Work dispute hits airport restaurant

By AL RUTLEDGE

A confusing labor dispute has developed at the International Restaurant at Friendship Airport, the AFRO learned Monday.

On Dec. 28, according to Al Brown, a cook at the restaurant, "A number of cooks and waitresses walked off the job in protest of certain conditions which make working there difficult."

Mr. Brown listed some of the conditions as:

Poor sanitation, bad eating facilities for employees (they eat lunch in the locker room), he says and the inconvenience of not being able to wear uniforms in halls which makes it impossible to cash checks at the airport.

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"The new management," Mr. Brown explains, "made this rule and since we are unable to cash our checks downtown because they are drawn on an out of state bank we have to be able to get over to the airport bank quickly or we're stuck."

Al Green Enterprises were owners of the airport restaurant until recently when they sold out to the Restaurant Association of America, it was reported.

When the employees walked off the job they did so without the sanction of the Restaurant Food Service Association which is the union to which they belong.

"We don't get any help," Mr. Brown complained, "the union hasn't done a thing to help in this situation."

A spokesman for the union, acting secretary Anthony Glorioso, denies the claim that the union doesn't give its members aid.

"We were out at the airport on Friday," Mr. Glorioso told the AFRO, "and we found that there was a lot of talk, but there was no evidence of official complaints being made.

"I asked the people to write the complaints down and send them in so that the union can act on them.

"We can't work on it when everyone's just talking," he declared.

What this all means is that as far as the union is concerned there is no labor dispute at the airport restaurant.

The AFRO contacted the management of the airport restaurant.

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John Menz, assistant manager, said he was surprised that a "paper which has to do with colored people should be interested in this, all the people who walked out are white. There were no colored involved," he said.

According to the self-appointed spokesman employees, Mr. Brown, "about 90 per cent of the waitresses are white but all of the cooks are colored."

Mr. Menz refused to amplify his statement on the reported management-employee dispute. He did admit that "there was a little something going on out there."

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Despite the fact that there has been no official unión negotiation, employees claim that after their Saturday evening walk-out they "returned on Sunday because the manager had promised to do something about the complaints."

Mr. Menz would not say what management would do about the complaints.

"You'll have to talk to the manager about that," he said.

The manager was not available for comment.

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Mr. Brown is anxious to have "people on the outside find out about what's happening down there (the airport) because a lot of people can lose their jobs and nothing will be said about it," he claims.

The union is anxious to find out what's going on at the airport because, despite the alleged walk-out until union officials "have some written complaints", there is no labor dispute, according to Mr. Glorioso.

Management of the restaurant realizes there "is a little something going on out there," as Mr. Menz puts it.

As of presstime, however, nobody seemed to know, or willing to say what it is.

NEW SERGEANT — Former Patrolman Joseph W. Nixon accepts certificate from Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau making him a sergeant. He was among nine officers promoted to sergeant. For Sgt. Nixon the promotion was a double present — he celebrated his birthday on Christmas Day. Mrs. Nixon looks on approvingly.

Sgt. Nixon enjoys dual celebration

Joseph Nixon celebrated his birthday on Christmas Day, and this year he had good cause to celebrate both events.

Patrolman Nixon was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Baltimore Police Department.

The promotion became effective Thursday, the day after Sgt. Nixon's thirtieth birthday.

A resident of 4214 Fairfax Rd., the new sergeant is a 1956 graduate of Douglass High School and a four-year veteran of the Air Force.

He has been a member of the Baltimore police force since December, 1960, soon after he was honorably discharged from the service with the rank of A/2C.

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After graduation from the Police Academy and a brief period of service with the Traffic Division, Sgt. Nixon was transferred to the Narcotics Unit, then to Northwestern District, where he remained until Sept. 11, when he was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division.

With his promotion, Sgt. Nixon will be assigned to the Western District.

Cong. Long to host students

One hundred twenty sixth grade students from Pot Spring Elementary School in Timonium will visit Rep. Clarence D. Long in Washington in early January for a tour of the Capitol.

The students, accompanied by their teacher, Randall D. Grimsley, will visit the congressman in two groups on Jan. 7 and 9.

Both groups also are scheduled to visit national headquarters of the FBI following their tour with Congressman Long at the Capitol.

Civil Service workers question eligibility list

When the new Calverton Rd. sub-station of the Division of Motor Vehicle and Mechanical Shops becomes ready for operation within the next month, a foreman for the facility will be chosen from an eligibility list which has not been revised in over two years, according to a spokesman for the 68 garage mechanics employed by the Division.

Efforts to have the Civil Service examination for that post held again, so that a new list may be composed, have been directed at Civil Service Personnel Director Thomas J. Murphy by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees at the request of the mechanics.

However, in a reply to the union's request Mr. Murphy stated that the present list had been extended by the specific request of the director of the Department of Public Works, Bernard L. Werner.

The present list has been in existence, unrevised, since early December, 1966.

Under Civil Service regulations, an eligibility list normally expires one year after the examination results have been posted.

A new list based upon the results of a later test is posted when the old list expires.

The delay is the third six-month reprieve for the old list after its normal date of expiration.

Thus, it will be two and one-half years old after its extended date of expiration in June, 1969.

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The protest raised by mechanics in the division is based on the fact that a new foreman will be chosen from the old list, which was compiled on the basis of a test which many of them were not eligible to take two years ago.

For example, those mechanics who were employed by the Police Department prior to the recent merger of the police mechanics and the mechanics assigned to other city vehicles, were not employees of the Division of Motor Vehicle and Mechanical Shops at the time the test was last given, and thus are not on the present list.

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Informed of the union's request to Mr. Murphy, the DPW chief said that in some cases when the expiration date for a list draws close, the list is extended as a matter of formality, by a consensus of the personnel working in the department.

However, Mr. Werner said, he was not certain that this list had been extended, but would "look into the matter as soon as possible."

"If there is any inequity in the extension of the list, we will certainly try to correct it before the appointment of a new foreman," he added.

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In the meantime, further efforts by the union to give the test held again will be directed toward incoming Director of Public Works J. Pierce Linaweaver.

He will replace Mr. Werner after the first of the year, according to Ernest Crofoot, president of the union's state-wide council.

"We expect results," Mr. Crofoot said. "Local 44 is going to make this its first order of business for the new year."

Police deny 3-way dope combination

Lt. Walter Jasper of the Police Narcotic Squad denies earlier reports that packets of white powder which offifers took from a house on Garrison Blvd. were a "combination of heroin, LSD and cocaine."

"The contents of the packets have not been completely analyzed," Lt. Jasper told the AFRO, "but since these were individual recoveries, I'm sure that it's not a combination of the three."

The recovery of the packets followed a shooting incident in which 34-year-old Stanley Harper allegedly fired on Patrolman Richard D. Inman at the home of 26-year-old Mrs. Barbara A. Wilson.

According to police reports, Officer Inman and Patrolman Donald Cymek responded to a call in the 3300 block Garrison Blvd. and saw a man identified as Daniel Green, 27, running from a house yelling that there was a man inside with a gun.

While Officer Cymek questioned Mr. Green outside, Officer Inman entered the house where he found a man and woman struggling in the hall.

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The man was holding a large automatic pistol, Officer Inman reported, and upon hearing him yell "Police, drop the gun," fired once missing him by just two feet.

While the two officers waited for re-enforcements to arrive, Mr. Harper, who lists his address on Fairview Ave., walked out of the house and surrendered, according to Patrolman Inman.

Both the man and woman were arrested and officers, searched the house.

They reported recovering $293 on the living room floor, a .22 caliber revolver

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State PTA to meet on legislation

The Maryland PTA has scheduled an all day meeting on Jan. 4 at the Hilltop Motor Inn, near Baltimore, to discuss legislation concerns pertaining to education.

The revision of Article 77 of the Public School Laws of Maryland will be receiving prime consideration at this meeting.

Sen. Mary Nock of Wicomico County, Delegate Edna P. Cook of Montgomery County, deputy superintendent of Maryland Schools, Dr. David W. Zimmerman, and Francis D. Murnaghan Jr., president, Board of School Commissioners, Baltimore City Public Schools, will participate in the afternoon session.

All are members of the committee appointed by Senate President William S. James to study the revisions of Article 77 recommended by the Zimmerman committee and to report to the 1969 session of the Marland legislature.

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Dr. James Sensenbaugh, state superintendent of schools, will address the luncheon session, speaking on "Vital Issues in Education."

All Council presidents, Council legislation chairmen and local PTA presidents have been invited to attend by the MCPT Program Committee on Legislation, John J. Lancaster Jr., 1st vice president, chairman, of Prince Georges County and Wayne L. Parker, MCPT legislation chairman, of Baltimore County.

State PTA president, Mrs. John D. Loizeaux, of Towson will preside.

Political pot boils anew on Valis' job

The retention of John W. Valis as aciting chief of the Division of Motor Vehicle and Mechanical Shops continues to arouse strong opposition among employees of that subdivision of the Department of Public Works, the AFRO found last week.

Mr. Valis failed during the summer to pass a Civil Service examination required for the position under the regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

The $13,000-a-year job had previously been filled by appointment of the mayor, and was generally considered to be a political patronage plum, but was brought under Civil Service jurisdiction earlier this year during reorganization of the Department of Public Works.

Two men who passed the examination, both with scores in the 90's, are Eric Frederick, an assistant to Mr. Valis, and John F. Bocher, an employee of another city department.

Under Civil Service regulations the position must be filled by one of these two men, since they were the only applicants who passed the examination.

However, through the influence of City Councilmen Clement J. Prucha and Joseph V. Mach of the Second District, political sponsors of Mr. Valis, at whose request Mayor D'Alesandro appointed him last year, Mr. Valis has retained his post, despite the test results.

The political alliance between the city job-holder and the two councilmen figures also in the reasoning given by a group of motor vehicle employees for demanding his ouster.

According to City Hall reports Mr. Frederick, who scored highest on the examination, has been offered a $25,000-a-year post in another city department.

This is an effort to legitimately remove him from the eligibility list for Valis' position.

However, it has been charged this offer would probably be made only if Mr. Bocher also agreed to such terms, which he has so far refused to do, according to informed sources.

In an effort to prevent the removal of Mr. Valis from the city payroll before suitable terms can be worked out, the Civil Service Commission, acting on the request of Mayor D'Alesandro, has allowed Mr. Valis a 30-day extension of his employment, to expire Jan. 10, pending a re-examination. Presumably, if terms are arranged, Mr. Valis will be the only applicant taking the test at this time.

Civil Service Personnel Director Thomas J. Murphy, asked what action could be taken when the 30-day extension of Mr. Valis' tenure expires on Jan. 10, replied:

"The City Charter very clearly empowers us to remove his name from the payroll. Of course, the question is whether or not this action will actually be carried through.

"As I understand it, the mayor and those city councilmen may be trying to work out some sort of compromise."

Chairman of Civil Service Commission Norman Ram-

(Continued on page 20)

Rev. Jackson, 77, was expert on church affairs

The Rev. Benjamin F. Jackson, 77, who had pastored the Fulton Baptist Church for 43 years, died Sunday night following a lengthy illness.

The veteran clergyman who was forced into retirement by illness, will be given final rites at noon Thursday at the church, 1630 W. North Ave. Burial will follow in the Arbutus Memorial Park.

Arlington S. Phillips, mortician, is handling arrangements.

The Rev. M. Jackson graduated from the public schools of Washington, and earned his AB degree in sociology from Morgan State College.

His master's degree in sociology was awarded by Howard University, and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Lynchburg Seminary and College.

In addition to being a minister the Rev. Mr. Jackson was a teacher in the church school. He organized a free school for church members where he taught religious and secular subjects.

This led to the organization of the city-wide church institution.

Under his leadership the congregation purchased the Fulton Baptist Church and launched a renovating drive, now in progress. A member of the Hampton Ministers Conference for over fifty years, the clergyman was a member of the executive board.

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Before coming to Baltimore, the Rev. Mr. Jackson was pastor of Trinidad Baptist Church in Washington. In 1927 he came to Baltimore as pastor of Wayland Baptist Church.

The minister was noted as an expert in church management and an active member of the NAACP.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Jackson; two sisters, Mesdames Maude Harris and Lizzie Washington of Washington, D.C.; and a foster daughter, Mrs. Virginia Briggs.

Black history course opens

"American Black History" and "Human Image in Fiction," are the two new courses to be offered at Loyola College, this spring.

Registration for enrollment will end Feb. 1, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

"American Black History" will be taught by James Addy. Students will conduct a study of the role of black people in American history and their effect on the course of American development from their first arrival to the present.

"Human Image in Fiction" taught by Michael Gallagher, S. J., will survey changing themes in the novel.

This course will consider works from Thomas Hardy through Saul Bellow. The novels of Henry James, William Golding, John Updike and others will be read.

Container dispute paralyzes port here

The strike of 4,000 longshoremen in the port of Baltimore continues into its 11th day today, and relations between the shipping lines and the International Longshoremen's Association show no signs of improvement.

The 4,000 local dock workers, in cooperation with their 71,000 brothers in all Atlantic ports from Maine to Texas, "hit the bricks" Dec. 20, after the expiration of an 80-day cooling-off period under a Taft-Hartley Law injunction.

Although both sides met with a Federal mediator as late as Sunday in New York, no face-to-face meetings betwee labor and management have been held.

Talks have been postponed for the New Year's holiday, and will resume Jan. 2.

Locally, International vice president for the Port of Baltimore, William Haile, reports that the strike has been 100 per cent effective.

"Not a single ship has been loaded or unloaded in this port since 7:05 p.m. on the 20th, except for the military shipping from Dundalk Terminal.

"We don't have to have picket lines down by the piers, because we know no one is going to try to do our work."

There are between 60 and 70 ships in the harbor now, Mr. Haile said.

Mr. Haile, the chief executive officer presiding over the six ILA locals in the port, spelled out the major areas of contention which prevented a settlement of the strike during the cooling off period as well as the last eleven days:

"The main issue is the use of containers. The companies have found a nice way to cut their shipping costs at the expense of the longshoremen.

"They pack their cargo in the warehouse instead of bringing it in bulk to the docks to be packed and loaded on the ships.

"This is fine for the companies, but it takes work away from us. This is work the longshoremen are supposed to do.

"It is the work we've been doing ever since I can remember, and that's about 45 years ago.

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Asked how many workers would be affected by the trend toward the use of containers, the union chief answered:

the program they've laid out, in three years half our men will be out of work.

"Our livelihood is at stake—we had this work so long, we can't give it away. We have to fight for it."

As the strike continues to paralyze the port, losses are expected to reach a level of between 10 and 15 million dollars a week in Baltimore alone.

Baltimore is the third largest port in the nation in terms of dollar volume, it was reported.

FAREWELL TO FIREMAN — Fellow fire fighters served as pallbearers Friday at final rites for Fireman Melvin T. Blanks who was killed Dec. 22 in an auto accident. Mrs. Blanks, his wife and children leave Zion Baptist Church for procession to burial ground.

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