

Civil rights leader worried about future

By L. CANDY RUFF
The Capital-Journal

FORT LEAVENWORTH — What bothers Arthur Fletcher is a world coming loose at the joints, the United States becoming a second rate country and an uneducated generation being unable to take over the fight for civil rights and equal justice.

Fletcher, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, said America had lost its option of not using each individual to his or her capacity.

Fletcher spoke Saturday night to about 250 people at the annual Freedom Fund dinner of the Leavenworth branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Fletcher, 66, a veteran of the civil rights movement, was named by President Bush to head the commission in 1990. He immediately faced the task of fighting to keep the commission in place when it was threatened with elimination.

Despite the evidence of discrimination throughout society, "we still had to fight to keep the commission going," he said.

Fletcher began his remarks by telling of his father's years as a member of Troop B of the all-black Ninth and 10th Cavalry, commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Arthur Fletcher graduated from Junction City High School in 1943 and then joined the Army. After graduating from Washburn University in 1950, he taught in rural Shawnee County, and he said he donated what little money he had to the defense fund for the 1954 Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case.

His civil rights work continued within the federal government.

"The little black boy from Junction City has served three presidents, written laws that changed the way people were treated at the work place, and I like to tell my white friends that I did this all before civil rights," Fletcher said.

He emphasized education and the need to find the common ground that would insure the next generation had the abilities to meet the challenge head on.

Current civil rights laws aren't going to do the next generation any good unless it becomes educated, he said.

Lodge Notices

261 Special Notices

266 Personals

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3,479 pupils were enrolled in the Shawnee Heights schools. Tonight's report details average class size.

It shows the average grade school class has 21 pupils, although there are classes with as many as 27 third-graders and fourth-graders and

Most high school classes have 23 or 24 students.

The board also will appoint a delegate to the Dec. 7-9 convention of the Kansas Association of School Boards, at which the organization will set its lobbying agenda for the 1992 session of the Legislature.

Police report

Woman stabbed, baby injured in dispute at Topeka home

A 31-year-old Topeka woman was stabbed and her 3-month-old infant was injured in a dispute late Saturday, police said.

Topeka Police Detective Danny Hay gave this account of the incident:

Police were called to a house in the 1800 block of S.W. Randolph on a cutting. When they arrived, the suspect had left, but the woman said she believed the man, whom she knew, hit her on the back of the head with a table lamp, causing a 2-inch gash in the back of her head.

The man then beat her in the face with his fists, Hay said. The woman grabbed her infant and ran into the bathroom. The man then went into

the kitchen, grabbed a butcher knife, and told the woman he was going to kill the baby.

When she opened the door and tried to run past the man, he stabbed her. In addition to the gash, the woman had a 3- to 4-inch cut on her left forearm, deep enough to enter the muscle, and two puncture wounds on her left side. The infant had bruises to the side of its head.

Both were treated and released at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hays said.

A nursing supervisor said she had no information on the two that could be released.

No arrests have been made in the case.

Woman raped after letting man in house

A 28-year-old Topeka woman told police a man raped her Saturday

and raped her.

The man was described as black.