Friends remember Wilkins

By Patricia Talton
AFRO Staff Writer

Former Civil Rights leader and NAACP executive Roy Wilkins was remembered as a "great" man, "the diplomat of civil rights circle," and "tough" by some of his friends and associates.

Wilkins died in a New York City hospital earlier this week ending a long and eventful career first as a newspaper man later as a champion of civil rights.

Silas Craft of Columbia now serves as president of the Howard County NAACP. But years ago, Craft said he was NAACP vice president of personnel. During those years, he and Wilkins developed a "close working relationship," he said.

Craft said when he met Wilkins in 1945, one of the first things that struck him about the St. Louis native was his "masterful use of the English language."

He also remembered Wilkins as a quiet, astute man and a prolific writer.

"He was a man for all seasons. He was the diplomat of civil rights circles," Craft said.

Enolia McMillan, president of the Baltimore City chapter of the NAACP, said she met Wilkins more than 25 years ago. They were not personal friends, she said, but learned to respect the man and his work.

"I worked with him at (NAACP) conventions and in committee meetings. I had enough contact with him to respect and appreciate the kind of job he was doing," she said.

Wilkins was not a forceful speaker, but when he did speak he "always said something."

"He always made sense. He was a very cool person and he kept a low profile, but that just told half of the story, because he was tough as well as tender," Mrs. McMillan said.

Baltimore attorney, Clarance Mitchell Jr., said he was an AFRO reporter when he met Wilkins in 1953. Mitchell said he was covering a lynching in Princess Anne, Md. when Wilkins and Walter White, then NAACP executive secretary, questioned him about the incident.

Mitchell said he joined the NAACP's national staff in 1946 and the two men's association continued until Wilkins death.

Wilkins was often characterized as calm, level headed and serious minded, but he had a lighter side, Mitchell said. He was not a story teller, but has use of inference and intonation, putting emphasis on certain words and phrases often "invoked laughter," he said.

"He was skillful in making statements that would have a humorous effect on his audience."

—Redistricting

Continued from page 1

headed the caucus effort to increase black representation.

Douglass, along with Rawlings and Del. Walter Dean, D-41, were working overtime at last night's hearings as they canvassed the room in search of the votes needed to maintain their map.

Rawlings managed to introduce a motion which would have called for the caucus' map, plan B, to be introduced before the Governor's Commission on Redistricting as a substitute for plan E, which was approved by the group of delegates.

His motion lost.

What is left is a plan which, instead of giving blacks a 70 percent ratio in northeast Baltimore, would instead leave the 43rd district with a 39 percent black representation.

Since there are currently four black districts, blacks had hoped to gain majority representation after redistricting, which will leave the city with nine districts.

The caucus plan, if it had been approved, would have given blacks in northeast Baltimore a chance to elect a delegation which would have tipped the scales in favor of black representation.

Conaway, who heads the caucus, and Douglass both say they are now prepared to fight the plan in court.

They have already approached the Monumental Bar Association, a black lawyers' group in the city, to obtain legal representation to contest the plan.

—Advance Federal

Continued from page 1

He said customers have indicated their desire for a facility where they can bank their funds after hours, so the overnight depository is expected to be a service to area churches and businesses.

Checking accounts, which pay interest at 5.25 percent, may be opened at the new office, as well as Advance's other offices on North Avenue and Cold Spring Lane.

Interest on checking accounts is compounded daily and credited monthly. There is no service charge for checking accounts which maintain a minimum monthly balance of $300.

Advance also pays high interest rates on savings accounts, five- and one half percent on regular passbook and six percent on 90-day accounts. A wide variety of certificate accounts also are available, including the high yielding six month Money Market certificate, minimum $10,000.

Interest on Money Market certificates for the period Sept. 8 to Sept. 14 is 16.04 percent.

Advance is the only black-owned federal savings and loan institution in the state of Maryland. It's home office is at 1411 E. Cold Spring Lane. A second branch office is located at 1411 W. North Ave.

Advance's assets, as of July 1981, exceeded $27 million. All funds banked at Advance are insured up to $100,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp.

—African Queen

Continued from page 1

But in August the entrepreneurs decided to close the Harborplace business. "It was very sudden," Mrs. Williams stated.

Now the couple will decide this week whether to go ahead with plans to open a restaurant at York Road and Cold Spring Lane. The new facility would be a eat-in restaurant with a carry-out and would expand its menu to include other soul foods.

While Mrs. Williams says the business venture at Harborplace was a financial loss, she says it was a very good learning experience.

"Now I know how to successfully run a restaurant at mimmal cost.

She stated that House Company, which developed Harborplace, was helpful during the difficult times, but that the concept there did not blend with African or Caribbean food. In addition to the African Queen, Quanna's a Caribbean food place, closed in December 1980.

At the same time the African Queen closed, Pronto Ristorante, an Italian restaurant in the Pratt Pavilion, closed. Its owner, Jacques Remekers, also blamed escalating operating costs as the reason for the decision to close.

Morgan seeks more aid

David Johnson, Morgan State University Board of Regents chairman, made an appeal to the governor this week, urging him to consider a total of $7.1 million in additional funding to the university's $32,577,398 budget.

In referring to the governor's 1981 address to the General Assembly, Dr. Johnson urged Gov. Harry Hughes to make a "firm" statement of commitment to making Morgan a "real university."

According to Johnson, the level of support Morgan has received from the state, the legislature and the state Board for Higher Education, has not been sufficient to make this mandate a reality."

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GOP minister slams Supreme Bench pick

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Local GOP leader Rev. St. George Crosse has blasted the proposed appointment of Arizona legislator Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Bench.

Crosse, who ran unsuccessfully for the comptroller's seat in the 1979 municipal elections, says that he is opposed to O'Connor because "priority must be given to moral issues facing our nation, particularly legislation to protect the unborn child."

He said that now that President Reagan's tax and budget program programs have won approval, it is time to focus on the moral issues Reagan espoused during his presidential campaign.

The minister, who has offered to debate several clergymen on the abortion issue, said that O'Connor "has a documented record of being anti-family and pro-abortion, and if she has changed her views and opinions...she owes it to President Reagan and the public to say where she stands."

Crosse pointed out that the Republican platform is anti-abortion, and is also opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment, yet O'Connor has supported both.

He questioned Reagan's commitments to his own promises to support the platform.

He pointed out that O'Connor, during her tenure as a Arizona legislator, had pushed for a state-wide referendum on the ERA, helped dismantle a controversial anti-crime bill, and supported several bills he termed "anti-family."

They include a measure which would have granted "no-fault" divorces a bill which would have allowed minors to obtain abortions without the knowledge or their parents, and a abortion issue.

Crosse hinted that President Reagan's nomination of O'Connor calls into question his own commitment to the GOP platform.

The platform states that "we will work for the appointment of all judges at all levels of the judiciary who respect family values and the sanctity of innocent human life."

"On November 5th, 1980," recalled Crosse, "in his first press conference as president-elect, President Reagan said that he was 'totally wedded to the GOP platform...it would be cynical and callous for me to turn away from it."

Soul Shack slighted

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

A local black restauranter is upset over his exclusion from a list of area eateries published by Metropolitan Magazine, a black-owned publication.

According to Lawrence Coleman, editor of the magazine, the Soul Shack was excluded from the feature on local dining places because, "we didn't have space."

But Kenneth Bryant, owner of two restaurants which bear the Soul Shack name, says that he feels that he and other black eateries should have been included. The feature lists several Little Italy dining spots and a Northwest Baltimore establishment run by blacks but owned by Jews.

"How many times have any of these restaurants advertised in Metroplitan?" Bryant asked a reporter. "And I've never seen the magazine in any of their establishments."

The Soul Shack had purchased several full-page advertisements in the magazine, which is owned by Robert Douglass, a state Senator and businessman.

But Bryant and Glendora Cox, his partner, say that there is another reason for their anger.

"When you look at a magzine like this," said Cox, "It should be like looking into a mirror...but I don't see anything, (in the feature), relating to blacks who are dining out."

"When we go out to eat," added Bryant, "do we have to go to these places they list?"

Caucus ready?

Del. Frank Conaway, D-40, head of the Legislative Black Caucus, said that the caucus is prepared for the 1981 legislative session.

In the past, the caucus has been roundly criticized for its failure to develop a long-range strategy prior to the convening of the General Assembly, but according to Conaway, this session will be different.

The delegate, who had close ties to Rev. Marion Bascom and other local religious figures, said that he will be sponsoring a "Clergy-Legislative Understanding Day."

This will give members of the clergy a chance to communicate their concerns to caucus members, said Conaway.

The caucus, according to a letter sent out by Conaway, has run out of money, and the meeting held on Sep. 1, was also designed to solicit dues from caucus members. Conaway said that all present had done so.

Besides redistricting, Conaway said that the state prison system and welfare payment increases will be the priority issues the caucus will tackle.

Senior activities planned

Project Security & Action for Golden Agers (S.A.G.A.) Multi-Purpose Senior Centers are sponsoring a variety of activities and classes this Fall.

Blood Pressure screening, Modified Yoga, billiards, creative crafts, sing-a-long hours, personal grooming, bowling, and other activities are being sponsored as well as films, discussions, seminars and outings.

Centers are located at 3121 Walbrook Ave., 523-3320; 2700 Rayner Ave., 233-7600; 1400 E. Federal St., 396-3861, 501 E. 22nd St., 366-4810; 1300 E. Lanvale St., 396-3861.

The times and dates of various activities and classes vary from center to center. Call the center closest to you for more information.

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