WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

WHEN A PRISONER DIES IN HIS CELL

Why and how was it possible for an inmate of the Maryland House of Correction to slowly bleed to death over a period of several days without receiving an examination that would have shown him to be victim of acute lukemia (blood cancer)?

Why was this prisoner given pills and sent back to his prison dormitory?

Why, considering the gravity of his illness, was he not admitted to the prison hospital but left in his small bed in a crowded dormitory, where a friend reported "his pillow was soaked with blood where he had bled the nights before his death?"

These are some of the questions still unanswered three weeks after the death of Braxton Allen, 35, also known as Preston Little, who died at the Jessups, Md. penal institution on Dec. 5.

Allen had last lived in the 300 block N. Fulton Ave., before being remanded to the House of Correction for an 18-month term in October.

* * *

CIRCUMSTANCES surrounding his death touched off a furore among his fellow prisoners. Many of these men had relatives on the outside contact the AFRO regarding Allen's death, others wrote letters documenting the events leading up to his death.

An official autopsy from the State Medical Examiner's Office completed this week sheds further light on the Allen tragedy.

According to the report of Dr. Rudiger Breitenecker, of the State Medical Examiner's staff, Braxton Allen's death was caused by hemoperitoneum due to ruptured spleen due to acute lukemia.

In lay terms, this would mean internal abdominal bleeding.

Here are excerpts from an eye-witness report of that final week in Braxton Allen's life at the House of Correction.

* * *

"ON NOVEMBER 29, Braxton Allen was annoyed by an acute dizziness. He also noticed to his mounting dread that there was a unusual continuous blood discharge from his nose.

"His first instinct was to treat these ills of his own volition for the attention he could get at the institutional dispensary had him laughing, but after a night's struggle ... he found his condition had worsened and so had his confidence in his will to dispel it.

"He still did not want to go there because he was afraid someone would threaten him with solitary confinement and accuse him of faking.

"But he went, his nostrils had begun to run as if they were about to drain the last ounce of blood from his small frame. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Allen was 5 feet, seven inches tall and weighed 165 pounds at time of death.) He also now complained of a sharp, throbbing, agonizing headache.

"His first treatment was pills, as usual. He was treated like a human being though by the custodial officer in charge of the dispensary at that time holding over the position until the regular staff arrived.

* * *

"ON SUNDAY Dec. 2, I saw Allen. I had to look at him three or four times before I recognized just who he was. He was red and watery-eyed, hunched and drawn. Ordinarily dark, I could hardly believe he could have grown so pale.

He said, "My head and nose have been troubling me for practically four days. Look at me, I can scarcely breathe with all this damn cotton stuffed up my nostrils. The nurse placed it there to ease my blood flow, claiming the blood flow meant that cold was breaking.

"I don't have a cold, I tried to explain this. They said if I wasn't satisfied just tell them and they would stop treating me altogether.' (Allen is quoted as saying)

"That was the last I saw of Allen. He died on Wednesday, Dec. 5. A fellow in his

(Continued on page 3)

CIG spokesman critical of prisoner's treatment

"There is no real justification prison authorities can give for circumstances in the death of Braxton Allen at the House of Correction on December 5. We hope in light of this case, prison officials will strive to improve medical facilities in the House of Correction."

Thus commented Leo G. Burroughs Jr., an official of the Civic Interest Group which is spear-heading protests against Maryland's segregated prison facilities. Mr. Burroughs had just received details of the state medical examiner's autopsy report on the 35-year-old Baltimorean who died suddenly at the Jessups, Md. institution.

"In our estimation," said Mr. Burrough, "the existing facilities are inadequate. We think they should give priority to an adequate medical system."

With the Revs. Marion Bascom and Robert Newbold, Mr. Burroughs had toured the House of Correction on Friday to determine the extent of segregation within this institution.

Baltimore Notebook

By MAX JOHNSON

As each election period approaches, it becomes increasingly apparent drastic revisions of our election laws are needed.

Many changes are necessary for the protection of the serious candidate—as well as the voting public.

And a good place to start is with the would-be candidate.

It's really amazing how little existing laws require, in too many cases, of candidates filing for public office.

For example—let's look at the pending mayoralty primary.

* * *

MORE PARTICULARLY—let's examine that fiasco at the Supervisors of Elections office on the past Wednesday deadline filing day.

Prior to Wednesday—less than 50 persons had filed for the municipal offices of mayor, City Council president, comptroller, and City Council seats in Baltimore's six districts.

Yet—Some 200 other persons crowded the Supervisors of Elections office Wednesday afternoon and night to file.

Well over 200 of them filed for the existing 20 City Council seats.

And more than half of them will again crowd the same offices Monday afternoon and night to withdraw—on that final day for getting out of the race.

* * *

SO—WHY do most of these people file?

Our election laws are too loosely drawn to limit the field to serious candidates.

As matters now stand—a man can file his candidacy for the City Council on payment of a $25 fee.

Then, he can withdraw on or before the deadline date—and get all of his $25 back.

But—here's what he gets for nothing.

His name is mentioned repeatedly in all media of the press as a candidate.

He gets attention from friends, acquaintances and people who never knew him before.

* * *

FOR A professional man or a person in business—this is free advertisement.

For the little known person—here is a means of attracting attention he couldn't buy otherwise.

Also—there is quite often the possibility that his entry will draw the attention of a political boss.

Somebody who will dicker With him to withdraw—so as to better the chances of the organizational candidate.

So—the door is wide open for the person who is not a serious candidate.

They could close it a bit by hiking the filing fee—and making it non-returnable.

MANY A person would hesitate to pay at least $100 or $150 to file for office—if he knew he couldn't get it back by withdrawing.

Many of them who have now filed couldn't afford it—even to stay in the race.

I contend the application fee for public office should bear some ratio to the salary.

There should be also some requirements as to qualifications for the office.

About all our laws require now is that a candidate for public office be of voting age and have lived here long enough to collect a few local credit cards.

ACTUALLY, A City Council candidate is required to be 21 years old—and to have lived in the city two years prior to the general election.

The laws have no other restrictions.

This may sound ridiculous—but it's true.

A person can live in the East Baltimore First District—and run for the Council in the West Baltimore Fourth District.

Our election laws are just that loosely drawn.

And such being the case—they have paved the way for all kinds of political shenanigans.

* * *

THERE ARE now filed for offices in the city's mayoralty campaign—men who have just been elected to the State Legislature.

They don't have to resign their Legislature seat to stay in the race.

Should they win—they would have the choice of resigning one to accept the other.

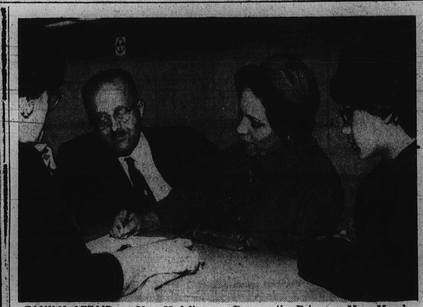
This is a common factional move—aimed at getting another public seat through appointment.

Then—there is that deliberate filing of same-name candidates.

Here are but a few phases of the loopholes in our election laws which need attention.

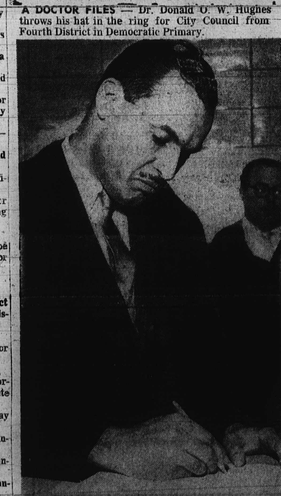
Our public offices are seats of too great a responsibility—to maintain a loose method of filling them.

A DOCTOR FILES — Dr. Donald O. W. Hughes throws his hat in the ring for City Council from Fourth District in Democratic Primary.



FAMILY AFFAIR — Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy, flanked by her lawyer husband, William H. Murphy, and daughter, Madeline, files as a contender for the City Council in the Democratic Primary. Mrs. Murphy filed from the Sixth District where she is popular in church, civic and social circles in Cherry Hill.

COUNCIL BID — Solomon Reddick, 2414 Albion Ave., was one of the earlier filers at the Supervisors of Elections office this week. He filed for the Republican nomination for the City Council in the Third District. Flanking Mr. Reddick are Marshall W. Jones, left, and the Rev. George Crawley, right.



HE'S IN — James W. McAllister, resigned as state's attorney to file Wednesday for the Democratic nomination for the City Council in the Fourth District.

Mrs. Shaw takes rift to court

Charging that he has deserted her without cause, Mrs. Cecelia C. Shaw has asked the Circuit Court to order Warren S. Shaw Jr., of the Manning - Shaw Realty Co. to provide support for her and their two sons, Robert, 10; and Warren, 3rd, 6.

Mrs. Shaw, who says that her husband's weekly income is approximately $400, says that he has declared his intentions to live with her no longer.

She says that she is unemployed and without sufficient income to support herself and their children.

She asks that the court have Mr. Shaw provide her with support in such an amount as is in keeping with the family's station in life.

She also asks permanent care and custody of the children.

Mrs. Shaw is being represented by Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, attorney.

Mr. Shaw told the AFRO that his wife rejected a settlement which included their $18,000 home at 3205 Carlisle Ave., free of all encumbrances, with all its furnishings, $1000 in cash, a regular income of $100 per week, a new Chevrolet automobile.

He would assume all joint bills as of November 1, 1962 and all stock now in their joint names.

Mrs. Shaw would retain custody of the children, 10 and 6 years old, and he would have reasonable rights to visit them twice weekly and one week in summer.

He also offered to be responsible for the family's Blue Cross, Blue Shield and ordinary medical expenses.

Mr. Shaw said he is still in love with his wife.

* * *

THE REV. W. LYNDSAI PITTS was divorced by Mrs. Amie C. Pitts in Circuit Court No. 1 last week, after both testified that they voluntarily ended their marriage.

In an original petition, Mrs. Pitts charged that the Rev. Mr. Pitts deserted her. She later filed an amended petition asking for a divorce on grounds of voluntary separation.

The couple was married on August 26, 1940 and ended their union, they said, in October, 1953. At that time, Mrs. Pitts said that she moved from a common bedroom in their house at 2916 Auchentoroly Terrace. She testified that she moved from the house to her present home, 3011 Wabash Avenue, in February, 1961.

The Rev. Mr. Pitts testified that they agreed, upon the first separation, to end the marriage unless they could "get together."

In a pre - decree settlement the clergyman agreed to provide $10 per week support for their 11 - year-old son and to pay the wife $1,000 in cash, and her attorney, Myles R. Eisenstein, $300.

Baha'i persecution charge goes to UN

The Baha'i International Community, a non - governmental organization accredited to the United Nations, has appealed to the United Nations for help in stopping the persecution of the members of the Baha'i religion in Morocco.

A telegram has been sent to the United Nations Secretary - General U Thant, urging him to explore the recent Moroccan Government's court case against 14 Baha'is.

The case was concluded on Dec. 17 and three of the defendants were sentenced to death, five others were sentenced to life imprisonment and another faces a term of 14 years imprisonment at hard labor. The other defendants were acquitted.

* * *

THE BAHA'I International Community states that the charges leveled against the Baha'is at the December 10 trial in Nador, Morocco were unfounded.

The Moroccan government claims that the defendants

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