School Board takes revised plan to HEW

By Bill Rhoden

After meeting more than four hours with a loud and often antagonistic crowd of 800 parents and students Tuesday, a divided School Board approved a compromised school desegregation plan which some board members feel will be rejected by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The plan will be submitted to HEW today (Friday) in Washington.

* * *

Many of the 20 plus speakers who addressed the board asked that no plan be submitted at all, but Board President Dr. John Walton explained that it would be better to submit the plan in its revised form than risk losing $23 million in Federal aid.

His explanations were met with jeers from a crowd of demonstrators from the city's Southeast side who had come to protest the board's action on Patterson High and surrounding

* * *

The plan reduces the number of elementary schools proposed for pairing from 27 to 14 and will have a mere 9 per cent (9.028) of the elementary school population attending racially proportionate schools in September.

Originally the plan had proposed the formation of 11 "pairs" of racially disproportionate schools affecting 18,150 elementary students.

But several board members admitted that intense pressure from both public officials and various community groups played an important role in the board's decision to alter the plan

The deleted elementary schools are:

PAIR 2: Coldstream Park, Margaret Brent, and Barclay.

PAIR 3: Tench Tilghman, Commodore John Rogers and William Paca.

PAIR 6: Armstead, Perry and 126.

PAIR 7: Lexington Terrace

PAIR 8: Lockerman.

PAIR 11: Rognel Heights and Thomas Jefferson.

* * *

In voting against the measure school commissioner Larry Gibson (recently hired as a University of Maryland Law School professor) said the plan "doesn't do damage, it just doesn't do anything."

Gibson's sentiments were shared by commissioner James Griffin, although the two board members posed the only opposition to the proposal.

Dr Beryl Williams voted for the motion but admitted that "it doesn't solve anything."

"I was really upset about the plan because it doesn't get at the entire issue," she said, adding, "But I voted for it because we have to start somewhere to get the elementary schools together."

At the junior high school level the board voted to adopt a feeder plan which would essentially send elementary school students to junior high schools in their particular area.

Under this plan the present system of open enrollment which allows a student to choose which school he will attend will be eliminated because students will only be allowed to enroll in the junior high which his elementary school has been assigned to feed.

The adopted plan will insure (in theory) that 20 of the city's 24 comprehensive junior high schools will have racially proportionate seventh grade classes.

The board said that the racial balance at three of the remaining four schools, (Garrison, Lemmel and Pimlico), could not be improved and that the seventh grade comprehensive curriculum is being phased out of Fairmount Hill.

The plan seeks to have 11,531 students in desegregated junior high situations next fall.

* * *

But school commissioner Larry Gibson said he opposed the plan because "it not only does nothing in terms of integration, but it does damage to the school system"

Gibson said the plan will discourage integration by restricting black students in predominately black neighborhoods to local junior highs while limiting white students in predominately white neighborhoods to nearby schools.

"At least now kids can go to other schools in other parts of the city," said Gibson, adding that the plan was "very repressive."

* * *

Dr. Williams also voted against the feeder proposal (as did James Griffin) because she said it would produce a zoned situation, "and zoning means segregation," she commented.

Despite their protestations, however, the proposal was approved by a 5-3 vote.

Mrs. Sheila Sachs, Mrs Maree Farring, Oscar Helm, Robert Schaefer and Dr. Eugene Scott supported the plan while commissioners Gibson, Griffin and Williams opposed it.

* * *

The most ambiguous plan approved by the board, however, deals with senior high schools.

The plan was initiated by Mrs. Sachs and proposes that the board develop by Friday a plan which combines the random selection of existing magnet schools and certain city wide schools and which would have some comprehensive schools zoned in such a way that there will be entering classes of 50-50, and that over utilization will be phased out as integration is phased in.

Mrs. Sachs explained that her plan would "lock in whites as well as blacks" meaning that whites in a particular school zone would remain static as a certain number of minority students are brought into that school.

Random student selection would be used in determining which magnet school a student would attend. In the event that a student couldn't attend the magnet school of his choice he would then be referred to a comprehensive high school.

But commissioners Gibson, Griffin and Williams argue that since these comprehensive schools would be zoned, a black student who was not able to go to the magnet school of his choice would be zoned out of certain comprehensive schools, (such as Patterson or Southern), because of segregated housing patterns. He would therefore end up at a predominately black school.

"The fact that the magnet schools aren't zoned is inconsequential said Gibson "There isn't a big de-

(Continued on page B-15)

A Perfect Right From Intrusion

AN EDITORIAL

A group of concerned residents, representing a large spectrum of the Baltimore community, decided to sit down and discuss their ills and seek solutions.

Prior to their meeting at the AFRO office on Wednesday there were repeated calls from news media inquiring what and why the meeting, who was attending and what for.

The fact that the convenors refused comment on a private gathering of persons with common interests likely stirred the erroneous reports published by the dailies the next day.

Taxpayers can assemble freely and peacefully anytime they desire to discuss ideas for solutions of their problems.

People of all ethnic groups do this periodically. In fact, there are stated meetings at a high rise downtown building of people with like concerns and their gatherings are free from intrusion by media or uninvited guests.

We applaud the statement issued by the group of black citizens who counselled together this week and hope they'll continue to meet regularly and live up to their announced pledge "to work vigorously" with all responsible groups to improve the city.

And, while they're doing it, they should not be concerned about whether Mr. Charley prints the story or gets the message from a courier.

They owe it to themselves to their children and the future of this city to exhaust every means to help make Baltimore a town where all can have an equal share in its government.

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—Citizens back Patterson

(FROM PAGE ONE)

quality education they deserve.

"The mayor and his cohorts have continued to show lack of sensitivity in support of education, lack of moral leadership, and discourtesy towards the black communities.

"These city officials have again and again insulted their black citizens by their secretive handling of the desegregation plan and abrupt dismissal of black board and commission members and appointed officials."

* * *

The statement continued: "This meeting was composed of a broad spectrum of citizens who met for four hours on Wednesday. It was crystal clear that community action is needed to discontinue this present conduct.

"This city belongs to all of its citizens; therefore they vowed this is our city. This is our school system!"

Further, the group pledged, "to work vigorously and continuously with all responsible groups to see that these abuses are stopped. These citizens are determind and strong and will put an end to this type of government," the statement concluded.

* * *

Despite Thursday afternoon daily paper stories that the meeting of black leaders "spent considerable time" discussing a particular issue a participant in the meeting told the AFRO this was 'not true.' Our statement speaks for itself.

"Further, the spokesman told the AFRO, repeated rumors which have circulated that the meeting was called to boycott the mayor's upcoming ball or to select a possible black candidate to oppose Mayor Schaefer were absolutely untrue."

The spokesman called notice published in a Thursday evening daily that the group planned a Sunday afternoon mass meeting a "figment of somebody's imagination. That simply is not ture," he said.

* * *

Simultaneously, a Thursday afternoon daily published a story stating Superintendent Roland Patterson had been denied a 4 per cent increase in pay. (He presently earns $50,000 a year and is highest paid official in the city government).

Larry S. Gibson, a member of the School Board's finance committee, told the AFRO today (Friday), that the information about Dr. Patterson's salary is "inaccurate."

He explained, "In the first place, the board sets the superintendent's salary.

"Even though he is carried on the computer with other administrators he would not be considered for the 4 per cent increase and no request was made by the board for one.

"The story gives the false impression there was a request to increase Dr. Patterson's salary."

Mr. Gibson told the AFRO: "this is another example of the type of continuous efforts which are being made to discredit the superintendent's financial operations and his administration."

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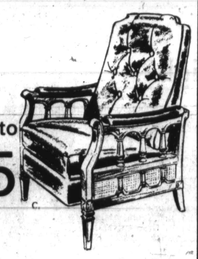

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—Triple murder

(FROM PAGE ONE)

son then fired on the chef cook and the assistant chef with whom he worked. Both are white.

Now charged with all three murders, Wilson, a Vietnam veteran, is lodged in the stockades at Fort Meade, Md.

19 SHOTS FIRED

Dr. Robert Thompson of the Baltimore City Morgue reports the Army wife was shot three times in the left side of the face and twice in the back of her head. The other 14 shots went into the bodies of the mess hall cooks, Wilson's bosses. One of the men killed in the mess hall, Spec/5 John W. Hanna, 21, St. Paul, Minn., was looking forward to being discharged in a few months.

Military authorities have not released the name of the other dead chef since his relatives have not yet been notified.

Following the tragedy, Wilson surrendered himself at the office of Provist Marshal at Fort Detrick.

WHAT FRIENDS SAY

Friends of the Wilson's told the AFRO, the couple had just recently married.

"If someone would say the wrong thing to Wilson, he would get upset. When I saw him Tuesday morning he seemed fine, said Spec/4 William D. Branch.

The AFRO learned police had been called to the couple's apartment for disturbance on several occasions.

NO ROMANTIC CONNECTION

Mack Magaha director of Public Affairs at Fort Detrick stated, "We are reasonably sure there was no connection between the suspect's wife and the victims. There is also no indication that racial overtones played a part. Although the two soldiers killed are white."

Mr. Magaha said the weapon used was a semi-automatic rifle with a scope. There were only two rounds left in the rifle when Wilson turned himself in.

Police report they recovered five shell casings from Wilson's apartment and 14 shell casings from the dining hall. According to police two rounds remained in the gun. Magaha reports Hanna's body was found in a room near the mess hall.

The young husband, Wilson, is originally from Chicago and served in Vietnam as a cook. He has been in the service four years and stationed at Fort Detrick for two years.

MARRIED AT DETRICK

Friends of Mrs. Wilson's said Wilson met his wife while stationed at Fort Detrick. Mrs. Wilson has lived in Frederick for approximately six years before her father retired.

Her father, Sergeant First Class John C. Bell was stationed at Fort Detrick for six years and retired a few months ago.

The daughter was left in Frederick to complete her education and the parents went to Roanoke, Ala. to their home.

Club gives shoes to children

The Exchange Club of Baltimore held the Old-Timers get together and meeting at its regular Wednesday lunch at the Lord Baltimore Hotel May 22. Dr. Charles Suter is president.

Dick Rosenfeld, chairman of the Charity Fund, thanked the club and the Old-Timers for the development of the Fund by which more than 5,000 pairs of shoes have been donated to needy youngsters in the Baltimore City Schools since 1956.

Robert Umphries of the Baltimore Public School System, a guest of the club, noted the gifts have assisted more than 10,000 children.

The retired sergeant, his wife and family returned to attend the graduation.

After graduation, they were driving back to Roanoke when they heard on the car radio that the murders had occurred.

MOTHER IN SHOCK

Realizing the tragedy involved their daughter, the retired Army man, his wife and family returned to Fort Detrick immediately.

Finding their daughter slain placed Mrs. Bell, the mother, in the hospital with shock.

Memorial services were held Wendesday for the bride in the chapel at Fort Detrick's Several of Mrs. Wilson's classmates wore their white caps and gowns to the services.

The small immaculate white chapel was filled to capacity. Tears flowed from the eyes of relatives and friends as they sat in the pews.

The pink velvet casket was surrounded by colorful flowers. Several mourners, overcome with grief, had to be ushered from the chapel.

With tears in her eyes, Miss Robin Randolph, a close friend of Mrs. Wilson's revealed, "We graduated together on Monday night. She was my best friend. She was undetermined about what she wanted to do after graduation.

Mrs. Wilson was born June 23, 1955. In addition to her parents, she is survived by four sisters, Misses Yvonne Bell, Monigue Bell, Dorethea Bell and Della Bell; a brother John C. Bell Jr.; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Terrell, grandmother, Mrs. Lizzie Bell, grandfather, Dewey Holmes. Mrs. Wilson's body was shipped to Roanoke, Ala. where funeral services will be held Saturday.

THE DETRICK APARTMENTS where the young couple resided was the scene of the death of Mrs. Cynthia Bell Wilson, 19, whose death is charged to her husband, Spec/4 Frederick Wilson, 22, now in custody in the Army Stockade at Fort Meade, Md. The tragedy occurred in the dining area of the second floor residence.

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By the way...

by Joe Black

We shout a lot about Black Power. But it seems to me we're only giving lip service to something equally important. Black Unity.

Sure. We strive for equality. A better life for our children. And insist on making Black history and culture an integral part of our educational system.

But what good does all this do, when, at the same time, we waste precious time and energy, ripping off Blacks who haven't changed their hair style. Or, aren't out in the streets shouting hate.

Are we putting labels on our people? You know, if you aren't part of the mold, you aren't part of the Movement.

The desire and opportunity to succeed and improve one's life-style is not exclusively a white trip. It's a decision we all can make.

But, when a Black man decides to work within the system so he may overcome poverty and poor living, his Black Pride is questioned. His Black purpose is doubted.

I wonder when Blacks will really begin to respect the rights of the people who want to walk away from all the rats and roaches.

Education, ambition, and initiative are things we should, things we must encourage.

Encouraging Blacks to prepare themselves for the better world, and then move into it, is a responsibility we all share.

A responsibility and a healthy respect for our own rights, as people.

Without this respect, we all end up sadly lacking.

Joe Black
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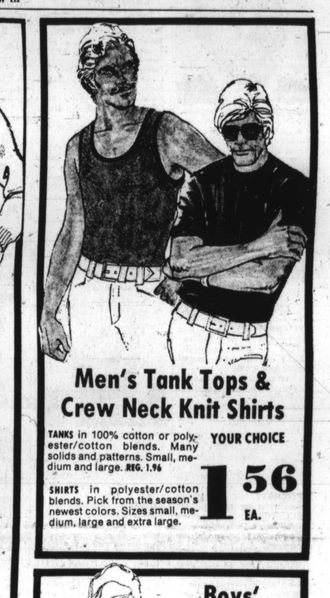

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