Voters faced and licked all kinds of roadblocks

The AFRO received more calls of irregularities, supposed irregularities and other problems in casting their ballots on Tuesday than in any past election.

Some of their troubles appear to have been mistakes and confusion but others easily could be interpreted as efforts to intimidate voters.

In some Fourth Legislative District polling places such as the one at Druid Park Dr. and Liberty Heights some new voters by advising, "If you are afraid of the machine just pull down the lever for Johnson and go straight across."

One voter reported having to literally push aside a woman who moved into her path as she started toward the polling place.

* * *

A BITTER caller from the polling place at 2204 Garrison Blvd., complained of a uniformed man being there as a challenger, one of a number about the colored polling places.

"I felt like throwing him out and all those colored workers enjoying his silly slap-happy jokes," he declared.

From a Reisterstown Rd. precinct came a charge that someone had placed tape over the lever on Question 5. This was not so when an AFRO reporter checked.

Sixtyfive-year-old Oliver Carbara, 2819 Mosher St., was disgusted at problems he had voting at 16P 16W when his name had to be found on a supplemental list.

"I've been living in the same house for 16 years. I voted for Truman, Kennedy and now when I go to vote for Johnson, this is what I find. Why" he asked.

I appreciate seeing the efforts that have been made to register my people and I don't blame the workers at the polls. Something has to be wrong at the Supervisors of Elections. One woman had her card and she couldn't vote."

* * *

A FAMILY problem developed when Mrs. Peachella Hopkins found she could no longer vote at 8P 20W but her daughter who went through the same address change process was able to vote. She said she voted in the primary.

Just the opposite situation developed for the family of Mrs. Alberta Gloria High, 2616 Loyola Northway. Although daughter and mother reported they went through the same processes at the same time, the mother was cleared and able to vote while the daughter missed out. Her name wasn't on the list. She was to vote in the 41P of the 15W.

* * *

FOREMOST AMONG complaints was the employment of uniformed guards as challengers and watchers.

"This is an obvious attempt to intimidate colored voters," declared Mrs. Mary Holmgren, a challenger for the 5th District Tydings organization.

Mrs. Holmgren confronted one of the guards stationed at 2406 Madison Ave., 13th Ward 11th Precinct.

"Why have you been stationed here" she asked the guard.

"Miss, all I know is that I'm suppose to check the voters off this list as they come in, "he replied.

"Well do you have to wear that uniform to check a list?"

"Look Miss, I'm a Navy man. I have on a Navy uniform under this coat. If I take off this uniform I can get in a lot of trouble."

HE EXPLAINED that he had been approached by a man who asked him if he wanted to make some extra money during his day off.

"So they gave me this thing and told me to wear it. I really don't care one way or the other Miss, all I'm doing is making a few bucks," the sailor and/or guard declared.

The guards, according to reports, were placed at 51 polling places in the Fourth Congressional District and Carried certificates signed by Walter E. Black Jr., chairman of the Republican City Committee.

"All I know is what I read in the papers," Mr. Black told the AFRO Wednesday.

"While my name was on them I had nothing to do with it. It wasn't my idea to have those people anyway.

"I know it must have taken a lot of money to hire an outfit like that and I know we didn't have that kind of money. They must have been hired and paid for by the Goldwater people."

* * *

COMPLAINTS ABOUT the uniformed challengers tied up the AFRO telephone lines. Voters said they were shocked and insulted by their presence.

An AFRO reporter upon visiting the Madison Ave. 13th Ward, 11th Precinct, witnessed another odd situation.

Seated at the judge's table was a woman wearing a Beall sign, distributing campaign literature and telling voters as they stood in line waiting to enter the booth what candidates to vote for and what questions to be for or against.

Electioneering regulations stipulate that all workers and electioneers must stay 100 feet from the entrance of the polling place.

A city police officer had to be called to make the woman leave the inside of the polling place, and even then she left with obvious reluctance. Laterr for a time, she worked just outside the entrance.

* * *

IN ANOTHER case, a man called the AFRO to furiously complain he was not permitted to vote at the polling place he had been voting at for several years.

He said he was told his name was no longer on the books.

Under questioning, it developed he had moved at least twice in the past five years, but continued to vote at the polling place listed to his first address.

When Supervisors of Elections officials conducted the house to house canvass of voters in January, the man was not contacted nor did the verification of address card sent to his first address reach him.

* * *

CONSEQUENTLY, SUPERVISORS of Elections officials presumed he was either dead or had moved from the city.

His name was stricken from the books in the clearance of deadwood registration.

He must now register again to be eligible to vote.

Registration reopens Nov. 18.

One of the major sore spots —which proved to be a new wrinkle introduced by the Republicans—was uniformed poll watchers or challengers.

The men were employees of the Metropolitan Investigation Bureau, 5335 Reisterstown Rd. A total of 103 were hired by Walter E. Black, chairman of the City Republican Committee, Lt. Louis Wilson, head of MIB, told the AFRO.

Fifthy-one of the challengers were assigned to the city, he said.

By accident or design, and Mr. Wilson denies it was the latter, most of the challengers were located in predominately colored precincts.

Democratic party officials and colored voters condemned this gimmick as a method of intimidation in order to keep colored voters from the polls.

Lt. Wilson denied this and pointed out that they were signed by Mr. Black to guard against any unauthorized persons voting.

"We certainly didn't want to intimidate anybody," the lieutenant said, "and I don't think that was Mr. Black's purpose either."

* * *

AT ANY rate the innovation failed to stem the unprecedent tide of colored votes as President Johnson virtually scored a clean sweep in such areas.

One of the uniformed challengers assigned to the polling place at 1709 Thomas Ave., was ordered out of the house by an election judge.

"We don't need a private policeman checking on our people. It's just their way of trying to frighten us," she said.

When reporters reached the precinct, in response to a call that "a spy has been put out of the polling place," the uniformed challenger was standing on the outside of the building.

Thomas Rites, the poll watcher, had taken off his hat and coat, as the result of earlier complaints. He was confused.

"They told us they would pay us $25 to wear these uniforms. If we don't wear them we won't get paid. But they don't want me in there. I don't want to start any trouble."

While he was pondering his fate, another uniformed man from the same agency, came down the street — he had been put out of a polling place on North Ave.

"What did we do wrong?" he asked reporters and a city policeman, also stationed at the polls.

"They just don't want you guys hanging around while looking like cops when you aren't," the officer said.

At a voting place in the 1700 block Pulaski St., another uniformeedman had shed his hat and coat and was standing outside with a list of voters registered in the precinct.

He didn't attempt to question any while reporters were present and election judges said he had not questioned any all day.

"This is the easiest $25 I've ever got," said one man who said he normally is a painter but was pressed into service when the agency ran out of regular men.

* * *

A REGULAR policeman inadvertently became involved in a ballot distributing hassle at the 13th Precinct of Ward 11.

An unidentified woman election worker was caught distributing ballots inside the polling place. After she was banished from the building, she later stood at the steps of the entrance and gave out ballots. The law requires such workers to stay 100 feet from polls.

Officer Julian Rosenburg was informed of the violation, but was hesitant to take action. However, the practice was halted after a police sergeant and lieutenant sat the patrolman straight on the law.

VOTERS IN AFRO AREAS were incensed when they faced uniformed men at polling places as challengers. Most of them took it to be a Goldwater-people insult and attempt at trying to intimidate them. AFRO pictures show uniformed man at judges table and another scanning a voting list. Last panel shows woman who was asked to leave a table where she was observed handing out political literature inside the polling out place. Uniformed officer in last panel is city policeman.

Tubman PTA weighs teaching aid purchases

Members of the Harriet Tubman elementary school No. 114 Parent-Teacher Association are considering a proposal to purchase musical instruments and educational materials out of the PTA treasury.

this apvoach at the school's first PTA of the Fall term held recently.

Of special concern was the purchase of flutes, phonic records and resonator bells for classroom use.

The Tubman PTA also planned a social hour Nov. 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. for parents visiting the school during American Education Week which begins Nov. 8.

Three to meeting

Three members of the faculty of Morgan State College will attend the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Durham, N.C., Nov. 12-14. Sessions will be held at the Jack Tar Hotel.

Those attending will be Dr. Robert L. Gill, corresponding secretary of the association and Drs. G. James Fleming, director, and Alexander J. Walker.

One of the features of the meeting will be the annual luncheon at which the speaker will be Dr. Martin Luther King.

Nov. 23

St. Katherine's Annual Harvest Home Dinner, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Division and Pressman Sts.

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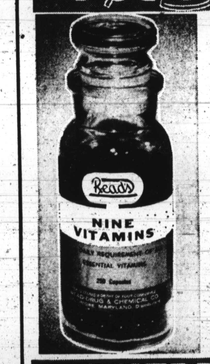

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MRS. SALLIE FLETCHER
Popular hostess invites you to tea

FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

Hostess, with a purpose invites YOU out to tea

By BETTYE MOSS

At her comfortable home on Baltimore's Wabash Ave., Mrs. Charles W. Fletcher was completing plans for a Sunday tea when this writer visited her on Wednesday morning.

Called 'Sallie' by intimates, Mrs. Fletcher is known as a gracious hostess and busy club woman and homemaker.

One time public school teacher, she could use her retirement days to relax at home and with friends, but Mrs. Fletcher is dedicated and unselfish.

Because of her conviction that everyone 'can do a little' to help his fellowman, Mrs. Fletcher has elected to chair the NAACP membership tea this Sunday (Nov.8.)

It will be held at the Elegante Room, 3804 Forest Park Ave., at 4 p.m., and YOU are invited to join her there.

The Fletcher heirloom silver service will be used for the affair which is designed to increase interest in and support of the NAACP's annual drive.

* * *

CO-HOSTESSES with Mrs. Fletcher are Mrs. Mattie Gardner, Mrs. Janet Woolridge, Mrs. Ruth Rosedom, Mrs. Geneva Ward and Mrs. Mae Locks.

Two freedom workers will be special guests.

They are: Mrs. Janice Grant, Harford County teacher who was the plaintiff in that county's school desegregation suit; and Miss Vera Lynn, Morgan State College student who spent the summer with the voter - registration campaign in Jackson, Miss.

* * *

ALSO EXPECTED ARE students and teachers from Goucher, the University of Maryland and Morgan State College.

Of the special guests, Mrs. Fletcher says: 'If the public accepts our invitation to tea, they will be inspired as I was by the courageous story of these young people who have given so much to better conditions for all of us.'

About Mrs. Fletcher: She is an attractive five - foot five with a trim figure (135 pounds). She wears black well and looks the part of a busy city clubwoman.

Her well-appointed home reflects her warm and friendly personality.

BEFORE SHE RETIRED from the classroom, she spent 20 years teaching and counseling youth people, first in her hometown of Roanoke, Va., and later at Lemmel Junior High in Baltimore.

She is the youngest of ten children of the late Albert and Louise Evans of Roanoke. She earned her B.S. degree at Virginia State, and her master's degree at Columbia.

Her husband is also a retried school executive. When Mr. Fletcher retired in 1962, he had to his credit 30 years of service to youth. His last post was principal of Sollers Pt. High in Dundalk.

WHEN SHE IS not giving unselfishly of her time to community efforts like the upcoming tea, Mrs. Fletcher likes to help her husband in their lovely flower garden or cook his favorite dishes, roasts and sweet potato pie.

They marked their 19th wedding anniversary in June.

She also likes to read. James Baldwin's 'Fire Next Time,' had a bookmark in it when this writer looked around the spacious living room.

Groups with which Mrs. Fletcher is active are Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Que-Ettes, women's auxiliary of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Fortnightly Bridge Club and a couple of card clubs which have no formal name.

She is a member of Sharp St. Methodist Church, where she is active in the Wesleyan Guild, and where Mr. Fletcher is a member of the trustee board.

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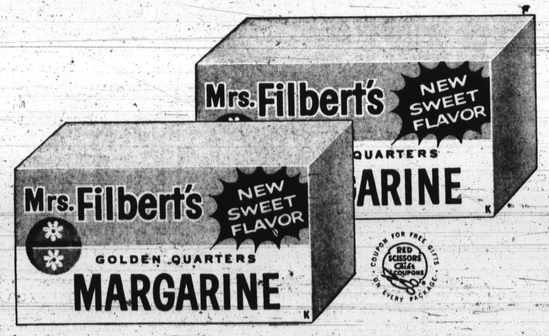

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