



ALL SMILES—Opening day at the Maryland General Assembly at Wednesday noon found broad smiles all around. Five new delegates and senators were installed in their respective houses for this session. The AFRO camera of staff reporter-photo-

grapher Angela Chatman caught the look on the members faces which really showed their inner feelings. Shown are Del. Larry Young, in the group picture Sen. Robert Douglass, Senate President Steny Hoyer, Sen. Clarence Blount, Sen. Tommie

Broadwater Jr., and Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III. End shots show House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe presenting certificate of installation to Del. Nathaniel Exum and Del. Arthur G. Murphy.

Md. legislators try to form strong Black Caucus

ANNAPOLIS — Organizing the members of the Maryland General Assembly's Black Caucus into an effective legislative team for this session is the first order of business according to caucus chairman, Del. Loyal Randolph (D, 40).

Mr. Randolph is heading the largest single delegation of black representatives to any state chamber of its kind in the nation.

Nineteen members in all were sworn in by their respective house leaders as the gavel pounded for the opening session at Wednesday noon. Five of the assemblymen are newly elected and took their seats for the first time.

In a time of severe economic crisis which adversely affects blacks at an unemployment rate rising

to 15 per cent, Del. Randolph said legislation to be formulated by the caucus would be pointed at helping the poor and the black.

Del. Randolph said opening day was proving to be the same as it was in past years, "hectic," and that once things settled down the real work of the body could begin.

He added that he was particularly interested in legislation aimed at giving ailing state institutions a shot in the arm with more funds.

Other matters high on the Randolph Agenda for passage this session will be the bill expected to be submitted to the Senate by Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D, 40) which would give state sanction to requests by Morgan State College to be up-graded to university status.

Del. Joseph A. Chester Sr. (D, 45) acknowledged the addition of new faces in the back delegation and predicted that once the

little-heard-from rural areas of the state.

As proof of this, large groupings of Prince George's countians travelled to the capital to witness the swearing-ins.

Mrs. Lillian Broadwater, wife of the senator and a homemaker, was present with her children. The gaily dressed children included: Tommy, 15, Tanya, 14, Jacqueline, 12, and Anita, 10.

They had aided in the Broadwater campaign by distributing leaflets and ringing doorbells. Mrs. Broadwater served as her husband's secretary. She said, "My husband loves dealing with people."

Legislative action of importance by blacks on the first day was hte. resolution introduced by Sen. Welcome calling on the governor to appoint an independent panel to investigate allegations of Baltimore

Police Department spying on elected officials.

At AFRO presstime, Mr. Mandel had not responded to Mrs. Welcome's resolution which was broadcast in the local media immediately after introduction.

The governor told reporters at an unusually scheduled Tuesday press conference that for the present he accepted Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's denial of wrong-doing by his controversial Inspectional Division.

Mrs. Welcome and other black leaders have called for Pomerleau's dismissal.

In other legislative business, Thursday's afternoon meeting of the Black Caucus revealed the election of new officers.

Del. Randolph was re-elected. Mrs. Welcome was named vice chairman. Del. Murphy was installed as secretary and Sen. Broad-

water will be serving as secretary.

At presstime, the name of Del. Troy Bralley (D, 40) had been submitted to become vice chairman of the Baltimore City delegation.

Among other resolutions introduced on the first day in the house of interest to black Marylanders was a proposal by Speaker Briscoe, through the Legislative Council, for a program to control high blood pressure.

High blood pressure has been reported to be a factor in the many black health problems.

The solution also introduced in the Senate would "urge citizens to have annual blood pressure checks and to support the efforts of the Statewide Steering Committee in developing programs to control high blood pressure."

Sessions of the General Assembly will adjourn April 7.

Members of the historic caucus are:

Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III (D, 38), Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D, 40), Sen. Tommie Broadwater D, Prince George's), Sen. Clarence W. Blount (D, 41), Sen. Robert L. Douglass (D, 45), Del. Loyal Randolph (D, 40), Del. Troy Bralley (D, 40), and Del. Nathaniel Exum (D Prince George's).

Also, Del. Decatur W. Trotter (D, Prince George's), Del. Lena K. Lee (D, 38) Del. Isaiah Dixon (D, 38), Del. Larry Young (D, 38), Del. John W. Douglass (D, 45), Del. Arthur G. Murphy (D, 41) Del. Pinkney A. Howell (D, 41), and Del. Hattie N. Harrison (D, 45).

And, Del. Kenneth Webster (D, 40), Del. Walter Dean (D, 41), and Del. Joseph A. Chester (D, 45).