Senator Cole Pushes Six Rights Bills In Assembly

Asks Md. to ratify 14th amendm'nt

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

ANNAPOLIS — Six bills and one resolution dealing with civil rights were introduced into the General Assembly by Sen. Harry A. Cole (Rep., 4th Dist.) today (Friday).

Embracing such items as discrimination in employment and at race tracks, the measures represent a frontal legislative attack on segregation and constitute what Senator Cole described as "civil rights day in the Assembly."

The largest bill in both intent and length is one that would establish a state commission against discrimination composed of five members and empowered with definite lines of authority.

SENATOR COLE proposes that the Governor appoint five members to commission to investigate complaints of discrimination in employment, amusement and recreational facilities, housing and mortgage lending.

The employment phase of the bill specifically states that the employer may discriminate because of "race, creed, color or national origin." It also states that no labor organization may exclude from membership any persons because of their race.

The bill further states that no employer or employment agency may advertise on a discriminatory basis.

The other measures would prohibit discrimination in Baltimore City hotels; any public facility at a race track; any phase of public accommodation within 100 yards of a state highway.

ANOTHER BILL, which incidently has been introduced by Senator Cole before, was the one which would give the state a "Civil Rights Law" and provide fines of not less than $100 and not more than $500 and or imprisonment for 90 days for violators.

The bill would make it illegal for persons to be discriminated against in public places, employment or public welfare.

The bill was introduced in the last session but failed to pass.

THE LAST MEASURE would authorize the governor to appoint members of the state board of dental examiners from lists submitted by both the Maryland State Dental Association and the Maryland Dental Society.

As the situation now stands, only the Maryland State Dental Association a white-group, submits such lists.

The resolution which Sen. Cole introduced in addition to the bills calls for the ratification by Maryland of the 14th Amendment.

In drafting his bill to set up a state commission against discrimination Senator Cole had provided that complaints of discrimination will be taken to the commission which may order the offending party to halt such acts.

Ignoring such an order could result in a misdemeanor conviction, punishable by imprisonment of not more than ninety days or a fine of not more than $500.

DEALING WITH discrimination in housing, the bill expressly forbids such practice in any housing development wholly or in part supported by public funds.

It further forbids "any person or agency engaged in the business of loaning money from refusing to lend funds to finance the building or purchase of private homes to any individual because of race, creed or national origin.

The bill dealing with the Baltimore hotels states: "All citizens in Baltimore city are entitled to the full and equal accommodation, advantages, facilities and privileges of hotels, inns and other similar places of lodging in a said city."

Any person complaining of such discrimination would be authorized by the bill, to appeal to the Maryland Commission of Interracial Problems and Relations which would then order the offending party to comply

HAIL NEW STATUS—Grouped around Acting Postmaster Albert H. Naeny in his office Thursday, these happy ladies hail their new "permanent" status in Post Office work. An 11-year fight for this status was waged by the women with the assistance of the National Alliance of Postal Employees.

NAPE wins 11-year fight to gain permanent status for P.O. women

"For one thing, it means security and we have done something that could not be done. Personally, I think Mr. (John W.) White deserves all the credit."

Mrs. Melva J. Ginyard, 1801 Rutland Ave., had this to say on Wednesday as she and 25 other women and three men enjoyed the sweet taste of victory after a fight that lasted 11 years.

It was a fight for the women's right to become permanent employees of the Post Office with the resulting benefits.

On December 27, the permanent appointments were made.

THE FIGHT REALLY had its beginning back in 1944 when World War II made it necessary for the Post Office to hire women because of a manpower shortage.

During the war years the **Civil Service examinations were suspended and it was not until 1947 that the women in the Post Office were allowed to take an examination. Those that passed were kept on until 1949 when the last one was released.**

By 1951, America was embroiled in the Korean conflict and faced again with a manpower shortage. The Post Office again sent out the call for women employees.

In 1952, an executive order allowed the women to take the Civil Service examination but they were placed on a roster separate from the men and they received no appointments.

REPEATED EFFORTS were made to obtain appointments for the women and in the forefront of the campaign stood the National Alliance of Postal Employees, now headed by Mr. White.

Contacting Senators, the Vice President and members of the House of Representatives, the Alliance fought unceasingly until in the last session of Congress, Rep. Samuel Friedel, (Dem., 7th) introduced a bill to accomplish the goal.

The Civil Service Commission then introduced its own measure, and it was this bill that was finally passed.

It provided that any employee who had served a minimum of 700 hours since 1953 could be converted to permanent status with the successful completion of the examination.

Out of the approximately 400 women in the Baltimore Post Office, 26 both white and colored, were converted to permanent status on Dec. 29.

It was announced Thursday that other women employees of the Post Office, 58 in all, will immediately qualify for permanent status. It was first announced that they would have two opportunities before October to pass the examination and quality.

MRS. GINYARD, chairman of the women's committee of the local NAPE, was unstinting in her praise for the work and efforts of the organization.

A similar attitude was expressed by Mrs. Hilda Johnson, 510 Robert St.

Mr. White himself said: "The Alliance was the only organization in the Baltimore area that concerned itself with the plight of the women. We are happy that we have been successful."

Mr. White also paid tribute to Acting Postmaster Albert H. Naeny who recommended that the women be made permanent.

Salaries for postal clerks now start at $3669 per year and advance to $4410.

THE LADIES, reclassified

2 sudden deaths

Mrs. Ethel Ford, 37, 655 W. Lafayette Ave., was announced dead at 5:10 p.m. Wednesday, at Provident Hospital. Mrs. Ford complained of being ill, when she came in from work Tuesday.

Joseph Matthews, 1407 Madison Ave., father of Mrs. Ford will claim the body.

Mrs. Ollie Green, 1100 block Madison Ave. was pronounced dead on arrival at Union Memorial Hospital Wednesday at 4:36 p.m.

Her employer J. Henry Greenway, said she had not complained of being ill, when she left work at Charles St. and St. Dunstans Rd. about 4 p.m. She was found lying in the 100 block Dunstans Rd. and rushed to Union Memorial Hospital.

'Jackie' to speak for Freedom Fund

Jackie Robinson, who quit baseball rather than accept a transfer from the Brooklyn Dodgers to the New York Giants, will speak in Baltimore Sunday, Jan. 20.

In his first public appearance "since he shocked the baseball world by his statement "From now on, I'm IN the restaurant business," Jackie will speak at Sharp Street Methodist Church under the auspices of the Baltimore branch NAACP.

Mr. Robinson does not take up his new position until March.

In the meantime, he has donated his services without charge to help raise a million dollars for the NAACP's Freedom Fund.

BALTIMORE IS the first stop in Jackie's tour.

"I am asking Baltimore citizens to give me $1,000 for the Freedom Fund," Mr. Robinson said.

"Baltimore will do it," Mrs. Lillie Jackson, NAACP president, told the AFRO.

The 1500 NAACP branches last year raised a million dollars.

Some $600,000 of it went to the national office and legal defense; $400,000 went for local work in the 1500 branches.

"A million dollars doesn't go far when spread over 1500 branches," Mrs. Jackson said. "It means an average budget of $666 per branch.

"Freedom is priceless and you can't buy equal rights with small sums and weak efforts.

"OPERATING IN only 13 southern states, the Citizens' Councils have raised a five-million-dollar war chest to keep schools and buses segregated.

"They will lose, and we will win this fight for freedom but let's not fool ourselves into believing we can win legal victories in the courts without money and without sacrifice.

"Friends of Israel are putting ten million dollars a year into the Palestine Fund for freedom.

"Friends of Hungary are raising other millions for refugees.

"Next year, Baltimore will turn out January 20 to welcome Jackie Robinson as a great ball player and as a great human being.

Three suspects held in salesman's death

Three suspects who were picked up in connection with the fatal beating of an elderly furniture-store collector, were held for questioning by Northeastern District police Thursday.

The arrest of two of the men, both in their late thirties, was made on Wednesday after Northwestern District police had turned over to Northeastern Police a 41-year-old suspect.

Police said the men would probably be placed in a lineup on Friday for the benefit of recent robbery victims.

Arresting officers stated that the men fit the description of two men who robbed Max Krulevitz at knifepoint of $50 in a Madison Square restaurant last Saturday, then slugged him.

Mr. Krulevitz who resided in the 2100 block Yallow Ave., died of a brain hemorrhage as a result of the beating.

GIRL SCOUTS

Mrs. Roy F. Layton, national president of the Girl Scouts, will speak on "Girl Scouting in a Family Affair," Monday, Jan. 1, at 8 p.m. at the Alcazar, Cathedral and Madison Sts., the Baltimore Area Girl Scout Council, Inc. recently announced.

'Scissors slaying' suspect acquitted

"He said, 'Either you go back with me or go back with the undertaker.'"

Miss Sadie Bernice Watson testified Tuesday that 26-year-old Sterling Page uttered this threat to her before she later fatally wounded him in a fight at their home in the 1700 block N. Eden St. on Oct. 13.

The 19-year-old defendant, on trial in Youth Court for the scissors-stabbing of her common-law mate, was acquitted of murder by Judge James K. Cullen.

"This girl has made a decided impression on me as an honest witness," said the jurist in rendering the not-guilty verdict.

The defendant wearing a pink sleeveless blouse and a wide dark gray skirt, smiled in relief when the verdict was announced.

MISS WATSON said on the day of the slaying she had left the Eden St. address and went to live with her sister, Mrs. Rebecca Hayes, then residing in the 2000 block Poplar Grove St.

She related that at about 4 p.m. Mr. Page came to her sister's house and woke her up. She said he had been drinking at the time.

"He asked me what I was doing in bed and before I could answer he started cursing me," Miss Watson said.

The defendant then related that Mr. Page accused her of having an affair with "that guy downstairs." Miss Watson stated that she told him she did not know the man who occupied the first floor.

"He said, 'I've got a right to think what I want to and I think you're going with him'," the defendant testified

She said he ordered her to get dressed and go home with him and she complied because she wanted to avoid a scene at her sister's home.

Miss Watson told the court that when she and Mr. Page arrived at the Eden St. address, the man's aunt, Mrs. Edith Page, now living at 1511 Preston St., was in the kitchen cooking.

SHE STATED that Mr. Page told her, "I'm not going to curse in front of my aunt," and shoved her into the bedroom. Inside the room, she continued, he struck her and pushed her into the wall. Miss Watson quoted the man as saying:

"Let me pull off my coat so I can fight better; I'm going to knock your teeth down your throat."

At this point, according to Miss Watson, the aunt came into the room and said:

"Why don't you behave yourselves. If you don't, somebody is going to get hurt."

HOWEVER, Mrs. Page, the State's first witness, testified that she knew nothing of the struggle until she heard what she termed "a lamentation."

The defendant stated that during the struggle she managed to get a pair of scissors from a drawer and started "sticking" Mr. Page with them to keep him off her.

At one point, she said, he started "choking me" and they fell to the floor.

Miss Watson said when Mrs. Page came into the room "he told his aunt to take the scissors." The young woman said she was afraid to release the scissors because she feared the man would hit her again.

"He said he wouldn't," Miss Watson said, "because he was getting weaker".

ACCORDING TO Miss Watson, Mrs. Page admonished her nephew when she entered the room a second time. She quoted the woman as saying, "I told you about this. Go on and die, because if you do I'll be a rich woman."

Miss Watson said she lived with Mr. Page for about two months continuously before the fatal stabbing. According to her statement, Mrs. Page came to live with them in September.

Mrs. Page, testifying earlier, said only she and her nephew, whom she reared, resided at the Eden St. address. During her testimony, she referred to the dead man as her son.

When asked by Edward Borgerding, Prosecutor, whether she was living at the Eden St. address on Oct. 13, Mrs. Page replied, "Yes, sirree, but after that happened I moved."

MRS. PAGE TOLD the court, when she entered the room where the fight was, "the boy was bloody as a beast." She testified that Mrs Watson went outside and called an ambulance for the wounded man.

"She asked me for a dime," Mrs. Page said, **"but I told her I didn't have a dime. She wanted to call the ambulance. I didn't have a dime to give her—after she killed my son I didn't have a dime to give her."**

Under cross-examination by Dallas F. Nicholas, defense attorney, Mrs. Page stated that she occupied the bed with her nephew and on occasions when Miss Watson was there she slept on a cot.

IN ARGUING for a directed verdict at the end of the State's case, Mr. Nicholas said, "The only witness to this homicide has given us testimony which is incredible."

"I agree with that," said Judge Cullen, although denying the motion.

However, in acquitting the young woman, Judge Cullen said, "The prosecuting witness gives me no help at all."

The only other defense witness was Miss Watson's sister, Mrs. Hayes, of 2533 Salem St.

Mrs. Hayes testified that at 4 a.m. on the day of the slaying Mr. Page came to her house looking for Miss Watson but she would not admit Jim because he appeared to have been drunk.

8 Police killings in Balto. area 1956

APRIL 19, 1956 — Robert McLain, 14-year-old Dunbar High School student of 404 E. Chase St., shot while running away from a stolen car at Madison and Fallaway by Officer Donald E. Mitchell of the Central District. Magistrate Meyer Cardin exonerated the policeman.

JUNE 25, 1956—Harry Boyd, Jr., 27, 1417 N. Broadway, shot in the 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 O. Harper, 34, 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 holdups and the non-fatal shooting of a tailor shop proprietor. Sgt. Heck was exonerated of the killing in Central Police Court by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1956—Donald Jackson, 23, 971 Ellicott Dr., shot in the arm and chest by Southeastern Patrolman Benjamin Leddin. Ledden said he shot the man "in defense of my life." In the unit block Gilmor St. Patrolman Ledden was exonerated of the slaying by Magistrate Cardin.

OCTOBER 15, 1956 — Benjamin Brown, 14-year-old patrolman at Rosewood Training School, shot and killed by Northeastern Patrolman Marshall V. Brewer with rifle he "didn't know was loaded." Magistrate Meyer Cardin dismissed the shooting charge after State's Attorney John Weiss said the State could not make out a homicide or manslaughter case against the officer who said the shooting was an accident.

NOVEMBER 7, 1956—James H. Duggan Jr., 28, white city sanitary department worker, killed by a policeman answering cries for help. Central District Patrolman Joseph Bosse was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

NOVEMBER 24, 1956 — Clarence Wilkerson, 39, 1304 Harlem Ave., shot and killed by a Baltimore County Policeman while getting out of a car as ordered. Officer Louis DeMams was charged with homicide by State's Attorney Frank Herrell. On Monday, Dec. 10, a Baltimore County jury failed to indict officer DeMamns. He was returned to the force with no official punishment.

Watts touted as new traffic judge

ANNAPOLIS — Political sugar along the banks of the Severn are giving State Senator Harry A. Cole credit for a number of accomplishments in the Fourth Legislative District.

They are pointing to the recent naming of E. Everett Lane as a judge in the People's Court and also predicting the outcome this weekend, there will be a new traffic court magistrate.

The man slated to receive the appointment has been identified here in the state capital as Robert B. Watts, Mr. Cole's law partner, as vigorous, a Democrat as Senator Cole is a Republican.

The appointment may be announced on Sunday by the Governor.

Senator Cole is keeping mum.

'I hadn't been checking on him'

"When he came home he asked what I had been doing checking up on him. But I hadn't been checking on him.

"I was down town shopping and just happened to see him and this girl together. I had heard that he had been seen with a young girl, but I ignored it.

"After I saw him and the girl, and she was pregnant, I with the law.

If such action is not taken within 30 days, the Commission may petition the Circuit Court of Baltimore City for an injunction.

The hotel measure is regarded as a local issue and therefore it is a passage may hinge upon the attitudes of the six Baltimore senators and the 25 members of the House of Delegates.

It is believed that if a minority of the Baltimore delegation indicates a willingness to accept the bill, the majority of the rest of the state legislators will go along with them, as a matter of courtesy.

IN THE NEW Assembly, Senator Cole has been one of the most active of the legislators. He introduced a bill which provides for increases in policemen's salaries and he introduced the bill also introduce a measure calling for a minimum wage and hour law.

On the other side of the Legislature in the House of Delegates, Truly Hatchett, (Dem., 4th) and Emory R. Cole (Rep., 4) have not yet introduced any measures.

Mr. (Emory) Cole said on Thursday that he had not yet been asked to introduce any bills.

When committee appointments were handed out Mr. Cole was assigned to the unit of Judicial Proceedings.

Mr. Hatchett has been assigned to the educational, civil liberties and motor vehicles committees.

did complain about not getting any money. That night he left. I have not seen him since."

Thus 26-year-old Mrs. Edna Marie Doby, of 106 S. Register St. testified of the desertion of her and their six children by Daniel Doby.

She said that he left them on Feb. 13, 1954 after their marriage on April 19, 1944. She was given a divorce.

MRS. DOBY was only one of the nine wives who won divorces in Circuit Court, after charging their husbands with abandoning them.

Mrs. Mattie Morton, 2017 Robb St., said that Aaron Morton left her in 1950 after their marriage in 1946.

"He wasn't supporting me, so he left." She also won restoration of her maiden name, Brooks.

"MY HUSBAND just told me that he didn't want to be married and didn't want me any more. He took the furniture and whatever else he had and left," said Mrs. Bertha L. Fooks.

She and Leroy Fooks were married in May, 1951 and separated in Nov. 1954, she testified. Her maiden name, Reed, was restored.

Also regaining her maiden name, Wilson, was Mrs. Jacqueline Little, of 902 N. Fulton Ave. when she received Nathaniel Little of NYC.

"He just left," the wife told the court.

"HE WAS an unfit husband,"

Mrs. Hallie Scott of 2624 Flora St., testified of Curtis Scott, now of Wilmington, Del.

"He was in court about 11 times without attempting to take my life."

Mrs. Scott said that her husband never supported the home, that she had to work all of the time and that just prior to his leaving her on March 15, 1952, he fractured, three of her ribs.

They were married on Nov. 19, 1945. she will resume her maiden name, Edwards.

Mrs. Genevieve Johnson of 2442 McCulloh St., who divorced George Johnson, said their marriage lasted 24 years, ending June 15, 1948.

"We hadn't been getting along for a couple of years. He left while I was at work," she said. The couple have four children, all of whom are now adults.

ARGUMENTS over finances brought on her husband's desertion said Mrs. Georgianna Swann of 1422 Harlem Ave. testifying against James H. Swann of 1157 N. Stricker St.

"He would go out and stay out a week or five days, and when he came in he would have no rent money. We had an argument and he said he was tired of me fussing about his not bringing any money home. So he left," the wife said.

They were married on August 9, 1942 and separated on Nov. 9, 1952, according to the testimony.

ROBERT B. WATTS
Governor to name him new Traffic Court judge

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THE WEATHER
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Baltimore Afro-American

PRAYER FOR TODAY
"Lord Jesus, Thou who has been alone in the wilderness, bless now the members of the fraternity of loneliness."

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Bill Worthy Reports From Red China

(Story in Column 5)

Who Killed Johnnie?

'I Loved Jo Ann' Ricky Admits

Detectives tell of his admission

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — "You were quite a boy in Baltimore, weren't you?"

According to Richard (Ricky) Hunt, who stands accused of the June 20 pistol slaying of his wife, Helen, here, he was asked the above question by Middlesex County Det. Lt. James A. Bates, while he and Det. Daniel Spisso were returning Hunt from Los Angeles.

The trial entered its tenth day today (Friday).

Hunt took the stand Thursday for the first time during the nine-day trial to deny that what Detectives Bates and Spisso termed a verbal confession of his guilt was not true nor was it given voluntarily.

"Lieutenant Bates made several threats about picking up Jo Ann," Hunt testified, adding that the men told him Jo Ann had lied when they questioned

(See Other Story and Photos On Page 13)

her previously in Baltimore.

"They both were always talking about sex. They asked me how many kids I had by Jo Ann," Hunt said.

Detective Bates admitted asking Hunt if his married life was interrupted because Jo Ann suited him better than his wife.

"THEY INDICATED if I would tell them everything that they would help me escape the chair," Hunt said.

Judge Charles M. Morris questioned Detective Bates thus: "Did you offer to get Hunt off the hot seat or help him escape the electric chair if he confessed?"

Detective Bates denied the accusation but replied: "Hunt frequently asked 'what do they give you in New Jersey for murder — the gas chamber or the electric chair?'"

COLLABORATING Detective Bates' statement that Hunt was "quite a boy in Baltimore," Detective Spisso testified that:

"Hunt admitted that he lived with Jo Ann Campbell, loved her better than his wife for over three years of his six years of marriage to Helen Hunt.

"He also stated that he had one child by Jo Ann, expected another this month (August).

"He admitted that he had visited her in Virginia and New York."

Hunt stated that whatever he

(Continued on page 13)

Worthy sees AFRO reader in Red prison

By WILLIAM WORTHY JR.
AFRO Special Correspondent

SHANGHAI, China — (By Cable) — **I have just discovered an old reader of the AFRO in the prisons of the Peoples Republic of China.**

He's the Rev. Paul Mackinsen, a Lutheran minister, of Baltimore, who told me among other things that before coming to China as a missionary, he was a regular reader of the AFRO.

The Rev. Mr. Mackinsen is one of 10 American prisoners the Chinese have been holding on charges of espionage.

UNDER PRESENT arrangements, he is scheduled to be released on March 7. But he still has not made up his mind whether he should return home. He is debating whether or not he should stay in Communist China and continue his missionary work.

My appointment to interview American prisoner-

(Continued on Page 2)

MR. AND MRS. B. DaGUPTA
East Indian couple refused at Baltimore hotel.

Stafford Hotel bars East Indian couple

Baltimore City hotel Jim crowism reached out and insulted an educator from Uganda last Saturday and embarrassed the local school officials that had arranged for his accommodations.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Da Gupta are the East Indian visitors who met all the way from their home in East Africa to feel the not-so-subtle sting of deep Dixie racial discrimination.

Dr. Harry Bard, director of instructional services in the local secondary schools, had arranged for hotel accommodations for the East Indian couple at the Stafford Hotel, Charles and Madison Sts.

The educator and his wife, who came to this country under a United Nations program, arrived at the desk before noon on Saturday. They remained in the lobby of the hotel until reservations could be made for them at the Mt. Royal Hotel which is located at Mt. Royal Ave. and Calvert St.

They occupied suite No. 35 there during their three-day

(Continued on page 2)

Morgan choir at inauguration

The Morgan State College Choir has been invited to participate in a pre-inaugural program, arranged at the request of President Eisenhower in Washington, D.C., Sunday, Jan. 20.

The program, "America's Dedication to World Peace," is being arranged by the Young Republican Activities Committee of the Inaugural

(Continued on page 2)

'Next half will be tough,' says Dunbar cage coach

"We're in for a lot of trouble. Anybody can win this Maryland Scholastic Association basketball title. You can be sure of that."

It will probably be hard for

(See Photos Page 20)

a high school fan in Baltimore to believe those words are from the lips of Coach Bill (Sugar) Cain, whose Dunbar High School five is riding the crest of a five-game winning streak and is yet unbeaten in the MSA cage race.

But that is precisely what the one-time great of college and professional basketball said following Tuesday's 56-53 triumph over Southern, thus giving his Poets their fifth win in as many starts in conference competition.

It was Cain's first game with the team in the wake of a long hospitalization for an ulcer condition.

But throughout his three weeks at Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Dunbar mentor had kept abreast of the goings on the

(Continued on page 20)

Gloria's sister badly burned

PHILADELPHIA

Rosalind Singleton, six-year-old sister of Gloria Lockerman, who appeared on the television "$64,000 question" is fighting for her life in Philadelphia General Hospital. She was burned Friday at her home in the James Weldon Johnson Housing project.

Mrs. Vivian Singleton, the

(Continued on page 2)

Jackie here on Sunday

Jackie Robinson, recently retired star of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team, will address a mass meeting sponsored by the NAACP at the Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church, Sunday afternoon, Jan. 20 at 3 p.m.

The church is located at Dolphin and Etting Sts.

Mr. Robinson's appearance in Baltimore is part of a nation-wide tour being made by the major league pioneer in the interest of the NAACP's 1957 Freedom Fund Campaign.

The first colored player to make the major leagues, Robinson has assumed the new role of national chairman of the NAACP Freedom Drive.

It will be his first public

(Continued on page 2)

'Untold thousands' would return Carl 'if they could'

"Untold thousands whose sentiments have been tied up with Carl because of the stories in the AFRO that have appeared

(Other Photos Page 12)

about him would bring him back if they could.

"Everyone in this room would return him if they could."

But there was no return for Carl Smith on Thursday afternoon even as these words came from the lips of the Rev. Logan Kenree for Carl Smith was dead.

In a tiny white casket at the base of the platform on which the minister stood and in view of the 100-odd persons who filled the Elroy Wilson Funeral Home at 2004 Orleans St., was the body of the gallant seven-

year-old youngster who somehow managed to keep smiling while he was losing his hopeless battle against death.

THIS WAS the end of the story of Carl Bradford Smith and all that remained when the minister had finished speaking; the song had been sung and the tears had been shed was

(Continued on page 12)

Gov. McKeldin to go to Liberia

Maryland's Governor McKeldin has accepted an invitation to visit Liberia this April, according to an announcement made on Thursday in Monrovia.

Or, did he die from a fall...?

Who killed Johnnie Pratt?

Did he die of a fall as he told police or was his death caused by a severe beating?

These were the questions echoing around the city this week as the body of the dapper Eastside sportsman lay in the Charles S. Lewis Mortuary awaiting a Wednesday burial.

Johnnie, the 39-year-old owner of "Johnnie's Grocery" at Federal and Grant Sts., sold

(See Other Story and Photos Page 14)

reputed numbers banker, died at 8:30 p.m. last Saturday. His death was ascribed to a fall on Dec. 30 at Wilson and McCulloh Sts.

On that night, Pratt reportedly stumbled into the McCulloh Delicatessen, sustaining severe bruises of the head and eye.

AT 2 A.M., he showed up at St. Joseph's Hospital Emergency Room where he received treatment for his head and eye injuries.

He was still in the Emergency Room when Northeastern District policemen came in at 8:30 a.m.

To their questioning, he replied that his injuries were received in a severe fall. After the questioning, he was released from the hospital.

However, at 8 p.m. the next day (New Year's Eve), he was back at the hospital, having become very ill during the day. He was admitted to the hospital.

EVEN WHILE his good-timing companions were loud in toasting the New Year, Pratt was undergoing a rigorous examination by the St. Joseph's staff. He also underwent a brain operation.

It was hoped then that Pratt would recover from his injuries and during this period, Pratt steadily maintained that he was hurt in a fall.

A hospital spokesman said: "It is possible that a person could take a severe fall and sustain a brain injury like this.

"He stuck to his story that he fell, although we questioned him pretty closely."

However, on Jan. 10 (last Thursday), he took a decided turn for the worse. An examination revealed severe brain hemorrhages.

The next day, Dr. Richard Thompson of the St. Joseph's staff performed an emergency operation to relieve the hemorrhage.

However, on Saturday, he slipped into a coma from which he never emerged.

He was pronounced dead at 8:30 p.m. by Dr. K. Lee of St. Joseph's.

An autopsy revealed a subdural hemorrhage (bleeding at the base of the brain) and necrosis (deterioration), deadening of the brain.

IMMEDIATELY, RUMORS arose to the effect that Pratt's death was caused not by a fall but a severe beating.

One account was that Pratt had switched the odds from 8 to one to 400 to one on a heavy numbers hit on 431.

This account held that the enraged player (who some said had been disappointed by Pratt

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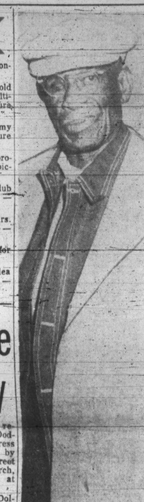

JOSH HOLLEY
Reports of his death prove unfounded. Here he is.

'I sure ain't dead,' claims Josh Holley and he's right

By J. D. WILLIAMS

JESSUPS — "First time in my life I ever heard talk of anything like this. All those people thinking I was dead when I sure ain't dead."

And Joshua (Josh) Holley, 75, 1042 Pennsylvania Ave., wasn't kidding at all when he had this to say on Thursday morning as the doors of the House of Correction closed shut behind him and he walked away from the cheerless building for what he hopes is the last time.

Josh was very much alive and anxious to get at rest any last lingering doubts on the part of his friends and acquaintances that he had passed into the Great Beyond.

HIS CONCERN was occasioned by what, for want of a better phrase, is best described as a case of "mistaken identity" on a grand scale.

The facts in the case are these:

1. On January 5 the Rev. William Holliday, 85, a venerable founder of Enon Baptist Church, was buried, but there were a number of people who impressed by the physical resemblance between the minister and Mr. Holley would have staked almost anything on the fact that the man in the casket was none other than "Josh."

2. Actually, according to Adolphus Halstead, who did the burying from his funeral parlor at 918 Druid Hill Ave., between 400 and 500 persons had shown up at his place to pay their respects to the "late and lamented" Mr. Holley.

AND ALL the while that this

(Continued on page 2)

Bubble gum killer gets 15 yrs. to life
WASHINGTON
Clifford N. Evans, 28, was sentenced Friday from 15 years to life for second-degree murder in the September slaying of Mrs. Pearl B. Oliver, 50, 5700 block Grant St., NE, storekeeper.
Mrs. Oliver was at one time a teacher in Maryland schools.
District Court Judge Joseph C. McGarraghy imposed the sentence and also 9 to 30 years on a charge of house-breaking involved in the killing.
Evans must serve a minimum

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JOHNNIE PRATT
Well-known Eastside sportsman buried