

Black History Month

Correction Connections: Grey & Glover Swear-ins

History, in general, doesn't seem to be a straight line nor even a zigzag line but rather a multi-leveled web of interconnecting criss-crossing lines. Consider two related NYC Department of Correction events from a Black History perspective: the swearing in on October 7, 1957, of Maurice W. Gray as Second Deputy Commissioner, and the swearing in later that same month of Archibald F. Glover as Deputy Director of Operations..

Besides Commissioner Anna M. Kross, who presided at the swear-ins in DOC's 100 Centre St. office, others in attendance at either or both ceremonies included:

■ **Hulan Jack**, who on Dec. 31, 1953, had been elected Manhattan Borough President, the highest municipal office held by an African American to that date. His "first" in achieving that office blazed a trail for other African American New Yorkers including Constance Baker Motley, Percy Sutton, and David Dinkins. Motley was the first woman Manhattan Borough President. Later, in rulings as a federal judge, Motley would significantly impact Correction operations. Borough President Dinkins in 1989 became the first African American elected NYC mayor. Dinkins appointed Allyn Seilaff and later Catherine M. Abate as Correction Commissioner.

■ **Thomas B. Dyett**, who had served as NYC DOC Deputy Commissioner and who later had served as a member of the NYS Commission of Correction. Dyett's record of activity on behalf of African American causes extended back to the late 1920s when he worked closely with NAACP against lynchings, among other issues, and when he served as a founding officer of a chapter of Columbia University post graduates in Alpha Phi Alpha, the first black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity.

■ **Harold A. Stevens**, then a NYS Supreme Court Justice who with later elevation to the Appellate Division



SWEARING IN OF NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (L to R) Anthony Principe, Director of Operations; General Session's Judge, Thomas Dickens; 2nd. Dep. Comr. Maurice W. Grey; Commissioner Anna M. Kross, Warden Harry Silberglitt; Rev. Archibald V. McLees, S.T.D., Moderator, Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council, Archibald F. Glover; Mrs. Carrie J. Glover; Warden Milton Klein; Mrs. Nettie Haley and Ass't. Dist. Attorney Lawrence W. Pierce, Kings County. [Photo and caption from DOC newsletter *Correction Sidelights*, Sept.-Oct., 1957.]



NEW 2ND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TAKES OATH OF OFFICE (L to R) Parole Commissioner Fitzgerald Phillips; Ist. Dep. Comr. Frederick C. Rieber, Maurice W. Grey; Commissioner Anna M. Kross; Hulan E. Jack, President, Borough of Manhattan; Rev. Gerald J. Fairweather; Gen. Sessions Judge Thomas Dickens; Thomas B. Dyett, former Dep. Comm. N. Y. C. Dept. of Correction and former member N. Y. State Commission of Correction; Hugh L. Tunney, Sec'y. Dept. of Correction. [Photo and caption from DOC newsletter *Correction Sidelights*, Sept.-Oct., 1957.]

sion of the New York Supreme Court would attain the highest rank of any African-American in any state judicial system in the country.

■ **Fitzgerald Phillips**, then a NYC Commissioner of Parole who had served as a DOC Deputy Commissioner. The Phillips' presence at the Gray swear-in opens a connection with a few "firsts" in Black History and Correction History -- including the first black NYPD officer and the first black DOC Commissioner. That connection is explored more fully elsewhere in this presentation.

■ **Lawrence W. Pierce**, then an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County who would later serve under Gov. Rockefeller as director of the Division for Youth and then as chairman of the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission. The NACC eventually evolved, after significant changes, into the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. Many NACC facilities were converted into NYS Dept. of Correctional Services prisons. Several current top DOCS officials started with NACC. Pierce served as consultant to a presidential crime commission in the late 1960s. President Nixon made him a federal district judge in 1971. President Reagan named him a U.S. Circuit Judge in 1981.