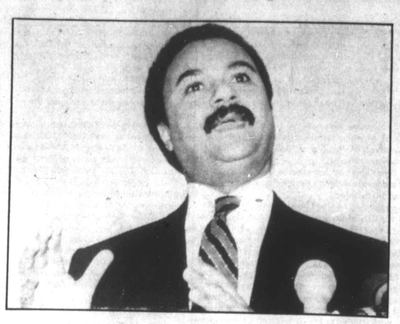
Brown seeking top Dem post

WASHINGTON — Ron Brown, a former top aide to Jesse Jackson, jumped into the potentially bitter race for the chairmanship of the Democratic Party, declaring he was his "own man" and would not serve as the favorite of the fiery civil rights leader.

Brown, a Washington attorney and former deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee, contended he was the front-runner in the fray, which many in the party are predicting could be a divisive battle between competing ideologies and also may contain racial overtones.

The position is open as a result of Paul Kirk's announcement that he would not seek a new term.



Ron Brown

A number of party leaders, fearing a tough succession fight that could seriously divide the liberal and more conservative wings of the party, had unsuccessfully urged Kirk to stay on in the hopes that would avoid what some have termed a potential "bloodletting."

Brown, who said he would not have sought the chairmanship had Kirk stayed on, argued that despite the fact that he ran Jackson's operation at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta this summer, he would not be automatically tied to the former Democratic presidential candidate.

"I am nobody's candidate. I am my own man," said Brown, stressing his work in 1980 for Sen. Edward Kennedy and his efforts during the general election campaign on behalf of Michael Dukakis.

"A lot has been said about my Jackson connection," said Brown. "Although I understand the emotion of it, I fail to understand the logic of it.

It seems to me you could make a logical argument that it ought to be a requirement that the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee have a good relationship with Jesse Jackson."

"I think the next chairman of the party has to have a good relationship with anyone who might seek the presidency," Brown said.

Brown contended that he already had about 120 to 130 votes in the national committee — about 64 to 74 less than he would need to win the chairmanship.

The battle to replace Kirk could become a struggle over the future direction of the party.

Following George Bush's defeat of Dukakis in the Nov. 8 election, many in the party believe Democrats must put on a more moderate or conservative face and woo voters in the South and West—a pair of growing GOP strongholds.

However, many of the most liberal party members, led by Jackson, believe the best course for Democrats is for them to reassert their liberal roots.

Meanwhile, some — pointing to Democratic success in state and local races and the party's control of the House and Senate—contend that major structural changes are not needed.

Brown said Tuesday that if he were elected, he would prefer to leave alone the rules governing delegates at the party's next national convention. Some people in the party believe those rules, passed at the summer convention, gave too much to the Jackson forces.

Brown also contended that he did not believe the chairmanship race would revolve around ideology and contended that "those who talk about this being a divisive and a bloodletting kind of race are just off base."

"I've never done anything divisive in the history of my involvement in the party. I would not be a party to any divisiveness or bloodletting and I think that's being grossly overplayed," he added.

In addition to Brown, there are four other Democrats expected to vie for the post.

Rich Wiener, who is leaving his job as chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, announced his intention to run. Also mentioned have been three former House members: conservative James Jones of Oklahoma, a former head of the House Budget Committee; the much more liberal Michael Barnes of Maryland and Jim Stanton of Ohio.

More Mrs. Santa cases

(Continued from Page B3)

Case 113 — Please help my six children have a better Christmas this year. I am a single parent and am on social service. The money that I receive is not enough to pay bills and buy food or clothes for my children. Please help us have a good Christmas.

* * *

Case 114 — I would greatly appreciate help with food and clothing. My husband and I just received custody of our two grandchildren in June of this year. Since then my husband has been hospitalized. Their ages are 15 and 9 years old. We are doing the best we can. I really need clothing for my grandchildren.

* * *

'7 Children'

Case 115—I sincerely hope you will help my family. I am a widow with seven children. My children really need new underclothes; undershirts, underwear, and socks. A Christmas basket of food would really help us have a decent meal. Toys would let the children have a happy Christmas since they don't have any. My seven children and I would be very thankful for any help you can give. Their ages are 15, 14, 12, 11, 9, 7, and 5 years old.

* * *

Case 116—Please help me get a Christmas basket and a toy for my grandchildren. I have arthritis in my legs and right arm and don't have enough money to get them anything. There are six of them, ages 14, 12, 7, 4, 3, and 2-years-old. I would be very grateful.

'Senior Citizen Alone'

Case 117—I am 70-years-old and alone. I just returned home from the hospital for heart trouble. Please help me have a Merry Christmas.

* * *

Case 118—I have five children. There are times when I do the best I can to make ends meet and to take care of my kids' needs. There are times when ends just don't make it. I am writing you to please help make my kids' Christmas a happy one. My children are 8, 7, 6, 5, and 4.

* * *

Case 119—I have a 3-year-old and an 18-month-old baby in need of toys. I would appreciate it, if you could help me out.

'No Job'

Case 120—I need your help this year because I don't have a job and am on welfare. I am trying so hard just to have and keep a roof over my two children's head. The money I do get, goes for rent, food and clothes. There is nothing spare to get them any toys for Christmas this year. I hope you can help.

* * *

Case 121—I am the oldest of six children. There are seven of us including my mother. My mother is always sad and worried. I know Christmas will not be a good one without some outside assistance. Mrs. Santa, please, we don't want toys, we need food. My mother, brothers and sisters will be very grateful.

'Blind'

Case 122—This year I am blind and have always worked for a living. Now I am forced to be on a fixed income. My wife is sick and not working. We need a Christmas basket to have a happy Christmas and clothes for the children. We have three children, 14, 12, and a 3-month-old. Please help us for Christmas.

'Husband suicide'

Case 123—I am a widow, raising four children. My husband committed suicide and left me in a bad way. I would like to make my children's Christmas as happy as I can. My income is very limited and the bills don't leave much.

* * *

Case 124—Please help me provide a good Christmas for my children. My husband is ill and cannot work due to a series of operations. When I do a day's work, it hardly covers the cost of rent and food. We would appreciate a Christmas basket, some clothes and toys.

* * *

Case 125—Any money that I could have for Christmas has been depleted by moving into a new house. I have a six-year-old son and a three-month-old daughter. Would you please help me with a basket of food, toys and clothing, so they may have a decent Christmas? Whatever you can help me with, will be greatly appreciated.

* * *

Case 126—I am a senior citizen with my one 10-year-old granddaughter. I am on Social Services and would very much appreciate it if you could help us for the holiday.

* * *

Case 127—It would be so wonderful for me and my children, if we could get help in making our Christmas a merry and happy one. I am a widow with three children. Two girls, 13 and 8, and one boy, 4. I receive Social Security benefits from my husband and it is a lot of things I just cannot afford. We are in desperate need of help.

'Sick Out-of-Work'

Case #128 — I have been out of work due to bypass heart surgery and am still trying to recuperate. I am 53-years-old and it would mean so much to me to receive a decent meal for the holidays.

* * *

Case #129 — I want to thank you for being there in my time of need. I am a single mother with a bright 6-year-old daughter. She has a father who left us when she was born. I wanted to do better for my daughter for Christmas. Just last week they cut my days working from five days to three. I hope you can help me with some toys and food.

* * *

Case #130 — I am writing for a Christmas basket or anything that can help. I am on Social Services and I took in my grandchildren and their mother a month ago. She was put out of her place and we need some help for the children. She is working but does not make much.

* * *

'Boys died'

Case #131 — I recently moved to Baltimore from Ohio. I had two boys that died in a house fire. I moved here with a friend and am looking for a new house to live in with my three girls. Please put me on your list.

* * *

Case #132 — I am having a hard time this year. My son and his three children are with me. He is very sick and unable to work. He is under a doctor's care. I would appreciate anything. There are seven of us in the family.

* * *

Case #133 — I am a single mother of six children on a very low income. I had to live in shelter homes for a long time because I couldn't afford the rents. I don't get food stamps and the job I was working, I was just laid off. Please, anything would be appreciated.

* * *

Case #134 — I am in need for children. Only one lives with me. One child lives with their father and is in protective services. One lives with a friend. I'm kind of homeless and rent a room.

I get the kids on weekends and holidays. I was raised in a foster home and I still face the fact that I love my father and mother. Please help me for Christmas.

* * *

'In Jail'

Case #135 — I am incarcerated and will not be able to give my children any kind of Christmas from in here. My aunt has my children. There are six of them and I know she will do her best for them. However, I could still use the help to make their Christmas grand. I can't substitute the fact that I won't be there for Christmas. With assistance from you, their Christmas this year could be a happy one.

* * *

Case #136 — My children did not have much of a Christmas last year because I could not afford it. This year I am hoping they could get a bit more. My father helps me as much as he can. If it wasn't for him, we would have been in the dark a long time ago. My parents have helped me a lot, but they need help themselves. We all could use the help. I have two children, 6-year-old girl and 9-year-old boy. Please help us have a Merry Christmas.

* * *

Case #137 — I am a single parent and just recently moved on my own. I was living with my mother, but she had to move into a senior citizen home. I had to get a place for me and my three children. Without your help, we will have no Christmas. If there is any way you can help, we would be appreciative.

* * *

Case #138 — I have three children and really need help. I am not on welfare and my worker is not working with me. Please help me if you can. My children are 10, 8, and 3 months. After my bills are paid, there is not much left. The rent takes all of my money. We are barely surviving.

* * *

Case #139 — I have four daughters and lost my job. I don't have any income. The money that I had would have bought my children Christmas this year, but I had to use it all on the bills. Their ages are 12, 10, 7 and 6 years old. Please help us have a happy Christmas.

* * *

Case #140 — I would like some help for Christmas. I have three grandchildren and five of my own. Their ages range from 6 months to 13-years-old. Food and clothes would be a great help. I don't receive any check and only work part-time.

* * *

Case #141 — I am a woman who is having the hardest time of her life. I have two girls, 4 and 5-years-old. A 5-month-old baby boy who is not on Social Service because of his father. I also suffer from high blood pressure and a kidney disorder. My visits to the doctor and all of my prescriptions are paid by me. I can't afford to buy my children Christmas toys. I need clothes for my children. The girls, size 5 and 6, the baby, 0 to 9 months or 0 to 12. A few toys and food would be most appreciated. I want the best for my kids and there is not enough money to do what is needed, let alone what is wanted. Please help my family for the holidays.

* * *

Case #142 — I am 23-years-old and have two children, boy, 4-years-old and baby girl, 4-months-old. We are in need of clothes. I was working part time at Union Memorial hospital, but had to quit due to the high cost of a babysitter for two children. I have gone through 3 babysitters thus far. I am now on social services until my children get old enough for me to move on.

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Lights: 8 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine—100's: 14 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Feb.'85. 120's: 14 mg "tar," 1.0 mg nicotine—Ultra Lights: 6 mg "tar," 0.5 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

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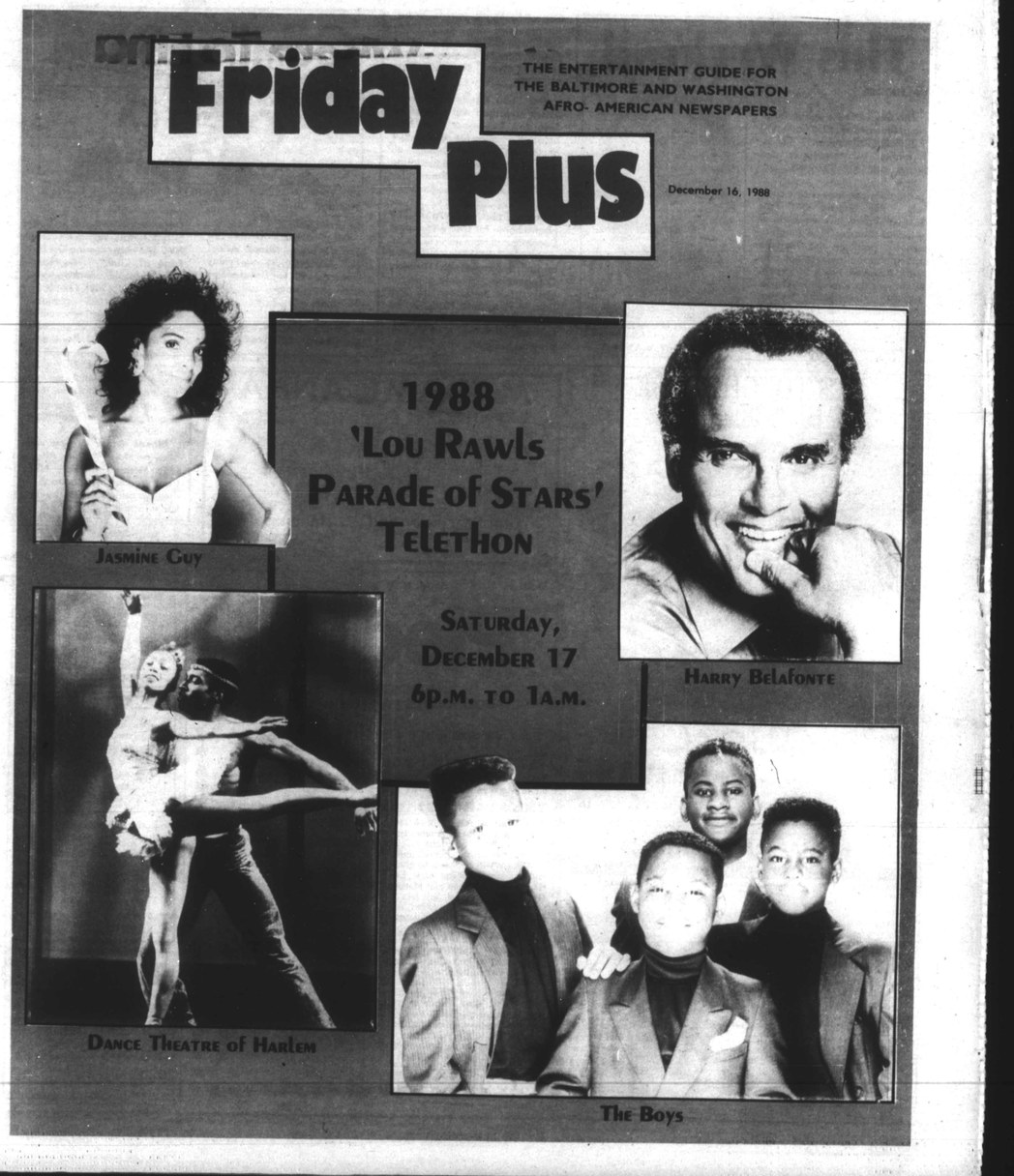
Conservatory Christmas Display

The Christmas Display (Poinsettias) at the Schaefer Conservatory in Druid Hill Park will open Saturday, December 10, 1988 and will continue through Sunday, January 8, 1989.

Featured will be Poinsettias; Red, Pink, White, also special types such as 'Bavarian Pinwheel,' 'Marble' and 'Jingle Bells' in a setting of tropical plants. In addition to the special showing there is housed here a permanent collection of tropical plants which affords something of interest anytime of the year.

The Conservatory is open everyday of the year from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and there is no admission charge.