—'Du' Burns

(Continued from Page 1)

and Finance committee, said.

And Reeves said the trustees unaccountability is a relatively unique municipal administrative structure.

"There is no operation in the world that operates this way," Reeves said. "Even investment banks have loan committees."

Although Burns was not able to muster enough votes to recall the referendum amendment for reconsideration, and perhaps to scuttle it, the mayor's inactivity means it is all but dead anyhow.

Only if the mayor signs the measure within five council meetings of its July 26 approval date will the charter amendment appear on the 1983 ballot.

But the mayor has been openly hostile to efforts to limit trustee power, and is not expected to revive the measure with his signature.

—Frank Conaway

(Continued from Page 1)

Leaning forward on his brown-colored round table, Conaway stubbed out a cigarette in an ashtray, apparently collecting his thoughts.

"I want to say right up front that I have had some business problems, but... I also want to say he who is without sin, let him cast the first stone."

Conaway said those troubles center around "mismanagement" rather than willful intent. Former employees and associates engaged in questionable business dealings in his absence, he said.

"I was just not able to follow the political process and spend the time needed in a business of this magnitude to properly control it," he said.

In the past, he said he has learned some employees accepted money under the table and did not apply that money to insurance premiums.

The funds mismanaged by those former employees and associates, some of whom no longer are living, is far in excess of what insurance carriers are "saying they are entitled to," Conaway said.

For those misdeeds, he said he takes full responsibility and in some cases he was obligated to pay the premiums even though his employees did not send the money to the insurance carriers.

"You can't have a business and depend on others to run it. What mistakes they make or what wrong they do, ultimately the responsibility is on the owner and I don't shirk my responsibility," he said.

Conaway said he realized selling his insurance firms at the time he did may raise questions and eyebrows. In the past he said selling was not an admission of guilt.

In fact, he said he has been considering selling his firms for more than a year and had been made several offers. In the end, he said, serving his constituents won out over running a business.

In light of his troubles, Conaway said some of his opponents have been making political hay against him.

"Also contrary to what some of my opponents are saying - no citizen went without coverage," he said.

For the most part, the public has been positive towards him and he hopes to be re - elected to the House.

"If the voters vote on the basis of what I've done in Annapolis no question" he feels he will return to Annapolis.

Join the vote crusade!

COPE, in concert with the AFRO, is spearheading a major voter mobilization campaign, the goal of which is a 90 percent turnout among black registered voters on primary day.

During the past three elections, an average of only approximately 30 percent of the eligible voters actually went to the polls. COPE has compiled the statistical evidence showing that, given an upswing in black voter turn-out, our community can have the deciding voice regarding those candidates elected to office in Baltimore City.

"As far as registered voters are concerned, we already have a sufficient number on the books. All we have to do is realize a significant increase in the percentage that actually go to the polls and we can elect whomever we wish in this town," Herbert Trader, co-ordinator of the campaign said.

The get-out-the-vote effort has four primary facets:

1. the signing of pledge sheets by potential voters,
2. a telephone bank,
3. mobilization booths in selected shopping areas, and
4. the establishment of sites on election day for transporting voters to the polls and short-term child care.

The COPE '83 Mobilization Office number is 669-3726. This number may be used if: you or your organization wishes to volunteer to join this effort or if you require assistance in getting to the polls on election day, or if you require information concerning the election.

—AFRO Clean Block

(Continued from Page 1)

assistants Mesdames Vanessa Johnson and Kathy Parrott.

Other judges will be Percy Wallington, Solid Waste; Ronna Stokes, Gas and Electric Co; Carl Smith, C and P Telephone and Mrs. Edith Hare and Robert Russell.

The tour will leave the AFRO to Franklin Street to 2800 Harlem to Payson, Appleton to 1900 Mosher to 900 Gilmor to Whatcoat to 1500 Edmondson.

After covering blocks in lower West Baltimore the tour will go to Cherry Hill then to Perkins Homes. Judges will then cover East Baltimore starting at 1800 Montford moving back and forth until reaching 28th Street, and breaking for lunch.

From there blocks along North Avenue in East Baltimore. From there to blocks in West Baltimore stopping in Reservoir Hill to Madison Avenue.

From there to Druid Heights and the remaining blocks in upper West Baltimore ending in Murphy Homes.

In order to keep judging down to nine hours, blocks like Virginia Avenue and Sumter Avenue have been judged and their pictures made. Floor by floor judging in Murphy Homes was done on Friday to determine individual block winners.

Cash prizes and other goodies will be distributed to winners on Sunday, Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, 1307 Eutaw Place.

Elks parade down Pennsylvania Ave.

By Kofi Owusu

WASHINGTON

The Improved, Benevolent, Protective Order of Elks of the World marched up Pennsylvania Ave. 5,000 strong Tuesday. More than 15,000 people turned out to see the annual Elks parade, less than half the number expected, which highlighted the 83rd Grand Lodge Convention of the fraternal organization being held at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel.

Marching bands, drill teams, floats, and gaily decorated cars with top Elk officials inside, kept the crowd delighted for nearly three hours as Elks both young and old from across the country strutted their stuff. More than 75 units, from 20 states, representing over 50 Elk lodges and temples participated.

Led by D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, and the Washington Elks band, the largest band in the parade, the marchers wound their way up the famous avenue past construction workers resurfacing the roadway and government employees who looked down from the office windows at the colorful procession. But, the noise of the earthmoving equipment couldn't drown out the cheers of the crowd when a drill team or band broke out in their unique style.

"This is the biggest thing to happen in this city this year," one spectator said. "I wish the Elks would stay. It's a proud day."

People watching the parade waved to their friends marching, or rushed into the street to take a quick photograph. Some groups had a regular cheering section of fans who rooted hard when their favorite unit passed by.

A few of the younger marchers were affected by the August heat and humidity, dropping out of the march. The 85 degree heat was bad enough for Washingtonians, but the marchers from New York, Pennsylvania, California, Wisconsin, and other cooler states found the weather unbearable. Nurses from the Elks hospital Medical Corps quickly soothed the marchers with cool water, toweling foreheads and faces dry while the marchers paused.

The Elks Civil Liberties float, named the best decorated by a panel of judges, was also the most popular. As the lovely ladies waved and smiled, a regally attired Elk threw nickels, dimes and quarters to the crowd. More than $300 was tossed along the route. Other floats represented different Elk departments and lodges.

Winners included the Pride of Baltimore Lodge which took the honors for the best drilled junior herd. The Annapolis ladies sports club took the honors in that category. The U.S. Park Police won the judge's approval for the best mounted patrol.

Barbara Lewis, a local Elks supporter, complained about the poor turnout by blaming the lack of media coverage for the convention. She complimented the AFRO's extensive coverage of the convention week, but blasted the daily papers for not playing it up. "If you don't read the AFRO, you wouldn't even know the Elks were in town," she said.

The mid-afternoon parade did cause a bit of inconvenience for people trying to get to or from work. Several complained about the lack of buses able to get through the parade route which crossed several major bus lines, disrupting schedules and making a few of Metro's riders late.

In other activity, Grand Exalted Ruler Hobson R. Reynolds stepped down from his post, allowing the Elks to elect Donald P. Wilson, the order's former Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, to be elected in a closed session Monday. Wilson is a native Baltimorean now living in Philadephia who attends Quaker City Lodge No. 720.

The Rev. Imagene Stewart received the Elk's 30th Annual Community Achievement Award at the Achievement Awards Banquet Wednesday. She roused those present with a powerful message as the affair's guest speaker.

In the oratorical contest Saturday, Terrance Gray, Atlanta, Ga., won with a dramatic interpretation of the Rev. Martin Luther King's dream. Amy Galloway took first runner - up Lewis Price won second.

The aprade moved past a reviewing stand specially erected on the north steps of the District building adding to congestion on 14th St. caused by Liberian President Samuel Doe's visit with the mayor.

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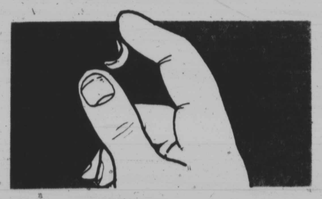

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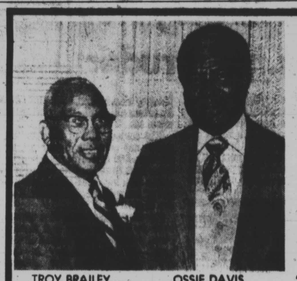

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East Baltimore Medical Plan woes

Health of 3,000 EBMP members in mayor's hands

The health of 3,000 patients at the East Baltimore Medical Plan may be in the hands of Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

Last week the Mayor reportedly said the city would not be coming up with a $1.5 million loan to the EBMP because of a City Council resolution passed two weeks ago. He also asked the state to find some money for the foundering health organization.

That resolution calls for all city trustee transactions of one million dollars or more, to come before the council for approval.

In the eye of the political storm is a council attempt to maintain control over the projects in which trustees invest the city's $200 million loan bank funds.

The resolution must be signed by the Mayor to be put on a referendum ballot. If Schaefer vetoes the resolution and the council overrides his veto, it will appear on a referendum ballot for a citywide vote in 1983.

Should that resolution become law, loans like the one proposed for EBMP would be subject to council approval.

Although the city's oldest and largest health maintenance organization (HMO) has a total patient population of 17,000, about 3,000 of those were the working poor — unable to purchase medical insurance and ineligible for medicaid.

Charging mismanagement, the federal government cut the $600,000 allotment under the EBMP federal public health program, and now there are about 800 of those 3,000 patients still receiving care. After Sept. 30, when all federal funds are scheduled to stop, they too will be without affordable medical care.

Concern has been stressed these people will fall through cracks in the public health system and again be "practicing crisis medicine." "There would be no other organized health care system for them to get into," concluded City Councilman Clarence H. Du Burns (D-2nd), one of EBMP's founders.

So in a rowdy city council debate Monday, Aug. 16, Councilman Burns, tried to get the resolution recalled from the mayor's desk for council reconsideration.

—

The evening's arguing ended with other councilmembers calling the aborted attempt a sham to keep the mayor from having to veto the resolution—leaving the resolution in Schaefer's lap, and the fate of the city's proposed loan to EBMP in doubt. In addition to the time spent arguing unsuccessfully, some councilmembers speculate the council does not have the votes to override if the mayor should veto the resolution.

Clarence Du Burns

The loan was part of a package put together by city and state officials to convince the feds to restore funding to the 3,000 patients eligible for the federal public health program.

—

The city proposed loan was originally contingent upon EBMP receiving the federal allotment. However, when federal funding was withdrawn, Baltimore proposed the loan, along with Johns Hopkins Hospital which offered to forgive a one million dollar loan, plus make another $1.3 million long-term loan to EBMP.

The plan was devised late last month and taken to Washington in hopes federal monies would be restored. However, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services has been mum, while Maryland officials search for possible state funding.

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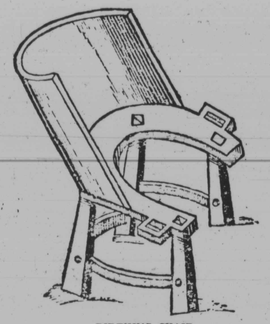
Hanging in the balance are 3,000 people without adequate access to area health care, who "we could take care of," Burns said, if both local and federal monies ever come through.



BIRTHING CHAIR

Mid-wife movement sweeping the nation

By Carman Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

Going back to our roots is at the core of the midwifery movement sweeping the country. More and more women are opting for the "alternative childbirth" midwives provide.

In fact, Sally Tom, executive director of the American College of Nurse - Midwives, estimates close to two percent (33,000 -63,000) of the babies born in this country are delivered by nurse-midwives.

That is a drastic decrease from the 19th and early 20th century, when midwives delivered most American births. As late as the 1910, roughly half of all births in this country were still being delivered by midwives.

Not just another anachronism from the past, the contemporary midwife is not only a trained nurse, but has a graduate education in public health and midwifery.

"We provide a service to a segment of the population — healthy women, who have healthy pregnancies, who don't want to stay in a hospital," said Ann Sobery, a registered nurse, and partner in the Baltimore Birth Center.

Certified nurse-midwives today offer individualized gynecological, prenatal, delivery, and post-partum services at a fraction of hospital obstetrical costs, in a home like setting.

While some midwives do home births, most prefer to deliver babies in a home like atmosphere, such as a hospital "birthing room" or a "birth center." As laws relax and the women consumer demand increases, many nurse-midwives deliver babies in hospital birthing rooms, where they have extensive equipment at their fingertips.

Birth centers area new development on the obstetrical consumer market. There are more than 100 around the country, and two in Maryland. At the Baltimore Birth Center, 6006 Park Heights Ave., a certified nurse - midwife follows the pregnancy from prenatal to post-partum status, in a homey surrounding, usually with the expectant father assisting the birth, for $1,000 total.

Taught to recognize, but not to treat the abnormal, certified nurse-midwives do not take just anyone. Women with kidney disease, high blood pressure, cardiac disease, diabetes, previous caesarean sections, or grossly overweight are not accepted because their pregnancies may have complications.

More revolutionary than the reappearance of trained midwives in the midst of the medical monopoly maintained by physicians are their methods. Generally speaking, nurse-midwives use virtually no medication, and women are encouraged to walk around, take showers, or whatever is comfortable during labor.

A woman's actual childbirth is being enhanced by the squatting position and the tried and true birthing chair, or obstetrical chair, which has been with civilization since Biblical times. Used as late as the 19th century in this country, it is again being used by nurse-midwives.

Unfortunately "medical schools are geared for the masses, not individuals," said certified nurse-midwife Jenine Woodward of Planned Parenthood.

Ms. Woodward who volunteered her services at the East Baltimore Medical Plan recalls patients initially received her "unwarmly." Although they quickly warmed up, "it's a shame that by the time we achieve what white people are doing, the white people are doing something else," she said, adding black people needed her help most.

Harbor Bank opening delayed

The opening date of Harbor Bank of Maryland, the city's only full-service black owned and operated bank, still is up in the air.

State Deputy Bank Commissioner Charles Georgis said a need to "hire key bank officers," in order to receive the state certificate of authority to operate, as well as a commitment to insure bank funds from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) apparently may be cause for some of the delay.

W.F. Carpenter, acting bank president and chief officer of the bank told the AFRO the bank still is meeting with regulatory agencies.

"We are still dealing with regulatory agencies ... you never know how long this kind of thing will take," he said.

Harbor Bank is expected to make loans from a black business perspective.

"Slightly less emphasis might be placed on experience for a black borrower than it would be at a white bank," Raymond Haysbert, president of Parks Sausage, said at the bank's first shareholder's meeting on June 7.

However, Georgis cited problems in hiring a satisfactory person as loan officer.

"You can't just hire someone off the street ...(that person) must have experience and background for the job."

Among the other slots yet to be filled are chairman of the board and operations officer.

With the FDIC insurance of funds contingent upon the state approval of the application of authority to operate, and that application apparently meeting snags at the state level, it is not clear just when the bank will open.

"It's not easy to organize a bank," Carpenter said.

Project Gate I to rescue

as the wheels turn
By Penny Brady

Many of us take the everyday occurrences of life for granted. But for thousands of citizens past 60, each day is an accomplishment.

Trying to get information is "hoc opus." The hows and whys of budget cuts and what is left of programs for senior citizens has been obscured by chaos.

Last summer, many elderly testified about the inconveniences, repetition and problems they encountered when seeking information. The city in Annapolis was to revamp the confusion.

The outcome was State Bill 605, enacted by the 1982 General Assembly, in which Project Gateway I, a state funded program to improve access of the elderly to state agency services and programs was initiated.

Project Gateway I is located in 24 senior centers in Maryland. It provides information and assistance on a wide range of services including social security, housing, transportation, legal services, employment and leisure time to name a few.

According to Susan Coller, Office of Aging, Project Gateway I goes beyond giving out phone numbers. When a person has an application to complete, the program staff delivers the application as soon as possible to the appropriate agency. If a person needs to contact another agency directly, the staff initiates the call and the necessary follow-up.

Project Gateway I is a one stop shopping service. The state program eliminates much of the confusion the elderly experience on a day to day basis.

Providing service to senior citizens may seem unimportant — but for thousands of older Marylanders — it is necessary.

Baltimore City residents can phone the Project Gateway site at the Waxter Center for Senior Citizens, 861 Park Avenue, at 396-1341, where Dwight Sutton is the site manager.

For Baltimore County residents, the site is the Baltimore County Department of Aging, 611 Central Ave. Towson. To contact site manager Jackie Wilson phone 494-2594 or 828-8482.

Persons in Howard County can contact the Howard County Office on Aging, Oakland Mills Senior Activity Center, Columbia, at 730-7697 for Gateway help.

These are just three of the 24 sites throughout the state. The normal operation of these sites is five days a week with the usual working hours.

The Health and Welfare Council of Central Maryland, Inc., provides telephone coverage for all project sites after normal working hours. Residents of Baltimore City may phone 685-0525 after hours. Those outside of Baltimore City should call the toll free number at 1-800-492-0618.

For additional information, contact the Project Gateway site in your area.

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