FREE SUSPECT OF RAPE-ATTEMPT CASE

Baltimore Notebook

By MAX JOHNSON

The stage is being set to gerrymander the Fourth Legislative District—to reduce the registered colored voter to a possible minority.

Nobody concerned will openly admit it—but this is the underlying purpose of the Pollack political faction in this district.

Some General Assembly members of the Fourth and Fifth Districts agreed on such a plan this week.

The proposal is soon to be placed before the Baltimore City delegation of the General Assembly for approval—in an overall legislative redistricting plan for the city.

* * *

THE PLANNED Fourth District gerrymandering will be overshadowed, as such, in the proposed realignment of the legislative boundaries of all of the city's six districts.

For some years now—the Fourth has been the one district in the city where the registered colored voter has been in the majority.

In recent elections, such independent Democratic voters have banded together to soundly thrash the once powerful Pollack machine—long a dominant force in this district.

Now—they are trying to bring the Pollack machine back in power.

And they are trying to do so by gerrymandering as many colored voters as possible out of the planned new Fourth District.

* * *

TO FACILITATE a clearer understanding of just how they are planning to pull this stunt—it is necessary to recall the new councilmanic redistricting plan adopted by the lame-duck City Council in May.

Hastily shoved through the out-going Council at that time was a wide variation of the Bard Plan—termed Plan X.

Plan X would have extended the western boundaries of the Fourth into the Fifth District's 15th and 16th Wards—thereby increasing its colored vote power with a logical expansion.

Councilmen Walter T. Dixon and Maurice J. Soypher, both Pollack faction allies, refused to accept this increased colored vote power for their Fourth District—though Councilman Dixon is colored.

* * *

THEY JOINED to slash 5,000 colored voters out of the proposed expansion into the 16th Ward—and added instead a similar number of white voters to the northwest of the Fourth.

This was done by extending the boundaries of the Fourth into the Fifth District's 27th Ward—north of the old city line to the vicinity of Belvedere Ave. between Reisterstown Rd. and Green Spring Ave.

This bit of gerrymandering was approved with the overall councilmanic redistricting Plan X—and will go on the ballot November of next year for voters to concur or reject.

The legislative redistricting plan for the Fourth District follows the adopted councilmanic plan—in the colored areas.

* * *

THEN—SOME very obvious gerrymandering is done.

They plan to extend the northwest tip of the Fourth into the First, Second and Third Precincts of the Fifth District's 15th Ward—west of Callaway Ave. in the vicinity of Belle Ave., Cold Spring Lane and Garrison Blvd.

This is a Pollack faction stronghold with roughly 1,900 registered white voters—and 300 colored voters.

To pull this one—they bypass the in-between area west of the Western Maryland Railroad and Hilton St. north of Sequoia Ave. which is predominantly colored.

They further this gerrymandering of the Fourth by extending its northern boundaries from the old northern city line to Dupont Ave. and Cold Spring Lane—between Charles St. and Park Heights Ave.

* * *

THIS INCLUDES the 76th, 85th, a portion of the 86th and the 95th Precincts of the Fifth District's 27th Ward.

Here is another area considered a Pollack faction stronghold.

There are roughly 2,500 registered white voters in these precincts—and less than 200 colored voters.

Take an overall look at this proposal—and the gerrymandering moves are painfully obvious.

They have taken the Dixon-Soypher gerrymander of the Fourth District much further than kicking out the 5,000 colored voters—and adding as many white voters.

They have added almost 7,000 white voters—and but slightly over 500 colored voters in the process.

* * *

ALL OF THIS means if this legislative redistricting plan for the Fourth District is sneaked through, as somebody

(Continued on Page 13)

Register to vote, change address now

The registration books are now open for citizens to become eligible voters for the primary election early next year.

Citizens may register at the Supervisors of Elections office, ground floor, People's Court Bldg., Fayette and Gay Sts., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Who must register—Those who will become 21 years of age prior to next year's election; newcomers to the city who have lived here at least a year.

Change of address — Citizens who have been registered as eligible voters, but have changed their address in recent months without notifying the Supervisors of Elections, should do so now.

IT MAY be necessary to register again. Several thousand citizens who have changed addresses in the past two-year period, without notification to the Supervisors of Elections, have been stricken from the books as eligible voters.

John White re-elected by NAPE

The Baltimore Branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees today announced the results of the election of officers for the next two year term.

John W. White was re-elected for his sixth term as president.

Others elected are Milton L. Holmes, first vice - president; Levi Dozier, second vice president; Fred Waters, recording secretary; Calvin Parker, financial secretary; Anthony Ward, treasurer, and Leon Proctor, historian.

UNDER MR. WHITE, the membership has almost tripled. Since he first took office 10 years ago, the membership this year has exceeded the 1,000 mark.

This has been attributed to Mr. White's sustained efforts to erase discrimination in the postal service and the community on behalf of the members he represents.

Mr. White has given testimony on behalf of civil rights in City Hall and Annapolis, and gave testimony on behalf of Public Law 836 in Congress to guarantee permanent employment of females in the postal service.

Set clocks back

Maryland goes back on Standard Time Sunday (Oct. 27) at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clock back one hour.

Suspended cop calls it quits

Patrolman Jerome C. Troy Jr., of the Central District, who was suspended from the force on charges of negligence on August 17, resigned last week, according to a department official.

The 29 - year - old officer, was accused of having been off his post, for nearly an hour and had been suspended by Lt. James Middleton.

The ex - patrolman, who had served on the police force since 1957, had been waiting a disposition on the charge by Police Commissioner Bernard J. Schmidt when he resigned.

MAYOR JOINS NAACP — Photo made Thursday morning in City Hall shows Baltimore's Mayor Theodore McKeldin, taking out a $25 NAACP membership. Accepting the payment is William C. Jones, national executive assistant of the association's life membership committee. Mayor McKeldin was among leading citizens who gathered Wednesday evening at the Morgan Park home of Dr. Carl Murphy where James Meredith, first colored University of Mississippi graduate, was guest of honor.

Mayor's rights bill would make Balto. 'total city'

By MAX JOHNSON

"If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I am going to make this a total city—to belong totally to each and everyone of its citizens."

Another candidate for mayor made this promise to the AFRO some time ago, and his phraseology aptly covers Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin's package of suggested civil rights legislation placed before the City Council the past Monday.

Here is proposed legislation total in coverage, to make Baltimore a city to belong totally to each of its citizens, irrespective of race, color or religion—at least, almost totally.

These proposals would make existing discrimination practices unlawful in virtually all forms of public services and opportunities in this city.

The city's Equal Opportunity Commission would be renamed the Baltimore Community Relations Committee, and its powers broadened to enforce the new laws.

* * *

MAYOR McKELDIN'S package of human rights proposals to make Baltimore a total city for all covers these five pertinent categories: 1. Employment practices; 2. housing; 3. public accommodations; 4. educational institutions, and 5. health and welfare services.

Here, in essence, is what these proposals mean to establish by city ordinance.

It would be unlawful for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to practice racial or religious discrimination in hiring, privileges or promotions.

Advertising for, or selection of applicants on such basis would be outlawed.

Training programs for apprentice candidates would be opened to all, regardless of race, color, or religion.

This means persons would be assured of employment and promotional opportunities, solely on the basis of their qualifications.

* * *

THE MATTER of open occupancy in housing would become a reality backed by city law, under a provision of Mayor McKeldin's package of rights proposals.

Existing discriminatory practices in the sales, leases and rentals of houses and apartments, except apartments in a private home where the owner reside, would be outlawed.

Banks and lending institutions would be required to end racial and religious discrimination in guaranteeing loans, accepting mortgages or making funds available for construction or rehabilitation of any housing unit.

This means citizens of minority groups would be supported by law to purchase or rent a house or apartment of their choice anywhere within the city, in accordance with their ability to pay.

Under this provision, colored citizens would no longer be prohibited from moving from overcrowded areas to available housing within their means in sections of the city now closed to them.

* * *

BALTIMORE NOW has a public accommodations law, limited in its coverage.

Mayor McKeldin's proposal would open to all citizens, regardless of race, color or religion, all places catering

(Continued on Page 13)

Girl, 7, says- can't remember

A blond man charged with attempting to assault a 7-year-old was freed in the Southwestern Municipal Court last Friday.

The accused Howard Jacobs 62, 3400 block Belvedere Ave., was dismissed on the charge when the girl, left the courtroom without her parents, the girl said she could not remember what had taken place.

James W. McAllister, an assistant state's attorney, assigned to prosecute the case, was unable to get the young principal witness to tell what she had told her mother, the police, the judge and him earlier in private.

Judge Joseph L. Broccolo no told the child "speak without fear" and "tell us what happend."

But, in tears, the child replied "I can't remember, I don't remember, I forgot."

THE ALLEGED incident the girl's father told the AFRO, took place on Sunday, Oct. 15. He said a man had made an attempt to criminally assault his daughter under a bridge in a construction area near his home.

The father said the incident ended when neighborhood children arrived on the scene.

One of the children testified in court, "I saw them from a distance and it looked like he was kissing her."

This witness said when she came closer to where the two were standing, the man was wiping tears from the girls eyes.

On the way home, the 10-year - old witness said, the girl told her what had taken place.

WHEN THE complainant was called to testify, she was placed on a table before the judge. She told her story with much prompting.

Her parents with other witnesses were barred from the courtroom, upon the request of the defendant's attorney Howard L. Muhl Jr., a Baltimore County magistrate.

She told how the defendant had sent her to the store, how she had fallen when she returned and how she had been helped to her feet by the accused. She said he had sent her to the store many times before and given her money.

* * *

THEN SHE said that the man had asked her to get into his car but she said she told him she had to go home and take care of her little brother.

The young girl testified he then told her to go under a bridge, and she obeyed.

"Then what happened?" asked Mr. McAllister.

"I don't remember," was the girl's reply.

* * *

TWO DAYS before, however, the girl was asked in court to point out the man she had accused of attempting to assault her. At that time she pointed to Mr. Jacobs.

Mr. Jacobs was advised of the nature of the charges and that he should be represented by an attorney. Subsequently, a series of postponements followed.

Mr. McAllister requested on Friday that a show cause hearing be dropped and that the man be charged.

He was taken into custody and charged with assault with intent to carnally know the girl.

When the young girl failed to restate what she had earlier said took place, there was no other alternative for the court but to dismiss the case, according to Judge Broccolino.

Edgemere pastor victim of poison

A 67-year-old minister died late Thursday night after he accidentally drank a quantity of insect killer he had mistaken for a soft drink, police reported Thursday.

As a result of the accident, which occurred at about 12:15 p.m. Thursday, the Rev. Peter Jennings, of 1214 N. Caroline St., pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Edgemere, Caroline St., was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

According to the minister's wife Mrs. Johncy Jennings, she found her husband lying on the first floor bedroom floor. She said he complained of severe pains in his stomach.

Police said Mrs. Jennings told them that her husband told her before going into a coma that he drank the poison by mistake after he had taken a bottle of soda from his refrigerator, sat it on a table and picked up the wrong bottle.

4th Dist. Demos unveil machine

As the first step in a proposed intensive voter education campaign, a new voting machine was unveiled Monday night at the North Ave. headquarters of the Fourth District Democratic Organization.

The machine, purchased with funds raised in a baby contest and from voluntary contributions, will be available for use by all groups anxious to enlighten their members about voting, Sen. Welcome (D., 4th) explained during the unveiling ceremony.

A second machine, donated by Dr. Henry Welcome, has been set up in the headquarters of the Valiant Democratic Women at 3423 Holmes Ave., it was revealed.

* * *

LLOYAL RANDOLPH was re-elected president of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, which also chose Mrs. Maureen Michelson as vice president.

Other officers elected were Charles Dorsey, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Ethel Rich, executive secretary; Mrs. Mirian Winborne, recording secretary; Mrs. Evelyn Goodwin, corresponding secretary;

Also Mrs. Lorraine Jones, assistant corresponding secretary; Dan Spaulding, treasurer; Mrs. Queenie Lane, financial secretary; Mrs. Mary B. Adams, parliamentarian; Mrs. Edythe P. Hill, chaplain; Bertram Dorsey, sergeant - at- arms; and Jacques Leeds, legal advisor.

Named to the board of directors were: Murray Abramson, William L. Adams, Troy Bralley, Dr. A. Cavacos, Dr. J. E. T. Camper, Raymond V. Haysbert Cliff W. Mackay, Clarence Mitchell III;

Also James McAllister, J. Neal, Henry G. Parks, Lloyal Randolph, Mrs. Ethel Rich, Dr. Thomas Pitts, George Russell and Sen. Verda Welcome.

* * *

APPEARING AS guest speaker. Dr. G. James Fleming, professor of political science, Morgan State College, pointed to three things members of the organization could learn from

(Continued on Page 13)

'A Visit to Morgan' to be televised again Saturday

WMAR-TV (Channel 2) will repeat its telecast of "A Visit To Morgan State College," a specially produced documentary on the Baltimore institution, Saturday, Oct. 26, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Local radio personality Charles (Chuck) Richards narrates the nearly hour-long presentation, which was produced by the Public Affairs Department of WMAR-TV in cooperation with the college.

The Morgan show represents the third in a series of visits made by the television station to local educational institutions. Previous visits were to The Johns Hopkins University and Loyola College.

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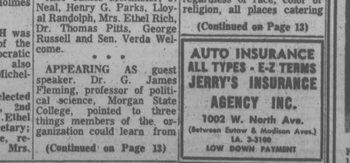

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(STORY IN COLUMN 1)

BLUE Streak EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

THE WEATHER

During the period Saturday to Wednesday, temperatures will average 4 degrees below normal 55-62 highs and 36-45 lows for period. Cooler Saturday and Sunday, warmer Tuesday and cooler again Wednesday.

72nd Year, No. 30 — Copyrighted 1963 by AFRO-AMERICAN CO. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition — BALTIMORE, MD., NOVEMBER 2, 1963 — ★★★★★★★ — 32 PAGES — 15 CENTS

'PERFECT HUSBAND' RETURNS TO FACE 3 MURDER CHARGES

Redistricting still up in air

By MAX JOHNSON

Baltimore's delegation of senators and House of Delegates members of the state's General Assembly met Thursday evening to realign the boundaries of the city's six legislative districts — but made little progress.

The meeting followed a decree by Circuit Coure Judge Wilson K. Barnes which declared the existing boundaries "null and void."

After more than an hour of wrangling at the Sheraton Inn, Murray Abramson (4th D.), chairman of the House Delegation, adjourned the meeting. He said another would be held in "about two weeks."

Agreement was reached only on new boundaries for the Sixth District.

Senator William L. Hodges said his delegation was satisfied with the same boundaries as approved by the City Council earlier this year, in the councilmanic redistricting.

The delegation used this plan as a basis for trying to reach agreement.

* * *

SHARP CONTENTION arose over a previously agreed plan among some members of the Fourth and Fifth Districts over its proposed boundaries.

Marvin Mandel (5th D.), acting speaker of the House, said this proposal would follow that of the councilmanic redistricting, except that the 95th, 96th, 97th and 99th precincts of the 27th Ward, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd precincts of the 15th Ward would be added.

This is precisely what **Councilmen Walter T. Dixon and Maurice J. Soypher, Fourth District, had suggested in knocking out 5,000 colored voters in the Fourth District. Both are Pollack faction attaches.**

Senator Verda F. Welcome and Del. Clarence M. Mitchell Jr4. (both 4th D.) termed the proposed addition of the three precincts in the 15th Ward a "gerrymander" of the Fourth District.

This is an area west of Callaway Ave. in the vicinity of Cold Spring La., a sector which has 369 registered colored and 1,936 white Democratic voters.

Mr. Mitchell made a motion that bypassed precincts 1 and 4A, east of Callaway Ave. to the existing Western Maryland Railroad Boundary of the Fourth District be substituted instead, and eliminating the far west Precinct 1.

* * *

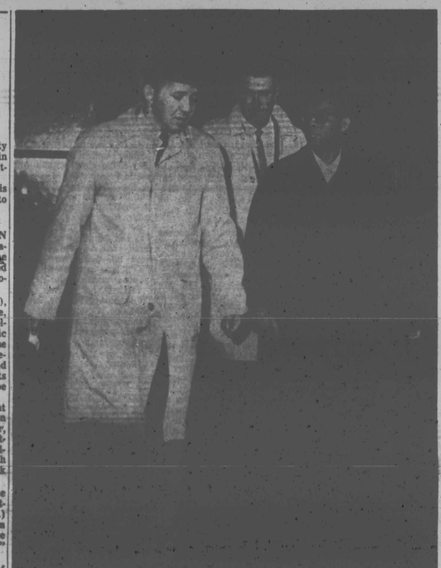
THIS PROPOSAL was killed by eight to four vote. Senator Welcome and Mr. Mitchell were joined by two others in approval.

Mrs. Irma G. Dixon (4th D.) did not vote, and Ernest D. Young (4th D.) joined Senator Dorf and six others in voting against the measure.

Mr. Young said afterwards: **"We (colored citizens) are going to eventually move out there (the three 15th Ward precincts in controversy) anyway. I don't see why the argument."**

Shortly afterwards, the

(Continued on Page 2)



ACCUSED SLAYER COMES HOME —Ollie Wilkins, handcuffed to Det. Charles Zeller, leaves Pennsylvania Railroad station after being brought back from Cleveland. Det. Sgt. James J. Cadden is the hatless officer.

Teacher, sons buried; tragedy stuns family

THE MAN — THE FAMILY

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

Ollie Wilkins, unemployed postman by profession, "perfect husband and father" by reputation, and mystery man by nature, came home Thursday from Cleveland — with a police escort.

He came home to face the music for what police called a most imperfect crime — the murder of his entire family.

Until Sunday afternoon when an attractive West Baltimore home gave up its gruesome secrets, Ollie Wilkins, as reported by a neighbor this week, "seemed to be the perfect husband and father."

* * *

SINCE THEN, however, the 32-year - old Air Force veteran has become an accused murderer.

Homicide investigators have charged that he murdered his 32-year-old, attractive, schoolteacher wife, Mrs. Doris Craig Wilkins.

Mrs. Wilkins was strangled to death, reported Dr. Russell S. Fisher, chief medical examiner.

Her body was discovered by her father, Charles M. Craig Sr. It was stuffed in a tiny second-floor closet in the early - American furnished home at 1124 Seminole Ave.

Approximately one and a half hours after Mrs. Wilkins was murdered, investigators learned, death also claimed her two handsome sons — Kevin 8, and Kerwin, 2.

The former was partially strangled and finally drowned. The latter was drowned, according to Dr. Fisher.

* * *

WHEN THEIR grandfather and police forced their way Sunday into the house, the youngsters were floating face - down in a bath tub nearly overflowing with water, investigators said.

Like their mother, the sons too had died at the hands of their father, police charged.

Thus there was a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde portrait of the clean - cut, collegiate-type man who stepped off the train in the early - morning sun of Pennsylvania Station at 9:05 a.m. Thursday. The train was an hour late.

He was escorted by two crack homicide investigators — Det. Sgt. James J. Cadden and Det. Charles Zeller.

* * *

THEY WERE met by Det. Sgt. Halvor Reif. An AFRO reporter and photographer were at the scene.

It marked the first time that Wilkins had touched ground in Balti-

(Continued on Page 25)

"It didn't have to be done that way.

"He could have picked up and walked off . . . and they would have been able to live."

Charles M. Craig Sr. spoke softly, deliberately and with obvious pain Thursday.

He was assessing his losses as a father, grandfather and father - in-law.

The "he" was in reference to Ollie Wilkins, Mr. Craig's 32 - year - old son - in - law.

"They" had reference to his daughter and two grandsons—Mrs. Doris Craig Wilkins, Kevin, 8, and Kerwin, 2.

The son-in-law is in jail charged with murder.

Mr. Craig's daughter and two handsome grandsons are dead and Mr. Wilkins is charged with killing them.

* * *

IF THE father, grandfather, and father - in - law found it less than easy to speak it's understandable.

His son - in - law was absent. He's in jail.

Victims of what police have called a shocking triple murder, the mother and her sons were reposing at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ethel Jason, who lives but a block away from where they met violent death a week ago.

A pall of sadness hung over the grief - stricken survivors as they kept a vigil over the flower-decked trio of caskets that stood as mute testimony to the gravity of the tragedy that struck with trip - hammer suddeness.

The mother, former Baltimore County elementary school teacher, was in a soft pink sealed casket with a picture sitting on the top.

The youngsters, who bore a striking resemblance to their grandfather, were laid out in white caskets with white silk lining. Both were open to their full length.

Kevin, 8, was dressed in a blue tweed sport coat, charcoal grey pants, white shirt; tie, and white sox.

Kerwin, 2, a chubby little fellow whose healthy legs tapered off into a pair of gleaming white sox, was dressed in a short, white linen suit, as sparkling as the lining of the casket.

* * *

VIEWING THIS incredible harvest of violence, the grandfather, a former AFRO stereotype worker, shook his head slowly:

"God only knows why this hap-

(Continued on Page 25)

Rights bill up Wed.

The first of four public hearings on Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin's package of civil rights proposals will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the City Council chamber, third floor, City Hall.

The hearing will be before the Council's Judiciary Committee, headed by William J. Schaefer (5th D.), who is also vice president of the Council.

The package of rights proposals, contained in a single ordinance, would ban racial discrimination in employment, places of public accommodations, educational institutions, other than parochial schools, in health and welfare services, and in the sale and rental of housing.

Further public hearings on this proposed ordinance are set for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 14, 19, and 21 in the City Council chamber.

In announcing the later dates early this week, Mr. Schaefer said they may be subject to change.

Plan to toughen rights bill despite Kennedy opposition

By MOSES J. NEWSON

Efforts will be made to strengthen the compromise civil rights bill on the floor of the House of Representatives despite prospects of continuing strong opposition from the Kennedy Administration.

Banking on what it termed enough "sure" votes to pass a tougher bill in the House, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights announced in Washington this week it would sponsor amendments that would:

1. Broaden the public accommodations section's coverage.

2. Knock off the clause in the Fair Employment Practices section which would permit a court rather than the supervising agency to determine whether discrimination exists.

3. Strengthen the Title III section to permit the Justice Department of bring action in cases where civil rights are violated, rather than just support individuals initiating such action.

* * *

CLARENCE MITCHELL Jr., chief of the NAACP's Washington bureau and a spokesman for the LCCR, said this week after the rights groups discussed the situation:

"This is one of the few times where if the Administration in the White House wanted to be a little courageous they would have gotten this bill (in its strongest form), through without watering it down.

"So far there is no evidence to support their contention (that the stronger bill couldn't pass the House) and an abundance of evidence to support us."

President Kennedy, his brother Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy and others in the

(Continued on Page 2)

PROFILE OF A FIGHTER

CORE's Ed Chance on non-violence

By RALPH MATTHEWS JR.

Why does Edward Chance work long hours without pay as chairman of Baltimore's chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)? Why does he organize and participate in civil rights demonstrations?

With his usual blunt humor, Chance, a lanky ex-North Carolinian says: "You could say the sight of a lynch mob running through my backyard in Parmalee, N. C. when I was 10 years old did much to interest me in the cause of freedom and equality."

During the day Baltimore City CORE'S new chairman works as a psychiatric social worker at Spring Grove State Hospital. When the day's work is over, Ed Chance begins his supervising job as CORE's top man.

Until his election as CORE chairman this summer to succeed the over - worked Walter Carter who retired, Ed Chance was regarded by many in and out of the freedom movement in Baltimore as CORE's "wild man."

Ed's conversations, an eloquent blend of intellectual theory, "street" talk and wild humor, can be un-nerving for the uninformed and racially unaware.

* * *

THERE ARE some ex-CORE members floating around town who still think the fiery - talking Chance is either a Black Muslim, a wild - eyed bomb - throwing revolutionary or just plain menace.

Chance regards his detractors with a smile. "I have hard this complaint about me being a Black Muslim at least several times but I dismiss the label lightly. Of course it is a fact that my destiny is tied to the destiny of all other colored people and that we colored people are all in this together.

"But the people who have tagged me a Muslim or extremist are those who claim to be liberal but prefer to blot out the image of the colored man in their minds along with the colored man's existence.

"The comparison of me with Muslims came from

(Continued on Page 2)

EDWARD CHANCE

Long appoints second aide to his office staff

WASHINGTON

Rep. Clarence D. Long (D., Md.) today announced the appointment of Mrs. Ann Ragland, 29-year-old Howard University graduate, as a secretary on his Washington staff.

Last January, Rep. Long appointed Mrs. Arabella Denniston, former executive secretary of the National Council of Colored Women, to his staff. Mrs. Denniston is serving as his aide for human relations.

Mrs. Ragland is a volunteer worker for the Washington Urban League and has done volunteer work to help organize the domestic peace corps.

* * *

AT HOWARD, Mrs. Ragland studied sociology and education.

Rep. Long's Second Congressional District embraces Baltimore, Carroll and Harford counties in Maryland.

A longtime professor of economics at the Johns Hopkins University, he is serving his freshman term in Congress, where he sits on the Armed Services Committee.

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AFRO VISITS DEATH HOME

'A pretty hard blow'—Grandpa Craig

By B. M. PHILLIPS

Twenty-seven years ago, handsome Charles Craig was a stereotyper at the AFRO-AMERICAN. A soft-spoken man, he was noted for his courteous manner.

We had not met in all this time until last night (Thursday) when I called at the modern, row home of his daughter and son-in-law on Seminole Ave., in a quiet residential section near Edmondson Village.

Mr. Craig, still handsome at 63, stood in the flower-decked living room and shook his head in disbelief, even though the proof was there.

"This is a pretty hard blow," he said.

The pink casket containing the remains of his attractive school teacher daughter, and the small white ones with the remains of his handsome grandsons, dominated the room.

* * *

THE DAUGHTER was Mrs. Doris Wilkins, second grade teacher at Banneker School; the grandsons, Kevin, 8, the image of his grandfather; and Kerwin, 2.

Police found her body stuffed in a bedroom closet and the children dead in the bathtub on Sunday.

Their father, Ollie L. Wilkins, has been charged with their deaths.

As we reminisced about how long we had known each other, Mr. Craig pointed to the photo of his daughter on top of the sealed casket and, said:

"She was a good girl . . . children were her first love . . .teaching, her

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BELL & HOWELL