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Local politician linked to hotel double murder

Douglass blasts Lee on black jobs

East Baltimore assembly delegate John Douglass (D-45th Dist.) has blasted acting Gov. Blair Lee III for not appointing blacks and women to state government positions.

Douglass released figures Thursday which showed that out of approximately 500 appointments made by Lee since he took over as governor only eight per cent were black Marylanders, 19 per cent were women despite the fact that they constitute 21 and 50 per cent respectively of the state's population.

"I grew more and more irritated when I read the appointments," said Douglass. "We (Black legislators) put pressure on him to make black and female appointments but he still follows the old line."

Douglass said despite his persistent criticism along with others, Lee has still failed to place a black person on his personal staff.

Douglass attacked Lee's office and other state agencies for discriminatory personnel practices in late January when he released results of an 18 month study showing that while black state government personnel is 28 per cent of the total work force, most are concentrated in the lowest ranking jobs.

"The appointments of the heads of Employment Security and the Assessment Departments and the Insurance Commissioner are prime examples," he said. "Black persons could have been appointed to those spots."

He pointed out that out of approximately 14 major appointments not one was black or female.

Schoolmarm owned Wabash Liquors

A local politician has been linked to the double murder of local school teacher Sondra McMeekin and a New York business executive at the Pikesville Hilton Hotel Aug. 3 the AFRO has learned.

The political figure's name surfaced early in the AFRO investigation of this bizarre case. County police, however, quickly suppressed the name and have been extremely tight lipped about the person's role regarding this crime.

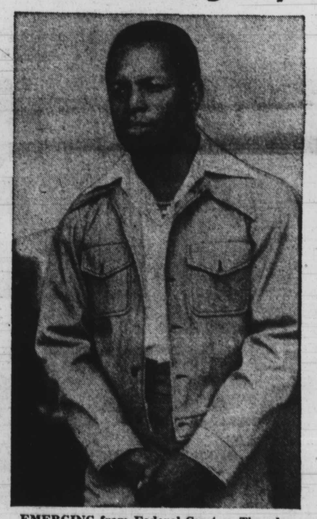
Continuing inquiries by

(Continued on Page 2)

Back to the books at MSU

SCHOOL'S IN — Despite torrid weather, Morgan State University students are back in the classroom for the fall semester. Classes started Thursday, August 25.

'Little Will' guilty



EMERGING from Federal Court on Thursday morning after pleading guilty to distribution of heroin is William "Little Will" Franklin. (Story Page 2) Photo by Robin McGinty.

DELIVERS EASTSIDE PRISON FOES' LETTER

Mitchell meets Carter, demands 'war' for jobs

By Wesley G. Pippert

WASHINGTON — The chairman of Congress' Black Caucus told President Carter Wednesday that unemployment is "killing" American blacks, and said he would fight Carter "with all the vigor I possess until we do something about joblessness."

"He smiled," Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., told reporters after a White House meeting in which he said he reprimanded Carter for alleged "neglect" of black economic problems.

"But he did indicate he expected me and others to fight him on this issue."

The President called Mitchell to the private conference as part of an attempt to consult with black political and social leaders who are attacking his domestic policy record and accusing him of ignoring campaign promises to impoverished black voters.

Mitchell indicated he used the occasion to renew that attack and to suggest Carter make amends by launching a "war on joblessness."

White House staffers and key staff people in the various U.S. agencies contacted Cong. Mitchell Thursday concerning the "War on Joblessness" proposal discussed with President Carter Wednesday.

All contacts have been positive and it appears there is widespread support for the concept.

Cong. Mitchell refuses to release the full details of the proposal, pointing out that it will be discussed in depth with Carter when the entire Congressional Black Caucus meets with him Sept. 7 at 9:15 a.m. at the White House.

"While it is true that the "War on Joblessness" was a critical item in the meeting with the President, we must not overlook another equally

(Continued on Page 2)

HIGH RISK INSURANCE BLUES

Black drivers pay, white lawyers prosper

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Three days after the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (MAIF) disclosed it spent $845,000 for private attorneys, a 9.4 per cent rate increase was granted to them by the state.

None of the lawyers, however, who received MAIF funds in 1976 were black, said Frank M. Conaway, board chairman for Ashburton Insurance.

But 80 to 90 per cent of the premium paying clientele of MAIF are black, Conaway said in a letter to Acting Governor Blair Lee that asked why no black lawyers were used.

"How many of the 70 law firms working for MAIF litigants in 1976 were minority-owned? How much of the nearly $1 million in fees were paid to minority lawyers?" the letter asks.

Payments were made to the law firms for a total of 1,369 settled cases, according to John Corbley,

(Continued on Page 6)

AFRO Survival info

Minority subway money up to District court

The District Court of Maryland will decide soon if minority contractors will be getting any money for subway and other construction projects.

Robert Dashiell, general counsel for the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) said the District Court should rule in about 60 days whether or not the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) should honor the federal and state law governing small business set aside practices for construction contracts.

"It all depends on how long it takes the government to respond," said Dashiell. "There are no facts to dispute the case. The problem is the interpretation of law as it stands now."

MMCA filed suit this week asking for a declaratory judgment on whether the FHA should honor the set-aside laws and for them to follow

(Continued on Page 2)

Ethel Waters dies

ETHEL WATERS, star of stage and screen, died Thursday, apparently of heart failure, at age 80. Miss Waters, a veteran of more than 60 yars in show business, had been ill for about a year. She died in Chatsworth, Calif.

What minority contracts fight means to you

Minority contractors now have a chance to share in millions of dollars in state construction contracts.

Right now there is $87 million in federal and state money under construction from the State Highway Administration (SHA).

Minority contractors are now allowed a shot at 10 per cent of all the SHA contracts released. Using that formula, the contractors, then, would be guaranteed at least $8.7 million of the $87 million currently under construction.

If minority contractors get this money, more jobs are created for black workers. If minority contractors continue to get their lawful share of contracts, black unemployment currently near 40 per cent, will be reduced.

The state law promising minority contractors this percentage is called the Small Business Set-Aside Act.

The law says a minority business can get a con-

(Continued on Page 6)

'631' popular with 'Mr. Fro' players

CONGRATULATIONS TO $100 WINNER — Mrs. Ruth Tanner, 1700 Block Preston St., with 'Mr. Fro' as Mr. George Lee presents her with $100 check for having the AFRO in her home.

'Mr. Fro with Dough' gave away $40 Saturday, August 27, with no one hitting the $100 number.

The number 631 was picked by two of the four $10 winners as the 'Fromobile' traveled through east Baltimore searching for folks who had a copy of the AFRO.

Miss Banessa Crim, 23,

(Continued on Page 13)

Provident seeks help from outside

Provident Hospital board members are still trying to find the best way to handle the institution's day-to-day operation while they look for a new executive director.

The AFRO has learned the board is planning to hire a management consultant firm to run the state's oldest facility while the selection of a director proceeds.

Dr. Vivian Inglehart, recently appointed interim executive director, will hold the position for a month.

Billingsley, McCants declare peace

Some 60 days after being fired the former vice president for student affairs and Morgan State University president Dr. Andrew Billingsley have reached a peaceful accord.

Dr. Billingsley announced this week that Gerald McCants, who held the position for only a year, has signed a one year contract to teach in the MSU Department of Education.

McCants was given notice by Billingsley in late June after discussing with him the possibility that he might be replaced.

(All university administrators who report directly to the president have letters of appointment and serve at the pleasure of the president.

(A university president can give notice to administrator without explaining his reasons for the notice.)

The AFRO asked if McCants was forceably removed or if he agreed to the change.

"He was not fired," said Billingsley. "He was reassigned. When we talked he misunderstood what I had said. Then the media blew it all out of proportion just about the time I left for the Far East and there wasn't an opportunity to resolve the matter until now."

He added if he had given McCants notice with cause he would have to state the reasons for the notice and then become involved in a board of regents hearing.

The AFRO also asked if McCants' work performance was the key behind his "reassignment."

Billingsley would not comment but did say he had his own ideas about what type of administration he wanted around him.

While Billingsley was in the Far East the head of the Student Government

(Continued on Page 6)

STEVIE!

STEVIE WONDER IN N.Y. — Stevie Wonder is due in New York at AFRO press time (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. to appear at a campaign rally for Percy Sutton at Avery Fisher Hall. A spokesman at NBC-TV in New York told the AFRO that an erroneous rumor originated at WRC-TV that Wonder was dead. Later the AFRO switchboard lit up asking for details.

SEP