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Murder In the School Hall

Harlem Park Junior High has had its share of problems during its 25-year history, but last week's shooting of a student in a second floor hallway is a shock which has the entire community reeling.

The unfortunate death of 14-year-old DeWittt Duckett gunned down by an intruder stealing his jacket, has ended the life of a promising seventh grader.

Ever since Friday's unfortunate incident, various voices have been raised, some pointing the finger of guilt at others, but the entire community must bear the blame.

Let's look at Harlem Park Junior High. It is a rambling facility, with 87 doors, located across from Harlem Square, bounded by Calhoun, Gilmor and Stricker Sts., in the heart of an historic and proud west Baltimore black community.

The 1,650 pupils and 125 teachers at the junior high, combined with the adjoining elementary school, compose a mimi town of 2,000, with all the problems related to a diverse community.

As at other schools, Harlem Park teachers, parents and concerned citizens have tried to deal with the vandalism, absenteesim, robberies, assaults, and other lawlessness by outsiders whose sole role is to disrupt.

Since Edgar B. Covert became principal four years ago, he and his staff have enlarged the Title I (now Chapter 1) programs. Recently, a computer resource center opened, student monitors activated and a POP project, (People Orientation Program), initiated, with students and teachers meeting with parents and community to address the concerns they have about their environment and education.

Because it receives Title I Federal funds, Harlem Park Junior High also has special classes for students who are above grade level, and remedial training for those below standard.

Since the unfortunate killing there have been a number of possible solutions offered by distressed parents, community and school leaders

These include more security guards to keep outsiders away, indentification badges for students, metal detectors to reveal unauthorized weapons on students, and a statement of fire department regulations on locked school doors.

Hopefully, future meetings of Harlem Park with concerned groups will deal with these suggestions.

We hope that they will also address a very positive alternative suggested by Circuit Court Clerk Saundra Banks, a Harlem Park parent.

She envisions a coalition of community groups--particulary involving representatives from surrounding stable neighborhoods and the eight prestigious churches in the area.

In the past, Harlem Park has had meetings with some of these groups, but more are needed.

Volunteers are needed to help in school activities, during and after school hours. Watchful eyes are necesary to assist security guards and police in the early spotting of possible lawbreakers in the vicinity of the school; and most importantly, more parents and teachers must be willing to give their time to support the school's programs.

Harlem Park Junior High has a rich heritage. Two f its faculty members are finished junior high there and went on to college.

A fitting memorial to DeWitt Duckett would be the formation of a coalition as suggested by Clerk Saundra Banks.

It would provide Harlem Park Junior High with dedicated volunteers and demonstrate the concern parents, neighbors and the community have expressed since last week's killing.

Certainly, it would be a testimony that they are truly committed to our young people; and would dramatize that they are ready to help prepare our young people for tomorrow's world. The onus is on all of us.

Everyone loses

An article in this edition of the AFRO describes the effect of a nuclear warhead explosion in the inner harbor area. The consequences depicted in the story and the television movie "The Day After" are so frightening and so final that all of humanity has a stake in preventing nuclear war. Such a war would have no winners.

The world is dangercusly close to nuclear war at the present time. Relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union are chilly at best and the rhetoric from this administration has not eased tensions. Calling the Soviet Union "an evil empire" does not make arms negotiation easier.

The stake that black Americans have in preventing nuclear war and stopping the arms race is great. Many black people live in urban area which would be hit by several warheads, especially on the East coast. The runaway arms race depletes resources that could be used to fund social programs and rebuild America's industrial base.

Tensions are too high for the black community to remain on the sidelines. Black advocacy groups, social organizations and most importantly religious institutions which talk about peace continually, must form coalitions with each other and the groups that already exist to work to prevent nuclear war.

Black political leaders must dedicate themselves to educating and organizing the masses. These groups must launch a massive lobbying effort to head off this country's escalation of the arms race.

The weight of black involvement can make a great difference in the anti-nuclear war movement. Blacks can provide great energy and moral force to the struggle. The walkout of the Soviets at the medium range missile negotiations in Geneva this week, emphasizes how critical the situation is and how little time there may be left to act.

Attention: Secretary Bridwell

We can rely on the AFRO's oldest reader, Dr. T. Henderson Kerr, age 95, to reminisce on historical occasions.

In advance of the opening of Baltimore city's first subway, the Baltimore city pharmacist shared with us how public travel has changed in his lifetime.

He has lived to see the city progress from electric cars, street cars, trackless trolleys, to today's busses.

Most importantly, he remembers vividly another aspect of public transportation in his native town. Until the early Sixties, all of the operators of public vehicles were white.

Younger readers may not recall the early struggles in our city, with the NAACP, the AFRO and churches combining their efforts to open job opportunities for colored (black) bus drivers.

Because of these pioneer efforts, the Mass Transit Administration, which operates the city's busses and subway today, has a significant number of black employees.

A State Human Relations Commission report, as of June, 1982, showed that of MTA's 2,301 employees, 1,573 were black, and minorities, including women, made up 63 percent of MTA workers

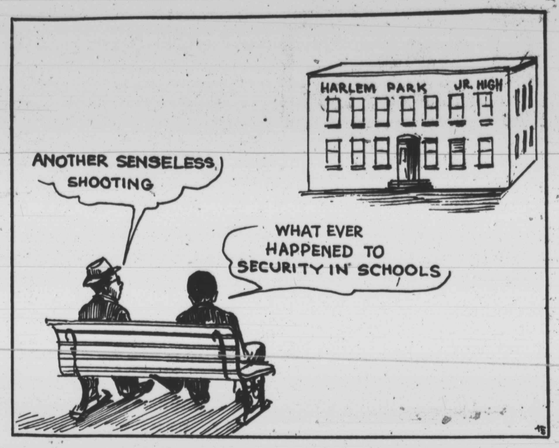
This week, an MTA spokesman revealed employees have increased to over 2,500, and 348 new jobs were created because of the subway.

It is interesting to note that the MTA is the second largest of the six subdivisions of the Maryland State Department of Transportation, headed by Secretary Lowell K. Bridwell.

This is the same state agency which has been under fire for its discriminatory hiring practices. New stories last week reported U.S. Department of Justice made awards to aggrieved employees in the largest branch of the department, the State Highway Division, which has 3,886.

It is significant that Secretary Bridwell has announced his commitment to equal opportunity in the Transportation Department because it is the third largest agency in the state with over 10,000 employees.

As he and his staff conduct the promised evaluation of all the Department's subdivisions, they might examine what has happened at the MTA since Human Relations Commission reports describe the MTA as the one department in the transportation operation with the best overall representation of blacks.



Madeline MURPHY

About 'The Day After'

The gruesome horrors of nuclear war, juxtaposed against the horrors of gang wars on Sunday afternoon television, where gangsters shoot 17 people within an hour, makes one wonder why parents would be so concerned, as well as the media, about children viewing "The Day After". Because this terrible happening is merely an extension and escalation of man's inhumanity to man in all walks of life.

If President John F. Kennedy could enlist the Mafia to knock off Castro, planning to do so more than twenty times; if there could have been a My Lai incident, broadcast at dinner hour, days on end, during the Vietnam war, without censorship; if a 2,000 pound gorilla, could kill off the independence of the ant, Grenada, then why must we be squeamish about telling children, no matter what their ages, the horrors of two giant powers using us as pawns in the struggle for nuclear superiority?

It seems a bit hypocritical that on the one hand we wish to protect young minds from this madness, when all other madness in small doses is fed to them daily before and during prime time on television.

The massacres of Sabra and Shatela, the suicide bombing in Beirut, the 30,000 massacred in El Salvador, the strafing and bombing of a hospital in Grenada, the dirty wars of the Reagan administration all over the planet are not shielded from the eyes, the ears nor minds of impressionable children.

They are becoming inured to violence as though it were as American as apple pie. They then must see the ultimate conclusion—for conclusion it must be should this adventurism be allowed to go unchecked—as one witnessed it last Sunday in "The Day After".

At least given the realities of this mean spiritedness over ideology, and over greed for more and more weapons from the military industrial complex, young people should no longer be excused for their naivete about the world in which they live, the educational system notwithstanding. For their parents must be held accountable for their own ignorance, as well as that of their children.

To call this film propaganda—according to definition, "systematic efforts to spread opinions or beliefs"—what would we say if we were told more often that Soviet children study the affects of nuclear war and arms build ups, at an early age discussing the same in their classrooms, year in, year out? (Don't take it from me, but from documentaries on PBS.)

Perhaps the real problem is that we do not do the same so that our children become adequately informed about their future responsibilities as citizens, statespersons, politicians, teachers, professionals and workers.

If the bliss of ignorance fades in the light of truth, then we must be thankful. For only then do we learn to hold the torch of liberty high and lit by our enlightenment, then our dissension; by our refusal to accept the ponderous blunderings and dissemblings of our elected representatives, whom we do not question enough or hold accountable enough.

The increase in the defense budget so recently has become to us an act of defense that is necessary. Yet there is no place to store all this hardware. So volatile is it that the constant journeys across the country, back and forth, would need no red alert to set the weaponry off, only a minor derailment.

If nothing more, "The Day After" should tell us about our responsibilities as citizens to protest loudly this obscene fascination with nuclear power in guns, missiles, CBMs, ICBMs, MIRVs, alphabetical cover ups that sound so important and potent, yet are indeed so lethal, even as they fall trippingly off the tongues of the warmonger leaders in Congress and our president, Ronald Reagan.

One patriot said recently, more to be feared than communism are the isms of the United States: nationalism, materialism and narcissism.

Nationalism, where we scoundrels find our last refuge in patriotism — "my country right or wrong" or the resurgence of "America love her or leave her" (the former, an apt paraphrase of "my mother drunk or sober").

For example, while we bemoan Japanese encroachment with hostility upon our economy, our own multinationals are making hay on both sides of the globe, as East meets West quite profitably, thank you.

Materialism, where we value money and things above humankind. A materialism that could bring survivors in the film to kill any who would encroach upon the fragile "security" of a make shift bomb shelter, even when all would die eventually. We build walls and cages around our homes, clutching "those treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt".

Finally, narcissism, the subliminal label for the "me" generation, with its books, cults and Madison Ave. seduction that sums up the ultimate in self-indulgence: "if it feels good, do it."

Tell me that impressionable children can't see this, mimic this, drown in their own self-destruction, as we parents and grandparents act out our fantasies?

It is therefore hoped that "The Day After" should certainly reawaken those abiding principles we preach, yet don't practice. Those nostrums we salve on with blind faith and vapid minds that don't heal; should be replaced with our inate capabilities to love rather than hate; to heal rather than wound.

If this film must do the job it set out to do—reverse the Orwellian slogan, "Peace Through Strength"—then we the people must act for peace, bringing the children, awakened and knowledgeable, along with us, to stop the arms build up; to encourage peaceful co-existence.

Tom Bradley and Ed Lamon

The untimely death last month of Thomas N. Bradley is mourned by a cross-section of the community, including black labor leaders

Bradley was president of the Md.-D.C. Council, AFL-CIO., which boasts a membership of over 400,000.

State Senator Troy Brailey remembers Tom Bradley in the forefront of all civil rights legislation for working people, both black and white, particularly his earnest lobbying on their behalf before the Maryland Legislature.

Last week, the AFL-CIO executive board picked Edward A. Lamon as Bradley's successor.

There were concerns in some quarters. Will the new president pursue the same high goals as he successor?

Senator Brailey believes that new President Lamon was the man behind the scenes who implemented many of the programs designed by Bradley.

Another black labor leader, Ray Clark, first vice president of the Baltimore Council, AFL-CIO, predicts Lamon will make an excellent leader. He points to his lobbying skill in Annapolis, and his successful direction of the AFL-CIO's political arm, the Committee on Political Education, (COPE.)

We are glad to have these assessments from people in our community whose views we respect, and wish Mr. Lamon well in his new assignment.

COMMENTARY

Guiding Light Center

Dear AFRO:

This is a rebuttal in reference to your article on "Guiding Light Baptist Church plans to keep going forward."

As a former employee of Guiding Light Child Development Center from Aug. 30 until Nov. 7, 1983, we feel that your article was misleading to readers of the BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN.

Although, we are not members of his congregation, however, we were the first staff members who were hired to impliment an educational learning center for pre-schoolers. (Director, teachers, and aides)

We are the ones who helped the center receive their licensing for 17 children and no more, from the Baltimore City Health Department

Meanwhile, we were told by Rev. Jones that the center was licensed for 60 children. All four classrooms and the only tasks that we had to perform were to set the classrooms in an education setting for pre-schoolers and the center will open on Sept. 6, 1983.

The center did not open then. It later opened on Sept. 12.

The Guiding Light Child Development Center receives funds from the State and Federal government. In a democratic society all employees are expected to be paid. We were not paid correctly.

We received one weeks pay on Sept. 28, and another two-weeks pay on Oct. 21. In the meantime, we contacted the proper authorities to receive a pay schedule of our pay periods which will be implemented in full force.

Rev. Jones stated to us that he could not pay the staff because he had to purchase a boiler with the State-Federal funds. He can not allocate for the funds.

On Nov. 4, at 12:50 p.m., Rev. Jones called the center and stated that he was not able to receive a loan to pay the staff and that he will try to get $60. to pay the staff.

The staff stripped the classroom walls and left the center with their own educational materials. We contacted the proper authorities of our above decisions that same day.

In closing, Rev James Jones has stated that "we were fired," which we were not. Some children were removed from the center.

The holidays are coming and some of us have families and other financial obligations to support to make it a joyful occasion.

Without motivation and affection one can not achieve his goals. But we keep striving toward perfection and have faith in God and our democratics system.

YVETTE M. BROWN
BARBARA DAVIDSON
JOANNE GREEN
MONICA REDD

Samuel L. BANKS — Thanksgiving 1983— time of hope and challenge

As 1983 draws to a speedy close, one sallent fact stands out in terms of 33 million black Americans: IT HAS BEEN A VERY HARD YEAR. Socio-economic indicator gives abundant evidence that the programs of Reaganomics have worked against black Americans and the poor and have wrought immeasurable psychological and socio-economic damage.

The jettisoning of the CETA programs and drastic cutbacks in social programs have had the effect of enlarging the underclass and creating, in particular, among blacks, Hispanics and the poor, a growing sense of alienation and hopelessness Even with the overall reduction of unemployment, the wretched unemployment levels among blacks, Hispanics and the poor have remained constant.

Black Americans who have borne the brunt of the socio-economic cutbacks have, through it all, a basis for hope. The fundamental basis for hope is that the austere and emasculating socio-economic programs directed principally against black Americans are now beginning to affect middle income white Americans adversely. This reality, as I have indicated in previous columns, will signal relief for blacks, Hispanics and the poor in our nation. THE HOLDERS OF POWER IN OUR SOCIETY SIMPLY WILL NOT ABIDE WHITE PEOPLE SUFFERING

During our Great Depression in the 1930's when the unemployment level reached twenty-five percent, a national emergency was declared by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Although unemployment levels in our nation's urban centers exceed 50 percent, there is neither talk of a national emergency nor even a sense of urgency. In point of fact, there are black Americans who have not been structurally (i.e., long-term) employed for the past 20 years.

The effect on black families has been devastating. Moreover, the unavailability of jobs for a disproportionate number of black Americans has contributed to a continuing cycle of dependency and hardship in black communities.

It is pointless to talk about safe and secure communities if a socio-economic underclass is permitted to proliferate without help and a feeling of a vital stake in our society. The human needs of all of our citizens must be given a higher priority if we are to achieve and sustain our national ideals.

Over 20 years ago our nation was exhilarated and uplifted by the high promises implicit in the administration of the late President John F. Kennedy. President Kennedy's prescience of mind, wit, engaging charm and soaring oratory gave us the sense that together we could rise to new levels of hope, renewal and fulfillment. While his administration was short-lived because of his assassination in Dallas, the tone and direction that he set raised our national spirit and beckon to us to believe in high human possibilities.

The spirit of hope and renewal typical of the Kennedy and President Lyndon Baines Johnson years has now been replaced by a national spirit of retrenchment, cynicism and meaness. This situation given the current mood of the nation will remain in place for the forseeable future.

Nevertheless, we as black Americans must continue our unrelenting and sacrificial efforts for full and equal citizenship. The most factor for black Americans is that their collective spirit has not been broken. Once you break a people's spirit, you have destroyed their vitality and will to persevere.

To the degree that most black Americans, in spite of blatant denials and exclusion, still nurture, an imperishability belief in their intrinsic worth and ability and faith in the democratic process is a towering and inspirational strength of black Americans. Hope, to be sure, is a pervasive and solid element of the national experience of black Americans.

Struggle, of course, is necessary for progress. Dr. Gordon Allport, late professor of psychology at Harvard University made a sage observation in stating: "People must have a hand in saving themselves; they cannot and will not be saved from the outside." Black Americans, then, within a democratic framework must remain unwavering and steadfast in saving ourselves.

The searing and powerful television drama, "The Day After," amidst continuing human inequalities and unfair treatment in our nation and the world community provides gripping and impelling testimony of the necessity of unity and cooperation. The time to begin equality of opportunity for all in our country, albeit late, can be deferred no longer. Freedom that is divisible, in fact, is freedom for none.

AFRO Survey

What do you think of the subway?

Helen Jones · Michael Moore · Deborah Wiggins · Eugene Conway

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "What do you think of the new subway?"

Michael Moore, 33, policeman, "It's only eight miles long. Idon't think much of it at all. It's not a real plus. It's just more tax money wasted."

Debra Wiggins, 24, cosmotologist, "I think it will put a lot of other transportations out of business. For example, cabs will surely be affected as well as people who hustle on the street."

Georgie Rogers, 60, domestic worker, "I think the subway is fine for those people who benefit from it. It does not help me at all.

Helen Jones, 30, copy editor, "The subway is terrific. It doesn't help me right now, but I think it's a great idea. You get where you're going fast."

Eugene Conway, 22, cutter, "For eight miles, it will help the downtown area and some West Baltimore communities. That's not too good at the moment, but for a start, it's ok."

Edwin Roberts, 30, unemployed, "It will not cater to the city's advantage, but only to citizens in the county. It's not coming from anywhere else in the city. It's only purpose is to get Pikesville back and forth to work."

Derrick Rideout, 14, student, "It's alright. It's fast transportation, but I'd like for it to go other places because it is a much cheaper way of getting there."

Barbara Baker 21 waitress "I think its pretty good. It will keep half of the people off the bus. With the subway people are able to get to places faster and besides it's more comfortable.."

Edwin Roberts · Barbara Baker · Derrick Rideout · Georgie Rogers

PLAIN TALK: Anemia in children

By Derrick Matthews, MD

Doctors frequently spend time talking with parents about obtaining "blood counts" for "anemia." Parents hear the word anemia and think they understand but often become confused when hearing about the various kinds of anemia.

There is sickle cell anemia, iron deficiency anemia, pernicious anemia, anemia due to blood loss, etc.

What is anemia? The term "low blood" is a less than accurate description of the actual state. The blood is composed of two different: 1) fluid, which is the serum and, 2) a solid component, the red and the white cells.

The red cells in turn contain a molecule called hemoglobin which carries oxygen in the blood. When a person is anemic it means that the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood has been decreased below acceptable levels.

The two most common measurements used to determine the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood (all other factors being equal) are the hemotocrit or packed cell volume and the hemoglobin. The hematacrit is the percentage of the total volume of the blood that is occupied by red blood cells. Most of the time when the total number of red blood cells is low, the hematocrit is also low.

The hemoglobin level is the amount of hemoglobin that is contained in a measured volume of whole blood. In general health there is a consistant amount of hemoglobin contained in each red cell (within a certain range). Therefore when the number of red cells is decreased the level of hemoglobin in the blood is also decreased.

At the "core" of the hemoglobin molecule is an iron ion. If the amount of iron in the blood is low the amount of hemoglobin made is low. If the hemoglobin is low the amount in each red blood is low (hypochromia), each red blood cell tends to be smaller (microcytosis) and there is a lower amount of blood space occupied by the red blood cells (low hematocrit).

Because of this correlation pediatricians use as screening tests the measurement of the hemoglobin level and or hematocrit. These are simple, rapid, and relatively inexpensive tests to do.

There are several other different tests to determine the various kinds of anemia. These include total iron binding capacity (TIBC), serum iron (Fe), serum ferritin, hemoglobin electrophoresis, cell hemoglobin (MCH), and the free erythrocyte protoporphyrin (FEP).

The serum ferritin is the best determination of the body's iron stores. These various tests help to distinguish the various kinds of anemia mentioned at the beginning of this article.

The most common form of anemia in the pediatric population is iron deficiency anemia.

This simple method is cheap and in the absence of other signs and symptoms does not present a danger to the child in delay of diagnosis.

Why treat iron deficiency anemia? It does not kill, make you look bad or smell funny. Lots of people have it, as much as 25 percent of the children in some communities.

Studies have shown, particularly in the past few years, that children with iron deficiency anemia and even iron deficiency without anemia can show characteristics of irritability, poor appetite, poor weight gain and changes in small bowel function.

Infants with iron deficiency have been described as "irritable" and showing "a lack of interest in surroundings." Studies suggest that iron deficient children score less well on standard tests and show decreased attentiveness and restricted perception and understanding in their studies.

These studies are recent and have required further investigation but for the sake of the children iron deficiency should be pursued and treated by the pediatrician and the parent together.

Frequently when iron defiecency is discovered by screening tests the child is placed on an iron-containing medication by the pediatrician. The best way to treat iron deficiency anemia, however, is by preventing it in the beginning through dietary means.

The infant is best served by the iron in breast milk which, while low in total concentration, is in the best form to be absorbed by the infant gut. The infant fed on formula should be given iron fortified formulas by four months of age. When started on food he or she should be started on iron fortified cereals to increase the amount of iron in the diet.

When a child is changed to table food the dietary sources of iron change. Meats are the most common source of iron with the typical American diet. The foods with highest amount of iron in the diet are liver, which is well known, heart, and oysters.

There are vegetarian sources of iron, however. These include iron fortified whole grain cereals, raisins and dried fruits, dried nuts and beans (legumes), egg yolks, molasses, and green leafy vegetables.

Spinach has been promoted as a good source of iron in the past but unfortunately the absorption of iron from spinach is poor despite a high iron content.

There are foods that decrease the absorption of iron into the body. Cows milk is well known for this. Cows milk should be decreased in the diet of an iron deficient child. Tea and coffee (which probably should not be in the diet of a child anyway) also decrease absorption of iron.

Juices, particularly orange juice, increase iron absorption and can be given together with dietary iron sources to help raise serum iron levels. This is mainly because of its vitamin C content.

Iron deficiency anemia is probably the most common nutritional deficiency in the United States. It can cause serious problems in children if not treated. It is fairly easily detected and subsequently treated. The best form of treatment, however, is dietary prevention.

NAACP REPORT: Fire Department jobs in Worcester County

By Magdalene B. Fennell

"Fire Department Jobs" an editorial appearing in the Nov. 19 issue of the AFRO decried the "pitiful small number" of blacks in the Baltimore City Fire Department. At the same time it commended the Fire Board commissioners for designing new procedures to improve hiring practices of the department.

It is ironic that while the fire department in Baltimore city is slowly progressing toward increasing the number of minority employees and the percentage of minorities with administrative rank that of Worcester County remains closed to black participation.

Beginning with the shocking statement "In living memory there has been one black fireman in Worcester County," the NAACP sponsored study of conditions in that county details procedures used by fire companies to insure the exclusion of blacks.

According to "Worcester County Maryland — A Dream Deferred" approximately 600 volunteer firemen staff 10 volunteer fire companies in Worcester County.

Since voluntarism in fire prevention is based on the assumption "that one's neighbors can be relied upon to protect houses near their own from fire" the perilous predicament of blacks is evident.

They live in segregated communities, are unrepresented in the volunteer fire companies and those called upon to protect their homes are not their neighbors. Because so many of them live in old unsafe housing they have more fires than whites.

The fire companies in Worcester County operate like country clubs. They are housed in "large modern recreational and community-center facilities" which blacks cannot use. They have ceilings on memberships, all are filled to capacity, and many have waiting lists.

Classified as private, non profit corporations, the Worcester fire companies enjoy tax exempt status. Although their primary funding comes from the county government, some funds are derived from the federal government.

And in 1982 the Worcester County Commission passed a resolution giving firemen protection under workmen's compensation.

Normally in a situation where blacks are not represented, aggressive recruitment can be used to rectify inequities. Not so in the case of the volunteer fire departments.

The problem is that membership requirements of each of the companies are so narrowly drawn as to permit a small group of prejudiced members to veto any black applicant.

Provisions in the by-laws of the Bishopville fire department are cited as being typical of those in most companies. These by-laws limit active membership to 40 and require that 80 percent of the members present and voting approve all applications.

Should a black applicant survive this initial vote he must then serve a probationary period of six months. And following the completion of this probationary period he must again survive the 80 percent present and voting regulation to achieve permanent acceptance.

No reason or explanation has to be given for rejection. Those who do not want blacks in the fire departments are given two opportunities to veto them — one when application for probation is made and one when application for permanency is made.

David Hronig, principal investigator in the NAACP study believes that membership requirements of the Worcester County fire companies not only violate federal statutes but the state's employment discrimination law as well.

He also believes that the failure of these companies to include blacks may make them ineligible for tax exempt status.

COMMENTARY

Subway opening guests

Dear AFRO:

I was outraged when MTA officials did not invite a Black State Legislator to sit on the platform during the official dedication of the subway downtown last Saturday morning. While I was outraged, I am not surprised because we are always invited to the preliminaries but not the main event. The Black Legislators were the deciding votes in the passage of the legislation that brought the Baltimore subway into fruition.

Rural White Legislators who were opposed to the subway questioned the Black Legislators as to why they were voting for the subway when their constituents would not benefit by it. As a matter of fact, one of the county legislators made a statement on the floor of the House during the time that the Subway Bill was being voted on, "I don't see why the Black Legislators are voting for the subway when the only benefit that would be derived from it would be black women going out into the white communities to work as maids."

Nevertheless, we voted for the Subway Bill because we were assured that during the construction phase, the system would directly generate approximately 15,000 manhours of employment representing a total payroll of 225 million dollars with infusion into the Baltimore economy. Additional 20,000 manyears of employment woul be induced or indirectly created with a total impact of the State of Maryland's approximately 150 million dollar investment in the 700 million dollar system which would produce 1.2 billion dollars and economic stimulus throughout the State. We were further convinced that the operational requirements for the first phase of the system will generate approximately 300 permanent jobs within the City of Baltimore.

If the Black Legislators had not voted for the Subway Bill in 1976, there would not have been a dedication last Saturday morning.

TROY BRAILEY
State Senator 40th District

NOV