—'Death Valley'

(Continued From Page 1)

nothing, and spoke nothing," said one cynical Murder Squad investigator, who added:

"That's the way it is here. Nobody ever sees or hears anything. If they do, they are scared to tell police."

• • •

THE 1500 block, a constant scene of diversified violence, was under close police scrutiny late last summer when nobody "knew anything" about two mysterious shootings.

This is what ruffles the feathers of businessmen in the block, who are planning a meeting to view the situation and a conference with Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau.

"We'll just have to try again to get him to clean up the block," said one of the angry merchants, who said violence ceased temporarily last summer following a police crackdown.

While merchants in the area debated the latest incident of violence, funeral services were being held for Mr. Wynn, also known as "Sonny Wynn," and "Baltimore Terror."

Relatives said he was scheduled to fight later this month, but as the Rev. William King said during his eulogy, "Brother Wynn won't be going to the gym anymore."

When the welterweight fighter was shot dead in the poolroom he was carrying boxing gear, including a robe with this inscription: "Sonny Wynn, Baltimore Terror."

Among other things the pastor of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church told the 135 well-dressed mourners was that the dead fighter "was represented in the membership of the church."

HIS SURVIVORS, including his parents, grandparents; sisters, are all "hard working, fine, Christian people who must be wondering why this thing happened," the minister observed.

"I don't know, but my message to the living is use your talents because you, too, will have to give a final report."

"Brother Wynn used his talents boxing —now he has gone to give a final report."

Much and bitter weeping swept over the mourners as they listened to the minister in the chapel of the Morton and Dyett Funeral Home.

Mr. Wynn, a war veteran, was buried in the Baltimore National Cemetery.

Meanwhile as mourners filed out of the funeral home for the procession to the burial ground, it was life as usual in "Death Valley."

—Mayor defends

(Continued From Page 1)

tionaries."

Mayor McKeldin had far more to say on the matter of his open housing ordinance.

• • •

HERE IS some of what he said to the AFRO:

"My Task Force on Housing (Mr. Carter is a member) recommended a strong bill, but I would have put it in anyway.

"My feeling is this, that an evil exists with humans as second class citizens.

"I have had in my whole political career high concern with this evil that exists. I have taken the lead in breaking down this evil.

"This is a battle for the rights of human beings and you have got to be relentless in this fight.

"These aren't merchandise. They are people, human beings. This should stir every first class citizen to action.

"Once a year is certainly not too often for a bill as important as this.

"We've got to keep on putting this thing in until it passes, if it takes a hundred years.

"This defeatist attitude gives comfort to your reactionaries."

• • •

ASKED IF Councilman Parks had asked him not to introduce the ordinance at this time, Mayor McKeldin replied:

"Heavens, no. Never."

In his criticism of the mayor's action, Councilman Parks said he had asked Mayor McKeldin not to introduce the ordinance, because it was sure to be defeated.

"You don't take a sabbatical leave of absence in an issue like this. You fight for it every day." Mayor McKeldin stated.

The mayor was asked what he thought of chances for the ordinance's passage.

"I don't know," he replied. "You've got to keep on fighting to get the votes. Politics is a strange change of events, makes strange bedfellows at times.

"Who knows what will come in an election year? A lot of people might become Christians.

"We must suspend all election year operations for rights."

The mayor's ordinance, introduced Monday, would cover the sale of all housing and the sale of all real property for housing purposes.

In the rental of apartments or units, the bill exempts those structures in which there are two or less housing units, one of which is occupied by the owner or a tenant.

Meanwhile, over in Montgomery County a much stronger open housing bill has been introduced in the Council there and is seen as having good chances of passing by observers.

• • •

HOWEVER, the NAACP and other freedom fighters backed Mayor McKeldin.

Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, in a telegram to the mayor said:

"The Baltimore Branch of the NAACP commends you for the consistently courageous leadership you have given our city and state through the years.

"Especially do we commend you for calling on this City Council to enact a strong open occupancy in housing bill.

"We do not share the views of Councilman Henry Parks, whom we helped elect, and others who are newcomers in the fight for freedom.

"They have not been in the civil rights struggle long enough to know by experience that it is the sustained, persistent, uncompromising battle for full constitutional rights for all citizens which has moved this city, state and nation forward.

"They give up too quickly.

• • •

OUR BOYS in Vietnam do not want to come back to the same old segregated inferior housing. They are demanding from their City Council and the citizens in Baltimore no less than they are giving.

"Who would dare deny them the guarantee of a full and unrestricted opportunity to secure a decent home for themselves and their families? Who dares compromise their rights? We pledge you our unqualified support."

Thomas D'Alesandro 3rd, president of the City Council which must pass on the ordinance, had this to say when asked to comment on the opposing views of Mayor McKeldin and Councilman Parks:

"Councilman Parks is absolutely right."

—Housing bill

(Continued From Page 1)

try for one weak enough to create little opposition.

At issue, too, more specifically was whether or to what extent to propose coverage of the individual homeowner in the matter of property sale.

Then there were proposed controls over the real estate dealers, in the matter of such sales.

It was this informal discussion that prompted the proposed poll of the Assembly members on the matter of the bills coverage.

Among those attending the meeting held in a Senate Assembly room were:

Senators Verda F. Welcome, Clarence M. Mitchell 3rd (both D. 4th Balto.), John J. Bishop Jr. (D. Baltimore);

Delegates Troy Bralley, Isaiah Dixon Jr., Mrs. Victorine Q. Adams, Mrs. Lena K. Lee (all D. 4th Balto.), Aris T. Allen (R. Anne Arundel), Arthur A. King (D. Prince Georges), Floyd B. Adams (D. 2nd Balto.) and William J. Goodman (D. Prince Georges);

Also Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, NAACP, and Mrs. Mayme Oberfield, member of the Governor's Commission.

While Gov. Spiro T. Agnew has said he favors an open occupancy bill that covers only new housing built after its passage, he has let it be known he will abide with the one the Assembly passes.

—Token jury

(Continued From Page 1)

Sharon Dale was found dead in a vacant house a few doors from her home. Her nude body was taken to Hopkins Hospital where physicians pronounced her dead on arrival at 1 a.m. Nov. 27.

Hundreds of persons gathered at the scene as police searched for the child who had been sent to a corner store by her mother shortly after 10 p.m.

They remained until after 4 a.m. as police hunted for the killer who was reported to be mingling in the crowd.

• • •

SHOULD THE motion to dismissed the indictments be denied, the hearing on the charges against Robinson could start today (Friday) with testimony from some 30 witnesses on the list produced by the state.

However, the case could go into the following litigation which would delay the actual trial an indefinite period.

If the court declares the Grand Jury was improperly composed according to race, the case can go before a new Grand Jury for possible reindictment.

Should either the defense or the state appeal the decision of the judge, the case could go before a higher court.

IN 1949 the Supreme Court ruled that the then standard practice of the Supreme Bench of including one colored member on each Grand Jury did not show discrimination.

The accused man, Sam Zimmerman, through his attorney, J. Cookman Boyd, based his attack on the method of selecting Grand Juries on the fact that from 1910 to 1944 each Grand Jury contained only one colored member.

On the witness stand this week, H. S. Bullen jury commissioner 18 years, denied knowledge of any discrimination in Petit Jury selection but said he has never known exactly how the Supreme Bench makes selections for the Grand Jury.

He said until 1956 prospective jurors' names were on "brown" cards while those of white prospects were on "white" cards.

In an AFRO Jan. 1, 1967 story Mr. Bullen is quoted as saying "yellow" cards for colored persons and "white" cards for white persons were made up after the prospective jurors appeared at the office "in person."

Mr. Bullen also said he or on-the-spot flash judgment of an office assistant accepts or rejects prospects through an appearance and attitude.

8th grade education are not Persons with less than an usually acceptable, he stated.

Mr. Bullen stated the present Grand Jury includes three colored members and one colored alternatt.

He stated he remembers vaguely that another panel "some years ago" included five colored persons.

The grand juries contain 23 members.

—Mother of

(Continued From Page 1)

shipped home.

Apparently the Vietcong mine had done its work only too well.

The personal remains will be shipped to Wheeling, where burial will take place in the family plot.

Mrs. Shannon was highly critical of the high casualty rate in the Vietnam campaign.

"Our young boys are not given sufficient training for this kind of war," she said bitterly.

"Just a few months in training and they are thrust into combat," she went on.

"That's why my son didn't want to go over there. He told me he had not had any real training. Said all he did while in camp down in Louisiana was to drive a major around in a jeep.

"Robert didn't feel he was ready for combat.

"I just don't think it is fair."

• • •

IN ADDITION to his mother, Pfc. Robertson is survived by a brother, Roland Lee Robertson, of Wheeling; and a sister, Mrs. Leola Anderson, of Baltimore.

Also in Wheeling is his six-year - old son, Robert Jr.

-Powell's return

(Continued from Page 1)

tions on Sunday but he can be arrested for criminal contempt whenever he enters the state.

This has prevented him from visiting his congressional district and preaching at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, of which he is pastor, for months.

-Sued police

(Continued from Page 1)

an officer 'goes beyond the scope of the law he may become liable civilly . . ."

Mr. McIver is represented by Gerald Smith and Mrs. Juanita Mitchell of Baltimore, along with Legal Defense Fund attorneys Jack Greenberg, Michael Meltzner and Charles S. Ralston, all of New York.

He charges that on June 20, 1966 the five defendants beat him, evaded his home, damaged and destroyed household furnishings and arrested him.

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—Legal service center

(Continued From Page 22)

ing plea for legal aid for the poor.

"Divorce for the poor is often impossible because of the legal costs involved. Divorce, 'poverty style,' is plain common 'separation' and the spouse soon afterwards takes up with another.

"Result: broken families that remain broken, denied of opportunity for remarriage; illicit relationships and illegitimate children."

Domestic relations is not the only area where the poor is in desperate need of legal guidance, Judge Russell declared.

"Nowhere is the need for legal services greater than in the area of housing.

"The poor inhabit the slums, and the slums dominate their lives. In the midst of the rats, refuse, cold flats, leaky ceilings, peeling plaster, perilous stoves, absence of fire prevention devices, dilipidation and dinginess, misfortune withers and crime incubates," he told the sidewalk audience of nearly 100.

• • •

SLUM TENANTS, he added, seldom have counsel to assert their rights.

"Landlords are knowledgeable in the techniques of delay and postponement. They are well represented. Leases and laws favor the landlord.

"The tenant is readily evicted. Witnesses are hard to find. After eviction he owes costs. Often the first notice of an action against him is a default order of eviction giving 24 hours to vacate."

Public Agencies, the speaker declared, take liberty with the rights of the poor who cannot afford legal counsel.

Among these he listed the Department of Public Welfare, Department of Education and other municipal agencies.

Judge Russell traced the plight of a poor consumer to illustrate still another critical need for legal service.

"In nine percent of the families with incomes under $2,000 installment payments take 20 per cent or more of their income.

"Problems stemming from missed payments are often horrendous. Collections are achieved by a variety of coercive devices. To the poor the 'debtor spiral' is well known.

"First there is the missed payment. This leads to a repossession and often a deficiency judgment.

"The deficiency judgment leads to a wage attachment which can, and often does, lead to the loss of job.

"Employers, particularly in low - skilled, high turnover employment, loathe to bother with wage attachments. Firing is easier.

"Creditors also threaten to report purchasers to the welfare authorities. Relief recipients are not supposed to buy on credit.

"These transactions plunge the debtor deeper into poverty. If he loses his job or is evicted from his home because of rent delinquency resulting from consumber debts, the marginal family is sent out on relief or broken up altogether."

• • •

FRADULENT business practices often paralyze the poor and uninformed consumer, according to the jurist.

"Bait advertising, switch sales, unscrupulous sales techniques and all prevalent in the world of the poor," Judge Russell declared, adding:

"The stability of our society depends on the resepct for and obedience to the rule of law.

"Yet, under present conditions, it is small wonder that so many of the poor do not resnect the law."

The judge cited a finding by former U.S. Atty. Gen. Nicholas De.B. Katzenbach. Illustrate how the law is viewed by the poor. It says:

"Too often the poor man sees the law only as something that garnishes his salary, reposses his refrigerator, evicts him from his house, cancels his welfare, binds him to usury, or deprives him of liberty because he cannot afford bail."

"The poor man has little reason to believe the law is his guardian.

"He has every reason to believe it is an instrument of the other society.

"He believes it is for the well - off, well - educated, well - dressed and the well - connected. The poor man is cut off from this society — and from the protection of its laws.

"We make of him, thus, a functional outlaw."

This must be changed without further delay, he concluded, "because the possibility of a filed and harmonious society will surely be lost."

• • •

PARREN J. MITCHELL, executive director, Community Action Agency, presented the keys to the center to Tilghman G. Pitts Jr., president, Legal Aid Bureau.

Paul Schlitz, is director of the center which will aid the poor in need of legal advice civil matters.

—LBJ urged

(Continued From Page 22)

the public interest will be put to test by this appointment."

ACTIVISTS thus joined other civil right groups in expressing concern after learning one of the applicants for the job is Leroy Frederick, a liquor board member.

In his statement to President Johnson, Cleveland A. Harris, chairman of ACTIVISTS, said of Mr. Frederick:

"His only qualification for the FHA post is that he has effected a poor - time real estate dealings."

PHILIP BROWNSTEIN, national FHA commissioner, has confirmed that he recently interviewed Mr. Frederick for the $15,000 post.

It also was learned that Senators Brewster and Tydings are backing him.

The Maryland NAACP Conference wired Brewster and Tydings the NAACP's "alarm over reports that business as usual" is outweighing merit in the consideration of the appointment."

Conference president Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, and Miss Marion Throckmorton, state housing chairman, stated "it is a well-known fact that policies of the local FHA have helped perpetuate the ghettos and segregated housing in Baltimore."

A similar telegram to Mr. Brownstein said "it is extremely important that a man of outstanding training, experience and concern for the implementation of the federal laws and the U.S. Constitutional guarantees be appointed to this highly important position."

—Self-help foes scored

(Continued From Page 22)

a Councilman John A. Pica — led move to "amend the Self Help Program to a state of nothingness."

Following his appearance before a closed session of the Council, Mr. Mitchell urged all "interested citizens" to attend the Monday session of the council to urge adoption of the program.

THE PIONEER program was drawn up by poor residents of the "Action Area" of the Anti - Poverty Program, with the assistance of Mrs. Fernie L. Kolodner, staff consultant of the Health and Welfare Council of the Baltimore Area.

Councilman Pica of the Third District, left no doubt that he is fearful of Mr. Mitchell's possible use of the program to build a "political organization."

The real reason, observers learned, however, is Mr. Pica's desire to control the dispensation of more than 80 jobs required to operate the project.

The Third District councilman, who consistently opposes civil rights and social reform legislation, controls a lion's share of city jobs processed through the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Public Works

Specificiations of the Self Help program direct that it be conceived and executed by poor people, without restraints of elected officials.

• • •

FOLLOWING THE heated closed session of the council Wednesday Mr. Pica's forces had agreed to approve the project on these conditions:

1. That the three executives of the private, non - profit corporation which will operate the program, hire three executives and clerical workers through Civil Service machinery.

2. Permit the Department of Public Works to supply the estimated laborers needed for the program.

3. Slash the proposed salary of the director from $12,000 to $10,000 and reduce that of the associate directors by $2,000.

Additionally Councilman Thomas Ward (D., 2nd) incorporated several amendments designed to protect landlords from 'harassment.'

Originators of the program told the AFRO several months before it was aired by the councilmen that it was bitterly opposed by inner city landlords.

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL "people groups" will stage a rally 4 p.m. Monday in City Hall Plaza urging councilmen to approve the program minus the crippling amendments.

"People Groups" was defined to mean organizations not normally active in protest demonstrations.

However, sponsors of the rally stated, direct action groups have been invited to participate.

Among lesser known organizations sponsoring the rally are:

The Johnston Square Improvement Association, Madison Square Improvement Association, Project Pride, Sein Hill Association, Fels Point Association and the Sollers Point Association.

Several "grass roots" leaders are scheduled to speak and the Revs. Frank L. Williams and Robert Carter of Metropolitan and Sollers Point Methodist Churches will give the invocation and benediction, respectively.

—Collaspe, dismissal

(Continued From Page 22)

Court after preliminary hearing, if they amount to over $100.

Aid for dependent children cases are tried in the Municipal Court if they are under $500.

Trembling on the floor, from what a friend said was a nervous condition, the woman was taken from the courtroom by an ambulance crew.

Judge Finnerty released Mrs. Jones on her own recognizance, as he has done with all cases postponed or held for the Grand Jury.

• • •

THE RESCURERS from Poverty of U-JOIN has mounted a campaign for over a week to encourage those charged with welfare fraud to seek counsel.

After the fainting spell, during which court was recessed, the judge advised the next defendant, who appeared in a wheel chair to "take it easy."

The defendant, Wardell Venable, 27, of the 900 block W. Mulberry St., was charged with receiving $142.60 in payments while he was in the Baltimore City Jail.

After holding his case for the Grand Jury, the judge asked Mr. Venable to "step over here" for the recognizance slip.

In the case that was dismissed, Domenic Fleming, representing the Welfare Department, testified that the family was allowed to make a certain portion in addition to the grant which did not meet the family's needs, as judged by the department.

Mrs. Fannie C. Roles, 34, of the 2000 block E. Lanvale St., was charged with receiving an excess of $443.80 while her husband was working part time after an accident.

The family said it had notified a worker for the department, and was told the part time employment was satisfied.

According to the department, Lie family received the maximum grant of $230 a month, but its needs were adjudged at $285.30, with the family being allowed to make up the difference by employment.

Judge Finnerty dismissed the case, after making arrangements for Mrs. Roles to pay back the excess which was still owed Lie department.

• • •

ATTORNEY Joel H. Pachino, opined during the hearing that the case was really "a civil matter," not one for criminal prosecution.

The judge concluded that Lie overpayment was made without any "willful" act on the part of the defendant.

Judge Finnerty decided to make the case of Thomas Harris, 40, 1800 block N. Fulton Ave., "the first case" to be sent to the Legal Aid Bureau.

Mr. Morris had been charged with receiving an overpayment of $84.

Judge Finnerty said later he had learned that the Legal Aid Bureau, which usually handles civil cases and not criminal cases, was willing to take some of the welfare fraud cases.

He had previously drawn fire from the Rescuers from Poverty for dismissing the attempts of clients to ask for court - appointed lawyers, called from a list drawn up by the Bar Association.

If prosecution "gleted," or decided not to pursue the case of one elderly woman who is permanently confined to Montebello State Hospital, located directly across the road from the court.

—Welcome

(Continued From Page 22)

before the board against Sen. Welcome.

3. Should the board not reprimand Sen. Welcome or take other action against her, he would take "further steps" elsewhere.

• • •

THOSE WHO have had occasion to know and closely observe Sen. Welcome and Mr. Abramson at this and the previous Assembly were aware of a contant feuding between the two.

This lack of communication between the two district leaders at the last Assembly session seriously hampered needed benefits for the district.

The outburst earlier in the week, however, was the first time this feuding reached general public attention.

At this point, nobody knows the outcome.

Sen. Welcome could not be reached at AFRO press time for comment.

—Ambulance

(Continued From Page 22)

two people get killed," Mr. Scherr observed. "I don't know whether the time element (estimated at a loss five minutes before the second ambulance arrived) had anything to do with it or not.

"But it's especially bad when we are known as having one of the best ambulance services in the country."

MR. McKNIGHT, 39, who was appointed to the service in 1953, said he was tired from many trips that evening and did not hear the two alarms that had sounded.

Mr. Kell, 30, appointed in 1957, said that he was taking tranquilizers for his nerves, and had taken a double dose after several hectic runs, causing him to sleep through the alarms.

Concerned that fire fighters may take medication hampering their performance, the board issued a directive that officers be notified of such prescriptions by the staff doctors.

Chief of the Fire Department, John J. Killen, pointed out that the lapse of minutes in another case could have spelled the difference between life and death.

"It could have been more serious," he said. "We could have had a bad bleeder, and two minutes would have made the difference."

'Bloc voting' brings success to S. C. voters

RICHMOND (UPI) —A South Carolina NAACP leader told a weekend civil rights conference here that colored people in his state achieved success through bloc voting.

The Rev. I. Dequincey Newman, field director of the South Carolina NAACP, said a conference with Gov. Robert E. McNair followed November's election in which 97 percent of registered voters in South Carolina voted.

—School budget on its way

(Continued From Page 22)

crease to about $1,000 per pupil cost.

And an expansion of summer school, school aide and adult education programs.

Major improvements to existing buildings, at a cost of $2 million, and a nearly equal sum for increased maintenance of plant.

The development of "Community School" programs at five schools — Lombard, Clifton Park, Garrison-Pimlico, Harlem Park, and Southern.

ESTABLISHMENT OF a staff ratio of 46 professional staff members for each 1,000 pupils, a need for 270 new positions

Reorganization of the central office staff, including creating the positions of assistant superintendent for Finance and Accounting, for Research and Development and for School - Community Relations.

The salary increases, which Dr. Paquin said were aimed at helping recruitment and enhancing the role of the "classroom" teacher, include these benefits:

A yearly increment of $200 and $250, respectively, when a teacher is elected to tenure and awarded advanced professional certificate status.

Two longevity - growth increments of $500 each at the 20th and 25th year of service.

In addition, increments of $500 for attainment of added schooling—master's degrees and doctorate.

The Career Teacher program, in which teachers could teach and earn on a 12 - month basis.

The budget allows for about $50.8 million to be financed from other sources (state and federal) than the city coffers, — excluding any amount which would accrue to the city from new education legislation or state tax reform.

The increase in the city's portion of the budget would amount to about $1 on the property tax rate.

• • •

THE BUDGET does not include money the Board is seeking to build more schools in its Capital Improvement Program Budget Request.

Dr. Paquin pointed out that the department is asking $23 million for 1968 - 1969 in this category — $18 million for new schools and $5 million for major renovations.

Dr. Paquin took the occasion yesterday to answer questions raised by speakers at Tuesday's public hearing.

Among them he noted that the staff - pupil ratio cannot be raised higher than 46 per 1000 until more classrooms are available through the capital improvement program.

He also assured those concerned with Special Education that concerted attention is being paid in the present budget and in the building program, and that higher salaries will draw added teachers.

Board President Eli Frank Jr. was hopeful that teachers and civic organizations would back the budget strongly and "the city will make recommendations in accord with this request."

—'Economic breakthrough'

(Continued From Page 22)

the Potomac Institute of Washington. Its goal:

"To help colored business play a larger part in the nation's economy, both in small and large - scale industry."

The Ford Foundation appropriated $246,000 to conduct a two - year, prototype project in Baltimore, the first such effort in the nation.

Mr. Goldstein is the former president of Franklin Simon Stores and more recently, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity Assistance of the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Daniels, head of Maryland Masons, and a prominent community leader, is former executive director of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission.

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CURRENTLY THEY are conducting interviews with operators of various businesses in an effort to determine the area in which they need assistance most.

Mr. Goldstein, an expert in counseling businessmen, said in most cases, some of the above - mentioned factors are present in all businesses.

"It's just a matter of putting them together and providing those which are missing," he said, adding:

"It is really one of helping the operators become big league. We believe there is no reason for a businessman to operate on a marginal basis when he has the potential to be really successful."

Counseling young, trained potential businessmen in opening new non - ghetto business, where they can fill position and other technician or servitude is another aim of the program.

Opening avenues for needed capital, providing the necessary know - how and technical assistance is the purpose of the new project, Mr. Goldstein said.

ALL BUSINESSMEN, regardless of the nature of their business, are invited to contact the office, which will conduct interviews in an effort to determine the kind of service needed — and wanted, according to the director.

"We hope this office will create an economic breakthrough for businessmen," he added.

The office is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Interested businessmen are urged to call 669-2863 and 669-3836.

Information and ideas exchanged will be held in strict confidence, Mr. Daniels assured, and re - emphasized the sole purpose of the program is to aid business-men of color to "get into the mainstream."

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