—The Supreme Court retreats

(FROM PAGE ONE)

force fail the test than white applicants. But the Supreme Court said this finding was not sufficient to prove it was unconstitutional to judge police applicants by their test scores.

It would only be unconstitutional, maintains the Court, if there was evidence that the test was given with the aim of excluding blacks from the force.

Jack Greenberg, head of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund and author of the seminal work "Race Relations and American Law" would have preferred a different ruling but he notes that Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act still offers ample authority as a recourse against further such attacks on minority rights.

However, he observes that the ruling was significant in that "most of the justices are developing an increasingly negative attitude in cases like this."

Harold Buckman of the Baltimore ACLU characterizes the ruling as a "retreat" of the Court. His views are shared by Dr. Harry Glickstein of the Howard University School of Law. They both regard the ruling as "a serious setback for equal opportunity and for civil rights in general."

So how can such rulings be circumvented in the future?

"By increased political pressure and stepped-up activities of more zealous lawyers," says Buchman. "The honeymoon is over. People will now have to fight for their rights. Ultimately, it will depend on what black people and their allies can do to stem the retreat."

• • •

The Supreme Court's liberal reputation flourished briefly during Earl Warren's tenure but that period represented merely the exception to the rule.

Legal historians recall quite pointedly that in 1857 the Court decided on the Dred Scott case that Congress has no power to abolish slavery in territories acquired after the formation of the national government.

More and more the real purpose of the Court is being called into question.

Some say the Supreme Court Justices, many of whom were appointed during the Nixon Administration, are simply presiding over the organized retrenchment of the progressive social legislation of the '60's.

The Urban League's Vernon Jordan has described this movement as "the end of the Second Reconstruction."

Nixon is gone but his legacy lives on.

Others argue persuasively that the Court functions as the highest legal sanctioner and protector of the inherently unequal capitalist economic relations that dominate the country.

It is, they say, an instrumentality of the state — that vast superstructure which obfuscates and distorts the true oppressive nature of advanced corporate society.

Moreover, the recent ruling is beginning to prompt a general discussion on the law's capacity to affect race relations.

Can the law alter race realtions? Can it create or end discrimination and prejudice? If so, to what degree? Or are the only effective agents the hearts and minds of men, influenced by social forces and education?

• • •

Law unquestionably is often an appropriate and effective mode of regulating behavior. Laws may not only set standards but may also help to create habits of conformity to them.

Law itself educates and lawsuits, especially if well publicized, convey at least as much information about fundamental rights as most civic courses or religious sermons.

Jack Greenberg sums it up rather effectively: "Law not only works along with social forces but may also transform them. In particular, legal rules affecting jobs, housing, education and so forth, when combined with antidiscrimination precepts, may make for a greater difference in race relations than could those precepts alone."

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

CONCERNED FOR NATIVE LAND—Marianna Del Guidice and Frank R. Lancellota, Sr. (right) present a check on behalf of the Third Order of St. Francis and the Italian-American Organizations United to Warren W. Weaver (left), chairman of Red Cross Disaster Services. The money will aid victims of the recent Italian earthquake.

Employment in manufacturing is expected to increase about 23 per cent through the mid-1980s and to reach about 3.2 million in 1985, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook reports.

—Life after death

(FROM PAGE ONE)

lieves in life after death, but, in that he doesn't view it in the strictly Biblical sense.

He told the AFRO, "I don't take the Bible literally. I believe that may of the Biblical traditions are just ways of saying that our choices have consequences.

THE OTHER LIFE

"I don't believe that your entire destiny, the way you spend Eternity, is determined by 40 or 50 years of your life. However, I think you can correct your wrong choices in the other life."

The Rev. Mr. Starratt dismissed the idea of eternal damnation as "absurd."

Life after death has been a major topic of interest throughout many generations. People both fear death and look forward to it at the same time, as they are curious to know "what lies on the other side."

An Associate Professor of Philosophy at Morgan, the Rev. Mr. Starratt sees no reason to be afraid of dying.

He stated, "It is only because we have forgotten who we really are that we are afraid of death."

Although he definitely believes in the after-life, like most others, Rev. Starratt is unsure as to what form that life takes.

INFINITE POSSIBLITIES

He said, "The after-life possibilities are infinite. The different ideas (such as reincarnation) are interesting to speculate about, but I don't think anyone really knows what the after-life is like."

About the Resurrection of Jesus Christ reported in the Bible, he said, "I don't want it to be said that I don't believe in the Resurrection, because I do. I just believe that it was a psychological, mystical experience (instead of bodily). It's a very complicated thing to try and explain."

The Rev. Mr. Starratt says the Apostle Paul gives the best representation of the Resurrection experience in 2 Corinthians 12. He says that this chapter speaks of a mystical experience and that important message which Paul seeks to relate is his belief that Christ is forever alive.

"This," said the distinguished minister, "is what the Resurrection really means."

Psychiatrist-author Dr. Elizabeth Ross in her controversial book, "On Death and Dying," said that after witnessing over 1,000 people die, she is sure there is life after death.

Dr. Ross said that people who are on the brink of death and are revived report meeting with deceased loved ones and gaining a new sense of love and security.

LOVED ONES MEET

The loved ones reportedly come to meet with the dying person to comfort him and help him to get over. They also come as messengers when "It is not the person's time" to go.

The Rev. Mr. Starratt told the AFRO "I've read Dr. Ross' book, but I've never experienced anything like she describes. It's interesting, though, and may even add to the probability of life after death. But, I'm not sure if these reports are particularly any more important than ghost stories."

SECOND COMING

When asked about the Second Coming of Christ, an idea central to Christian theology, Starratt replied, Well, actually I've never thought about it one way or another.

"I think it (the Second Coming) is primarily a first century idea, and not an essential part of Christianity.

"I wouldn't rule out the possibility of a second-coming, because with God, all things are possible."

The author of The Real God, the Rev. Mr. Starratt did undergraduate study at Boston University and, in addition to Harvard, also did graduate work at the Episcopal Theological School. Rector at Emmanuel for 20 years, he formerly taught at the Huachung University in China.

ATTENTION

NOTICE — All graduating high school and college seniors. Have your picture on the AFRO's new School Page coming soon. Send a black and white glossy photograph with biographical information and future plans to Clarence Hunter, the AFRO City Desk, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. . . .

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-Dr Carter

(FROM PAGE ONE)

rope on a preaching mission.

• • •

President Ford has accepted the invitation, the first time in the 131-year-history of Southern Baptists that a president in office has addressed the nation's largest evangelical religious group.

"I nominated Dr. Carter to the Committee on Order of Business," Chairman Puckett told the AFRO-AMERICAN, "because of his great ability, as a preacher, student and writer.

"I am privileged to have a close friendship with Dr. Carter and regard him as one of the most brilliant men I know. He is definitely an emerging leader among Baptists in general and black Baptists in particular at the national level.

• • •

"Certainly, those of us on the Baltimore and Maryland scene know full well his impact on our community," Puckett observed.

"He is an excellent Bible preacher with an authentic application of Christian morality in his messages.

"I felt the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention should have an opportunity to hear such a gifted and dedicated man."

the Maryland editor concluded.

• • •

Theme for the Southern Baptist Convention for 1976 is "Let The Chruch Stand Up." Dr. Carter will speak to the Thursday morning session, assembled in the Scope in Norfolk, on the subject, "Magnificent Obsession."

Several members of the New Shiloh Baptist Church plan to attend the convention session in which Dr. Carter speaks. Dr. and Mrs. Carter, along with their two children plan to attend the entire convention.

Dr. Carter's parents from Selma, Alabama plan to attend the convention during the latter two days.

-$50,000 bail

(FROM PAGE ONE)

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-AFRO issue

(FROM PAGE ONE)

years, and even a log cabin built in 1780. There will also be stories and photos tracing the history of families and churches that date back to the founding of our country.

So, don't forget to be on the lookout for the next AFRO Bicentennial Edition. It'll be something you can not afford to miss. On the street—the AFRO's Happy Birthday America Edition — Friday, July 2, at the regular 25 cent price.

Job placement records for a number of hard-to-place groups showed gains during fiscal 1975, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's annual report: about 592,000 veterans were placed in jobs through public employment offices during the year

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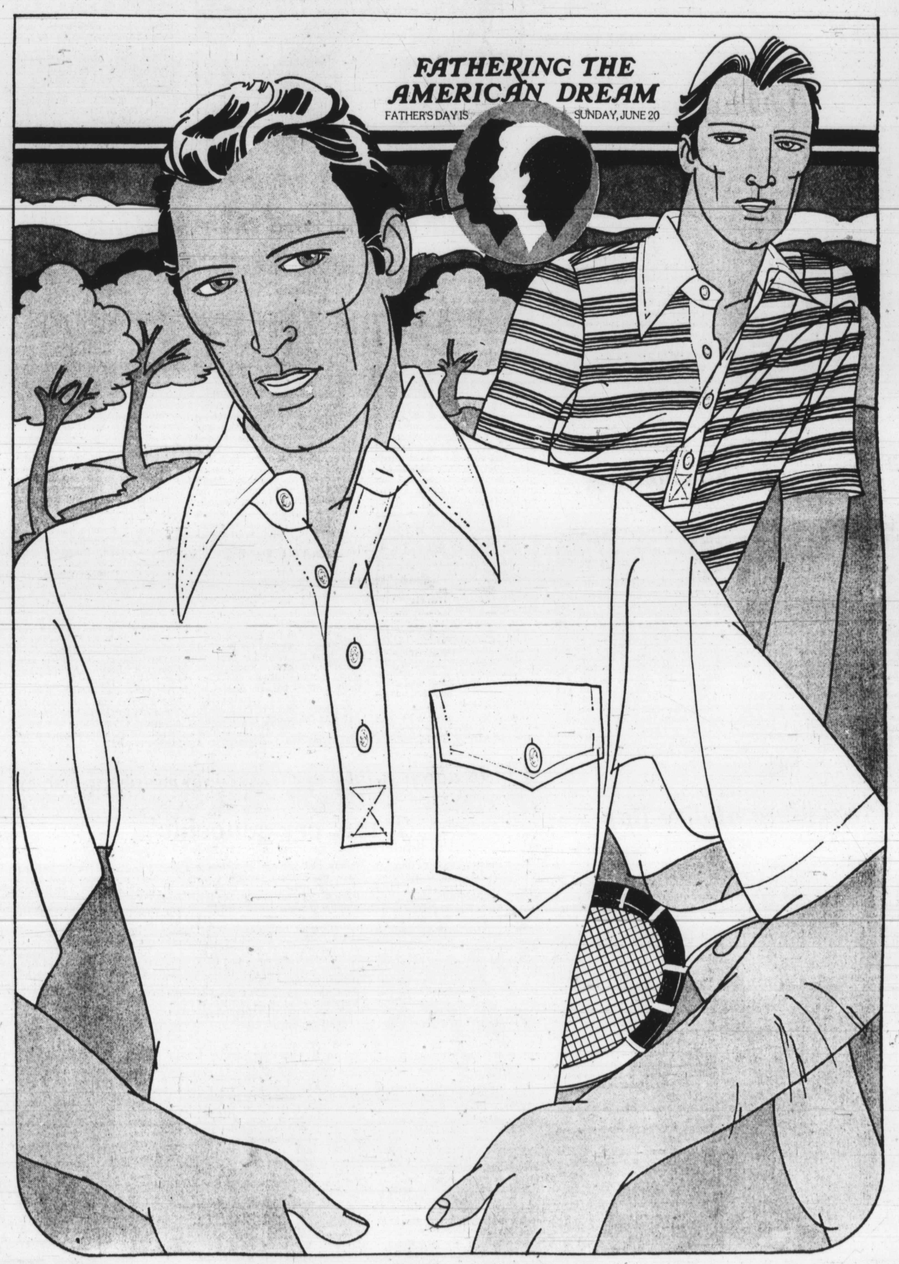

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