Job Corpsmen to get training from builders

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) will train 130 Job Corpsmen in the building trades and place them in jobs upon graduation, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan has announced.

Black corpsmen comprise about 85 per cent of enrollees at the Maryland Residential Manpower Center in Woodstock where the training will be conducted in cooperation with some of the building trade unions.

The center's enrollees, youths 16 to 21 years of age who are out of school and out of work, are recruited from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The Labor Department has awarded a $226,554 contract to NAHB to conduct the one-year training program.

Courses will be offered in the following occupations: bricklayer (30 trainees), carpenter (20), cement mason (20), electrician (20), painter (20), and plasterer (20).

* * *

Training programs, based on a 40-hour week, alternate with one week of educational classes and one week of vocational training. The length of training depends on the progress made by individual trainees. Emphasis will be on individual instruction geared as closely as possible to actual work situations.

Trainees will perform all work normally done by craftsmen. They must be 17 years of age or older and physically able to meet requirements of the trade.

Enrollees will engage in work projects at the center that would not otherwise be let out on contract.

NAHB will work with the state employment service in placing trainees who complete the program.

Lead exposure irritates Sparrows Point workers

Approximately 25 Bethlehem steel workers, who work in the galvanizing department, have been exposed to dangerous amounts of lead, a recent state study shows.

The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration, at the request of the United Steelworkers Local 2609, tested the 25 workers and found them to have "elevated blood lead levels." An additional seven had dangerously high levels.

According to experts, lead exposure can lead to lead poisoning, which causes anemia, colic, high blood pressure, arthritis, fatigue and other illnesses.

The source appears to come from the galvanizing department where wire is softened in a lead bath which is kept at 1650 degrees Fahrenheit. The workers most affected are the head reelers, who control the temperature and add more lead when needed.

Thus far, four men have been transferred to other departments. However, there are at least 40 to 60 workers yet to be tested.

The apparent foot dragging with the company who has delayed the testing for over four months because they refuse to admit that the lead problem is that serious.

David Wilson, president, Local 2609, told the AFRO that the company has remodeled the equipment and installed new ventilation in the galvanizing department.

However, Wilson noted, there are other health and safety problems that the union is concerned about, but he would not be specific.

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THE STATE OF THINGS

Making of a candidate

By Don and Val Hymes

The biggest question mark in Maryland these days is Larry Hogan.

"What's he really like?" ask members of the press, the public, and even political colleagues in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill. "Why did he really do it?"

"It" was Hogan's announcement before the Judiciary Committee hearings began that he would vote for impeachment.

What he did was to steal the committee's thunder and a priceless amount of media coverage as well.

Dwarfed Mandel

In a short week of televised hearing, he had walked away in broad daylight with a brand new national image that — like it or not — dwarfed that of Marvin Mandel as former chairman of the National Governors Conference and the man who tackled the energy czar in Federal Court.

Governor Mandel was not frothing at the pipe — at least in public — but he did tell this column he was glad to see the congressman "stop vacillating." At the same time Mandel said he was "proud" of Democrat Paul Sarbanes, who drafted and defended one of the compromise impeachment articles.

There are those who believe that Mandel, who respects political courage, was secretly proud of Hogan as well as Sarbanes. But there are many Mandel supporters who openly appreciated the contribution of Maryland's two congressmen.

"How proud I was of both of them!" exulted one veteran Democrat. "It showed remarkable courage," said another. "He was obviously sorry, but he had to vote that way after reviewing all the facts."

And still another said, "I was going to vote for the governor, but I'm so sick of what's happening in government."

In other words, those voters most loyal to Mandel — the Democrats — for no reason other than partisanship would be most likely to approve of Hogan's position on impeachment. And remember, Mandel hasn't yet taken a stand on that issue.

Fat-Jack hurt

The "Fat Jack" episode hurt Hogan and Mandel made good hay of his opponent's link with a known political spy. But even loyal Democrats seem willing to excuse it. "At least it was an honest mistake and he admitted it openly," said one. "When was the last time Marvin Mandel admitted he was wrong about anything?"

Hogan's enemies have charged him with the most calculated political grandstand play seen in Maryland, or in the nation, in a long time. It even shook the President, who had counted Hogan as a steadfast supporter.

Hogan himself was probably shaken even more by the reaction.

"One man," Hogan reported, "asked for his $5 contribution back. And he wasn't the only one."

Television circus

GOP State Party Chairman Edward P. Thomas said that party members may be angry now but will stand behind Hogan when the chips are down in November, if he wins the primary.

His GOP opponent, Louise Gore, a Republican national committeewoman, has accused him of making a "television circus out of his solemn duty."

Well, did he or didn't he?

Confronted with the question of timing, Hogan said he did not expect the impact his statement would have. Reporters were pressing for a decision, and for regular news conferences, he said, so when he had reviewed all of the material, he decided to do it all at once.

That way, he said, he could get better coverage to explain his reasons, since he felt that position would hurt him badly in his race.

As it turned out, though, his committee speeches were hailed on national television for their honesty of emotion, bringing many viewers close to tears, including the wife of a Mandel cabinet member.

Robbed of time

Because of his stand, Hogan has appeared on dozens of radio and TV talk shows. His picture showed up on the front pages of all Maryland dailies and in all three national news magazines.

There would have been no way to buy such exposure. But it robbed him of valuable campaign time, and if he must help manage the prosecution before the Senate, it will take even more.

Mandel-watchers warn that the governor is a master of political strategy, that he has been entertaining supporters and friends at the Mansion, addressing bi-partisan county officials on a safe issue — inflation — and shrugging off his failure to get statewide union endorsement. He's even been smiling at reporters.

Hogan has not yet made a dent in the armor of the toughest terrain of Maryland politics. But he has bruised Mandel, who insists that his administrative record is what people really care about.

Perhaps it is. But the televised impeachment hearings may have a profound effect on politics and politicians by making corruption more that just a shadowy allegation with no direct impact on the average citizen.

Hearing the details spelled out in one's own living room could awaken the viewers to see abuses of power in state houses, county courthouses and city halls.

More people than we know may be ready to join that demonstrator at a recent political rally whose picket sign read, "Impeach everybody."

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