Salute to Sen. Mitchell lauds 23 years' service

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Rev. Jesse Jackson is slated as the main speaker at the gala tribute to State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III. The event set for the Convention Center Wednesday, June 16, will mark Sen. Mitchell's 23 years of public service.

The son of Attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell and the late statesman Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., young Clarence who is 45 began as an elected official with a seat in the Maryland State Legislature in 1962.

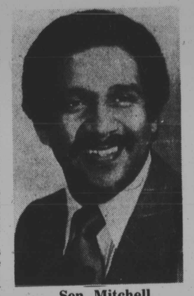
At the time of his election to the House of Delegates he was 22 years of age and the youngest state legislator in the United States.

In 1966, four years later, he was elected to the Maryland State Senate, a vital post he still holds.

Mitchell is the national president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators an organization of 388 legislators in 42 states. He founded the organization, the first of its kind in the nation, in 1977 and has been president five years.

Mitchell, the nephew of Maryland's first congressman, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, will be saluted by over 5,000 persons at the June 16 affair which includes dinner and dancing.

On the program, in addition to Rev. Jesse Jackson, will be Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, D.C. and Senator Julian Bond of Georgia who were active with Sen. Mitchell in the 1960's in the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNNC). Sen. Mitchell, at that time was a student at Morgan State College and had helped to found the sit-in group, the Baltimore Civic Interest Group which opened the 10-Cent Stores and hotels and other places of public accommodation.



Sen. Mitchell

As a representative of the Baltimore group, he help found SNNC.

As an active member of both organizations, Sen. Mitchell reveals as he traveled throughout the South, he became personally interested and held a burning desire to bring about change. He was closely associated with Dr. Martin Luther King.

In addition to Rev. Jackson, Mayor Barry and Sen. Bond, also saluting Sen. Mitchell will be Dick Gregory, the internationally known activist. Stevie Wonder has been invited to attend. Baltimore's Damita Jo will sing. Wentley Phipps, the National Democratic Convention soloist, will sing the favorite, "God Uses Ordinary People."

Chairman Dr. Uthman Ray accents the fact that the Convention Center salute to Sen. Mitchell is not a political affair. But "a gathering of people in appreciation to one who has served them well."

Co-chairmen are Rev. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, Attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Mary Jones, Attorney Bruce Berean, Michael Rashid, John Jefferies, Thelma T. Daley, Dels. Larry Young, Ruth Kirk, Elijah Cummings, James "Biddy" Wood, who is coordinator and Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell, treasurer.

For tickets please call 523-5083 or 578-0400 or 523-5820.



MINISTERS WIVES OF NEW SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH who hosted the 93rd birthday party for Mrs. Evelyn Harris are (back row, l to r) Mesdames Idelia Green, Joan Fulcher, Doris Taylor, Elizabeth Thompson, Weptanomah Carter, Ruby Lee, Shieloa Mason, Marcia Brown, Rose Paige and Dorye Jackson. (Front row) are Mrs. Harris and her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Adams. Also attending was Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, wife of Rev. James Thompson, pastor of Nazerene Baptist Church. (Not shown).

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Food committee will combat price of inner city groceries

The Maryland Food Committee is beginning an exciting new program to stimulate the development of non - profit, low - income food stores and bring them together in a federation. Support for this project comes from the Morris Goldseker Foundation which just awarded MFC a grant of $36,000 over a two - year period.

When MCF surveyed grocery stores in seven low - income neighborhoods and two large chain stores in middle - income neighborhoods last summer, the findings demonstrated that poor people pay on the average 44.2 percent more for food than middle - income people. The majoriity of people in these poor neighborhoods do not have cars and therefore do not have access to lower - priced groceries without incurring extra transportation costs.

In many cases, especially the elderly and women heads of household with childcare problems, poor people have no choice but to patronize local grocery stores. The survey served as further incentive for the MFC to pursue its work to develop a federation of storefront co - ops in poor neighborhoods.

"A storefront food co - op will expand the buying power of poor people and will also help eliminate the extreme need for emergency food services," said Jan Houbolt, Executive Director of MFC. Money spent on emergency feeding is gone forever. Money allocated to a low - income storefront food co - op is money that will continually recycle within the program providing long - term benefits.

Ultimately, the storefront food co - op will mean more food for more people while simultaneously developing community self - sufficiency. "I believe that's why the Goldseker Foundation is backing this project," said Houbolt. "Rather than being a simple charitable handout, they realize the food co - op allows people the self - respect of purchasing food as well as having a positive effect in meeting the nutritional needs of poor people.

The Maryland Food Committee will take a lead role in helping poor communities establish their own storefront food co - ops and bring them together as a federation. The federation will eventually develop its own independent board separate from MFC much as the Maryland Food Bank was spun off as a separate operation from the food committee five years ago after it was well established.

This operation will be carried out by MFC through the new staff person funded by the Goldseker grant. The MFC co - op developer will establish a working relationship with the community in assisting in the location of space, generating necessary funding, providing technical assistance and training, and so forth.

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State will probe high utility arrears

The Department of Human Resources, in conjunction with the Public Service Commission, will sponsor a series of public hearings to address the problem of chronic utility arrearages among low - income Maryland families. The first hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 p.m., at the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, 6600 Kenilworth Ave. in Riverdale.

The hearings are a part of a study being conducted by the Department of Human Resources and the Public Service Commission on the recruiting problem of high utility arrearages. The study will include an analysis of Maryland's Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance Programs, as well as energy assistance programs in other states.

In addition, the study will examine sample household's arrearages to identify any trends or patterns relating to the accumulation of high arrearages. "An essential part of the study, and ultimately our final report to the legislature, will be feedback from the community," said DHR Secretary Ruth Massinga.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with the Public Service Commission on this critical problem and encourage all interested parties to attend the hearings and testify."

A final report on the study will be presented to the legislature by October 1.

A schedule of the hearings is attached.

bon Secours seminar on kidney function

Bon Secours Hospital will present "A Prescription for Health: Understanding Your Kidneys and Their Function," on Thursday, June 20 at 6 p.m. at the hospital. How hypertension and diabetes have their effect will also be discussed at the free informational program. A physician will give the presentation and answer questions.

Free parking will be available on the hospital lot. For more information call Community Services, Bon Secours Hospital, 362-3096.



Anna Bond was honored by the Baltimore Regional Red Cross at its recent volunteer recognition dinner. Bond received an award for her work in the Blood Services administrative offices. Presenting the 1985 Outstanding Office Aide award to Bond are Jerry J. Hartman (left), chairman of volunteers, and Margaret Goodman (right), chairman of Community Volunteer Services.

Elderly will benefit from new state aging legislation

"Maryland's elderly population can view with pride and satisfaction the legislation recently enacted to promote their interest and well-being," said Rosalie S. Abrams, director of the State Office on Aging, as the governor completed the signing of bills in Annapolis today.

Among the most significant measures enacted are legislation that:

— Exempts Social Security benefits (taxable under Federal law) from state income tax.

— Requires reporting and investigation by health and human services providers and law enforcement officers of cases of suspected abuse of vulnerable elderly persons.

— Authorizes the state office on Aging to more closely monitor the financial soundness of continuing care facilities - an increasingly popular type of retirement community - as added consumer protection for prospective residents.

— Allows persons to formally make known in advance whether or not they wish to have extraordinary life-sustaining medical procedures applied when they reach the stage of terminal illness (sometimes referred to as a "Living Will").

— Increases funding for transportation of the elderly and handicapped.

— Provides State bond funds to increase elderly housing.

In addition, the governor included in his 1986 budget additional funds to support the operation and improvement of senior centers and to increase the personal needs allowance of nursing home residents receiving medical assistance.

"Thanks to the commitment of Gov. Hughes, the efforts of many concerned legislators, and the vigorous activities of senior citizens and their advocates," Mrs. Abrams said.

"Large strides have been made in improving the quality of life of our State's elderly. They are the fastest - growing segment of our population and helping them live out their lives with dignity and independence, as these measures do, as in the best interest of all of us."

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly of United Way Community Services., will take place at the World Trade Center, Constellation room, 21st Floor, 401 East Pratt Street, on Monday, June 17, 1985, at 3:00 P.M. At this time, there will be consideration of Bylaw amendments, the election of Community Delegates, Directors and Officers of United Way Community Services whose terms will begin July 1, 1985.

J. Tyson Tildon, Ph.D.
President

Red Cross thankful for African relief aid

The Baltimore Regional Red Cross has received more than $252,368 for African Famine relief since it began its campaign last November. According to Warren Weaver, volunteer chairman of the campaign, "The campaign is far from over. Contributors and inquiries continue to come in to the Chapter nearly every day."

Within the last few weeks a contribution of $10,000 from Merry-Go-Round Enterprises, from the sale of Feed the World T-shirts, and $1,800 from Social Security Division Four employees have been received by the Baltimore Red Cross. And as of mid April, students, parents and school-based personnel in the Howard County Public School system had contributed $13,696 to the Red Cross famine relief campaign.

In response to continuing inquiries regarding the effectiveness of the relief, and whether food supplies are being allowed into the affected countries, Red Cross officials report that even in the most inaccessible areas of Ethiopia, aircraft chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross have been flying full-time to provide supplies in areas where road transport is impossible due to security reasons.

Thousands of tons of wheat flour, vegetable oil and dry milk donated by the U.S. Government through the American Red Cross is being channeled by the League of Red Cross Societies to famine victims in Ethiopia. In the Red Cross camp in Bati, Ethiopia the death rate is still as high as 25-30 people a day, but down from the 100-120 daily in December.

Red Cross personnel returning from Ethiopia say that there is a visible improvement in the people in the feeding camps which is "most encouraging."

Contributions may be sent to the Baltimore Regional Red Cross, 2701 N. Charles St., Baltimore 21218, earmarked "African Famine Relief."

MTA promises more black promotions

After charges of discrimnation by black employees and pressure from Del. Elijah Cummings and the Legislative Black Caucus, the city's Mass Transit Administration has agreed to revamp its hiring and promotion policies and allow blacks greater access to supervisory and upper-level positions.

Complaints of racial discrimination came after blacks discovered that while blacks comprise 90 percent of the MTA workforce, whites were being promoted to upper-level positions at a faster rate, and blacks who sought the same positions were being denied.

Earlier this month, a group of black MTA employees met with Del. Cummings and Assistant Attorney General Jeanne Hitchcock of the Attorney General's office downtown to lodge complaints against the central office of the MTA.

At the meeting the black MTA employees revealed several instances where blacks were denied promotions and whites and relatives of MTA management personnel were hired and promoted into upper-level supervisory positions.

One case mentioned at that meeting involved a white secretary who had been at MTA for approximately four years. The woman, according to an anonymous black bus driver, was promoted to street supervisor while the black driver, a 12 year employee of MTA, was denied.

"Since the issue has been raised, this woman has been demoted, MTA officials claimed that she obtained the position as a result of a (flaw) in their promotions system," Cummings told the AFRO Thursday.

According to Cummings, MTA administrator-general manager Ron Hartman expressed an eagerness to revise to company's promotions system after acknowledging shortcomings as it pertained to black employees.

"Actually, Hartman was very cooperative and reasonable. He resolved to make efforts to correct some of the problems rather than have us make a big deal out of it," Cummings said.

Cummings indicated that the Black Caucus is working with the MTA and the work force of black drivers to devise standard hiring and promotion procedures that serve blacks as well as whites.

Agreements reached at meetings between black drivers and the MTA administration included the disclosure promotional test scores which would allow employees who have taken tests for promotions to see their tests scores and justify their denial of acceptance into an upper-level position. In the past, this information was confidential.

"These meetings with MTA officials were very successful, and we can expect to see some very dramatic results. As these changes go into effect the number of blacks in upper-level positions should double," said Cummings.

City leads state in fire deaths

According to statistics compiled by the State Fire Marshal's Office, statewide fire deaths rose by two percent in 1984 from 1983. In 1983, 127 Marylanders lost their lives to fire, as compared to 130 in 1984.

Misuse or negligence while using smoking materials ranked as the number one cause in the majority of fire deaths for the third-consecutive year, according to Rocco J. Gabriele, state fire marshal.

Of the 130 fatalities, approximately 34 were a result of careless smoking. This figure increased by four over the 1983 total of 30 smoking related fatalities.

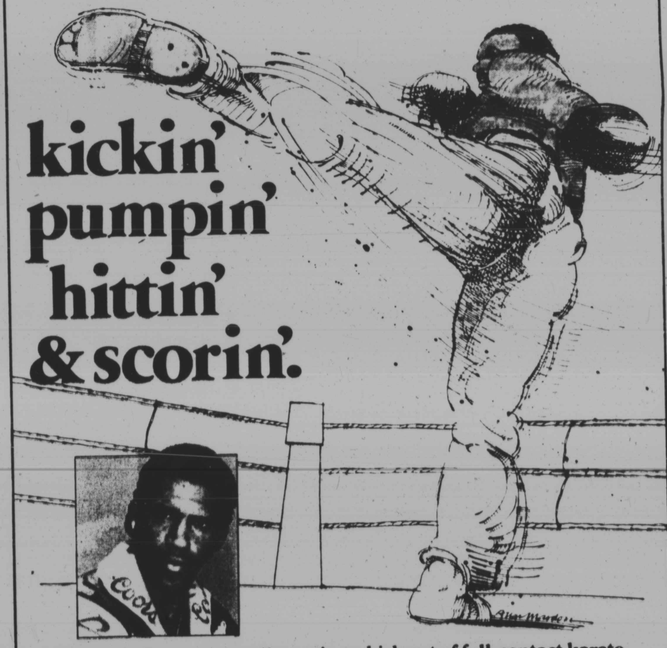
Baltimore City led the state with 54 fire deaths, followed by Baltimore and Prince George's counties with 13 fatalities each. The deaths recorded in Baltimore County included three fire fighters who lost their lives in a multiple alarm furniture store fire.

The lower rural counties of the Eastern Shore also proved to be a "high fire death rate" region of the state, with 18 fatalities.

Statistics also indicate that males were the most frequent victims of fires accounting for 79 fire deaths, while 51 females perished from fire.

The state Fire Marshal's Office and the Maryland State Firemen's Association, in conjuntin with Gov. Hughes, conducted a statewide smoke detector awareness campaign during the end of 1984 and continuing throughout the first two months of 1985 to heighten citizen awareness as to the value of smoke detectors.

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