Pressman calls on judges to quit jury group

Hyman A. Pressman, legal firebrand, suggested Thursday that judges of the Supreme Bench, who are honorary members of the all-white Grand Jurors Association, should resign from the group.

Mr. Pressman's statement came after 12 judges of the Supreme Bench signed a letter asking the group to drop its racial bars.

Mr. Pressman called the association a quasi - public organization and declared:

"In my opinion, judges of the Supreme Bench should not belong to a segregated quasi-public organization."

The out - spoken lawyer joined the growing list of citizens attacking the association, which refused to admit Clarence J. Roberts to membership because of his color.

The action was harshly criticized by colored leaders, all former grand jurors.

The association also came under fire from other citizens as the storm of protests mounts.

Among those commenting were:

* * *

MRS. HELEN C. JANNEY, president, Grand Jurors Association—"I'm not bigoted. As you know I was instrumental in forming the Crownsville Hospital Auxiliary. I have also worked in and supported other programs, designed to benefit all people regardless of race.

"The decision was that of the association's membership and does not reflect my personal feelings in the matter.

"I am hopeful that the Supreme Bench's letter will help in reaching a satisfactory solution. We have an executive session tonight (Wednesday) and our regular meeting May 10."

* * *

MRS. JOHN B. RAMSAY, association member who was asked to leave a meeting when she protested decision to bar Mr. Roberts:

"It is not a strong organization. It does not express opinion of the majority. The association is not representative because the most capable people refuse to become members. The reason for this is the way it is operated.

"The present membership is around 350 or 400. It has been as high as 2,000."

MRS. DONALD A. THOMPSON, — who sponsored Mr. Roberts. "I'm not the only one who feels that way. There are others. We are just happy and thrilled that the Supreme Bench has spoken out. It is about time to see the judges take a stand.

"We have just started to work."

* * *

CLARENCE J. ROBERTS, central figure in the controversy—"It is frustrating to come in personal contact with the problems that plaque the city, then suddenly be cut off because you are barred from the organization which is supposed to work to bring about a solution.

"I am grateful to all the judges who voiced an opinion. Not for Clarence Roberts, but for the high standards they voiced."

"I didn't apply for social reasons. I did so for constructive reasons. I feel I am qualified to help bring about what the association is seeking to achieve for the city."

THE 12 Supreme Bench judges who urged the association to drop its segregated policy said:

"No action on your part, we suggest, would be a more effective manifestation of your interest in the impartial administration of justice, which we all seek to serve."

Signing the letter were Chief Judge Emory H. Niles, and Judges John T. Tucker, Edwin Harlan, Charles E. Moylan, Joseph R. Byrnes, Reuben Oppenheimer, Anselm Sodaro, Joseph Allen, J. Gilbert Prendergast, Dulany Foster, E. Paul Mason, and James K. Cullen.

* * *

Excerpts from dissenting judges were:

JUDGE JOSEPH L. CARTER—"I did not sign the letter for the following reasons:

"The Supreme Bench had previously taken a definite position on this matter. It is impossible to separate the personal opinion of a member of the Bench from an official opinion in this matter.

"We have no right to interfere with policies of private or civic organizations. The practical effect of a letter of this kind is to lend reasonable persons to believe it was the official act of the Supreme Bench.

"Supreme Bench members should confine their activities to hearing and deciding litigation. We are dealing with a matter which inevitably will resolve itself favorably."

* * *

JUDGE S. RALPH WARNKEN—"I did not sign the letter because I did not think it was proper for me to voluntarily inject myself into a controversial affair of a private organization.

"My failure to do so is not intended to indicate my views on the subject."

* * *

JUDGE MICHAEL J. MANLEY—"If I do have a right to vote and attended the meeting, I would have voted in favor of the admission of Mr. Clarence Roberts.

"I do not believe that a person, otherwise qualified, should be refused admission because he is of the colored race."

However, Judge Manley did not sign the letter because: "The consensus of opinion of the judges at the time was that because the association is a private organization, we should not interfere in their deliberations."

* * *

HYMAN A. PRESSMAN, attorney—"The 12 judges who protested the practice of segregation in the grand jurors association not only had a right but a duty to do so.

"Since only former grand jurors are members and judges are honorary members, the association is so deeply affected with a public interest it may properly be classified as a quasi-public organization.

"If the association does not act on their suggestion, I think the 12 judges should resign as honorary members.

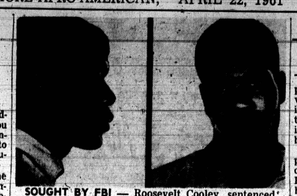
"In my opinion, judges of the Supreme Bench should not belong to a segregated quasi-public organization."

* * *

ALVIN J. T. ZUMBRUN, Maryland Crime Investigating Committee, Inc., to Baltimore Criminal Justice Commission:

"As a former managing director of the Commission and a contributor to the Community Chest, which supplies your operating funds, I shall be interested in the attitude of the agency on this matter.

"Should community dollars contributed to an agency fighting injustices be partially governed by an association which is said to turn down individuals for membership solely on the basis of race?"



SOUGHT BY FBI — Roosevelt Cooley, sentenced in South Carolina to serve 40 years in prison in 1957 for rape, is being sought by the FBI. He escaped after serving less than two years. Cooley is known to drink heavy at times. He was born August 12, 1925, Lee County, S.C. He is 6 feet to 6 and 1½ inches tall. Weighs 165 to 170 pounds. His hair is black and his eyes are brown. He works as a farmer, laborer or truck driver.

—Ex-jurors vocal

(Continued from Page 1)

former grand jurors turned thumbs down on Mr. Robship, it not only invoked the wrath of the majority of the supreme Bench, but created a heated debate among judges themselves.

While 12 of the 15 judges signed a letter urging the organization to reconsider its biased policy which they called "inconsistent with the principles under which grand juries are chosen," three abstained.

Instead, they issued a statement, "not reflecting personal feelings," but questioning procedure.

As the controversy rages, forces within and without the group have pledged to bring about a change in policy.

* * *

REACTIONS OF FORMER colored grand jurors follow:

DR. FURMAN L. TEMPLETON, executive director, Baltimore Urban League—"As a former grand juror, the group's action raises a serious question of the impartiality of bigoted jurors who must pass judgment on all races.

"If its policy isn't changed, I'm hopeful that an organization which is democratic can be started."

THE REV. MARION C. BASCOM SR., pastor, Douglas Community Memorial Church—"The kind of prejudice which now exists in the Grand Jurors Association, somehow indicates that a new criterion for membership is a must.

"When I was on jury duty, it was my impression that **many of the then members did not reflect the finer elements of the white comunity.**

"Whereas every colored person who has been appointed has had certain educational credentials. This, I do not think, is the case with other jurors.

"I further feel that most of the grand jurors with whom I served were tired and retired persons."

* * *

WALTER T. DIXON, City Councilman, and director, Cortez Business School—"It's an affront to me and I resent it bitterly. It is a defactor organization and should not be permitted to be disguised as a grand jurors association.

"It is not and can never be a representative grand jurors association as long as it bars persons because of color.

"I have been thinking about asking the courts to do something about this situation for a long time."

* * *

DAVID L. GLENN, Community Secretary, Urban League—**"It appears to me that the action casts an adverse reflection upon the judgment of the Supreme Bench judges who select jurors on the basis of integrity."**

* * *

EARL KOGER SR., insurance broker—"They haven't matured as compared to modern justice and democracy. It shows they are out of step with the time.

"A man is judged on his ability, not color."

Among other former grand jurors rejected because of color are:

Dr. J. Percy Bond, professor, Morgan State College; Mrs. Emma Michaels, teacher;

The Rev. Thomas E. Fraser Jr., pastor, Walbrook Trinity Presbyterian Church (on current panel); Mrs. Martin D. Jenkins, wife of Morgan president;

The Rev. Reginald J. Daniels, pastor, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

—EEOC list

(Continued from Page 1)

plaints and investigations, who is also serving as acting executive secretary, said the five applicants will be interviewed by the EEOC board next Friday.

The executive secretary post at EEOC has been vacant since March 1, when Philip A. Camponeschi, who held the job since the agency was established in 1957, resigned to accept a Federal position in Washington.

The position has a salary range of $7,824 to $10,044 a year.

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN (Registered U.S. Patent Office.)
Circulation Audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC)
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company of Baltimore City, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore 1, Md., MUlberry 5-6015. Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Carl Murphy, Chairman of the Board; John H. Murphy III, President; Elizabeth M. Phillips, Vice President-Treasurer; Mae K. Dyson, Secretary; Cliff Mank, Editor; James D. Williams, Assistant Managing Editor; Moses J. Newson, City Editor.
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Planning okeys parking lot beside Mt. Lebanon

An ordinance to permit parking on a vacant lot beside Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reisterstown Rd., was approved by the city's Planning Commission Wednesday.

The Ordinance No. 1217 will be returned to the City Council Monday for final action there.

Use of the lot for parking was requested by the Rev. Hiram E. Smith, pastor, for convenience of his members at Mt. Lebanon.

The City Planning Commission, at its meeting Wednesday, also approved a plan to construct seven houses on a vacant lot at Denison St. and Harlem Ave.

The houses are to be two-story brick, in a row group of five together and another group of two, with construction by a private builder.

ROOF FIRE—Damage to this building at 834 N. Bentalou St. was minor last Friday after first-floor fire found its way to the roof. The occupants, Richard White and Hodge D. Harper were were not injured.

James Gross retires after 37 years

"When I started working as a longshoreman 37 years ago, we made 65 cents an hour. Now the pay is $2.95 an hour."

Thus spoke James Gross of 1017 McKean Ave., as he observed his 65th birthday quietly with his family.

Mr. Gross retired this month and plans to take life easy. He enjoys baseball and is looking forward to attending games regularly.

TELLING OF the changes in dock work since he started out, Mr. Gross said machines now do the work formerly done by men.

"I think it is good for the older men to step aside and give the young men a chance," he said.

Born in St. Leonard, Calvert County, Md., Mr. Gross came to Baltimore in 1914. he served with the U.S. Army in France during World War I.

A member of Payne Memorial Church for 20 years, he is recuperating from an illness that kept him confined at Fort Howard Hospital for three months this winter.

The retired longshoreman resides at the McKean Ave. address with his wife, Mrs. Sarah Gross, and daughter, Miss Ella Gross.

JAMES GROSS
Retired

RUSSELL A DELEGATE

George L. Russell Jr., an attorney, has been designated to represent the State at a National Minorities Resources Conference in Chicago April 28-30.

Mr. Russell, a graduate of Lincoln University and the University of Maryland Law School, has been active in Statewide GOP politics.

—HU to get

(Continued from Page 1)

if the change is made," she told the AFRO.

* * *

THE BILL now pending in the House is HR. 6302.

Asked what are the chances of the bill's passage, she replied, "exceedingly optimistic."

Another congressional source declared that there were many problems at Freedmen's Hospital which such a transfer would alleviate:

"In the past," the source said, "there were problems on both sides as far as the projected transfer was concerned. We think many of these problems have now been removed," the source declared.

MILWAUKEE, Wis. —A Mississippi born educator, Cornelius Golightly, last week became to the first of his race to be elected to the Milwaukee Board of Education.

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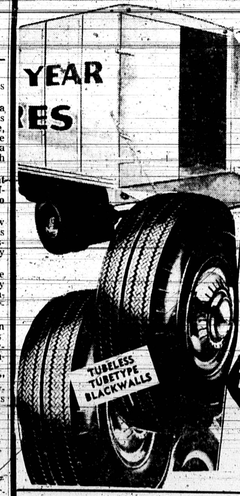

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—Salisbury

(Continued from Page 1)

pen, any disturbance.

"It took a lot of meetings and talking."

Mr. Wilburn, who was a spokesman for the students at Maryland State College, told the AFRO, "They have taken it very nicely. As a group they don't eat out with any regularity.

"They like the idea that when they feel they can afford to go out they can go to any of the places."

Mr. Wilburn said he knew a number of faculty members had eaten at some of the restaurants since the policy changes.

Maryland State College has an enrollment of roughly 450 students and has a teaching administrative and service staff of about 100.

One person who has eaten regularly at some of the restaurants reported he had never observed any untoward incidents.

"It just slowed right in," the observer said. "Not everybody rushed in and it has worked fine."

—Delegates

(Continued from Page 1)

directed by Jose Miro Cardona, who once was premier of the Castro regime.

* * *

CUBAN FOREIGN Minister Raul Roa charged before the United Nations Political Committee, Monday, that U.S. carrier based jet planes were taking part in the invasion.

He also charged that the invasion was launched from both Florida and Guatemala and that U.S. forces from Guantanamo naval base were aiding the invaders.

These charges were "categorically denied" by U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, who expressed sympathy for the invaders.

In Washington, Secretary of State Dean Rusk gave full moral support of the forces invading the island, but denied intervention by U.S. forces.

"What happens in Cuba," he said, "is for the Cuban people themselves to decide.

MARYLAND PHYSICIANS WANT YOU TO KNOW WHERE THEY STAND ON THE QUESTION OF:

MEDICAL AID FOR THE AGED

HERE'S WHAT WE FAVOR:

The doctors of America believe that our aged citizens who need medical care should get it, whether or not they can afford to pay for it.

We favor a program of medical aid for the aged sensibly designed to *help those who need* help — that allows millions who can afford it to pay for their own medical care.

Such a program was enacted by Congress last year. It's the Kerr-Mills law which has the enthusiastic support of America's doctors. Specifically, the law provides for Federal grants-in-aid to the individual states, enabling them to provide health care for those among the elderly who need help. The benefits of this locally administered program also include the 2½-million Americans eligible for Old Age Assistance . . . and protect all other senior citizens who cannot meet the costs of a serious or long-lasting illness.

The Kerr-Mills law represents a common-sense approach to solving a problem that concerns us all. As doctors, we support it — because our first consideration is the health and life of our patients. As Americans, we endorse it — because helping those who cannot help themselves is the obligation of all decent people.

HERE'S WHAT WE REJECT:

As Americans — not simply as physicians — we are deeply concerned about the dangers of Socialized Medicine. And we are not crying "wolf" when we apply that term to the currently proposed legislation which would establish a COMPULSORY health-care program for everyone covered by Social Security (regardless of need). The Socialist Party itself calls this Socialized Medicine. And we believe they have a more expert knowledge of socialist definitions than do those who describe it as "just a method of financing aid for the aged."

This COMPULSORY health-care program adds up to nothing more than Socialized Medicine — controlled by a bureau of the Federal Government . . . paid for by increased Social Security taxes, burdening both present and future generations. Confined at first to the aged, it would inevitably be expanded to cover all Americans.

Moreover, when the Federal Government enters the privacy of the examination room — controlling both standards of practice and choice of practitioner — the cost includes loss of freedom. Your doctor's freedom to treat you in an individual way. Your freedom to choose your own doctor. When the physician is socialized, so is his patient.

IF YOU AGREE WITH US that a compulsory health-care program for any segment of our population would be bad for the nation, we urge you to write your Senators and Congressman. Urge them to reject Socialized Medicine in any form . . . to use our present program of medical care for the aged, administered locally, that *helps* those who need *help*.

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