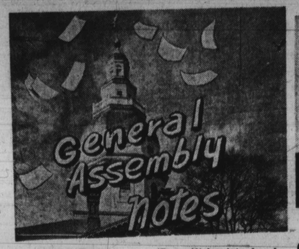

General Assembly Notes

(AFRO Bureau)

Del. Larry Young (Dem. 36th) became the first black legislator in the history of the Maryland General Assembly, to make the annual Washington's Birthday address.

Young, 25, made a moving but sober speech in honor of the nation's first president.

Noting how far the nation has come and how far it has yet to go, he said, "My colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the father of our country would want, I believe, the least among us to find contentment, and the best among us can find greatness. All of us will respect the dignity of one and admire the achievements of the other."

Quoting Daniel Webster on Washington, he said, "He let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country. And by the blessing of God, may that itself become a vast mountment, not of oppression and terror but of wisdom, peace, and of liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever.

Young received a standing ovation from his fellow delegates as he stepped from the podium.

BILLS INTRODUCED . . .

Sen. Clarence W. Blount, (D-41) has introduced legislation, "to provide that all non-support cases shall be civil and to give the equity courts the power to order liens on a payer's earnings."

The bill, Senate Bill, 561, has been sent to the Senate Judical Proceedings Committee.

"It does no good to put a man in jail for not supporting his wife and children, since this does not produce the money needed to feed the family."

He pointed out that the families of the men usually wind up on welfare, with the State footing the bill.

Sen. Blount has also introduced legislation calling for the creation of a TV Emmy Award program in Maryland "to give recognition to producers and stations which provide programs beneficial to children."

COST OF LIVING INCREASES

Del. Walter R. Dean, Jr. (Dem. 41) has introduced a number of important bills this week. One House Bill, H. B. 895, provides for a cost of living increase for welfare recipients.

The bill is co-sponsored by Dels. Arthur G. Murphy, Sr., and Pinkney Howell (Dem. 41); Kenneth L. Webster (Dem. 40); John S. O'Brien (Dem. 43); Gerald J. Curran (Dem. 44), Decatur Trotter (Dem. 25) of Prince George's County and Donald L. Rosenshine (Dem. 30) Anne Arundel County.

"Every year," said Dean, "Welfare Rights groups and their supporters must fight tooth and nail to gain minimal cost-of-living increases for those receiving welfare checks."

His bill would help them receive increases automatically.

Another bill, House Bill 893, co-sponsored by Del. Arthur G. Murphy, Sr. (Dem. 41) would authorize cost-of-living increase to non-classified state employees.

At present certain employees can not obtain annual increase at a rate equal to the cost-of-living.

SCHOOL LUNCHES . . .

Del. Dean and Troy C. Brown (Dem. 39) have introduced a bill, House 857, to assure that all Maryland public school children receive a free and reduced price breakfast and lunch.

The bill is a major effort by the Maryland Food Committee to assure a decent meal for every school age child in Maryland.

"Nutrition is essential to good learning, said Dean. "Approximately 195,500 are eligible for the breakfast and lunch program."

He pointed out that "higher food prices and greater unemployment make it essential that public schools not only provide the proverbial three r's but also the mutrients that allow a young person to want to learn."

GUINEA PIG BILL

"In response to organized demands for medical research on prisoners, Delegate Dean, has introduced a measure forbidding such research. The bill, House Bill 894, which is patterned after a bill introduced by Cong. Parren Mitchell in the U.S. House of Representatives, is co-sponsored by Delegate Loyal Randolph (Dem. 40th); Decatur Trotter (Dem. 25); and Lena K. Lee (Dem. 38th)

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ISD, part of national network?

By Angela Chatman
(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS—One thing stands out amid the confusion of the State Senate investigation into charges of alleged spying by the inspectional Services Division of the Baltimore City Police Department.

And that is: the ISD and other local police departments are only small parts of the national police network.

This was the issue raised as the State Senate Committee on Constitutional and Public Law held its private hearing on Tuesday.

People coming before the committee agreed that the ISD was but a lip of the iceberg—a small part of a national problem.

Among those agreeing with this was Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, III who sat in on the hearing.

Even Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's attorney, George Russell, alluded to a national network, calling it a matter of "internal security."

"The internal security of Baltimore City is intertwined with the security of the state of Maryland and also with that of the U.S.," he said.

Calling the ISD operation "Mickey Mouse," Russell said, "There is no such thing as Baltimore internal security."

However, others did not interpret this network as favorably as Russell.

Among those who expressed the feeling that such activity is a violation of a person's rights was Thomas Bradley, president of the Metropolitan Council of the AFL-CIO, who called it "the old McCarthism back again in a vicious form."

"A lot of this stuff has been going down for years," John Wilmer of the American Civil Liberties Union, declared.

Others who testified were Charles F. Cole, Fran Donelan, Dan Hungerford, Ralph Kerman and Jeff Hayes of the Quaker Society.

• • •

Also Phil Sneak, a policeman who was fired; Tom Dantoni and Michael Klahr of the underground newspaper, "Harry," and Charles Shole, a private citizen retired from the armed forces.

• • •

Sen. Edward T. Conroy, chairman of the committee, briefed the press afterwards and said of the situation: "The police do have a certain right to investigate if they have probable cause that a crime will be or has been committed.

Sen. Mitchell blasts Pomerleau's letter

By Angela Chatman

ANNAPOLIS — Sen Clarence M. Mitchell, III (Dem. 28th) reacted bitterly Monday night to a letter forwarded by Atty. George Russell on behalf of Baltimore Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau, in which Russell charged the State Senate in allowing itself to be used as an instrument to indirectly abuse blacks in Baltimore.

Attacking the current hearings on Pomerleau's use of police spies to report on leading figures throughout the state, Russell declared the hearings are "not only legally, but morally wrong."

On the second page of the 4-page letter to the State Senate's Constitution and Public Law Committee, Russell asserted that the "committee is unwittingly being used as an instrument to disrupt the last bastion of order in Baltimore City.

"I am particularly sensitive to this matter because it is my black brothers and sisters who are the cannon fodder for this folly."

Immediately, Sen. Mitchell shot back:

"George Russell has not been black in such a long time that he doesn't know what the black citizens happen to feel. And indication of this is that he represents the police department. That statement is from a white perspective and not a black perspective."

Otherwise the reaction among members of the legislature was generally mixed. There were levels of concern but for the most part the legislators regarded the document as a typical lawyer's tactic.

Sen. Verda F. Welcome (Dem. 40th) said she objected to the way he uses black people."

Among thsoe taking the calm approach, Delegate Lena K. Lee (Dem. 38th), herself an attorney, said, "This letter doesn't worry me one bit. That's what a good lawyer is supposed to do. I refuse to get upset about strategy."

Del. Troy Brailey said, "No one should be disturbed about the letter because that's just the usual tactic of a lawyer to upset his opposition."

Del. Arthur G. Murphy, Sr. (Dem. 41st) said, "If he thinks it's illegal and immoral and void ab initio then the best thing is not to show for the hearing and let the court be terminate."

Others like delegates Lloyal Randolph (Dem. 40th), Walter R. Dean, Jr. (Dem. 41st) and Hattie N. Harrison (Dem. 45th) had no comment.

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Marshall Center to observe anniversary

The Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center will celebrate its first anniversary on Wednesday, March 19. The center was named for the late city councilman.

Activities will include games and open house for children from 3 to 5 p.m. Adults and teens will participate in the second open house session from 7 to 9 p.m. when films and demonstrations will be highlighted.

The public is invited.

Mrs. Lossie P. Richardson is director of the center.

Sen. Welcome wants burglar alarm licensed

(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS—A hearing was held Wednesday on a bill which would provide for the licensing of companies that make burglar alarms. Senate Bill 326, introduced by Sen. Verda F. Welcome (Dem. 40th), went before the Senate Economic Affairs Committee.

Citing the rising crime rates, Sen. Welcome noted that "more and more people are installing protective burglar alarm systems in their homes and businesses. Her bill was introduced to protect the purchaser from buying inadequate systems from disreputable companies and because after installing a system a company has a master key by which they can get into one's home or business.

The bill provides for the State Police to establish a licensure procedure and an approved list of burglar alarm systems.

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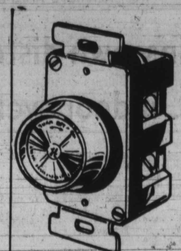
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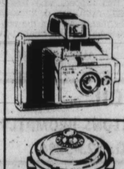
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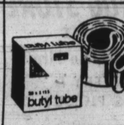
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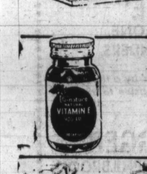
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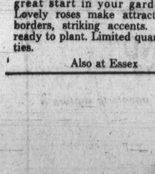
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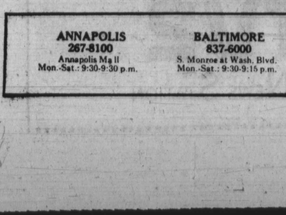
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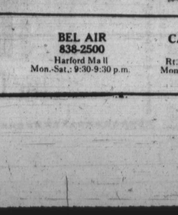
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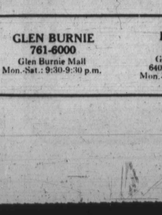
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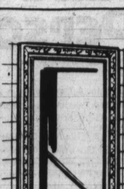
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