—McCourt to push

(Continued from Page 1)

cases in People's Court had called attention to the housing problems and shown the need for legislation.

* * *

JUDGE Bacharach said after the escrow decision that "I wouldn't touch it now.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm bound by Judge Foster's decision."

Represented by a member of the State Attorney General's Office at the hearing, Judge Bacharach said there will be no appeal on his part

wants to 'appeal,'" and said he expects a lot of attention will be given the matter in the session of the General Assembly.

He also pointed out that People's Court Judge William T. Tippett Jr. has indicated he will not participate in escrow agreements.

Instead, Judge Tippett has worked out a procedure with the Bureau of Building Inspection, in which cases are postponed for a week and the bureau makes a report on the dwelling which is considered when the case comes up again.

Usually the judges have ordered the tenants to then pay the rent, knowing that the landlord has been notified of any violations.

Judge Bacharach called the newspaper editorial (which failed to note the need for legislation or the length of time — often several months — it takes B. B. I. to effect repairs) a "prejudgement" and "presumptuous", since the first escrow case is being appealed and has not been finally decided by the courts.

The question before the court is whether Rent Court judges have the authority to order money held in escrow.

But Judge Bacharach conceded the need for legislation, stating that his purpose in the first escrow cases was to "bring the matter before the people" and show the need for legislation.

He said the courts have a "responsibility to see that law corresponds with social change and to bring this to the attention of the appropriate bodies."

* * *

HE ADDED that he felt his actions had done this.

"The covenant to pay rent and the covenant to make repairs are not separate and should be weighed in a court where they can be brought together."

"We cannot be callous to cries for assistance — no matter what the status quo or the establishment has to say about it," the judge declared.

He added that the court is named "People's Court" and has a duty to weigh the interests of the "people."

Another judge who has ruled for escrow in rent strike cases brought by U-JOIN to People's Court, Henry L. Rogers, has talked of the need for legislation.

Judge Rogers, a month ago, told the Property Owners Association at a dinner meeting that the time has come to end Rent Court as strickly a "landlords court."

Mr. McCourt, noting that his bill had been erroneously tabbed a "rent strike bill"—it is more properly a "rent bill"— said the law would work through the mechanics of Rent Court.

* * *

TENANTS HAVE to show good faith by presenting the money which would be placed in escrow until needed repairs are made.

"The bill is intended not to take profits from landlords, but will take excessive profits from slum landlords," he stated.

He expects pressure to be exerted by landlords against the bill, observing that "I have never seen such pressure as that against the bill last year.

"It would be a big step in clearing slums. If the profits are not there, landlords will either fix them up or tear them down.

He is counting on the bill passing on "senatorial courtesy" if seven of the 12-member city delegation in the Senate are willing to stand for it.

Last year the measure failed in the city House delegation by an 11-8 vote, he said.

The bill, which would apply only to Baltimore city, is endorsed by Mr. McCourt's fellow senator, Julian Lapides (D., Second, Baltimore) who stated that the bill, "if well written and carefully presented, has a good chance of passing."

* * *

ON THE housing reports inaugurated by Judge Tippett in October, Raphael Pratta, general superintendent of housing for B.B.I., said copies not only go to the tenant and People's Court, but a complete list of violations in the house also goes to the landlord with a notice to repair within 30 days.

After that time the landlord is eligible for one limit-ed extension before prosecution, he said, but may also apply to be put on a schedule if he has numerous properties to repair.

U-JOIN spokesmen have charged that in the latter case, it appears "the more slum properties you own, the longer you are given to fix up."

In the People's Court cases, inspectors are instructed to make the inspection and report within 48 hours of receipt of the form by B.B.I.

The triplicate form, one third of which is returned to the tenant when the inspection is made, allows a space for the tenant to make his complaints.

* * *

THESE complaints are checked, along with a complete inspection of the house, Mr. Pratta said.

He observed that the bureau will have prosecuted about 3,000 cases, where repairs have not been made, by the end of the year, but that in some cases it takes two or three years before a case can be brought to Criminal Court.

Part of the difficulty in making inspections, he said, is that the bureau is short 31 inspectors and has a hard time finding qualified men.

* * *

HALF OF the bureau's 76 inspectors are engaged in special or urban renewal projects, he said, such as Harlem Park, Steuart Hill, Madison Square, Mount Vernon, the Experimental Conservation District and a Community Action Agency antiblight project in East Baltimore.

The new housing code enacted by City Council will help the inspectors act more efficiently he said, noting that, for example, B.B.I. can now require outside paint on buildings where it is defective or flaking.

He added that data processing equipment used by the department — one of the first to do so — gives the bureau a complete picture of the city, including frequency of infractions in any area.

—Letter from GI

(Continued from Page 1)

by the enemy, but I don't want to die from asthma.

"Mom, I love you and miss all of you.

"Love, son
Herman"

* * *

MRS. EDISON said she has written "Myra" several times but has received no reply. She explained that her son gave Myra, a friend, the medical records when he was ticketed for shipment to Viet Nam while stationed in Kentucky.

She was supposed to send them to Baltimore, Mrs. Edison said.

The worried mother, who reported she too is ill with a heart condition and an ear infection, said she tried to contact her son through the Adjutant General's office and through the Red Cross but to no avail.

Mrs. Edison said she is also in need of hospitalization so in need of hospitalization, but does not want to leave home until she hears from her son.

"For all I know, my boy could be dead right now," she said tearfully late Thursday.

She added that although she is temporarily neglecting her physical well being in hopes of hearing from her son, Mrs. Edison said she finds little comfort.

"Everytime the phone rings, I jump. I'm so nervous I don't know what to do. Everytime it rings, I think it may be bad news about my son. I still wait."

The mother scotched any possibility that her son wants to duck the war in the Southeast Asian country.

"My boy wouldn't 'chicken out' from army duty even because of sickness. He doesn't mind the army, he just wants to be sure his medicine is always available. That's al I want, too," she said emotionaly.

* * *

SGT. JONES, who entered the service in 1959, has seen duty in Germany and Korea. Mrs. Edison has been in the hospital for asthma at every place he has been stationed," she pointed out.

He is married to a Korean, the former Miss Nan Yon, Mrs. Edison reported.

A copy of the letter was transmitted to the Department of Defense and Lt. Col. Howard Smith, a press officer, said the agency will "get on it right away."

He said an effort to contact Defense Department officials in Saigon was started upon receipt of the soldier's letter.

The soldier, who entered the army at 16, is also the son of Earl Edison, has two sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Peggy Carter, Miss Judy Edison, Michael and Chris.

Navy program

Machine accountants and data systems technicians may now enlist directly into the Navy as high as pay-grade E-7 without any previous military training.

The program permits young men to fulfill their military obligation with the pay any privileges of a senior petty officer in the Navy. Many qualify without having had previous military training.

The local Navy recruiter is located in Room 323 Calvert Bldg. St. Paul and Fayette Sts., or call 752-8460 for further information.

DEC. 6

Formal lighting of the Fellowship House Community Christmas tree and Menorah, 7 p.m. at Fellowship House, 2200 N. Hilton. At 8 p.m., Holiday for Music concert at nearby School No. 21, Hilton and Carlisle, featuring famous B and O choir.

DEC. 11

Upton School's annual tree lighting and carol singing ceremony at 3 p.m. on the grounds of the school, 811 W. Lanvale.

-Bribe rap

(Continued from Page 1)

before the jury were several who purportedly gave the minister money to intercede in behalf of relatives who had been sentenced to prison.

"I don't know what grounds they can ask for the indictments," the minister when for comment, "I have never done anything without the knowledge of my supervisors, and others."

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Social Welfare conference follows Chamber meeting

The Maryland Conference of Social Welfare held its Fall Institute at the Emerson Hotel Wednesday following the luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

The session was arranged by the Chamber to focus attention on the fact that businessmen like all citizens must face growing problems presented by social welfare.

The luncheon guest speaker was Robert N. Hilkert, first vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

In his talk entitled, "Business and Social Welfare," the banker urged greater participation by businessmen in the elimination of poverty.

He predicted big corporations, executives, lawyers and bankers will soon realize poverty disrupts economy and society and is too expensive.

Stating "We had better hurry," Mr. Hilkert asked business to take steps to create jobs. Adequate jobs for all will nearly eliminate poverty, he stated.

Among panelists and resource people on the Social Welfare institute were Dr. Irene Diggs, professor of sociology and anthropology, Morgan State College, Mrs. Margaret McCarthy, chairman, Rescuers from Poverty of U-JOIN, and Kenneth O. Wilson, vice president in charge of advertising of the AFRO and member of the Community Action Commission.

TRASH COLLECTION

'It's awful, worse than World War 2,'—Moore

'It's awful . . . it's worse than World War 2 . . .'

Edward J. Moore, the city's sanitary engineer was telling the AFRO, Thursday, why there has not been regular trash collection in the city.

Mr. Moore's comments were occasioned by a complaint to the AFRO by a resident of the 2000 block N. Bentalou St.

The resident reported there had been no collection in his area for over ten days.

* * *

MR. MOORE said he would look into this complaint, but added, 'It's awful. Sixty pieces of equipment are in the shop. Forty three new pieces ordered last August haven't been delivered . . . we're having a time . . .'

What citizens can do: If trash collection in your area is irregular, dial Plaza 2-2000, ask for Mr. Moore's office, request relief.

School girl, 10, auto victim

A 10-year-old schoolgirl was victim of a fatal auto-pedestrian accident at Braddish and Rayner Ave. Tuesday about 3:15 p.m. The driver was identified as a teacher.

The young girl, Sheila Darden, of the 2600 block Edmondson Ave., died Wednesday morning at 2 a.m. at Lutheran Hospital.

Accident investigators said the girl was crossing Braddish about 72 feet north of Rayner at the time of the mishap.

Police identified the driver of the 1964 sedan northbound on Braddish as Mrs. Dayette Anita Conner, 23, of 1000 block Braddish Ave.

She has been charged with reckless driving.

DEC. 4

"Making the Most of the Holidays" will be the topic of the 11 a.m. sermon at the First Unitarian Church, Charles and Franklin Sts., by the minister, the Rev. Dr. Irving R. Murray.

Driver training for 5,000 pupils

Five thousand youngsters under the age of 21 will be trained to operate motor vehicles as a part of the Driver Education program offered by public schools during the 1966 - 1967 school year.

Driver education is made available as an after-school activity. One hundred driver education instructors are engaged in twenty secondary schools throughout the city.

The course includes 30 hours of classroom instruction plus six hours of practice driving.

The 60 automobiles used in the program are supplied by 15 new cars dealers at no charge to the schools.

THE COOPERATING dealers are:

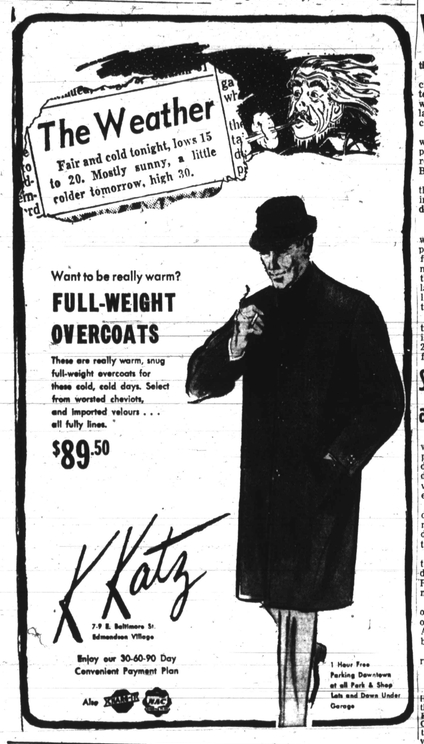
Anderson Chevrolet, Anderson Oldsmobile, Archway Ford, Belair Road Chevrolet, City Oldsmobile, Clifton Rambler, Fox Chevrolet, Luby Chevrolet;

Northwest Rambler, Oriole Rambler, Penn Brothers Plymouth, Schmidt Ford, Sherwood Plymouth, Toby Hallet and Triangle Chrysler - Plymouth.

The cooperation of these automobile dealers and manufacturers has made behind - the - wheel instruction available to thousands of Baltimore students at a tremendous savings to the taxpayer, Department of Education officials said.

Independent studies in many states indicate that Driver Education graduates have better traffic safety records and receive fewer traffic citations than teenagers without this instruction, they added.

The weather
Fair and cold tonight, lows 15 to 20. Mostly sunny, a little colder tomorrow, high 30.



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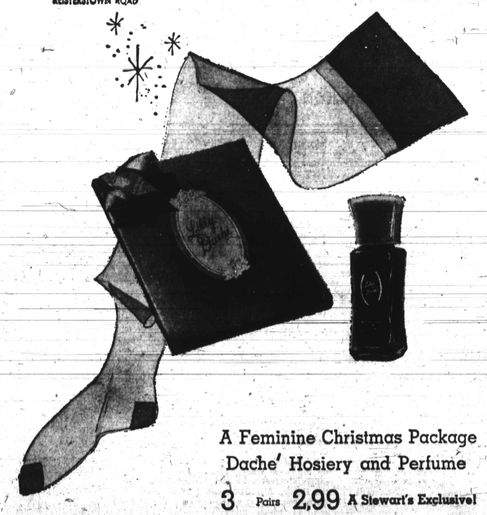

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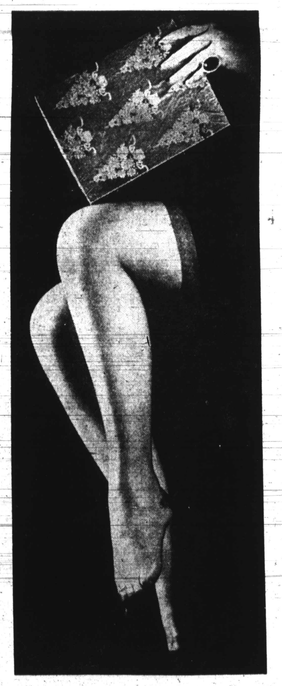

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