

Caucus begins efforts to make unified stands

The 19-member Black Caucus of the General Assembly has spent a busy first two weeks of this session.

The Caucus itself is making efforts to stand together on major issues, and several of the over 80 bills filed by Caucus members have been heard in committee.

In an effort to show constituents and the administration that it can and will make united stands, the Caucus voted as a 12-man bloc, with only Del. Joseph Chester, D-2nd, holding out, on their choice for the chairmanship of the Baltimore City Delegation.

Although their choice was defeated, the Caucus won a second victory in their decision to back Del. Troy Brailey for vice chairman and subsequently having him named to that post by chairman Del. Paul Weinsengoff, D-6th.

The test of ultimate unity and strength will come as the session continues and the Caucus votes or fails to vote in a bloc on issues where their 15 House votes could turn the tide.

In the past this has been a failing point of the Caucus, and voters and the administration will be keeping a watchful eye on its members.

However, maverick votes and leaks to the press on "secret" Caucus votes during the first two weeks hint that the job of solidifying

caucus efforts will be a tough one of chairman Del. Loyal Randolph, D-4th.

Sen. Verda Welcome, D-4th, and ticket mate Del. Frank Conaway had several prefiled bills heard in committee during the first weeks. Both lead their respective Houses in the num-

Caucus hears state police aid request

The Maryland Black Caucus expressed its concern over recruitment plans of the Maryland State Police when representatives came before the Caucus, Thursday, at its first meeting of the session, to ask its support of desegregation efforts.

Major Charles Kirkpatrick, white, did most of the talking while Trooper Namon Brown, who once served as a legislative guard in Annapolis stood by.

Sen. Robert Dalton, D-2nd, asked if the state police were working on any program that would help eliminate departmental problems and pressures

ber of prefiled bills.

Del. Chester had one bill on beverages heard in committee and another was withdrawn.

Del. Kenneth Webster withdrew both his bills on drivers licenses.

Another high point of the first two weeks was the third term reelection of Sen.

that would cause black recruits to resign once they were trained.

The department is "trying to foresee situations" that might cause black recruits to resign, Kirkpatrick said. I don't feel that there are "deep seated feelings about blacks that you might find in other organizations."

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-5th, wanted to know how the department planned to prepare nearly all-white communities to accept black state police.

Barracks commanders are being called on to develop better relations with the communities in this area, Kirkpatrick told the Caucus.

Following the presentation from the state police, Dr. King Cheek, president of Morgan State College, expressed his satisfaction with funds allotted to the college in the state budget.

He asked the Caucus's support in seeing that the present budget for the institution is not cut.

Clarence Blount, D-6th, as chairman of the Baltimore City Senate delegation.



LEGISLATURE — The AFRO's General Assembly reporter, Miss Claudette Newson, may be reached at her desk in the State House Press Room, Annapolis, by calling 269-5547. If there is no answer, call back. She may be on the floor of the Senate or the House or somewhere else gathering news. You may dial the number from Baltimore without toll. Miss Newson is on duty from Monday through Friday until the closing of the General Assembly in April.

Councilmen hit bill on disclosure