

Bostonians Have 'White Flight'

BOSTON (AP) — "It's like peeling out roots. I cried for days," said Millie Farrell from her home in suburban Norwood. Millie and James Farrell and their six children didn't want to move away from Boston, but they were afraid taxes would go up and their West Roxbury neighborhood was beginning to deteriorate.

The final blow was a federal judge's ruling that city schools were "unconstitutionally segregated" and his order requiring the busing of thousands of pupils to schools outside their own neighborhoods.

"When the district lines came out, they went right across Franklin Park to where my husband won't even have me drive in the daytime," Mrs. Farrell said in a telephone interview. "I couldn't send my children there."

So the Farrells and an under-estimated number of other middle-class white families moved to the suburbs.

Sociologists call it "white flight," and they argue over

whether urban school desegregation is a factor.

Alfred Magaletta, a builder and realtor in suburban Westwood, said he has sold homes to families who "don't hesitate to tell you right out why they're leaving. They say, 'We don't want our kids to be bused.'"

But another suburban realtor, Stephen Gerome of Dedham, said he has not encountered the white flight phenomenon.

"We really have not sold to anyone who has rushed out of Boston because of problems there. We expected it, but we have not had that situation," he said.

White flight under the public school desegregation order in Boston may be taking another form.

F. Paul Quatromoni and his wife are among an also under-estimated number of white families who have removed their children from the public school system to the parochial system operated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston.

The three Quatromoni chil-

dren are no longer attending public schools in their Hyde Park neighborhood and, like the Farrell children, are part of the 9,000 students the public schools lost between this year and last year, when a temporary desegregation plan went into effect.

Prior to 1974, the public school system had been losing about 1,500 students a year.

Under the temporary plan, 17,000 of the city's 85,000 public school children were bused to 80 schools. The permanent plan now in effect requires the busing of 26,000 students to 150 of 162 city schools.

Projected enrollment in the public school system this year is 76,127.

During the first week of school, more than 24,000 expected pupils did not show up for classes.

Some of the students counted in the projected enrollment may be dropouts or may have been counted twice due to statistical errors — a possibility that school Supt. Marion Fahey says "we're going to be investigating."

She said enrollment projections will be revised by the end of the month, and most officials agree that they will be lowered. Some sources predict the projected figure may drop by as many as 10,000 students.

School officials have ordered

teachers to telephone the parents of every student in their classes who has not appeared, and letters are being sent to families who have given no reasonable excuse for their children's absence.

If students continue to stay home, they will be classified as truants.

Last year, white parents boycotted the schools in large numbers, and attendance levels rarely reached more than 50 per cent. But although opposition to busing remains high, there is no apparent attempt this year to repeat the boycott.

The number of public school students who may have transferred to parochial schools is not known.

Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, Roman Catholic archbishop here, has said the 46 elementary and 18 parochial high schools in Boston will not be available as "escape routes" for parents trying to avoid busing. He issued a strict set of guidelines to parochial schools for admitting new students.

Complete enrollment figures are not available, but at 43 parochial schools in Boston, enrollment went up 256 students from last year's total of 18,805.

In previous years, the parochial school system has lost students at a rate of about 7 per cent a year as a number of schools were forced to close for lack of funds. But the decline last year was only half that, and if total enrollment in parochial schools increases or stays about the same this year it could be significant.

"The vast majority of new transfers into the (parochial) system are from local parishes," said Brother Bartholomew Varden, superintendent of the archdiocese schools. "Most parishes won't accept outsiders."

"When you're speaking of white flight (from public to parochial schools), I just can't see it."

He said if any parochial schools show dramatic increases in enrollment, they will be questioned by his office to make sure the cardinal's guidelines are being followed.

Boston school officials say they are confident that attendance this week will increase from its peak level of 69.1 per cent on Thursday.

The parents of many children, especially on the elementary level, may have been keeping their children home during the first week of school to make sure that safety precautions were adequate, officials say.

With 1,800 police officers and 100 U.S. marshals backed up by 1,200 National Guardsmen on standby to assist in a peaceful school opening, no major incidents were reported during the week.

No classroom disruptions and no injuries to school children marred opening week, in contrast to last year's violent demonstrations in which school buses were stoned.

A total of 112 arrests were made by police during the week, mostly connected with nighttime disturbances in the Charlestown and South Boston areas of the city where bands of white youths skirmished with police for five consecutive days.

Authorities said 16 police officers were injured, none seriously.

Fronton Proposal Defeated

BARTOW, Fla. (AP) — Polk County voters have soundly defeated a proposal to build a \$3.5 million jai alai fronton in this central Florida community.

About 24 per cent of the county's 112,000 voters turned out for the special referendum Tuesday and rejected a bid by World Jai Alai Inc. to build the pari-mutuel facility. The vote was 18,593 to 8,661.

Opposition was led by several organizations, including some church groups.

Homosexual Claims Service Violates His Privacy Rights

HAMPTON, Va. (AP) — The attorney for T. Sgt. Leonard P. Matlovich, an admitted gay, told an Air Force discharge board here that the military's historic ban on homosexuals violates their constitutional right to privacy.

The Air Force regulation calling for automatic discharge of gay servicemen is unlawful because it imposes "the morality of the majority on its employees," said attorney Susan Hewman.

Ms. Hewman is one of two American Civil Liberties Union lawyers who are representing Matlovich, 32, who has been decorated during his 12 years in the Air Force, in the hearing that began Tuesday.

Matlovich himself prompted the hearing at Langley Air Force Base, where he serves as an instructor in race relations, when he wrote the secretary of the Air Force in March to admit his homosexuality.

His admission was designed to produce a test of the military regulations that prohibit the

retention of homosexuals by the military once their sex deviation is discovered.

The government contends that the presence of homosexuals in military ranks would hamper recruitment, destroy morale and offer foreign agents a chance for blackmail.

Ms. Hewman asked the discharge board of two majors, two lieutenant colonels and a colonel at the outset of the hearing Tuesday specifically to overturn the Air Force ban on homosexuals.

But her motion was quickly denied by the board's legal adviser, Col. Robert E. Shank, 52, who serves the board in the capacity of a civil court judge.

Each of the five officers on the board was closely questioned as to whether he had formed prior opinions in the case. Each said he had not.

Matlovich, son of an Air Force sergeant, showed little emotion as the hearing — which the Air Force said might last a week — often bogged down on technical issues in its opening

hours.

Now and then, the slender, dark-haired, defendant glanced around the room at the tiny crowd. At the lunch break he dashed quickly to his car, declining to answer most questions.

Asked by one newsman whether he thought all homosexuals in the military should make themselves known as he did, he replied:

"That's an individual question they must answer themselves."

Matlovich has said he isn't interested in becoming a symbol of gay liberation. Most of all, he has said, he wants to be permitted to stay in the Air Force because "my heart is with the military."

He said last week he thinks the discharge board will rule against him, but that if it does he will carry his case to the federal courts.

Matlovich served three tours in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart when he was wounded.



HOMOSEXUAL HEARING — T. Sgt. Leonard P. Matlovich, left, enters Air Force courtroom at Newport News, Va. for hearing called because he admits to being a homosexual. Military laws ban homosexuals from service. A photographer for a local paper is at right. (AP WIREPHOTO)

Entertainment Briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After time out from acting to serve as a producer, Gregory Peck is returning to the screen as star of "The Birthmark" for 20th Century-Fox.

Peck will play the U.S. ambassador to England in the original screenplay by David Seltzer. The story is described as "a modern-day fulfillment of the prophecy of the Book of Revelations with the coming of the anti-Christ."

"The Birthmark" will be directed by Richard Donner in London, Jerusalem and Rome starting Oct. 20.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBC News will take over a full evening of programming Jan. 6 for a special, "American Foreign Policy in a Changing World."

The network says the three-hour program will concern three major areas: The growth of U.S. foreign policy since the early 1960s; The new world situation and its problems, and the domestic debate on response to those problems.

Death Blamed On Pesticide

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Doctors are blaming a pesticide called nemagon for the death of a woman who died two days after spraying her lawn.

Dr. Edmund Kielman, medical examiner for Okaloosa County, said Mrs. R.J. Clark 53, of Fort Walton Beach suffered from nemagon poisoning, which attacked her liver.

"Her liver was devastated," Kielman said. "This woman was well before using this chemical for 3½ hours, inhaling it as she used it in a spray form."

"There is a warning on the can," he said, "that warns buyers that the chemical may be fatal if swallowed or inhaled. The manufacturers are well aware of this."

Kielman said Mrs. Clark's husband is hospitalized, apparently suffering from the same type of poisoning.

Dr. Joseph Garcia-Rios, the county's deputy medical examiner who performed the autopsy of Mrs. Clark's Sept. 11 death warned persons suffering from any liver ailment to avoid contact with the pesticide used to fight lawn worms.

Food Chain Executive Dies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Constantine Gus Cocoros, the Gino's Inc. executive who penned the "Everybody Goes to Gino's" jingle, died Monday while on vacation in Ocean City, Md. He was 47.

Cocoros, once a singer and drummer, worked his way up the food chain's ladder — from a \$1-an-hour dishwasher and hamburger cook in Baltimore in 1959 to vice president for communications.

Fuqua Advises Young People

Congressman Don Fuqua of Altha has urged young men and women beginning their Senior year in high school who are interested in attending one of the Nation's three service academies to contact his office for an application.

"These appointments are made in January and it is important that we have plenty of time to give each applicant an opportunity to submit their qualifications," Fuqua said.

"It certainly is an outstanding opportunity for young persons interested in attending West Point, Annapolis or the Air Force Academy," he said.



HELMS QUESTIONED—Former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms appears before the Senate Intelligence Committee in Washington Wednesday. The panel is seeking to determine whether the CIA destroyed records relating to its stockpiling of deadly poisons. (AP Wirephoto)

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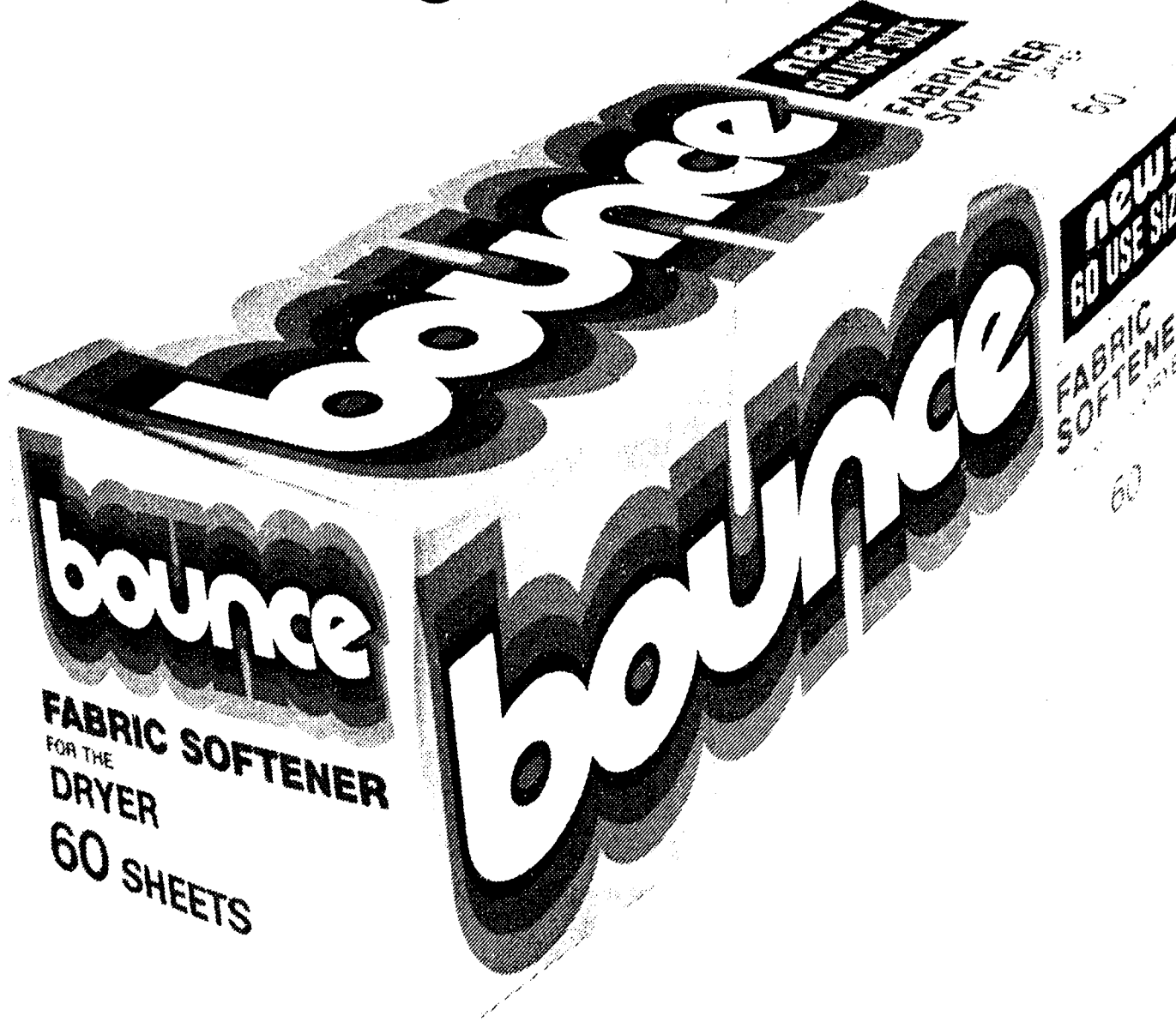
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