Md. black caucus blasts budget cuts

By James M. Abrahams
AFRO Staff Writer

Members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus Wednesday unveiled a list of priorities which they say must not be cut by the General Assembly or be sacrificed as part of Governor Hughes' "austere" 1982 budget.

The legislators told those assembled at a noon press conference that the budget submitted by the House Appropriations committee to the General Assembly last week included over $50 million in cuts which would adversely affect their constituents in the poor and black community.

"The big cuts are at our expense," said Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-Baltimore, who has had the unenviable task this session of sitting on the House Sub-Committee on Education and Human Resources.

Most of the budget slashes in social service programs and education were approved or amended through that committee.

The legislators, under the direction of Frank Conaway, head of the Caucus, have come up with a three-tiered package of budget cuts which the 19-member group plans on opposing.

The first group of high-priority budget items in the list include a total of nearly $37 million in cuts from programs labelled "critical" by the legislators.

They include aid to three state black colleges, cuts in the Income Maintenance Program of the Department of Human Resources, and the Department of Motor Vehicle's Metropolitan Transit System.

Also included among the high-priority items are the Adult Disease Control services system and the Medical Care Program, both operated by the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The legislators urged restoration of a budget request for $5 million from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, which would have been used to construct a new teaching facility.

The second group of "medium - priority" items on the list include a total of almost $10 million in A partial listing of those programs under the budget-cutting axe include the state Public Defender Unit, which may be cut by $104,000, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Community and Residential Services program.

Those items afforded the lowest priority include the $121,000 Drug Abuse Administration of the Department of Human Resources and the State Office of Business Liaison, which may lose $1,500,000 in funds if the current suggested budget is approved by the General Assembly.

$10,000 of the Adult Continuing Education Program funded by the state would be eliminated, but caucus members endorse contigent policy which would require those enrolling in the External Diploma Program to pay a $10.00 fee.

"If you look at the total sum of the cuts, submitted to the General Assembly), almost a third of them impact on the poor, the elderly and the young," said Del. Rawlings. "These are really anti-family cuts."

Although Rawlings and other members of the House Appropriations committee have been warned by committee leader John Hargreaves, D-35, to vote for all of the cuts suggested by the committee, Rawlings said that he has reservations about that courses of action.

"On some of these issues," he said, "I will be a team player, but in good conscience I can't support the welfare cuts or the mass transit cuts."

The package of items is seen as the main strategy for the upcoming debates on the floor of the House next week. The black legislators apparently have listed the items in the high-to-low priority order so that they will have some "bargaining chips" at their disposal.

Del. Conaway will be meeting with Governor Hughes this week to outline the strategy for the administration. In a letter requesting the meeting, Del. Conaway noted that "black citizens and the poor of Maryland have been the prime victims and target of the Appropriations Committee's actions.

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Women's seminar

A series of of regional seminars focusing on training for the political and economic arenas will be sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Women's Political Caucus on Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Billie Holliday Room of the Gatsby nightclub, 1817 N. Charles St.

Keynote speaker for the event will be the Honorable Michael Mitchell, Baltimore city councilman and board member of the Pepsi Cola Company.

According to group spokespersons, the seminars are being held to provide an opportunity for men and women throughout Maryland to formulate a set of rules that will make their participation in the political and ecomonic arenas easier.

Admission to the seminars is free and open to the public. For information, call 539-3200.

—CETA

(Continued from Page 1)

Jim Jones and he said obviously we want to hit both Senate committees.

"The only answer the city can offer is a job search training program," said Keyser.

The city plans to make every attempt to help the 3,000 workers. Keyser says a two week workshop will be held to teach the workers skills on how to find jobs and how to prepare a resume.

The State Department of Human Resources reports that the unemployment rate in Maryland surged to a four year high of 7.4 percent in January, but may go back down again in the next month.

"It is the highest number of unemployed people we have ever recorded in the state," said department spokeswoman Marilyn Corbett.

The unemployment rate jumped from 6.2 percent in December to 7.4 percent in January, the largest December-to-January rise since 1975 and the highest rate since the 7.7 percent recorded in February 1977, the state agency said. The largest drop in January occurred in the trade industry because holiday buying ended and workers were laid off.

A. Philip Randolph founded the Negro American Labor Council in New York in 1960.

Parents seek support

The Parent Teachers Association of school 164 in conjunction with the Education Task Force and the Cherry Hill Improvement Association is asking all citizens of Cherry Hill for their support against the proposed closing of Arundel Elementary School 164, 2500 Round Rd.

The hearing date is March 19, 6 p.m. at Goldstream Elementary School, Exter Hall and Loch Raven Blvd.

Parents should sign the list that will be placed in all churches in Cherry Hill if they need transportation on March 15. Cherry Hill residents are also asked to make a donation for the bus transportation. For further information call 333-1432 or 333-5117.

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Boy Scouts acknowledge their black beginnings

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

For black boy scouts in the city, the celebration of boy scout month was more than a mere formality—it was a reminder that scouting as the world now knows it had its very beginnings in the heart of Africa.

As the Black Roots of Scouting Committee honored some of the patriarchs of scouting in Baltimore, including Wilbur Pinder, Sr., George W. Bailey and Theodore O. Randolph, there was an air of unmistakable pride throughout the small banquet room at the church in which they all sat, not only from the men being honored, but also from the young boys who seemed to understand that they were a part of a very important legacy.

Lord Baden-Powell, the English officer who was sent to South Africa during the war between Great Britain and the Boers of that country in the early nineteeth century, became fascinated with the ways of life of the natives he came to know so well.

From their hunting techniques to the ways they tied knots to anchor canoes in the sea, Baden-Powell picked up a sense of efficiency that he understood as being fundamental to survival. He watched, he observed, and he learned himself to do the things the native African men and women did with such ease, and he took what he learned back to England with him. He found some young boys who were interested in what he could teach, and the scouting movement had begun—fresh from the motherland of Africa.

Bailey, Pinder and Randolph were some of the earliest pioneers of scouting in Baltimore, raking their way through much of the muck that prevented blacks from becoming a part of the organization which had sprung from their ancestral land. Although the scouting movement officially began in 1907, blacks were not allowed to charter troops until 1936, after much struggle, and even after that headway had been made, blacks were often confined, as they are today, into isolated, segregated districts.

The patriarchs honored at the Black Roots of Scouting dinner were not, apparently, hampered by the obstacles placed before them. Randolph met the venerable Baden-Powell himself, after he had pushed his way into the ranks of scouting and had begun to prove that blacks could be all that their native fathers had taught Baden-Powell that they were all about. Bailey once walked from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. where Baden-Powell was due to make an appearance. He says he did it for two reasons—to meet Baden Powell, but also to earn a badge. Earning excellence had become a part of his life.

"This is the only award I have ever received that I did not earn," he said upon being presented with his plaque, "but it is the most cherished."

All three men received their awards with quiet dignity and humility, and spoke to the group of the past excellence of scouting and the need for the movement to press towards those standards today.

Pinder, who started the first Black Sea Scout unit in Baltimore and who served as assistant district commissioner in charge of Explorers for 18 years, cited God over and over in his remarks, reminding the young boys present that with the help of God, nothing was impossible, not even the return to scouting as it has been so long known.

Bailey, who was the first district commissioner of the Monumental Scouting District in D.C., continued to press on despite his demotion to assistant commissioner when the district became integrated. He served for 45 years. He, too, stressed perserverence.

Randolph was the first instructor of Outdoor Camping for the Monumental District, and served for 34 years before moving from active scouting service.

The men, however, reflected little on their accomplishments, or on their long years of service, in their remarks to the group, Instead, they emphasized excellence of character and the will to press on, despite odds.

George W. Bailey

Dr. Theodore O. Randolph

Wilbur L. Pinder Sr.

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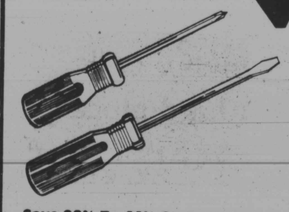

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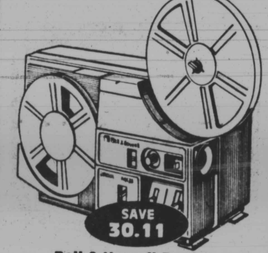

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Andrew "Boots" Johnson, was honored posthumously at the annual Black Roots of Scouting Banquet. He has been hailed as a specialist in "inner city scouting development." Johnson died in 1972.