Now, Six Months After Passage Of 'Stop and Frisk'

Black officials doubt 'stop and frisk' worth

By BLAINE TAYLOR

Last Friday, Sept. 15, many black legislators were assembled to hear Democratic Presidential nominee Sen. George S. McGovern in the office of Mrs. Frances Murphy, the AFRO's Chairman of the Board.

This reporter took the opportunity to interview several of them about their opinions and positions on gun control.

Four of them — Senators Verda F. Welcome (D-4th) and Clarence Blount (D-5th), and Delegates Walter Dean (D-5th) and Lena K. Lee (D-4th) had voted against Gov. Mandel's controversial "stop and frisk" portion of his handgun control bill March 18.

Two—Delegates Lloyal Randolph (D-4th) and John W. Douglass (D-2nd) — had voted for it.

* * *

State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, although not for "stop and frisk," was, like all of them, for some sort of meaningful gun contrrol.

This reporter asked them all their current opinion of the "stop and frisk" provision, whether or not they felt it had worked out, and what they would like to see done about guns in the future.

Sen. Welcome, of course, has a new gun bill about to be pre-filed with the General Assembly (see her article in this issue), for action this winter.

Her bill would curb buying and selling of handguns, as well as encouraging people to turn them in to police voluntarily.

* * *

She told me, "Stop and frisk is just not working out, because murders are increasing, not going down.

"It's not strong enough to do the job; I want registration."

Does she really believe that people would be move

"Some people might turn them in," she replied.

* * *

Says Sen. Blount: "I predicted that 'Stop and frisk' to turn in their guns of wouldn't do any good.

"I am for gun control as long as it is total control," he added.

"I am for a Federal law to be applied nationwide," he continued, 'and we can start with the sale of guns and ammunition.'

Does he think that a law, such as he proposes, will ever emerge from Congress?

"Yes, because it's necessary; we'll get one eventually."

* * *

"I voted for 'stop and frisk' because I wisned to codify, or put into law, a power that the police were exercising anyway," Del. Douglass told me.

"That way at least there would be some kind of legal bounds on what they were already doing," he added.

"When I voted for that gun control bill, I thought it would be less than 10 per cent effective, but that it was a step in the right direction," the second district official explained.

What about the future?

"We need some sort of real handgun law," he concluded.

Del. Lloyal Randolph also expressed himself to me in similar terms as to why he had personally supported the 'stop and frisk" section of the governor's law.

Del. Lena K. Lee gave the harshest critique of all as to Gov. Mandel's motivation for sponsoring the law in the first place: 'It was just a gimmick."

"The passage of that bill," she told me, "made Mandel the strongest governor in the U.S., because no other governor in this country has been able to do it except for him."

"As a result," she continued, 'Mandel got national attention as head of the Democratic governors."

Has the implementation of "stop and frisk' since March justified her fears about its abuse by white policemen in black residential area?

"Let's say that it hasn't caused any riots yet," she replied, "and doesn't appear to have been abused."

* * *

'Stop and frisk' was aimed at the black community," is the blunt opinion of Del. Walter Dean, an opponent of the idea.

'The law doesn't get at the cause of the gun problem, which is the total availability of firearms," he remarked.

"It's not been effective, because we need to control guns in an absolute sense, and 'stop and frisk' just doesn't do that," said Mr. Dean.

* * *

"It's absolutely worthless," says State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, "and is one of the worst pieces of legislation on record."

"It was a poor assumption in the beginning to think that it would solve the problem, because it never could," he commented.

"When it was passed, people were given the mistaken notion that 'Now we have gun control,' and we haven't,"he added.

Like Sen. Blount, Mr. Allen feels we need a national gun control law, but, unlike the fifth district legislator, the State's Attorney says we'll never get one.

* * *

What can be done?

'We can't pass any more city ordinances on it because the state has preempted, or taken away, the field of gun laws with its own law," Mr. Allen answered sadly.

"What the state ought to do is exempt the City of Baltimore from the gun law and let us do our own," he said, "because this is where the main problem is, not in the rest of the state."

Mr. Allen doesn't feel that there are bright prospects for the future, either.

"Basically, we're a dishonest nation," he asserted.

"If money counts, we won't get the law we need, because the gun lobby has a lot of money to resist it," he told me.

* * *

Mr. Allen ended the conversation with this reporter in no doubt that the State's Attorney felt that money did indeed count in the gun control situation.

DEL. LENA K. LEE (D-4th)

SEN. CLARENCE BLOUNT (D-5th)

DEL JOHN W. DOUGLASS (D-2nd)

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PALMA holds annual election of officers

PALMA, the Pennsylvania Ave. Lafayette Market Association has elected officers for the next year.

Reelected president for the 19th consecutive year was Herman Katkow, with Milton Branch, manager of the Southern Life Insurance Co. elected vice president.

Other officials are: Isidore Samuelson, vice-president; Seymore Sussman, secretary; Irving Friedman, treasurer and Charles Covington, sgt. at arms.

Also elected were: Mrs. Dorothy Scheer, recording secretary; Miss Kitty Broady director of Community Relations and Bernie Nachlas, director of Advertising.

Drug abuse workshops by Project DAWN

As Project DAWN enters its second year, a new series of Drug Awareness Workshops will be presented to the Northwest Baltimore community.

The workshops at Douglass High School Evening Center in October are designed to help the community to become aware of drug abuse, its social, political and economic implications and various approaches to dealing with it.

It is DAWN's hope that workshops will help develop community leadership to bring neighborhood input to work with professionals and agencies.

* * *

The workshops, 7:30-10 p.m., for seven evenings, will combine small group sessions with lecture formats and media presentations, Oct. 2nd-5th and 9th-11th.

For information on all DAWN services call 235-1525, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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Q: Sounds great! But the Army surely expects something in return?
A: Of course. Upon graduation you are required to serve an active duty tour for four years as an Army officer. There is an additional reserve obligation, normally for two years, that can be served with a National Guard or Army Reserve unit.

Q: Is applying for a scholarship a difficult process?
A: No. Send in the attached coupon, and application details will be mailed to you. There are several forms to fill out and a personal interview to be arranged. If you're a high school senior, your school records already contain most of the necessary information.

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