—Del. Brailey

(Continued from page 1)

Brailey, who serves as vice-chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, has introduced a bill that would prevent landlords from arbitrarily increasing rents before leases expire.

He said he was prompted to introduce such legislation after receiving numerous calls from renters all over the city who complained of exorbitant increases without prior notice.

"Most of the calls come from people who are on welfare recipients or on fixed incomes," stated Brailey. "Constant increases can put a great strain on these families."

Brailey continued by saying that many groups and organizations are forming a "solid block against my bill."

He said the groups include Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., Home Builders, apartment owners, landlords and a statewide tenants organization.

The bill has been rescheduled twice for hearing because the delegate has been absent from the session for more than one month. He was attacked a month ago and sustained injuries that prevented his being present during the session, now in its ninth week.

Because of his interest in the constitutional amendment to give full voting rights to the District of Columbia, Brailey returned two weeks ago, though not up par, to cast his favorable vote.

At that time he suffered a relapse and was unable to return for the reconsideration vote after the resolution failed by one vote the first time.

Another bill which Brailey co-sponsored would allow cafeteria workers who are state employees to get unemployment benefits while they are out of work during the summer.

During an interview, Brailey commented on such topics as the D.C. amendment, home mortgage loans, funding of abortions and pension reform.

"I have some reservations about lifting the ceiling on home mortgage loans. Personally, I don't think blacks will benefit and will probably pay higher rates than some other people," Brailey explained.

On the topic of funding for abortions, he said that he has been in favor of the funding and plans to vote against any bill that would restrict such funding.

He questioned the pension reform bill by saying that even if passed, would not take an immediate effect.

"This bill would not affect the state's share of pensions for about 30 to 40 years from now. And then, state employees will receive much less than they are receiving now," he said.

Serving as a delegate since 1966, Brailey is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

BLOOD BROTHER — Howard Willoughby of the 2000 block of Harford Road responded to a Red Cross emergency appeal for blood platelets during the recent blizzard. Willoughby was one of 142 city employees donated at a blood drive organized by Baltimore City officials on less than 24 hours' notice. A city parks employee, Willoughby said he was "shoveling endless snow" when he heard the appeal for blood.

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—Suspect named

(Continued from page 1)

The grisly discovery was made after neighbors complained about smelling a strong odor coming from the Morley Street house. A neighbor told the AFRO he could not sleep because of the odor. Three days later he decided to call the police.

Mrs. Robinson was found in the second floor bedroom. Her head had been cut off, the right hand severed from her wrist and found beside her body.

A medical examiner told the AFRO the victim had "numerous" stab wounds in the chest and one in her back."

Lights were still on in the two story row house Wednesday night when the AFRO talked to neighbors. Police found a set of keys, one plastic syringe, hand rolled cigarettes and $8.50 on a dresser in the bedroom.

Lights and a television set were also on in a first floor room when police entered. Neighbors told police the last person they saw enter the Morley Street house was on March 7 when they saw a woman enter about 6:30 p.m. and later left the scene in a car.

Mrs. Robinson was separated from her husband and employed as a domestic worker.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. at William C. March Funeral Home on North Avenue. Last rites will be held 10:30 a.m.

The victim's husband told the AFRO, "I really don't know what happened and do not know who she was visiting on Morley Street."

Born in South Carolina, Mrs. Robinson is survived by five daughters, three sons; one sister and eight grandchildren.

—Son gets life

(Continued from page 1)

A witness testified the defendant borrowed his brother's house key and was seen entering her house two days after he had an extra key made.

Mrs. Young had lived in East Baltimore for over 50 years and was called "Ma" by her neighbors and friends. During the day she would spend most of her time sitting at the window in her second floor apartment watching children in the neighborhood.

Evidence was also produced by state witnesses that the defendant's butcher knife was missing from near his bed where he usually kept it.

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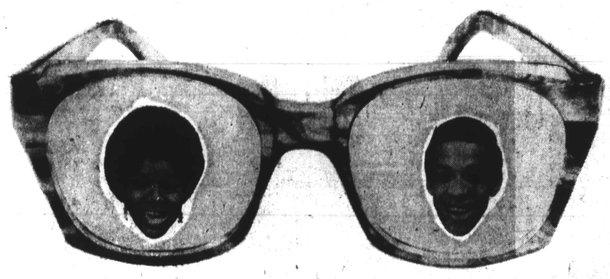

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—Needy families storm Annapolis

(Continued from page 1)

According to a spokesman for the Maryland Food Committee, after clothing and rent expenses are met, a mother only has 17 cents per person to spend for a meal. Persons receiving food stamps have about 47 cents per person for each meal.

To protest this devastating low payment, welfare mothers, armed with children in one hand and signs in the other, joined forces with city and state advocacy groups in Annapolis this week.

Their protests were displayed at a House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee hearing on a bill requiring that public assistance grants meet the state standard of need.

Currently, payments do not meet the state standard of need which was determined in 1969.

Families are forced to meet living costs that have increased 100 per cent since 1969 on payments that are based on living costs 10 years ago.

Introduced by Walter R. Dean, the bill would increase the $267 payment for a family of four to $314.

"We are just trying to make the state provide what it says a family of four needs to live on," said Dean.

He explained that the $314 would only bring assistance payments up to a subsistance stence standard set in 1969.

It is expected that Maryland will have a surplus of $300 million at the end of fiscal 1979 which ends in June.

"We're only asking for $10 million," Dean pointed out, "which is really nothing considering the surplus we expect to have."

Gov. Harry R. Hughes, last weekend, proposed an additional $900,000 for welfare payments which Dean says comes out to only "two cents more per person for a family to live on."

At the two - hour hearing, mothers spoke about how they lived on low assistance payments.

One mother, who has four children, was only allowed $57 for housing even though her rent costs $100 a month for three rooms.

Through her continued efforts to provide for her family she was able to attend Coppin State College, get a degree and land a job that increased her income from $3,400 to $9,600.

Another mother with four children told the committee, "We're not asking for too much, we just want to exist and take care of our children."

More than 200 strong, mothers travelled by bus to the state capitol after nearly 3,000 went out all over the state asking for support.

Prior to this week's protest in Annapolis, a representative group of welfare mothers and advocacy group members met with Gov. Harry Hughes to air their feelings about the low grant proposal.

According to Bob Cheeks, head of Welfare Rights, "We left the meeting with a pretty good feeling. The governor listened to our grievances and said he would do what he could to help."

"The governor said he would consider the raising of the grants a priority and said he might be able to raise the grants if he found a way to supplement them."

Cheeks also said that the governor told the group that whatever he was able to do, "the grants still won't be as high as the recipients want it."

Another bill sponsored by Dean would provide emergency assistance grants and services for those families in immediate need of food or clothing.

The bill would also cover payments for utility bills when families are faced with gas and electric disconnections due to non - payments.

—Del. Dixon

(Continued from page 1)

"The Baltimore City administration supported this concept last year but withheld its support this year because the insurance commissioner is also concerned about the negative effects of present automobile insurance rates charged Baltimore residents," he explained.

Dixon continued, "I believe the city administration is passing the buck and simply withdrawing from the battle against insurance rates."

Another insurance related bill Dixon introduced before the House of Delegates would prohibit companies from increasing premiums for any policy written for less than one year.

This bill is necessary, says the legislator, because some insurance companies have been sending out automobile policies in Maryland on a six - month basis, giving the false impression that "economically it is in your best interest.

"Under this arrangement any rate increase, chargeable accident or motor vehicle violation would be assessed to your automobile insurance policy every six months instead of once a year," he pointed out. "Subjecting the policyholder to an increase in premiums every six months instead of annually."

As a member of the House Economic Matters Committee for 12 years Dixon is involved in hearing bills which include mortgage interest rates, beer [illegible] for food chain stores, landlord and tenant rent control, unemployment and workmen's compensation.

"I have a very busy and interesting session," says the delegate who was the only appointee to represent Baltimore City on a special committee on mortgage interest rates.

"If the ceiling on mortgage interest rates had been lifted earlier, many people could have purchased homes requiring lower down payments which could have represented a hedge against inflation," Dixon asserted.

The House of Delegates overwhelmingly voted by 108 - 20 to lift the ceiling. The bill, also approved in the Senate, was rushed to the governor for his signature and went into effect a month ago.

Other Dixon - sponsored bills include allowing the lieutenant governor to run as a separate candidate; abolishing district court commissioners; and prohibiting cigarette advertising on state highways.

MSU Umoja Council plans Zimbabwe Day

The Umoja Council of [illegible] Government Association at Morgan State University is sponsoring Zimbabwe Day-an awareness of the struggle of blacks in Southern Africa.

Zimbabwe Day will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 1979 in the McKeldin Center Ballroom beginning at 1 p.m. Activities include a film presentation, slides and a lecture.

Mrs. Sylvia Hill, professor of public administration at University of D.C. and a founder of the Southern African Support Group will conduct the activities.

Everyone is urged to attend. The program is in attempt to encourage support for Zimbabwe in particular and Southern Africa in general.

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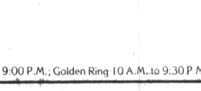

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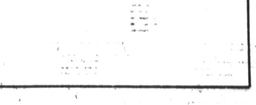

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