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## Lorain Negro Teacher Walks Out Of Meeting Discussing Race Issues

Benjamin Fain, a teacher at Admiral King High School and chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality in Lorain, walked out of the Community Concerns Seminar meeting Sunday night at Northminster United Presbyterian Church after a verbal exchange with several panel members.

Fain wanted to know what power the black man had in Lorain to control his own political and economic destiny.

Lorain Attorney William E. Wickens, one of the panel members said, "I know of no restraints against the black people. Lorain has many ethnic groups.

"MORE DIALOGUE is needed between all races," Wickens stressed. "Mayor John Lindsay has set up little "city halls" all over New York, but Mayor Woodrow Mathna's door is always open to anyone in Lorain. Most white people don't know any Negroes and the Negroes don't know any white people. Dialogue is the first step."

Fain asserted that something should be done to get more black policemen and



FAIN



**WICKENS** 

bring Negroes into the fire department.

Mayor Mathna said to his knowledge no Negro has ever applied for a Civil Service examination for the fire department.

The police department now has one Negro.

MATHNA SAID his office has offered to send individuals to help school prospective candidates for policemen and firemen.

Persons on the police and fire departments must take a Civil Service test and the mayor said individuals would be sent out to help educate the candidates on the type of material that would be on the test.

HE SAID he has made the offer to many organizations, "but so far nobody has come to us."

"We follow the state laws. We cannot change them or amend them," Mathna said.

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