Minority business workshop to be held at Morgan

The Baltimore Area Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joins the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and Morgan State University in sponsoring a Minority Business Enterprise Workshop.

The workshop to be held at Morgan State University on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. will bring minority contractors face to face with Community Development Block Grant recipients from Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Bel Air, Cambridge, Havre de Grace, Harford County, Howard County and Westminster.

CDBG recipients will discuss with minority contractors specific contracting and subcontracting opportunities including: general construction (excavation, paving, utilities, landscaping), rehabilitation construction, demolition, electrical, plumbing and mechanical subcontracts, architectural, engineering, accounting and janitorial services.

Prime Contractors present will discuss subcontracting opportunites with minority contractors. Technical assistance and information regarding financing, bonding and working capital will be provided.

Bonifide minority contractors interested in participating in the workshop should pre - register by calling Mrs. Maxine Cunningham, Director, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at 962-2157

Fort Armistead bill expected to pass

ANNAPOLIS — The House of Delegates is expected to pass a bill sometime Friday that would designate Fort Armistead Park in South Baltimore as the site for a planned 890 bed state prison instead of the current East Baltimore site at the old Continental Can Co. factory.

Details of the debate and vote were unavailable at presstime.

The bill, backed by Acting Gov. Blair Lee III, calls for construction of a $26 million prison at Fort Armistead, but has a clause requiring prison construction in East Baltimore if the Fort Armistead property, now held by the city, is not transferred to the state by Feb. 15, 1979.

It received preliminary approval Wednesday with little debate, but Del. Paul Weisengoff, D-Baltimore, who doesn't want the prison built in his district, said he will fight the bill to the end.

He recognizes the bill will pass.

The Fort Armistead measure has received the backing of the state black caucus and the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore.

The plan was offered as an alternative to Continental Can after community pressure forced Lee to drop the East Baltimore site.

Experimental help for ex-offenders

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Lodged in one of Baltimore's downtown hotels is a group of ex - offenders who stay there on a regular basis. Surprised? Want to know what are they doing there?

Well, the 25 men are part of a 90 - day experimental program set up by the Prisoners Aid Association Inc., called the Residential Employment Program (REP).

In essence, it provides a place for the men to live while they spend all day looking for employment.

"The program is based on the assumption that the main problem is that men need a job. They can get a job, but the difficulty comes in because their [illegible] is unstable," said James D. Korn, the center director.

Individuals who are accepted into the program must follow a strict list of 25 guidelines that can result in termination if they are violated. For example, the program forbids the use of drugs, and no visitors are permitted.

"A guy won't last 90 days here unless he isn't looking for a job," Korn boasted. "Anyone who has an attitude of 'I'm going to find a job,' they usually do."

Willie Durham is one of the exceptions. He has been a REP participant for more than 90 days and has had a job for one month. Durham, who says he will be leaving next week, was granted a 30 - day extension.

"No longer primarily concerned with finding a job and worrying about where his next meal will come from because of his job as a welder, Durham gave his impression of the program.

"I don't think it's too many people who been here who can say they completed the program," Durham said. "As far as violations are concerned, it is too easy to get in trouble. But a man can come here and make it."

Edward Jenkins, Durham's roommate, has been in the program for about one month and has not been hired yet.

"I got a lot of burglaries on my record," Jenkins said. "Most jobs don't want that, but I got a chance of getting this job tomorrow through."

Anyone interested in getting into the program go to the Prisoners Aid Association, Room 109 Old Town Bank Building, Gay Street and Fallsway, Baltimore.

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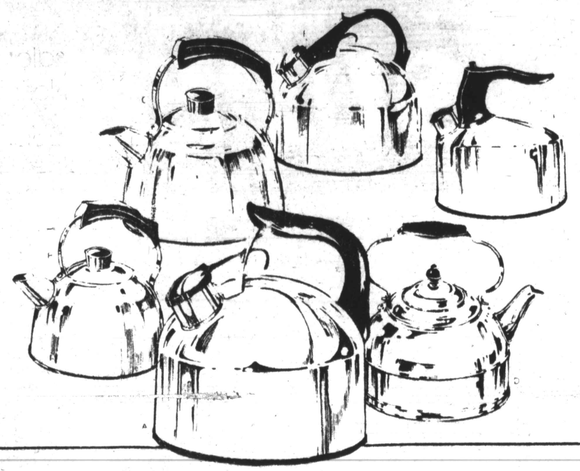

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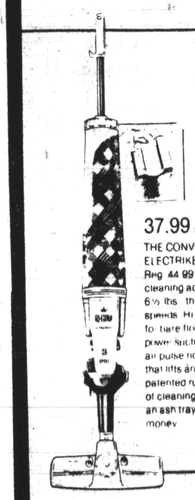

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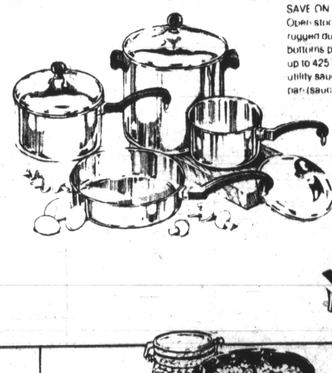

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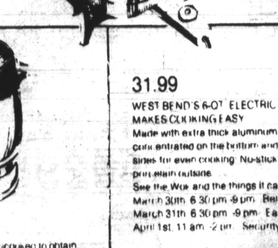

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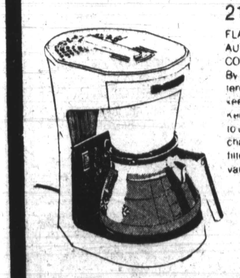

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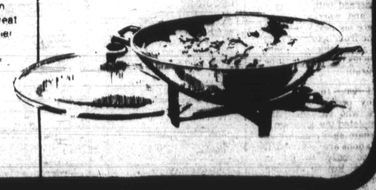

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