Cabbies reject contract

BALTIMORE — Sun Cab Company drivers have rejected the company's three-year contract offer that would raise their daily costs to $27.45 by 1978.

The company's more than 600 drivers said Monday they would begin to strike Tuesday at midnight. Taking more than 250 cabs off Baltimore's streets. They voted by secret ballot for the strike.

Sun cabbies have been working without a contract since Oct. 31. Under the expired contract the daily expenses, called the "NUT," we're $18.45.

However, Dec. 5 Joseph Zimmerman, president of the company, allowed the "NUT" to be raised to $21.45 daily, plus fuel and service changes.

Under the rejected offer the "NUT" would be increased to $23.45 Thursday, to $25.45 Nov. 1 and $27.45 by Nov. 1, 1978.

John Sullivan, president of the cabbie's teamsters union Local 355, said he would notify the union's central office of the planned strike.

KKK trial judge to disqualify himself

WESTMINSTER, Md. (UPI) — A judge who refused to lower the $500,000 bond of a University of Maryland student involved with the Ku Klux Klan plans to disqualify himself from the case.

Carroll County District Court Judge Donald Smith said he will not preside at the trial of William Aitcheson because he heard too much information about the case during the bond hearing.

Aitcheson, a 22-year-old University of Maryland junior who was arrested last week, will be tried this summer on charges of building fire bombs.

Smith said Saturday he does not want "to take a chance at being criticized for being partial."

"I've heard an awful lot about the facts in the case so I'll have to disqualify myself," the judge said, adding that he is not certain which judge will preside at the trial.

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Aitcheson, arrested at his parents, Clarksville home, was charged with illegally possessing materials used to make pipe bombs, a misdemeanor charge.

But the judge said bond would remain at $500,000 because there was a substantial risk" that Aitcheson would flee if he were released. Aitcheson was being held at the Carroll County jail.

Police said they recovered nine pounds of explosive power and several guns including a 9-mm. automatic pistol, ammunition, rolls of fuses and wire in Aitcheson's room at his parent's home.

Frank M. Rauschenberg, a state fire marshal who spent two years as an undercover agent infiltrating Maryland KKK activities, testified at the bond hearing that Aitcheson was "fanatical about explosives" and that the confiscated cache was intended for "bombs in an anticipated revolution."

Rauschenberg said Aitcheson, the "exalted cyclops' of the Howard County Chapter of the KKK, was "unstable and extremely dangerous."

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In an earlier incident, Aitcheson was released on his own recognizance after charges were placed in connection with six cross-burning in Howard County.

He still faces charges of sending threatening letters to Coretta S. King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, the Rev. Martin Luher King.

J. Robert Johnson, Aitcheson's attorney, described his client as "a boy who talks a lot and who doesn't do a great deal — a boy who talks to look big among his fellows."

Rauschenberg identified blueprints for a pipe bomb and a molotov cocktail, which he said Aitcheson had drawn up for the Klan Beret a KKK group dedicated to guerrilla warfare.

The fire marshal said the group planned to mount a revolution against "blacks and the communists and socialist conspiracy."

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Maryland State Police, who in conjunction with the FBI and local police conducted the investigation into radical groups connected with the Maryland KKK, said they expect more arrests in the case.

The fire marshal said Aitcheson, suspecting the FBI was investigating him, was hoping to hide in the Pennsylvania woods with a year's supply of food tablets.

Rauschenberg said Aitcheson told him he constructed a bomb to be used by a Dundalk klansman to "blow up a car." Rauschenberg said a January incident involving a car explosion in Dundalk is still being investigated by Baltimore County police.

[illegible] said the Klan Beret was planning a [illegible] campaign in Maryland against the Fort Meade military communications center, radio stations, abortion centers and office of the NAACP.

College professors probe for new system for pensions

BALTIMORE (UPI) — Two University of Maryland professors of economics say they have developed a formula to estimate costs to employers who use pension plans to early-retire a part of their work force.

Drs. Bardley R. Schiller and Randall D. Weiss reported Monday that their study, commissioned by the U.S. Administration on Aging, reveals that pension programs can be used creatively to change a company's work force.

The two studied changes at 133 major firms and employment patterns of more than 32,000 workers.

The economists wrote in their report that an employe's decision to quit is influenced not only by the existence of a pension plan but its value and the probability of the pension plan being used.

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In the past many firms have streamlined operations by offering early retirement bonuses, they said.

But the economists say their study provides formulas to estimate the cost of benefit-plan changes before they occur.

The economists used the example of a company that reduced its retirement age from 65 to 62 introduced special early retirement programs and doubled the benefits. The quit rate rose from an average of 8 per cent to 23 per cent in the year the changes were introduced.

Their formula revealed that "each added dollar of vested monthly retirement benefits increases the quit probability of men aged 45 to 54 by .2 per cent."

Car-care clinic for women

A free car care clinic for women is currently underway at the Firestone Store located at 6386 York Rd. opposite the Stewart's Department Store.

Each session will run from 7 to 9 p.m. for the next three consecutive Thursdays.

Classes will be conducted by Firestone representative, William Blackburn and AC-Delco representative, Nicholas Turner.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND

IN THE MATTER OF PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT COSTS CHARGED TO CUSTOMERS BY GAS UTILITY COMPANIES.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND CASE NO. 6865

HEARING EXAMINER'S NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND OF THE DATE FOR FILING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE

This is to give notice that a prehearing conference will be held in the above-entitled matter on Monday, March 28, 1977, at 10:00 o'clock, a.m., in Room 904, State Office Building, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Petitions to intervene are to be filed with the Commission by parties wishing to intervene, to be received at the Commission's offices, Room 904, State Office Building, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, on or before the date of the prehearing conference, and will be considered at the prehearing conference.

In this proceeding, the Commission's investigation will include, but will not be limited to, the policies and practices and factors comprising the purchased gas adjustment costs of all gas utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

Kirk J. Emge
Hearing Examiner in Case No. 6865

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company

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THE MANAGEMENT

(Photo by J. D. Howard)

MRS. JULIE WILLIAMS (center) explains the details of an African mask that was on display during Black History Week at Sudbrook Junior High School in Baltimore County. (L. to R) Misses V. Rowland, Joella Brown and Debbie Dorsey, Mrs. Williams, Karen Lindsley, Butchy Robinson and Sudbrook music teacher, R. Thompson.

Black college presidents hit enrollment report

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

The presidents of the four predominantly black colleges in the state have varried reactions to a report released by the State Board for Higher Education claiming their schools have apparently had trouble attracting white students.

The reactions came this week from Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of Morgan State University; Dr. Calvin Burnett, head of Coppin State College; Dr. Samuel F. Mevers, president of Bowie State College and Dr. William P. Hythee, chancellor of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES) in response to the SBHE report that could affect the future of the four black Maryland schools as black residents know them.

The report was submitted to the state board at its monthly meeting last Friday. It came at a time the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals is weighing HEW's position on the state's desegregation progress, complicating the situation further are budget cutbacks for black colleges by the House Appropriations Committee.

It showed that the proportion of black undergraduates at white schools to 9.9 per cent between has risen from 3.4 per cent 1970 and 1976.

However the report also showed the predominantly black schools have consistently enrolled slightly more than 90 per cent some problems," Dr. Sheldon black students.

"There are definitely some problems," Dr. Sheldon H. Knorr, SBHE commissioner had said after the report's release. "I think as we develop our master plan we'll deal with these areas, things like carving our new academic turf on mergers."

The state's "master plan" for higher education is to be completed within 18 months.

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Dr. Billingsley does not agree with the report and stated that the problem is not how to get more white students into black colleges.

"The problem is how to increase the number of black students being graduated from the predominantly white schools especially at the graduate level, he said.

Billingsley stated he is in the process of compiling information for a report of his own that will dispute the SBHE report. The report is expected to be released in two weeks.

Billingsley explained the black colleges have always been open to white students and even now the black colleges are "much more interracial than white colleges.

"We (black schools) have higher proportions of white students, faculty and administrators than the white institutions have black.

He also pointed out that the majority of the black students in colleges in Maryland are attending black colleges and the overwhelming number of them who earn degrees in the state "both on the undergraduate and graduate level earn them at the predominantly black colleges and universities."

Dr. Burnett, who stated he has not had an opportunity to study the report, con-

(Continued on Page 23)

Hopkins trial begins under news blackout

Under a virtual news blackout by Criminal Court Judge David Ross, the trial of Charles Anthony Hopkins got underway in Criminal Court this week.

Hopkins, 35 of the 1700 block Chapel St. is charged with one count of murder, five counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of assault, eight handgun violations and one count of receiving stolen goods in connection with the shooting spree at the temporary City Hall April 13, 1976 that left City Councilman Dominic Leone, 50, dead and four others injured.

The gag order was issued to prohibit lawyer and court personnel from making any "extra - judicial statements nor dissemination by any means of public communication until such time as a verdict has been returned in open court."

The order, according to Ross, was necessary to minimize the "risk of prejudicial publicity before and during the trial and to insure a fair trial for the parties."

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Jury selections began in chambers between Ross, Assistant State's Attorney Leslie A. Stein and William H. Murphy Jr., the defense attorney. Speculation is that Murphy may ask that the jury be sequestered during the course of the trial.

Opening arguments are expected to begin today, Friday or Monday and the big question will be whether Hopkins was sane at the time of the offense.

Hopkins, who was once owner of an East Baltimore carry out restaurant, allegedly entered City Hall armed with a .38 caliber revolver looking for Mayor Schaefer.

After being told by the mayor's receptionist he was not in, Hopkins proceeded throught a door behind her desk and allegedly shot Ms. Kathleen Nolan.

Hopkins then allegedly found his way into the Mayor's outer office wounding two other persons in addition to slaying Leone before being gunned down himself during a battle with police.

After his arrest, a seven member psychiatric panel at the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital ruled t hat Hopkins was insane at the time of the gun battle but competent to stand trial. The panel was reportedly split five to two.

State's Attorney William A. Swisher refused to accept the panel's findings and stated he would attempt to seek a trial on the sanity question.

Hopkins has reportedly had brushes with the law from city officials to cut his threatened carry out restaurant.

He was arrested March 12, 1976 for hauling down the American flag from the Battle Monument and [illegible] it on fire.

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