

Ex-METCO director eyes School Committee election

"Even though I don't have any specific plans," said Mrs. Katherine Jones, who has resigned after 10 years as Newton's METCO co-ordinator, "I have been thinking of the possibility of running for the School Committee."

Her statement was applauded by some 200 supporters who had gathered to honor the woman who developed and ran Newton's program from its beginning with 50 students in 1966 to its enrollment of 350, the largest in the state.

Mrs. Jones resigned in September because of outbreaks in state funding which resulted in the loss of a social worker and a counselor from the Newton program. If she does run for School Committee in the next election, she will challenge incumbent Dr. Edward V. Prince, Ward 2.

The dinner-reception at the American Legion Post 440 Hall in Nonantum was sponsored by Friends of METCO. Master-of-ceremonies was Franklin P. Olivierre, chairman of Black Citizens of Newton (BCON).

After hearing a series of tributes for her devotion and dedication and her determination that Newton METCO should not be merely a busing program shifting pupils from Boston to Newton but an educational program benefiting both black and white children, Mrs. Jones spoke briefly.

Acknowledging the co-operation and support of the persons in the audience and the members of the METCO staff, she called upon them for a reaffirmation of their commitment to the program.

(JONES—Page 8)

Jones—

(Continued from Page 1)

"The METCO program has been under some very severe attacks in recent months and it is going to be necessary for people to rededicate themselves to make sure the program does last and will be able to grow."

She commended her husband, her eight children, and her mother for the help and inspiration they had given her. They were all present. Her husband, an associate professor of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, and her mother, Mrs. Mary Butler, were at the head table. The children were at a nearby table.

Other head table guests were Supt. Aaron Fink; Joseph Warren, representing Secretary of Education Paul Parks; Donald Polk, who has run racial-awareness workshops for Newton teachers and administrators, reaching every school in the city; Roland Barth, principal of the Angier School and chairman of the Elementary School Principals.

Also, State Sen. Jack Backman; Mrs. Joan Warner, principal of the Hamilton School and past president of the Newton Teachers Association; Ellen Baker, METCO community chairperson for the schools, who represented the Friends of METCO in presenting a memory book and a painting by local black artist Brenda Haywood.

Also Newton Alderman-at-Large Matthew Jefferson; Robert Hayden, treasurer of BCON and member of the education committee, former METCO chairman; Clarice Lattimer, representing Mrs. Jean McGuire, METCO co-ordinator, Boston office executive director. Also, Mrs. Barbara Harrell, representing METCO parents, who presented the gift.

Richard Mann conveyed words of continued support of the program from his father, Mayor Theodore D. Mann, who was unable to attend because of illness. Mrs. Lillie Jefferson gave the invocation.

Among the guests were former Newton Supt. Charles E. Brown; Dr. Edward Landy, former head of Pupil Personnel Services; present School Committee members Mrs. Honora Kaplan and Robert Cohen; past School Committee members Mrs. Norma Fink, Herbert Regal, Mrs. Dorothy Reichard, Mrs. Eleanor Rosenblum, and Mrs. Grace Whitmore; Reps. Peter Harrington, Lois Pines, and Richard McGrath; and Alderman Ethel Sheehan.

Gifts included a book made by Cabot School youngsters, drawings by Ward School and Oak Hill children, an African soapstone sculpture from the staff and community of the Underwood School, and a mural from the Horace Mann School.

Music, under the direction of Sam Turner, principal of the Oak Hill School, was furnished by Roger Lamoureux, saxophone; Bill Wyman, drums; Joe Carpianto, bass violin; Cindy Hill, vocal; and Flo Turner, vocal and piano.

The committee included Mrs. Betty Clauber, Mrs. Nancy Cristifello, and Mrs. Marilyn Sicurella, co-chairpersons; and Mrs. Ellen Baker, Mrs. Karen Haywood, Mrs. Elizabeth Gerlach, Mrs. Lillie Jefferson, and Mrs. Sara Natale.