



MAYOR WHITE ADDRESSES M.B.T.A. OPPONENTS (Phil Preston Photo)

Mattapan MBTA Foes Lobby White

The status of the \$13 million M.B.T.A. expansion from Ashmont to Mattapan square remained unchanged Friday despite pleas of 100 Mattapan and Milton residents urging Mayor White to oppose the program.

White heard arguments from the group that proposed M.B.T.A. storage yards would involve a loss of homes and drastic drop in surrounding property values.

He met with Milton town officials for a half hour, then for 45 minutes with 10 persons from the Mattapan delegation while a large crowd—mostly women—

waited in his outer office.

White made no promises to the group. And his aides said the mayor is not going to reverse his vote of Feb. 29 backing the M.B.T.A. plan.

The mayor is chairman of the M.B.T.A. Advisory Board and has 38 percent of the vote. Boston pays about 62 percent of the deficit.

The expansion project includes relocation of storage and repair yards from Harvard square, Cambridge, to Mattapan square to make room for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library.

Milton officials told Mayor White the proposal was a "frantic" move to hasten

construction of the library.

They called it a "wasteful" expenditure and said it would reduce, rather than improve, M.B.T.A. service. Even as the meeting went on the town of Milton was filing suit in Suffolk Superior Court in an attempt to block the project.

Town Counsel Robert O'Leary based the suit in part on contentions that the M.B.T.A. Advisory Board vote approving the project was illegal.

Judge August C. Taveira set a hearing for Mar. 25.

After the meeting, White greeted the crowd waiting in his outer office, shaking

hands and chatting with the women.

Some of them were carrying placards that read: "Keep the M.B.T.A. Monsters Out of Mattapan," "M.B.T.A. Monsters Can Cause Residents To Move From This City," and "Mattapan Organization Protests the M.B.T.A. Extension."

The press was barred from the meetings.

Advisory Board members say that the only way to reopen the issue now is to have the M.B.T.A. board oppose the expansion. The Advisory Board, a separate body, no longer has control over the program.