City poverty increases; counties prosper

Poverty increased in the Baltimore area during the 1970s while several surrounding counties became more affluent, a study by state planners showed Wednesday.

The study by the Department of State Planning was based on data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau. It showed the percentage of Baltimore Metropolitan area families living below the poverty level increased from 8.5 percent to 9.3 percent of all area households during the census period.

The poverty level for a family of four is set by the federal government at $9,862. The poverty level depends on the number of individuals in a family and its income, and does not count the value of assistance such as food stamps, public housing or Medicaid and Medicare.

Statewide the number living at or below the poverty level dropped from 7.7 percent of all households to 7.5 percent.

In Baltimore, the poverty level was 18.9 percent of all city households, up from 14 percent.

In Montgomery County, only 3 percent of the households were below the poverty level. That county, a suburb of Washington, DC, is one of the nation's wealthiest.

In Anne Arundel County, the family poverty rate fell from 5.7 percent to 5 percent.

Howard County's percentage of families below the poverty level dropped from 4.2 percent of all households to 2.9 percent.

Howard and Anne Arundel counties have not been known for high incomes, but have attracted Washington commuters and a growing number of light industrial and service-oriented jobs.

In Anne Arundel county, 10 percent of the households fell into the $30,000-$34,900 range while only 4.3 percent fell into the $5,000 to $7,499 range.

Carroll County's household poverty rate dropped from 6.6 percent to 4 percent during the 1970s. The count showed signs of a growing upper middle class with 10.1 percent of households earning $30,000 to $34,999.

Harford County's poverty rate held even at 6.2 percent and in Baltimore County the poverty level rose from 3.5 to 4.1 percent.

Mrs. Shelton is hospital trustee

Mrs. Phyllis T. Shelton has been named to the Board of Trustees of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, it was announced by Board Chairman Jeffrey Springer.

Ms. Shelton is director of public affairs at WJZ-TV in Baltimore. She previously held positions with Baltimore City Public Schools as community liaison and secondary history teacher.

A Morgan State University graduate, Ms. Shelton holds a bachelor's degree in history-education and a master's degree in history-urban studies. She is a member of the National Broadcasters Association for Community Affairs and serves on the boards of the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens, United Way, Leukemia Society, League of Women Voters and other civic and philanthropic organizations.



Mrs. Phyllis T. Shelton

Ms. Shelton was appointed by Gov. Harry Hughes to the state's Ethnic Commission and to the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped.

Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP is supporting the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers in its efforts to expand its distribution in Baltimore County.

Reagan to give more food to the poor

The Reagan administration will give more government-owned food to the poor, channeling some bulk commodities through the states, which in turn can arrange for processing the food into consumersized quantities.

The effort will increase existing distribution of American processed cheese, cheddar cheese, corn meal, non-fat dry milk and honey to needy Americans, an agriculture department spokesman said.

Secretary John Block announced the initiative Monday in Nashville, Tenn. David Lane, a spokesman, provided sketchy details, saying amounts of additional surplus commodities to be distributed would be announced later.

The Governments' current distribution program relies on processing by large private firms, Lane said. States that accept the offer can arrange for processing of the bulk commodities by small local firms, he said.

"A lot of this is going to depend on the individual states being able to handle what we give them", he said.

Meanwhile, 28 people staged a short sit-in at the agriculture department and vowed to fast until more government-owned commodities are distributed to the poor. The sit-in and fast was organized by the same group that has refused to eat since July 4 in Kansas City, Mo., to demand more government food giveaways.

Rich Miller, representing the Washington protester, said the Kansas City group was pleased about the announcement and would end their fast day with a potluck lunch. He said the decision came mostly because "it was a question of getting a sense that what the USDA is doing is a gesture of good faith and wanting to respond in kind."

Miller said the Kansas City contingent was "happy and physically doing all right".

Lane said it was coincidental block announced his new policy at mid-day, about the same time the protesters entered the agriculture department.

The Washington protest, organized by the Community for creative non-violence, was intended to force the government to raise distribution of surplus dairy products to 50 million pounds a month, spokesman Justin Brown said.

A delegation of four protesters met with three agriculture department officials late in the afternoon and then departed after learning of Block's initiative.

Distribution of government - owned cheese, the major dairy product given away free, peaked at 40 million pounds a month at the beginning of this year. It has been reduced to 25 million to 35 million pounds per month because officials believed the cheese giveaway was cutting into commercial sales.

Since the free cheese program was begun in December 1981, about 400 million pounds of cheese have been given away. As the program expanded, the government also began to give away butter, non-fat dry milk, honey corn meal, flour and rice.

The giveaway program is in addition to food stamps that go to 22 million Americans at a cost of $12 billion this fiscal year and 2.1 billion pounds of commodities distributed for school lunches and other programs.

"While these commodities have been distributed, the net amount that the government owns has been dramatically increasing", Brown said.

Some of the food is rotting, he said, adding, "If the taxpayers are paying for this food, it ought to be going to someone who needs it".

New rabies serum reduces painful vaccination treatment

Rabies vaccinations are not the painful trial they used to be thanks to a new procedure that has reduced treatment from 21 shots to three, a University of Maryland neurologist said Tuesday.

Dr. Kenneth Johnson said a new, more potent serum requires only three injections to build up the body's immune defenses to the rabies virus, and the shots can be made just under the surface of the skin on the arm or leg. The old procedure required 21 shots administered daily into the stomach with a long needle, creating soreness and pain for victims of bits by rabid animals.

Johnson said the body responds much faster in building immunity to the new vaccination because it is made with human tissue cultures, rather than the duck embryo tissue used in the old serum.

Johnson said it therefore sometimes takes up to three months to grown in the body if the victim's contact with the rabid animal is on the arms or legs.

But if the person is bitten around the head or neck, the disease can take hold in as little time as two weeks, he said.

Once the disease has started growing in the body, it cannot be stopped and becomes fatal, Johnson said.

Maryland is currently in the grips of a rabies epidemic among its racoon population, which Johnson said has experienced an explosion in the past two years.

So far, cases of rabid racoons have been limited to the Washington area, but are moving north at the rate of 20 miles a year.

Three-hundred rabid racoon cases have been reported in Montgomery County so far this year. Thirty cases in Frederick County and 61 in Washington County. The total for Maryland now stands at 507.

Johnson said that rabies infections in humans normally do not result from contact with rabid racoons, but from pets that have come into contact with them.

He said it is important for people to have their pets vaccinated and to avoid animals that exhibit abnormal behavior.

Maryland corn and soybean crops need rain

Maryland needs rain in the next seven to 10 days to avoid losses of corn and soybean crops threatened by the driest July in the state since 1974, an agriculture department spokesman said Tuesday.

"In some parts of the state, for all intents and purposes, it didn't rain at all for July," said Tony Evans. "On the average we were short about two and a half to three inches below, the rainfall we normally would have gotten.

"We need rain within the next seven to 10 days to avoid losses," he said.

Maryland experienced a "super duper" precipitation surplus from Jan. 1 to July, and Evans said the state continued to have a surplus despite last month's torrid weather.

"But as far as crops are concerned, it's the moisture in the top layers that is critical. And we had the aggravating factor of about 20 days of 90-plus temperatures," he added.

So far, the arid weather has wreaked the most damage on Maryland's corn crop. "We had extremely hot and dry weather during the critical pollination period for corn, which normally is the latter part of July. The problems were aggravated this year by the fact that it was planted late because of a late spring," Evans said. "A lot of the corn is out of sync."

He explained that if the corn does not pollinate, the plants look healthy but do not produce grain. He said the department currently is sampling corn fields and an estimate of the yield is expected in about a week.

Maryland's second most important crop, soy beans, "is on hold during the hot weather. It just stops growing and waits for rain, so we really don't know how that's doing," he said.

Vegetable crops in Maryland fared better, but Evans pointed out most of the larger growers irrigate their produce fields.

"Most of the fruits and vegetables were planted late and with the hot and humid weather they caught up," he said.

Some produce crops, such as potatoes and peaches, are smaller because of the scorching weather.

Fred Davis, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said rainfall in the state in July was 1.31 inches, compared to 2.16 inches last July and an average of 3.89 inches for the month.

Rainfall in July, 1974 registered a scant .85 inches.

Evans said the dry spell "is like a geometrical progression. The longer it goes, the worse it gets. I don't like to call it a drought because that's a panic word. I prefer the term 'stress.'"

"There's no reason to pull the panic button, because that only makes prices go up. But if we have a substantial crop yield reduction, it's going to hurt Maryland farmers. We don't need this right now," he said.

"I wish we would get a nice, gentle, two-inch rain from one end of the state to the other."

NAACP Life Membership



ALL SMILES are Emma B. Roberts, Enolia McMillan, Evelyn C. Keene, and Cleo Diggs, chairman of the NAACP Life Membership Committee, on behalf of the 'NN' Club. Members purchased a Life Membership in the NAACP.



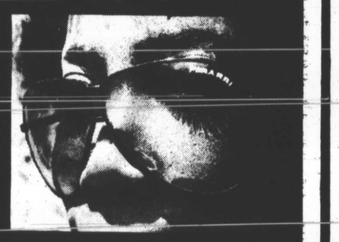
PRESENTATION — Members of the Northwest Club receive a Life Membership Plaque from NAACP President Enolia McMillan. Shown from left to right are Elsie B. Scott, Ellen C. Johns, Vera S. Flint, Anc Sia Williams, Mrs. McMillan, Flo Clark, president, Cleo Diggs, Jimmy LaForest, and Gloria M. Phillips.



OTHER CLUB MEMBERS receiving a Life Membership Plaque from Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan are the A.G.N.N.'s. Shown left to right are MaxeneHigginbottom, Cleo Diggs, Ruth Dorsey, Mrs. McMillan and Bernadine H. Harrison

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Constitution Hall D.C.
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Jimmy Witherspoon



Eubie Blake Jazz Festival
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