—Gerrymander plot

(FROM PAGE ONE)

rticting issue.

Prior to this week at council session there was little speculation on whether the councilmen would have a bill ready of their own before the April 1 deadline.

Although, the problem comes under Mr. Caplan's committee jurisdiction, there was only one public hearing on March 15, when the League of Women Voters submitted a plan on which nothing has been heard.

The substance of the so-called "Caplan Plan," introduced Tuesday night is to contain black majorities in the traditional fourth and second districts and retain white majorities in the first, third, fifth, and sixth districts.

The most doubtful part of the "Caplan Plan" would shift about 34,000 blacks from the middle-income Ashburton-Forest Park fifth district area back into the densely populated fourth.

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In exchange whites (about 18,000) from the fourth district Hampden area would be moved to the fifth, thus increasing the chances of reelection for Mr. Caplan, who depends on mostly blue-collared whites and conservative Jewish voters.

Many blacks, now in a majority in the second district (about 12,000) would be moved into the sixth (the Cherry Hill section) to help counterbalance the growing black population there.

In all, the Caplan Plan, which will surely see a court test, will keep half of the city's population — the black half — contained into two districts, the second and the fourth, thus limiting the chances of the blacks for further electoral gains.

Compliance of court order sought

The Justice Department has filed a court order seeking to implement desegregation of faculty and staff members at four Fairfield County, S.C. schools.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said last week the show cause order was filed in Federal District Court in Columbia to require the county school officials to comply with a court order issued Aug. 17, 1970.

The order asked the District officials to show why faculty and staff at White Hall, McCory-Liston High School, McCory-Liston Elementary School and the Geiger School should not be reassigned in compliance with the order.

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—Bloody arrest

(Continued From One)

Ave. and Biddle St. when "a police car drove up and an officer yelled "awright get on home!"

Mr. Hammond pointed out to the court that he "would have moved but I didn't like being told to go home after all I'm a grown man."

After pointing this out to the officer, Mr. Hammond testified that he and his companions walked away.

Their destination being the home of a friend about a block away.

"When we got to the house I was already inside when this officer charged into the crowd and grabbed me saying "come on n---r you're going with me".

That's when the beatings began.

Testimony revealed that Officer Donald Martin struck Mr. Hammond twice on the head when he asked for an explanation.

"We don't need a reason," Mr. Hammond quoted the officer as saying. "That's when he broke my head open."

The beating which left Stanely Wade unconscious was described this way by Linwood Newby:

"About eight to ten officers were there. I moved off to a distance where I could observe what they were doing.

"They had already beaten Stanley to the ground. They dragged him from the pavement to the middle of the street and four more officers joined him and kept beating and kicking him on the ground."

Officers separated the prisoners taking Redd and Hammond in one cruiser and Wade in another.

Police officers denied all charges saying that the two men had attacked them and in the case of Officer Martin he declared "Hammond and Wade were beating me about the face and chest while Redd was holding my arms."

• • •

However he couldn't explain to Judge Baylor why two men, one weighing 205 and the other 187 "could beat you like that and leave no marks or bruises."

The defendants told the court the officers used grossly abusive language and had refused to allow them to make "one phone call."

Judge Baylor in rendering his decision told Hammon "technically you were disorderly, but because you were on private property and they had no warrant they had no right to take you off of it."

He then dismissed all charges against the men but one against Hammond and suspended a fine for disorderly conduct.

While telling their story to the AFRO, efforts were made to contact Deputy Commissioner Joseph Battaglia who made assurances that "I'll send my Internal Investigation people over right away to get the report on this incident from the complainants."

Three officers arrived, two from the district and one from IID all of whom assured the complainants that if they come on down to headquarters we can take the report and begin the investigation immediately."

They refused to go with the officers without an attorney and the policemen left saying that it "would be OK if you come down tomorrow and we'll supply the transportation if you like."

• • •

Mr. Hammond explained that his reason for not wanting to go alone with the police was because after the case was dismissed an officer told me he was going to get me if it was for nothing but jaywalking.

Mr. Hammond works for Palm Grove as a bartender. He and his wife Laddie (a school teacher) have four children, ages 11 to 16; Mr. Wade is employed by the Gas and Electric Co. as a pipe man. He is a veteran who served with the Air Force in France and England. He and his wife Beverly have two children five and seven. Mrs. Wade works at a chemical plant. E/4 Redd is an Army career man having served in Japan, Southeast Asia and Alaska during his six years in the service.

They are being represented by Tucker Derring, legal redress attorney for the NAACP who told the AFRO, "these officers are temperamentally unfit to be on the force and we're going to do something about."

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IN THE LEGISLATURE

Senate balks on 18-year-old vote

AFRO BUREAU

ANNAPOLIS — "We just didn't want to act in undue haste," explained Senator Clarence W. Blount (D-5th) of Baltimore City. "There's no big point in pushing it through before you read what you're pushing through."

Senator Blount summed up the Maryland Senate's sentiments Tuesday night when it refused to vote on the United States constitutional amendment which would give the vote in all elections to 18-year-olds.

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Senator Blount, who also serves as the principal in Baltimore's Dunbar High School, predicted Tuesday that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, to which the constitutional amendment was referred, would recommend passage of the bill.

But some comments questioning the constitutionality of the measure were raised from the floor Wednesday morning and passage of the bill now is uncertain.

The United States House of Representatives voted Tuesday for the constitutional amendment giving the vote to 18-year-olds, and sent it to the states.

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Three quarters of the states must ratify the amendment for it to take effect.

The Mandel administration sent emergency legislation to both Houses late Tuesday seeking to have Maryland become the first state to ratify the amendment.

After prolonged debate, the House of Delegates voted to pass the measure and sent it to the Senate where it now languishes.

• • •

But the governor and his followers have already lost the battle to make Maryland the first state to ratify the amendment to the constitution. By Wednesday morning, five other states had already ratified the measure, including Minnesota, Delaware, Connecticut, Tennessee and Washington.

Abortion reform killed in House

AFRO BUREAU

ANNAPOLIS — "The poor, should have the same protection as the rich. Everyone in the House can afford to have abortions for their daughters but the poor cannot and have always suffered. The poor needs an advocate today."

Despite those pleas made by Delegate Hildegardeis Boswell (D-4th) from Baltimore City, the Maryland House of Delegates rejected the controversial, liberalized abortion bill Wednesday by a 77-59 margin.

After two months of often bitter debate on the bill, the matter seems dead for this session of the General Assembly.

Its co-sponsor, Delegate Aris T. Allen, black representative from Anne Arundel County, sees hope waning.

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"There's still a breath of life left in it (the bill)," Allen said.

But he admitted that the margin of the victory left little chance that the abortion bill would be reconsidered during this session of the assembly.

Delegate Allen, one of two physicians in the legislature, said he was "surprised" at the loss. He blamed the defeat on "unfair pressure exerted on the delegates" by opponents of the bill.

Last week, he claimed he had received about 50 letters from 13-and 14-year-old female students in "a local, non-public school."

The delegate declined to name the school.

Had the bill become law, abortions would have become a personal matter between a woman desiring an abortion and her physician

The defeated bill also provided that all abortions must have been performed in accredited hospitals and within the first 20 weeks of pregnancy.

AFRO in press week display

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The AFRO was included in an exhibit of black newspapers and magazines at the main building of the Syracuse Public Library here during March in recognition of Black Press Week March 14-20.

More than 40 of the approximately 325 black publications now being issued regularly in the U.S. were shown, along with books and other materials about black journalism and journalists.

How Much Is a High School Diploma Worth?

A noted educator made the surprising statement that high school graduates earn over $2,500 more a year than non-graduates. Asked where he got the figure, he cited a recent U.S. Department of Commerce report that shows a high school diploma is worth $130,000 extra earnings over a working lifetime.

According to Dr. Keith J. Craven, Dean of Franklin Academy, which offers accredited high school training at home, the government figure is conservative. "Students who complete our courses can go into your new jobs," Dr. Craven said, "which pay them much more than $2,500 a year over their former earnings.

"But," he continued, "better-paid job opportunities are not the only goal of our students. They know a high school diploma will also open the way to more friends, a richer, fuller enjoyment of life. Our three, different, low-cost diploma courses meet all their needs. We also include job training for those who want more than a high school diploma."

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