvey, who was wed to the sportsman in 1949.

With her were their two children, Johnnie Jr., 6, and Joan Marie, who was five years old on the day her father was buried.

* * *

INSIDE THE funeral home, the organist played "Nearer My God To Thee" and "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" to friends and acquaintances, falling to find seats, settled for standing room.

The Rev. Walter E. Paige, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, where Pratt had been a periodic visitor, officiated at the ceremony. In his eulogy he said:

There is an appointment for death—the one thing we can not escape. Regardless of our lives, we have various kinds of appointments—some of which we ignore, some of which we postpone and for some of which, we send substitutes.

"We cannot change our appointment with God. Nor can anyone take our place.

"Then, addressing himself directly to the widow who sat dry-eyed before him, he said:

"Rear your children to believe in God, so that when their appointment comes, they will be ready."

Also on the program was the Rev. M. Henderson, a neighbor of the deceased man, who said:

"Johnnie had time to make peace with his God—I hope he made it."

* * *

ALSO ON THE 45-minute program were Miss Montrese Ford, who sang a solo and read the obituary and Mrs. Mabel King who sang "I Trust the Lord."

During the service, all eyes turned compulsively to the casket in which the body of the well-known sportsman lay. It was banked with eight large floral pieces.

Carrying his reputation for fastidious grooming even to the grave, Pratt was dressed in a conservative blue suit with a tasteful red tie. No marks were discernible on his face. What appeared to be a wig covered his head.

One mourner viewing the body remarked that his head appeared to be enlarged.

Often in brain operations, it is necessary to shave the head and sometimes the head is swollen or enlarged.

PALLBEARERS WHO bore the casket to the waiting hearse were: Alvin Brown, Mark Yorkman, Roosevelt Shaw, Freddie Williams, Thomas Chambers and Samuel Daniels.

Directly behind the hearse in the first of the 30-car cortege, were: Mrs. Marie Pratt, Johnnie and Joan Pratt; Mrs. Carrie Bradley and Mrs. Mabel Brooks, aunts; Mrs. Katie Lee and June Pratt (cousins) and Mrs. Lillian Bell, Mrs. Pratt's mother.

Pratt's purple-red Cadillac, familiar East Baltimore sight, was not in the procession.

Just before the funeral was over, two detectives parked their car across the street from the funeral home and grimly eyed the watching crowd.

As the funeral cortege started off to Mt. Calvary Cemetery, the detectives left — in another direction.

Watts, Lane await swearing-in dates

No date has been set for the oath of office to be administered to traffic court magistrate Robert B. Watts and associate judge of People's Court E. Everett Lane.

Washington main office and all branches.

Held meeting

The Tulip Club met Friday with Mrs. Mary Brown of 2414 Woodbrook Ave. Next meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Mrs. Mildred Brown, president of the club, 2807 Riggs Ave. Mrs. Sydney Smith is vice president.

Original A.M.E. Hymnals

The prince of the church sang "OUT were carrying the ball." To win power for a "dead horse" Book Concern, you abandoned your hymnals. Now, you want to drive the ball and you are a laughing stock, denominationally. Price $1.21 postpaid.

Itching Torture PROMPTLY RELIEVED

A doctor's formula—soothing antiseptic Zemo—liquid or ointment—promptly relieves itching, burning of Skin Rashes, Eczema, Psoriasis, Ringworm, Athlete's Foot. Zemo stops scratching and promotes so aids healing of irritated skin. **zemo**

Prescription For Loveliness

40 BEAUTIFUL STYLES $10.50

Latest Metal Zyl COMBINATION GLASSES $15.00

EYES EXAMINED PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED With Care and Accuracy

FOR THE BEST . . . FOR LESS SEE—

Lee's Optical

23 N. LIBERTY ST. 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.—Thurs., 'Til 8 P.M.

845 N. HOWARD ST. 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

3427 EASTERN AVE. 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.—Mon., Thur., Fri.; 8:30 P.M.

JOHNNIE'S BUSINESS—Despite the "OPEN" (see arrow) sign, Johnnie's Grocery at Federal and Dallas Sts. has been shuttered because of the death of the well-known East Sider, Johnnie Pratt. Johnnie's widow, Marie, plans to reopen the business today (Friday).

Olympic champ picks Army; turns down pro offers

"It is all a matter of career planning . . ."

Jovial Jim Boyd, 1956 Olympic boxing champ, was explaining his momentous decision to turn his back on glittering professional boxing offers, and remain in the Army.

"Assuming that I know what is best for me," the articulate Gold Medallist said of his decision to reject the ring, "I don't think a fighter should initiate a fighting career at my age. I should be planning my retirement."

At 26, James F. Boyd feels a career in the Army is best for he can then retire to the life of an accountant at the tottering age of 36.

* * *

JIM WAS born in obscure Rocky Mount, Nov. 30, 1930, and "stayed there" until July of 1947 when he volunteered for a try with the Army.

He was 16, and had finished 10 years at local Booker Washington High School.

The fourth of 10 children (he has 5 sisters and 4 brothers), Jim is single, but currently has "some ideas" about renouncing bachelorhood.

He declined to name the girl, but conceded that she lives in Columbus, Ga., and that as yet she does not know that they will be married "in the not-too-distant future.

In Baltimore, Jim is visiting his sister, Mrs. Ruth Fowlkes, and a younger brother, George, who was recently discharged from the Army.

Clarence Yancey, also a native of Rocky Mount, now lives at 1633 N. Payson, has known Jim "and his daddy all their lives."

* * *

ALTHOUGH JIM readily concedes that he is "a natural boxer," it was not until 1952 that he started on the route that is unavoidably reminiscent of the swift path run by heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson.

It was Floyd, the fistic phenom, who won the light heavyweight Gold Medal for Uncle Sam in the 1952 Olympic Games at Helsinki.

It was Boyd, a fighting gem, who, four years older than his predecessor, brought home the gold in last year's international sports classic, at Melbourne, Australia.

"I was at Ft. Benning, Ga., when I started," Jim recalled.

"I had never boxed before that time, but I met a friend, Larry Jones (of Washington) who was at that time the Army middleweight champion."

* * *

"JONES ENTICED me to come in the gym to watch him work out. Previously, he had noticed that I was a very good dancer, and that I am very agile on my feet for a big boy."

The first time I put the gloves on was to spar with a lightweight named Fred Brooks, know, I won't forget what a cloudy feeling he gave me."

Jim said that he became the sparring partner, Norman Clark, were good buddies "outside the ring."

Because of the shellacking his lightweight friend (an Army champ) gave him, "I was momentarily discouraged," Jim said, "but I wanted to be a boxer."

Larry Jones worked with Jim for four months in preparation for a camp tournament.

"Instinctively I put-classed all of the novices in my class, I had to fight in the open class. I had to fight Roscoe Elliott of Oakland, Cal."

"He knocked me out in the first round.

* * *

"LARRY STARTED working with me again to iron out my mistakes. I was suffering from stagefright mostly. But I soon got over it.

"I really started rolling before the year was through."

Jim didn't recall the name of his victim, but he did remember that he won the Ft. Benning lightweight championship in November of that year — 10 months after he put on the gloves for the first time.

In 1955 Jim won the All-Army light heavyweight championship and his successful defense of the title in 1956 won him the berth on the U.S. Olympic squad.

In the Olympics, Jim had three fights, winning all of them by decisions.

In the quarter-finals, he beat Rodolfo Diaz, Argentina's entry. Russia's Romomaldas Mouarakas in the semi-finals, and he snuffed out Gheorge Negrias, Rumania's hope, to win the championship.

* * *

"THE RUSSIAN boy was the toughest, and the most unorthodox boy I fought," said Jim who didn't hit the canvas at all in the Olympics.

"The Australian people treated me wonderfully. They were so hospitable it was frightening," he said.

Jim said that there were "big negotiations" to accept offers from some of the nation's top boxing handlers when he returned from the Olympics.

Offers began pouring in when Jim won the Chicago Golden Gloves championship for his division in March of 1956.

* * *

BUT JIM, who is presently a staff sergeant in the food service division at Ft. Benning, decided to accept his promotion when he returns to the camp next week.

He said he plans to attend a finance school in the near future to prepare him "to control other people's money" when he retires from the Army in 1967.

Should Jim change his mind and decide to become a professional ring warrior, he may need the assistance of accountants to help count his own capital.

But, Jim has already assumed that "I know what is best for me."

Your witness.

OLYMPIC STAR HERE — Jim Boyd, left, 1956 Olympic boxing champion, walks with a lifelong friend, Clarence Yancey, of 1102 E. Forrest St., during Boyd's recent visit with his sister and friends in Baltimore. The boxing star's sister, Mrs. Ruth Fowlkes, lives at 1633 N. Payson Street.

Baby news wins for Lucky AFRO Tipster

"This is the first time that I have ever won anything.

"I read the AFRO every week and I look forward to seeing it come out."

Charles H. Hawkins, of 623 N. Payson St., had that comment to make when he came to the AFRO office on Thursday afternoon to pick up his News Tipster check.

The young teacher cashed in on a lucky news tip when he notified the City Desk that his second cousin became the first baby born in Baltimore in 1957.

Mr. Hawkins teaches French and Spanish at the Charles Hamilton Houston Junior High School, Calhoun and Baker Sts.

* * *

HE is married, and the father of two children, Charles Jr., 3½ years, and Vereditn, 2½ years.

LUCKY NEWS TIPSTER—Charles H. Hawkins is shown as he received his check for a lucky news tip, from T. J. Sellers of the City News Desk. $50 is the total set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos used by the AFRO City Desk.

$50 is the total set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call: MU. 5-6015, 6016, LB12 and 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-2811. Bring your News Photos to the City Desk.

CORE workshop here Jan. 26-27

The Baltimore Chapter of CORE (Committee on Racial Equality), will hold its first workshop on Saturday, Jan. 26, 8:30 p.m., at the Madison Ave. YWCA, and Sunday, Jan. 27, 2:30 p.m., at Fellowship House, 21 W. Preston St.

The object of the workshop is to study some of the basic problems that arise in the use of direct non-violent action, such as the sit-ins now being held at the White Coffee Pot and the non-violent bus boycotts in the South.

Openings now in food field

Applications are now being accepted for the positions of Food Service Worker at the Veterans Administration Hospital, 3900 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore 18, Maryland.

Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting the Personnel Office of the Hospital.

Charles S. Fleming is examiner in charge.

'Gordon's was an institution'

By GARFIELD HINTON

"Gordon's Dining Room has been in this neighborhood about 30 years. James Gordon started as a baker in this block. He was famous for his sweet potato pies."

A man who had eaten in Gordon's Dining Room for more years than he cared to remember, was speaking nostalgicly of the passing of Gordon's Dining Room, to an AFRO reporter.

Gordon's Dining Room, housed in a three - story brick dwelling at 1533 Druid Hill Ave. was sold at a public auction Friday, January 11, for $8,400 to a group of professional people represented by the Rev. Hiram E. Smith, 832 N. Fulton Ave.

Speaking from his neatly furnished home of the 1600 block Druid Hill Ave., Mr. Gordon's friend recalled:

"He had a little basement shop in the 1600 block Druid Hill. Then he opened up a restaurant across from the YMCA, where the cleaners is now."

THE CONVERSATION further disclosed that the restaurateur had at one time operated a restaurant in the big room on the second floor of the Druid Hill Ave. YMCA.

James Copeland, head of maintenance at the Druid Hill YMCA, and an almost lifelong friend of James Gordon said that in 1929 Mr. Gordon had operated the YMCA's lunchroom.

A year later he moved across from the Y and in 1931, he moved to Druid-Hill Ave., where he remained until 1949.

* * *

OLDTIMERS in the 1600 block Druid Hill Ave. recall that Mr. Gordon came to this country from Jamaica, but they don't recall exactly when. He used to carry a bag filled with pies that he would eagerly sell to anyone who wanted some of his delicious pies.

"At one time Gordon's was one of the most outstanding restaurants in Baltimore," his friend continued. "To a lot of Gordon's in the old times and to know them now are two different things.

"Kids for generations used to go in for Gordon's French Fries. He really gave you your money's worth. He didn't sell bad food and he gave you a whole lot."

His voice revealing the sadness that was in his heart, Mr. Gordon's friend asserted: "I was sorry to see Jim close out. He'd been very nice to this neighborhood."

Pausing a moment, he continued: "He was an unusual man. He did a lot of nice things for people. The passing of his restaurant was tragic. The man was a hard worker. It was the passing of a man's dream."

* * *

THE BUILDING that housed Gordon's Dining Room was formerly the Druid Hill Ave. YMCA. In 1916, a man named Joseph L. Press, opened a restaurant, that eventually became the site of Gordon's Dining Room.

Mr. Press, who is 79 years old and who lives at 2549 Madison Ave. had this to say:

"I was in the catering business. I ran the restaurant from 1916 to 1929. I went back there to the railroad (B and O) and was a traveling chef, until I retired in 1945."

Mr. Press strained his memory to recall that he had sold the restaurant in 1927 to the Rev. Mathew Saunders, who operated it as the Gourmet office in the 700 block W. Mosher St., for something like $500. This was the restaurant only, not the entire building.

* * *

THE REV. MR. SAUNDERS, in turn, sold the restaurant part of the building to Mr. Gordon.

What caused the once fabulous showplace to decline? Friends and former customers of Mr. Gordon's said that they thought it was due to changing times.

They said that the decline of Gordon's Dining Room could be blamed on such things as the great increase in the number of eating places now open, the rise in the cost of food, and the fact that so many of Gordon's old customers have moved into other neighborhoods.

"I think he should have had someone working with him, who knew more about the food business," one man said.

* * *

ANOTHER OLDTIME customer pointed out that Druid Hill Ave. at one time allowed travel to flow in both directions. This brought in more customers. Also, parking restrictions discouraged many would be customers.

Another friend of Mr. Gordon, said that the restaurateur was tired and disheartened and because of this, he didn't try as hard as he might have to make the restaurant a success during recent years.

Mr. Gordon would not discuss his restaurant with an AFRO reporter. A friend of his said of this: "He hardly talks to anyone anymore."

The friend also said that Mr. Gordon is working somewhere for a country club, and explained that Mr. Gordon has never been a man easy to know and has grown even more distant in recent years.

What Mr. Gordon perhaps does not know is that many of his former customers and old friends were deeply grieved by the passing of Gordon's Dining Room and they remembered him as a kindly man, who when he was able gave heavily to the Druid Hill Ave. YMCA and to Morgan College.

As one man phrased it: "Gordon's was an institution."

* * *

WHAT WILL happen to Gordon's Dining Room? Perhaps the Rev. James L. Moore, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, has the answer.

He told the AFRO that a group of professional people, male and female and interdenominational joined together to purchase the building.

The Rev. Mr. Moore said that bidding for the building had started at $4,500 but had risen until the selling price of $8,400 had been reached.

He said that although other groups were interested in purchasing the building, his group felt that the building is a landmark in the community in Baltimore and should be owned by colored people.

The Rev. Mr. Moore said that a settlement will not be reached until February 15 and because of that he does not want to say too much.

He did say, however, that the group composed four gentlemen and other civic leaders, who purchased the building plan on renovating it from top to bottom."

* * *

TEMPORARY officials of the purchasing group are as follows: the Rev. Mr. Moore, financial secretary; Vernon Johns, dean of the Maryland Baptist Training Center, vice president; the Rev. John Tilley, pastor of New Metropolitan Baptist Church, recording secretary; and the Rev. Hiram E. Smith, treasurer.

The Rev. Mr. Moore said that when complete the new restaurant will have facilities to entertain sororities, fraternities and-lay people. He added:

"We want to make it one of the finest places in the city of Baltimore. We plan on having the best food possible and constructive dining."

Off The Beaten Path

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
GOULASH OF HUNGARIAN EUPHEMISMS

My press pass, U.S. Army style, No. 560 stated that the bearer was "entitled to enter Camp Kilmer to obtain news coverage of 'Project Mercy.'"

An NCO, I was just another reporter turned loose among a lot of Hungarians. However, as a member of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, I was the first of our newswomen to cover "Operation Mercy."

Cardinal Spellman was going out of the post as I was coming in to see an old friend, Lt. Col. Harry Lofton, who has charge of all refugee housing here.

What a job he has. There is no way to estimate the magnitude of it, the headaches, the joys, the sorrows, of commanding the setting up of "temporary housekeeping" for people who do not speak one word of English.

* * *

WHILE ON the post I noticed the restless walking to and fro of the refugees, how they paced the vast grounds between the blocks and blocks of barracks, their temporary homes.

At mid-night they were silently walking in small groups of two and three — just walking.

A second lieutenant said: "Gosh! they just walk and walk. Walking is all they do."

They are unmindful of vehicles and cars, as one lieutenant said: "We should drive on the sidewalk and let them have the road. They don't pay one bit of attention to cars."

* * *

IT WAS REVEALED that the army and civilians must be careful how they act around refugees, lest rumors of mistreatment echo around the world in a matter of hours.

Authorities call it a "sensitive operation" and state that as a "diplomatic mission" is decidedly one where they must "tippy-toe."

It is rumored that 25 percent of the foreign guests have TB or venereal disease. Authorities cover the question by saying "Those who are ill are taken care of by New Brunswick Hospitals, and other hospitals and institutions in other cities as well as New York. There are somt who are 'very ill.'"

* * *

CAMP KILMER was reopened after 5 years, idleness on Nov. 9, 1956, by the President's Committee for Relief which is under the direction of Leo Bebee.

Nineteen charitable and philanthropic organizations including the Red Cross, the Hebraw Immigrants' Aid Society, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference, are helping out.

The Red Cross has charge of the warehouse of gifts which have come by car-loads from everywhere.

It is reported that a box of blue suede shoes has arrived from a thoughtful Massachusetts manufacturer.

The group, both army and civilian, in charge of basic operations is entirely integrated, all races are participating.

* * *

CAMP KILMER was named for Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, the poet and journalist, who wrote "Trees". A Rutgers grad, he was killed in France in 1918.

Hungarian coins are as thin as tissue paper, and without value here. They are issued booklets of coupons for "spending change" which they may use at the commissary.

They have everything they need, authorities say. They lack nothing whatsoever, but are not allowed to have "alcoholic drinks."

The Tolstoy Foundation is outstanding in its contribution.

Young air force officer cites benefits in service

NEW RECRUITING OFFICER for the Air Force is Staff Sgt. Charles E. Presberry. A native Baltimorean, the airman is 1950 graduate of Douglas High School.

"I would just like for more young men to know about the secure educational benefits that are now available in the Air Force."

Staff Sergeant Charles E. Presberry was telling the AFRO about his mission as Air Force Recruiting Officer and the 26-year-old native of Baltimore, is a good example of the program that he is out to sell.

Fresh out of Douglas High School in 1950, young Presberry became attached to the Air Force and joined up with that branch of the service in 1951. He took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and went on from there to the Career Guidance School at Denver, Colorado.

"He took time out to do a two year stint in Korea from 1953 to 1955, and then came back to the States where he did some additional studying and became an instructor in the Air Force Technical School.

"Then I was sent to the Strategic Air Command at Forbes Air Force Base in Kansas and soon became an NCOIC.," the office continued.

Incidentally, that NCOIC is simply the short way of saying "non - commissioners officer in charge of officers and airmen's assignments."

* * *

Sergeant Presberry had the opportunity to take an assignment in recruiting in New York, St. Louis, and several other large cities but he picked Baltimore because, as he put it,

"It's my own home town, I know a lot of people here and I think the Air Force has a program that would be helpful and beneficial to a lot of my friends in Baltimore."

The sergeant is married to the former Miss Marseillaise Miller, also a native Baltimorean. They were high school sweethearts and now have a family of five little Presberry's.

The roll call includes Dana 7, Angela, 5, Charles Jr. 3½, Siegfriend, 2, and Marjorie, 6 months.

* * *

SPEAKING OF the age requirements in the Air Force, Sergeant Presberry says his branch of service is looking for young men between the ages of 17-34.

"The opportunities are unlimited for qualified men in that age bracket," he said.

And the sergeant can always point to his own record to prove that statement.

He is a member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church and is also a member of the Prince Hall affiliation of Masons.

In the language of the Air Force, Sergeant Presberry has "done" six years, he has fourteen years more to do.

Then, guess what? He plans to retire and start the practice of public relations!

In the meanwhile, interested recruits may contact him at Air Force Recruiting Headquarters located in the Calvert Building, St. Paul and Fayette Streets.

INQUIRING REPORTER

The AFRO Inquiring Photographer was out again this week asking Baltimoreans their opinions on an issue of current interest.

This week's question dealt with the bus situation and the question produced four gentlemen who all agreed that the colored citizens of the South who are determined to ride buses on a non - segregated basis are well within their rights and should be commended and not condemned.

The question was as follows:

"In view of the recent Supreme Court decision against segregation on city buses, do you believe that citizens of the South should attempt to ride these buses on a non - segregated basis? Do you believe that the U.S. Government should take action to see that non-segregation is practiced?

JAMES HICKS DENNIS DILES

FRANK MICKEY GEORGE SCOTT

THESE ARE the answers:

JAMES HICKS, 2818 Riggs Ave., City employee: "In the first place, the people of the South should realize that colored people are human. If they can eat the food that we cook, then why can't we ride on the buses? Those people who ride the buses are doing the right thing, and I am for them.

"While we're trying to settle things overseas we should be trying to get things straightened out down there. The Government should step in. After all we are all children of God."

* * *

FRANK A. MICKEY, 1224 Madison Ave., chauffeur: "The people should ride the buses and ride them the way they want. In the war there weren't any back seats when the shooting was going on.

"The Government brought the Hungarians over here so why shouldn't they do something about the situation in the South?"

DENNIS DILES, 2531 Woodbrook Ave., chauffeur: "In my opinion the people are right. They pay their fare like everybody else and they have the same rights as all other people. I think the Government should act on the matter."

GEORGE E. SCOTT, 2914 Parkwood Ave., automobile worker: "Segregation is wrong and it should not go on. They are segregated everywhere and off them until they can. The Government should put its foot down and that will get things straight."

Democratic Viewpoint

By ROBERT WATTS

I attended a meeting of Democratic Party officials here over the country a couple of week ago. Lloyd Randolph 4th District Political Leader, was also in attendance.

Several press releases told the story of the meeting itself but the in between, out in the corridor talks raised several points which I feel we will be debating and should debate in the years to come.

* * *

ONE OF the key problems of discussion was the question of why colored voters switched as they did to the Republicans.

We have been given all sorts of reasons and for months to come this question will be asked and of course the answer must be found so that remedial steps will be taken.

Congressman Vanderzandt, was in attendance and he was strong in his denunciation of any attempt to allege that the failure of the Democrats to press strongly the civil right issue was the chief cause.

Earl Brown, City Councilman from New York and others felt the real cause of the shift was to adopt a strong civil rights plank.

* * *

DAWSON TOLD us over and over that the Democratic platform was much stronger than the Republican and that we should get away from the race angle.

Others felt the race issue was the biggest niggle political issue of our time.

Dawson and his followers felt that just as the country as a whole went 52% for the popular Eisenhower, so did the colored voters and that such matters as taxes, the prosperity of the country, the high standard of living must not enter, etc., are the real reasons for the shift.

The other side said we had all this plus the popularity in 1952 and the vote did not shift, and on and on it went.

* * *

THE PROBLEM is important and will continue to be important for both parties and will seek to recapture what was lost and to hold on to what they have.

The Republicans, of course, want the colored voter an expression of their sincerity and thus you see this year in his address to the new Congress, the President called for the passage of a civil rights program unlike his speech of 1952.

You see the Democrats in stronger measure came out for the adoption of Senate Rule 22.

YOU SEE Senators predicting that civil rights legislation will pass this session of Congress.

The Democrats have campaigned as the party of civil rights. Just last election shows that the colored voter is not too sure of that and so we will see a determined effort to recapture the vote by a democratic (not southern dixiecrats) surge toward support of civil rights legislation.

The party must if it expects to again have the support of that strong northern colored vote.

The Republicans on the other hand hope to pass the Administration's civil rights program so that they can hold the gains they made last year.

They will then claim to be the party of civil rights. This then, will be the pattern in the months to come.

This is what makes the great game of politics so interesting.

Coming Events

JANUARY 20

Ella Fitzgerald in one of his first appearances since his retirement from baseball, Jackie Robinson will be the platform at Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church at 3 p.m. This is the NAACP Youth Sunday.

The Seven Turners in their first musical program of the year at Fellowship Baptist Church, 714 N. Fremont Ave., 7 p.m.

Founders Day program at Masonic Temple, McCulloh and Mosher Sts., for the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, time is 3:30 p.m. and the Baltimore Commission on Equal Employment Opportunities will be presented.

JANUARY 22

Human Society of the Prisoners' Aid Association and Enoch Pratt Library cosponsor panel lecture on "A Prisoner in the Community," 8 p.m. at the Central Library.

JANUARY 26

Thirteenth annual luncheon meeting of the Women's City-Wide Committee for Delinquency Prevention of the Eastside Office Building, 1118 E. Monument St., 1 p.m.

JANUARY 27

Grace Presbyterian Church installs its officers at 7 p.m.

Metropolitan Baptist Church is the scene of a recital by Miss Veronica Tyler at 4 p.m. She is a soprano and a student at Peabody.

Waters AME Church is the scene of a concert by the Baltimore Boys Choir. Time is 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY 1

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, first lady of the world, will be the guest of honor as the local chapter of ADA holds its ninth annual Roosevelt Day Dinner at the Blue Coat.

FEBRUARY 21

Eastside Community Singers at Grace Presbyterian Church, Chase and Washington Sts., 8 p.m.

MARCH 3

The 13th annual Blue Ribbon Tea, at Dunbar High School at 4 p.m. The Eastside Community singers will appear.

Here's a Beauty Tip for you from Ella Fitzgerald

"...it depends on non-oily Top Note Liquid Make-up to keep my complexion fresh and attractive all day long."

TOP NOTE LIQUID MAKE-UP

Non-oily Moisture-brief Wonderful—Skin Harmony Shades: Honey Bee, Honey Bun, Beige Angel, Sugar Hill, Warm Glow, Copper Tan, Mink Brown.

Available at all drug and cosmetic counters.

For free names, Write: ARDMORE P. O. BOX 1954, G.P.O. New York 1, N. Y.

National Drug Stores, Penna. Ave. & Biddle St., Baltimore

USE THIS MEDICATED COSMETIC CREAM FOR A Lighter, Clearer, Younger Looking Skin

Grandmother, Mother and Daughter often look alike these days. Especially when COMPLEXION PROBLEMS appear. Dr. FRED PALMER'S Skin Whitener contains a powerful medicinal formula, medicated cosmetic cream effectively medicated to (1) actually speed up the lightening of darkened masses of color pigment in the skin (2) help make enlarged or coarse pores and skin blemishes go away faster (3) soften and smooth roughened skin, thus helping to improve skin texture! Remember, results depend on correct medicinal formula, not on price. Ask your druggist or cosmetic counter clerk, get 1oz. FRED PALMER'S Skin Whitener today. Contains 1/16 ounce; 1oz and 60c sizes at drug and cosmetic counters.

Use Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Delight Soap and Washing Cream for lovely skin beauty. Each only 25c at druggists.

Dr. FRED PALMER'S SKIN WHITENER

GALENOL CO., Box 264, Atlanta, Ga.