Area Rent Office Cites Impartiality

"Impartiality in dealing with landlords and tenants in problems of rent control is one of the chief aims of the Office of the Housing Expediter," Walter R. Heath, area rent director, stated this week, in reporting facts and figures.

"During the month of January, there were received in the Baltimore office, which takes in Baltimore City and six surrounding counties, 696 petitions for adjustments of rent, of which 544 were granted," Mr. Heath said, adding:

"There were 595 tenants' complaints, 71 of which resulted in reductions in rent as a result of reduction in service.

Tenants Get Back $2,652

"Forty-seven refunds made during January to tenants fo a total of $2,652, were by means of voluntary compliance agreements between the violating landlords and the Rent Office following reports of overcharges.

"The voluntary compliance procedure is followed in all cases of violation with court action taken only as a last resort," the rent director reported.

Simplified Forms Ready

Mr. Heath also reported that simplified short forms have been provided for landlords who own four or less units and feel that they are entitled to an increased rent due to increased expenses of taxes, insurance, utilities, and fuel.

The rent office will be glad to answer all questions if the landlords and tenants will write or phone the office, which is located at 400 E. Lombard St.

late city

Democratic Club to Expand Work

Gratified with the successes noted during the past year, members of the Monumental Democratic Club have pledged to further their work during 1949.

Though deeply concerned with increasing the strength of the party in Baltimore and Maryland, they are also interested in strengthening their own unit.

One of the club's primary goals is a registration drive. It is making arrangements to transport potential voters to the office of the Supervisor of Elections so they may become eligible to vote in the next election.

1948 Activities

During 1948, the club under the direction of William B. Dixon, president, arranged for the installation of a water sprinkler with which to shower children in the 500 block Preston St. during the hot weather.

The members also raised some $568 and purchased enough food to supply 179 baskets which were distributed among the needy on Christmas Eve.

Two Baltimore Soldiers at Fort Lewis Promoted

Two Baltimoreans serving with the 503rd FA Battalion stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, received promotions recently.

Robert L. Wyatt, 212 Dallas Ct., was promoted to private from recruit, and Gilbert Cornish, 123 N. Aisquith St., was elevated to private.

Pupils Learn Importance of the Ballot

Dunbar High School's Negro History Week program emphasized the meaning of citizenship and the importance of the use of the ballot. Class 8A1 presented a skit, "Stop Getting Mad, Get Smart," which carried out this theme. The use of the voting machine loaned by the Supervisor of Elections, was also demonstrated. A group of pupils from 8A1 are shown with the machine and Haley Douglass, grandson of Frederick Douglass, who addressed a Dunbar assembly.

Utilities Rate Rise Opposed Before PSC by Progressives

Signatures of more than 5,000 Marylanders to petitions denouncing as "entirely unwarranted" the requested increases in telephone and gas-electric rates, were presented to the Public Service Commission, Wedensday, by members of the Progressive Party.

A resolution which had been introduced at the party's town meeting, last week, accompanied the petitions, which were presented to the Commission by Mrs. Ilmi Anderson, city treasurer of the Progressive Party, and Sam Schmerler, utilities committee head.

The petition bluntly charged that "the local telephone company is willingly falling in line with its parent body, The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the trust which is currently trying to obtain rate increases all over the country."

Padding Figures, Party Says

It further accused the C. and P. of "padding and manipulating" cost figures.

As to the gas-electric rate boost, the petitioners suggested that the reduction in the cost of electricity supplied to it by the Pennsylvania Water and Power Company "should be passed on to the consumer in the way of decreased rates."

Copies of the resolution are to be sent to Governor Lane, the speakers of both houses of the State Legislature and other interested parties.

6 Cabbies Nabbed for High-Flagging

City authorities are campaigning against white cab drivers who are making short trips in Northwest Baltimore without recording the fares, thereby pocketing the cash.

Six drivers for the Diamond, Sun and Greyhound taxicab companies were haled before Magistrate Fitzpatrick, Wednesday. They were charged with making trips without turning the flag atop the meter down.

The magistrate imposed suspended fines and referred all of the cases to the office of William F. Monaghan, supervisor of the taxicab bureau, for further action.

"I Forgot," Hackers' Excuse

The court cases resulted from investigations by two inspectors who said they had trailed the cabbies for distances ranging from five to ten blocks.

Testimony revealed that the driver had been working for the different companies for periods of time ranging up to 20 years.

The excuses for having committed the violations, though slightly varied, generally were, "I forgot, your hoonr, but I promise it won't happen again."

Out to Stop Practice

Commenting on the situation, the magistrate said:

"There is a definite movement afoot against the practice of high-flagging in Northwest Baltimore and a special detail of officers has been sent up here to break up the practice.

"The area up here is overcrowded and thereby present a fertile field of prospective riders. However, we're not going to tolerate that sort of thing. High-flagging must stop."

Manager of Local Office

George L. Jude this week took over the post of manager of the local office of the Crayton Sausage Co., at 1706 Etting St. In the life insurance business for 14 years, Mr. Jude was assistant manager of the West Baltimore Branch of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Trolley Fare Won't Pay 13c, Ends Paying $16.45

Inflation hit John Gilliam of the 1000 block of Harlem Ave. on Sunday. A 13 cents debt jumped to $16.45.

According to testimony, Gilliam boarded a trolley, and when the conductor refused to accept his transfer, he refused to pay another 13 cents for his transportation and created a disturbance on the streetcar. Haled into police court, Gilliam was fined $16.45.

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