Uncle Sam advises CAC to be more independent

The Baltimore war on poverty could set up programs to the tune of $2,500,000 without having to go through the often suspicious City Council, if a federal directive revealed Tuesday is carried out.

The directive is contained in a list of conditions attached to the budget approved by the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Community Action Agency for the year which began July 1.

It orders the Community Action Commission to submit a report on how it plans to take away from the City Council the power of approving or disapproving any program the CAC wishes to set up.

Such a move, the list of conditions indicates, would bring Baltimore's poverty war closer to federal standards.

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CAA EXECUTIVE director Parren J. Mitchell said that $250,000 in "unallocated funds" allotted to the CAA in this year's city budget could be used free of Council control if the federal directive is implemented. Money coming from the federal government under the 10 percent rule would bring this "free use" pool to a total of $2.5 million.

Both Mr. Mitchell and commission chairman Albert Berney agreed that taking away the Council's virtual veto power over programs would represent a "major change."

Mr. Berney pointed out that the Council would still have control over many programs through action on the budget. However, projects not requiring city money or capable of being funded through "unallocated" or other resources would bypass the Council which now can squash or hobble them.

• • •

THE CHANGE — which would be the more controversial in light of recent attempts by some councilmen to strengthen Council's grip on the CAA — would require an alteration in Council Ordinance No. 438 which set up the poverty war proposal here in February of 1965.

Another directive in the list of conditions asked the CAC to form plans to bring under its own power the appointment of the poverty program's executive officials — a privilege the Mayor and Council also enjoy at present.

Miss Louise Houghteling, a field program analyst for the OEO who sat in as an observer of Tuesday's CAC meeting, said the conditions list was "to some extent" a result of criticisms of the Baltimore war on poverty made by a team of OEO evaluators last May.

One of the points in the critique, which was sent May 27 to Mr. Berney by Sidney H. Woolner, acting OEO regional director, was:

"The relationship of the CAA to the City Council seems to the team to be of major importance. It needs to be clarified in the interest of program support and coordination with other public agencies."

MISS HOUGHTELING said the conditions were designed "to give more flexibility and autonomy to the commission."

Another OEO suggestion was that the commission itself be enlarged to include more representatives of major public and private agencies. Only the City Council and the Department of Education have commission representation at present.

The commission deferred action on the conditions for further study, and Mr. Berney pointed out that — especially with regard to the enlargement of the commission — the CAC was not bound to agree with OEO's recommendation.

Mississippi tots get $500 help

NEW YORK — Dr. James H. Robinson, founder and director of Operation Crossroads Africa, announced this week that $500 had been collected from university students who comprised the "summer group of 1966 Crossroaders" for the Marian Wright Fund of Jackson, Miss.

The money will be used for food, clothing and books for Mississippi school children who are undergoing hardships because of their parents participation in the voters registration drive.

Many of the parents have become unemployed as a result of their activities, and consequently their children have suffered.

The fund, set up by Miss Marian Wright, who is employed by the NAACP and the only colored woman civil rights lawyer in Mississippi, has recently been organized to meet this emergency for the school children.

School district may lose funds

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Welfare Secretary John W. Gardner has notified Congress that the Office of Education has moved to cut off federal aid to the Indianola Municipal Separate School District in Mississippi.

An Office of Education spokesman said that the school district had waived its right fo a hearing on charges that it had not submitted a statement of compliance with desegregation provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The law requires that Congress be given 30 days notice before federal funds can be terminated under the rights act.

Congress has now been notified of intent to cut off school funds to 31 districts in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia.

Clark picketed at Birch talks

CHARLESTON, S. C. (UPI) — Three white and six colored pickets paraded in front of a Charleston Hotel Monday night, protesting a speaking appearance by former Dallas County, Ala., Sheriff Jim Clark before the Charleston chapter of the John Birch Society.

The pickets carried signs criticizing Clark who had called Dr. Martin Luther King a "big liar" in a television interview earlier in the day. It was not known if this was what brought out the pickets.

Clark had also been critical of the national news media for printing what he called "half - truths and outright lies" about the Selma, Ala., racial disturbances.

Superintendents plan annual meet

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (UPI)—New federal guidelines for faculty desegregation are expected to be a major topic at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents here July 24-28.

The meeting on faculty mixing guidelines, which will probably be held Thursday July 28 behind closed doors, will be under the direction of Thomas A. Carrere, president of the Association.

JULY 28

"The Four Days of Gemini IV" and "The Marvelous Mousetrap," films at main Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 8:15 p.m.

How Council holds up major poverty plans

The first poverty war proposal drawn up by the poor in the Baltimore — the self-help housing program — would already be starting to employ inner - city workers if it weren't for the restrictive powers of the City Council over the Community Action Agency.

The federal Office of Economic Opportunity has approved $226,362 for the program, which is to provide jobs for at least 80 unskilled poor persons, but this money will be frozen at least until City Council convenes in September and perhaps considerably beyond that time.

This is because the Council has to approve every program of the CAA, even if the city isn't paying a cent to support it.

THE SITUATION is more ironic in the case of th eself-help housing program, because the Council has already budgeted more than $300,000 for a CAA housing program.

In other words, the Council has given the CAA authorization for more money than it needs, but is preventing any money at all from being put to use.

It is because of mix-ups and delays like this that the OEO is asking the Community Action Commission to prepare a plan in which the special approval powers would be taken away from the City Council.

Parren J. Mitchell, CAA executive director, said the housing proposal will have to go to the Council Judiciary Committee and then pass the Council itself before action can be taken to implement it.

"If it weren't for the necessity of Council approval," he emphasized, "we could go ahead with this program right now."

The self - help housing program was developed by a committee composed entirely of residents of the Action Area, and provides for extensive activity to combat housing and sanitation problems.

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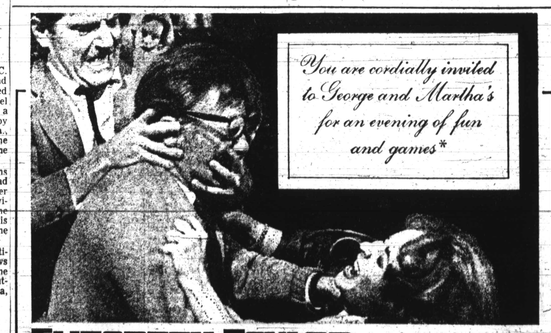

JULY 22

A music festival presented by the Bureau of Recreation will be held at the Cherry Hill Recreation Center, 2700 Spelman Road at 6 p.m.

JULY 24

"Banff and Lake Louise," "Expo. 67," "Laurentians in White" and "Nova Scotia By-Ways," films at Pratt Library Dundalk Ave. branch at 7:30 p.m.

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'Playing store' serious business for 150 in MDTA summer classes

By ROGER J. NESSLY

For 150 young women, "playing store" this summer and next school year will be serious business.

Mostly teenagers, they are, or will be, enrolled in a 12-week Manpower Development and Training Act program aimed at initiating them into the finer points of salesmanship as department store clerks.

The dilemma facing the stores and the teenagers themselves looking for jobs in the stores can be found in the Help Wanted advertisements, many of which ask for "experienced personnel only."

As one of the teenagers asks, "How can you get the experience, if you can't get the job?"

As a result of the dilemma and repeated requests from the department stores to the Maryland State Employment Service for experienced salespersons, the courses taking place daily at the Adult Education Center, Madison St. and Lafayette Ave., were born.

• • •

DESIGNED by the Department of Education and funded under grants from the U.S. Department of Labor through MDTA, the program enrolls 25 students in each of its six 12-week courses.

It was designed for youths aged about 17 to 21, and young women are referred to the course from the Youth Opportunity Center at 1727 N. Charles St.

For the 21 girls enrolled in the second session of the course the first class graduated July 8), the work is serious, but not without enjoyment.

For them it is a welcome opportunity to go back to school again and gain the experience or education they missed the first time around, the lack of which made it difficult for them to find jobs.

The course is made up of eight weeks of vocational training and four weeks of basic education reading, arithmetic, etc.) "But we mix the two sections up a little to keep it interesting," says Joseph J. Marecki, the principal of the school and assistant coordinator of the Department of Education's MDTA programs.

• • •

THE INTERESTING program has inspired at least one of the students to wish to take the high school equivalency test.

Margaret Smithwick, 21, of 2534 Pennsylvania Ave., hopes to take the test to help find a better job in sales. She left school in the eight grade and finished the ninth grade at night school.

Mr. Marecki said that after completing the MDTA courses many of the students go back to finish high school.

The daily classes, eight hours a day for five days a week, include training in the cash register, use of the telephone, taking orders, good grooming, speaking well, fabrics and arithmetic figuring taxes and discounts).

The course included a field trip to the National Cash Register Company and talks from representatives of large department stores.

Perhaps most important, the program pays $20 a week to student who have previously held a job and instills confidence in all of them.

At the end of the 12 weeks, will come a certificate for the graduates and a real chance for a job. "They are well ahead of others who have not had the training," said Mr Marecki.

ACCORDING to their teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Brooke, one aspect of the program which was thought up by the students was a fashion show which will enable them to understand types of fashions they may be selling.

For Michelle Day, 18, 716 Lyndhurst St., who left school in the eighth grade, the program is "a real opportunity.

After being unsuccessful in finding a job, she was brought into the course by the Youth Opportunity Center, which she heard about on the radio.

The program's track record so far? Nearly half of the first class already) has found employment.

The graduates report back to the Youth Opportunity Center which offers to help them find jobs.

Two students elnrolled in the Manpower Development and Training Act course for department store salespersons work on cash register techniques, while their teacher at the Baltimore Adult Education Center instructs in the handling of a telephoned order for merchandise.

Woods is hired by distributor

Native Baltimorean Edward V. Woods has been hired as a sales representative for Winner Distributors, a liquor outlet, at 1807 Whitehead Rd.

Mr. Woods, who attended high school here and took undergraduate courses in business administration at Johns Hopkins University, was formerly employed for seven years with the City Police Department.

He is married and has a nine-month-old daughter.

'Today' show

(Continued from Page 22)

Equality (CORE); Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Dr. Martin Luther King, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Stokely Carmichael, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); James Farmer, former director of CORE and now a lecturer on civil rights, and James Meredith, who was the first known colored student in the desegregation at the University of Mississippi.

Protest bar

(Continued from Page 22)

Area.

BURHA joined the protest ants

Under its "Guidelines" drawn up in 1962 BURHA protests the transfer of licenses within urban renewal areas and supports the school officials when the transfer is within 300 feet of a school.

OTHER PERSONS in the protest groups include: Wilbur Valentine, principal of School 122; Father Greenalone, St. Mary's Seminary; Dr. Saul Perdue, assistant school superintendant; Robert Ferguon, manager of McCulloh Homes; Mrs. Rosa Johnson, president and secretary respectively of School 122 PTA.

Belafonte here for engagement

WASHINGTON

Belafonte, one of the world's best known artists through his complete individuality as a singer, and the man who brought folk singing into its own with other musical forms such as jazz, opera and the classics, is performing at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre for a two week engagement thru July 31st.

Turner Station to hold massive clean-up

Joseph Butler Jr., chairman of the Turner Station Civic League, has announced a massive pick-up drive of all old, out-sized items cluttering homes, attics, garages and basements, scheduled for Monday, July 25.

All residents and property owners of Turner Station are urged to cooperate when the Baltimore County department of health and sanitation will send trucks throughout the community on the special clean-up drive.

Items which are not ordinarily collected such as the following will be picked up: old water tanks, refrigerators (doors must be removed), furniture of any kind, small storage sheds (must be dismantled and tied up) tires, stoves, bikes, bent up trash cans, and other objects.

Small appliances or items made of metal or wood should be placed in regular trash cans and tagged to indicate that they are to be removed.

• • •

ALL OF THE above mentioned articles and other refuse must be placed at the edge of property to facilitate the collection.

The Civic League theme behind the clean up campaign is "Keep Turner Station, Maryland and America Beautiful."

The Turner Station Civic League headquarters is located at 411 New Pittsburgh Ave.

Bus Trip

A "Golden Age Bus Trip" will be held August 13 with buses leaving the Cherry Hill Recreation Center for Lancaster, Pa.

Adults will be charged $7 per ticket; children under 12 will be charged $4.

The trip will tour the Amish country and buses will leave Cherry Hill at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 8 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased at the Community Building, 2700 Spelman Rd. Also, contact Mrs. Madden at 355-9663 for additional information.

JULY 27

Spiro T. Agnew, GOP candidate for governor, will speak at Morgan State College at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Lounge on the coming election. The talk is sponsored by the Institute for Political Education, G. James Fleming, director.

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