Hargrove, Tilghman in key posts for food market venture

Two prominent Baltimoreans fill key roles in what was described this week as an "economic breakthrough" for inner city dwellers.

They are John R. Hargrove and Charles P. Tilghman. Both are key executives in a food market venture, Jet Food Corp., unveiled here Tuesday.

Mr. Hargrove, former People's Court judge and former deputy U. S. district attorney, is general counsel and member of the board of directors of the new corporation.

Mr. Tilghman, well known and highly popular founder and president of the Sphinx Club, is treasurer and board member of Jet Foods Corp.

The venture, designed to bring quality food at competitive prices to inner city residents is headed by Herman T. Smith, president, with offices at 1114 Mondawmin Concourse.

Mr. Smith, 54, also heads Herman T. Smith Associate in Washington, marketing consultants.

Andrew T. Hatcher, once associate press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, now brewery representative is vice president, as is Miss Shirley E. Doneghy, currently a research assistant at Morgan State College.

Andrew W. Johnson Jr., former salesman, is director of consumer relations.

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JET FOODS CORP., according to Mr. Hargrove, is unique to the extent that it is a socio - economic prototype which hopefully will lead to a nationwide network of such markets specifically serving the inner-city consumer.

Jet Foods, Mr. Smith reports, will be the parent corporation from which will spring subsidiaries in all major cities having a heavy

(Continued from Page 20)

Hospital workers lose on vacations

A recent move by officials of Baltimore's Mercy Hospital to "farm out" its housekeeping services to a private firm has caused concern among a large number of colored employees of the institution who fear that the "farm out" program will ultimately mean a "phase out" of their jobs.

Under the provisions of a contract between the hospital and the Tri - State Maintenance Company, the hospital will abolish its own maintenance staff and turn all of the duties over to the new firm.

The hospital workers have expressed marked concern in the areas of sick leave and paid vacations.

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UNDER THE old hospital-operated plan workers received ten days of sick leave each year. Under the new program with Tri - State they will only receive four days sick leave each year.

Employees with one year of service received two weeks paid vacation under the older plan, while those with five and ten years service received three and four weeks, respectively.

Under the new plan employees will receive only a one week vacation, though vacations due for 1967 will be paid for by the hospital, whether Tri - State gives them time off or not.

A hospital spokesman, who said the move was an attempt to "hold the line" on rising hospital costs added that the new contract went into effect Jan. 29.

The official also promised that all of the employees with tenure would be "taken care of," but when asked how, replied, "each case

(Continued from Page 20)

McAllister new lawyer in jury race test case

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

James W. McAllister has been named by Judge Charles D. Harris as the court-appointed attorney to defend William Calvert Robinson, 1000 block Valley St., when the rape-murder trial comes up again in Criminal Court.

Last week Mr. Robinson, 31, fired Nelson R. Kandel, the attorney paid by his family, while the hearing was in the midst of important legal moves to throw out the indictments.

Mr. Kandel contended members of the September, 1965 Grand Jury who charged Mr. Robinson with rape and murder in November that that year were illegally selected on the basis of race.

He maintained the systematic inclusion of whites and exclusion of colored citizens deprived his client of his rights under the Constitution.

On Wednesday Mr. McAllister, the new lawyer, told the AFRO, "I plan to

(Continued on Page 21)

Moore House fought by Assessments unit

By MACEO MANNING

The house at 433 E. 25th St. does not exist, at least not in the way it is purported to exist, according to one city agency.

A white, 12" by 15" sign hanging at the left of the entrance marks the three-story brick row house as the "William L. Moore Foundation."

The telephone directory lists the property — at the end of four other William L. Moores, as the William L. Moore Foundation, Inc., 433 E. 25th St., 235-6855.

William L. Moore was the white Baltimore postman who, on April 23, 1963 became the first martyr to the current civil rights movement when he was fatally shot in Gasden, Ala., on a self-styled freedom walk to Jackson, Miss. He carried a letter for the Miss. Governor Ross Barnett.

The foundation was established at the apartment house where he lived, in the words of one member "to carry on the message of human dignity that Bill died for."

• • •

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at the Bill Moore house. Discussions center around what methods can make an educational and cultural center effective in the black ghetto ("It must be something they can be proud of—something that belongs to them.")

Neighborhood youths who attend the meetings participate in the frank, free-wheeling talks ("What we need is a place where clubs can meet — where say a kid can come and study and get some help with his homework, especially when things get bad at home.")

The youngsters browse through some 2,500 books contributed by Baltimore bookstores and private donors. The titles range from autobiographies of Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X, to

(Continued on Page 21)

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BOOM — Firemen remove debris from row homes in the 5200 block of Denmore St. after snow - laden porch roof fell. No one was injured. City building inspector said mishap was caused from weight of the snow and rotted timber. (AFRO Staff photo by Phillips)

Snow-laden porch roof falls with boom but nobody hurt

By MICHAEL DAVIS

Ochs, Frizzella, Scott and her brother James Anderson 5207 Denmore St., were sitting in the living room when they heard it.

Raymond, Leroy and Timothy Richmond were in the kitchen of their home at 5211 Denmore St. when it happened.

Sheila Brooks and her sister, Paula, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brooks, 5209 Denmore St., don't remember where they were when it happened. But they heard it too.

In fact, just about everyone in the 5200 block of Denmore St. heard the huge snow - laden porch roof crash to earth early Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Myrtle Washington, who lives with her husband Stanley, at 5213 Denmore St., said she heard a loud and unexplained noise and that when she looked outside she saw that the porch on her house and three adjoining houses had fallen.

"It sounded like a car had crashed against the house," one of the Richmond brothers said.

"I thought it was the wind at first," another told the AFRO.

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SHELIA BROOKS said that the house frightened her. "It came down all of a sudden," she said, "It was a big loud crash and had all of us in the house pretty well frightened."

James Anderson said he thought it was an earthquake. "Man, I was sitting here and all of a sudden that thing just came down. I thought it was an earthquake. "Man, I was sitting sister, I think your house is falling down."

The porch, which covered four homes on Denmore Street fell to the ground after a heavy snow storm which blanketed the Baltimore area.

City building inspector Frank Runge said preliminary investigation revealed that the mishap was caused by the weight of accumulated snow on the buildings and rotten timber.

"We are going to have to take a closer look at some of the other buildings in this neighborhood," he said. "I am pretty sure that some of the other porches here will be condemned."

Baltimore Fire Department Lt. Lloyd Allen of truck 22 who was assigned the job of clearing the debris said, "We sure are lucky that no one was injured. I would hate to imagine what would have happened if someone had been under all of that porch when it fell."

Parks' stand on housing law unchanged

"I am a strong proponent of open occupancy and all other rational civil rights legislation.

"I am part of a vast throng that is tired of waiting for something to happen in the tomorrows."

Fourth District Councilman Henry G. Parks Jr., was answering his critics who took issue with his stand on Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin's introduction of the latest fair housing bill in City Council.

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Civil rights groups, individuals, and the weekly press voiced criticism of the influential councilman's reported characterization of the mayor's actions as an "exercse in futility."

This criticism, Mr. Parks said this week, was based on

(Continued on Page 21)

Miracle at church: roof falls; none killed

By WILLIAM E. WHITFORD

The snow - covered roof of a Roman Catholic Church collapsed Thursday during a Lenten service attended by about 100 worshippers most of them children.

No one was killed although several persons were trapped in the rubble of the St. Rose of Lima Church and had to be pulled free by rescuers. Thirty-four persons were hurt, 15 of them seriously enough to be admitted to hospitals.

"It's the miracle of the century in Baltimore that no one was killed,' said the Rev. James Perry, pastor at a nearby Methodist church.

The Rev. Francis O'Brien had just concluded the offertory at the 8 a.m. mass when there was a rumble, said Mrs. John Tillman, 66, a parishioner.

He had just turned from the altar to face the congregation with his arms outstretched when the noise came," she said.

"He looked up at the ceiling and saw it start to buckle. He started screaming: 'Run, run, everybody run!'"

Father O'Brien and a nun, Sister Mary Ann, principal of the church school, quickly gathered the children together and led them out a side door as the roof, covered with nearly a foot of snow from Tuesday's blizzard, began to collapse.

LARRY JACKSON and Calvin Williams, seated, browse through book at the Moore House. With them are Norman V. Reeves, acting chairman, and Mrs. Edith Horowitz.

Man held in assault threat to physician

A Washington Blvd. man was charged with assault and held for mental observation in Southern Municipal Court after an alleged assault attempt on a South Baltimore physician.

Dr. J. S. Braxton, who operates the Sharp Street Clinic at 922 Sharp St., said a man, identified by police as Edward Long, 46, of 755 Washington Blvd., came into his office at about 8 p.m. Wednesday and starting making threats.

Braxton told police that

(Continued from Page 20)

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Budget cuts seen harmful for Morgan

ANNAPOLIS — Budget cuts for Morgan State College during the coming fiscal year are harmful, the Senate Finance Committee was told here Thursday by Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president.

He pointed out generally that the overall appropriation of $5,494,000, exclusive of Federal funds, is $374,187 less than the college requested.

Dr. Jenkins reminded also that just 20 or 25 new positions requested had been allowed.

He revealed that three positions had been abolished, leaving a net increase of 17.

He expressed gratitude over the provisions for an increase in faculty salaries, stating it would be helpful in recruiting and retaining faculty members.

HOWEVER, HE pointed out that there is an urgent need for an increase in the salaries of classified personnel, expressed the hope provisions for such would come in the supplemental budget.

In the matter of operating expenses at Morgan, Dr. Jenkins said that allowance for fiscal 1968 is $113,000 less that the appropriation for fiscal 1967 and $33,000 less than the 1966 actual.

Hardest hit, he said, is the plant operation and maintenance, where the allowance for fiscal 1968 is $13,000 less than the appropriation for fiscal 1967 and $100,000 less than the 1966 actual.

Dr. Jenkins said it will be

(Continued on Page 20)

No action yet on Howard by Supreme Bench

Research on the practices of the departments of justice in Baltimore and Maryland has become more frequent recently.

Examination of the method or selecting members of the grand jury is being done in connection with two cases now pending in Criminal Court.

In the fall of 1966, research done by Asst. States Atty. Joseph C. Howard revealed persons accused of rape are dealt with differently by the courts of Maryland of the race of the defendant and the prosecuting witness.

Mr. Howard still has not received an answer to into his job by the Supreme Bench, which says there is no difference in the handling of race cases involving colored and white women and colored men.

Meantime the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. of New York has included Maryland in its check on how the courts in Southern states discriminate against colored prisoners charged with capital crimes.

Maryland was added to the list of 11 other states after Mr. Howard exposed how discrimination on the basis of race affects justice in the courts here.

Mr. Howard's assertions in September were followed by

(Continued on Page 21)

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SATURDAYS:

CONFESSIONS 3-6 and 7:30-8:30 P.M.

SPECIAL BLESSING OF THE SICK every Monday after 3:30 4:30 and 8:00 P.M. Novena Services. LOURDES WATER, imported from Lourdes, France, especially for the SICK, is available in the rectory at all times.

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Housing Bill Topic Of Dinner Meeting

(STORY ON PAGE 23)

Final Rites For George G. Kelson

(PHOTO-STORY BACK PAGE)

Nab 'Jerry Lee' In Robbery Death

Agnew taps Harris for liquor board

By MAX JOHNSON

ANNAPOLIS — Maryland's new Gov. Spiro T. Agnew pulled a history-making integration move here today, with one of his "Green Back" appointments.

It came in his naming of Elmer O. Harris, 2025 Wolcott Ave., to Baltimore's three-member Liquor Board.

This board has never been integrated before.

Mr. Harris, 50, a Republican, will serve in the $8,000 a year Liquor Board post for a term of two years, beginning May 1.

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GOV. AGNEW, as had been expected, also renamed Marshall W. Jones Jr., East Baltimore mortician, as a member of Baltimore's Supervisors of Elections.

He was first named a couple of years ago by the then Gov. J. Millard Tawes, in a move that first integrated that three-member board.

Mr. Jones, now the veteran Republican majority member on this board, is expected to be later designated its president.

This will be another historic racial advancement.

There is the possibility that another such forward step could develop at the Supervisors of Elections.

Lloyal Randolph, who has been acting chief clerk for

(Continued on Page 21)

ELMER HARRIS

MARSHALL W. JONES JR.

Civic Center out, another site sought

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Judge Joseph Carter's ruling that upholds the Civic Center Commission's "No James Brown anytime" policy does not mean the popular Rock 'N Roll star won't be here.

On Wednesday after the jurist sided with the Commission against James Brown's appearance at the city-owned auditorium March 25, Edward J. Kahn, president of E. J. Kahn and Associates, Inc., said the show will go on elsewhere in Baltimore.

He stated, "We're going to have the show somewhere here. We'll pack the place."

Mr. Kahn reached the star at the Continental Hotel in Los Angeles Thursday and was assured by "Mr. Dynamite" that "I'll still be there just the same. I'll play anywhere you want."

The 24-year-old owner of the downtown Pink Pussycat Cafe who has already made a $7,500 deposit for Brown to come here March 25 with his Famous Flames and 18-piece orchestra.

Judge Carter's ruling not only left the Kahn promoters

(Continued on Page 21)

Dr. Lillie faces KKK

Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, president of the Baltimore NAACP, who has faced many strange situations since she has headed the NAACP, confronted the Ku Klux Klan (today) Friday.

Dr. Jackson and her daughter, Mrs. Juanita Mitchell are being sued for $200,000 by the Klan which is alleging libel

The action grows out of a complaint by a former employee of the Baltimore Transit Co., that statements made by Dr. Jackson caused him to lose his bus driver's job.

Dr. Jackson's contention is that the case should be heard in the federal court, and she has asked transfer of the case from the Baltimore County court to the federal district court.

She asked that the case be transferred on constitutional grounds.

U. S. District Judge Roszel C. Thomsen began hearing testimony from attorneys for the NAACP Friday morning, asking that $200,000 damage suit against the rights organization be removed from the jurisdiction of the Baltimore County

(Continued on Page 2)

Teachers need right coupon

The Favorite Teachers race moved out of the starting gate at a fast pace Tuesday with the appearance of the first coupon for final voting.

While student backers of the 94 finalists — who are listed in this edition — are busy piling up votes for their favorite, the Contest Editor found it necessary to sound a warning.

Among the batch of coupons flowing into her office this week are many NOMINATING VOTES, the ed-

(Continued on Page 2)

Elderly tenant finds life tough fighting rats, cold

'Renters, beware. The Baltimore housing code, which became eff[illegible] 1 makes rats and roaches the responsibility of the renter.

"We don't have anything to do with them since the new code went into effect," a local realtor told the AFRO" but if people complain we'll send them some rat poison."

Mrs. Lillian E. Perkins doesn't know anything about the new building code, but she does know that she doesn't like the rats in her home at 717 W. Lafayette Ave.

She said she complained to the real estate firm that manages the property and that some poison was sent out.

"But then," she complained," the rats ate the poison and died in the walls making my kitchen so intolerable that I couldn't use it".

Mrs. Perkins said she called the real estate firm and was told that she used the poison in the wrong way. She was told she should have placed a bucket of water a-long side the poison and that when the rats ate the poison they would have become thirsty, climbed into the pail of water for a drink and died.

It seems this didn't work either, so Mrs. Perkins, who is 72, and has been a resident of Baltimore since 1916 had to leave her kitchen last Sunday.

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A SPOKESMAN for the real estate firm conceded that "occasionally" a rat will die in the walls but that the company could not go in the house and "tear down" walls looking for the dead rat.

But the rat problem is just one of a series of problems Mrs. Perkins had faced since living in W. Lafayette Ave.

She said she pays $12 a week for rent, and only receives $68 a month from the Social Security Administration and from welfare.

She said she has called her welfare worker but is always told that she is out or in a conference. She said that she hasn't seen the worker for more than a month and that the last time the worker was at her home she had said she would see if Mrs. Perkins' welfare payments could be increased.

"I haven't heard from her since," said Mrs. Perkins, who suffered a stroke in 1956. "They say she is in a meeting. I leave my number but she never calls me back."

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MRS. PERKINS said she would like to move but that her current income won't allow her to leave the fourroom house.

She said that the welfare worker had suggested that she take in borders to help pay the rent, but Mrs. Perkins said her small space heaters do not adequately warm the house.

"I am having a hard time making ends out," she said, "when it's real cold and I don't have money for coal oil. I just get in bed to keep warm. After I pay rent and buy a little food, I don't have much left. I just have to make out as best I can."

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'Bullets don't discriminate, landlords do,' Johnson says

WASHINGTON

In a dramatic and at times emotional message to Congress, President Johnson this week asked for a 1967 civil rights package that would make it unnecessary for him to apologize to returning Vietnam veterans.

"The bullets at the battlefront do not discriminate but the landlords at home do," the President said in outlining the need for his fair housing proposals.

The major part of the civil rights bill dealt with housing with a three-part section which would make it possible for all citizens to purchase homes, rent dwellings anywhere they wished by 1[illegible]

Under the President's proposed Civil Rights Act, the fair housing section would cover 4 percent of housing, including all big apartment houses in 1967; add all real estate developments in 1968 and in 1969 cover all housing everywhere. In essence, the bill would allow every citizen to live anywhere they can afford to live.

OTHER PROVISIONS in-

(Continued on Page 21)

Phillips quits police force

Former Tactical Squad Officer Leroy A. Phillips, who became the object of a Police Department "racial epithet" hearing has resigned from the force.

Personal records show the officer's resignation became effective Feb. 3.

The eight-year veteran received the hearing before a five-man police panel on four charges Jan. 4 and 5.

Five days after the panel of two women in an incident in November.

Also, with being uncivil in shouting at two Sunpapers reporters who witnessed the arrest.

And with violating a general order prohibiting the use of any epithet, such as "n...r," toward any citizen.

After the reporters' account of the arrest was published, Commissioner Pomerleau ordered an investigation of the incident and set up the hearing.

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OFFICER PHILLIPS once balked in the Western District at having his picture taken with a colored policeman when they were assigned to the same car.

He entered the force in April of 1958 in the Southwestern District. A year and a half later he moved to the Western District, where he served until his assignment to the Tactical Squad nine months ago.

The tactical unit is considered one of the elite groups under the latest reorganization.

2 women on Morgan Board

The appointment of Dr. Delores Hunt to the Board of Trustees of Morgan State College makes two women on the board. The other is Dr. Elaine Davis.

Governor Agnew named Dr. Hunt, a Baltimore principal and civic leader to a nine-year term, she succeeds Henry Niles, whose term expired.

With the appointment of Dr. Hunt, a majority of the nine-member board is colored.

Pen escapee gone 85 days back in jail

(Special To The AFRO)

GOSHEN, N.Y. — For a while at least it will be no problem to find two time escapee Jerry Lee Parker.

Louis Henry Warren, alias Jerry Lee Parker, target of an 85 - day search, is safely tucked away in a cell of the Orange County Jail here in this upstate New York town.

He is charged with murder in the first degree and is being held without bail for action of the grand jury.

Orange County District Attorney Angelo Ingrassia told the AFRO late Thursday that the jury is expected to act no later than March 3.

Jerry Lee Parker, Louis Henry Warren, or Louis Napoleon Warren, or "Duck," as he has been known at various times, is accused in the Jan. 30, hold - up murder of a Newburgh motel owner.

Mr. Ingrassia reported that 66 - year - old Martin Simon Sr., who operated the Balmville Motel, was shot four times in the head and once in the chest during the robbery which occurred shortly before midnight on the 30th.

Jerry Lee, 33, unit block Lander St. and a co-defendant, John Thomas Graham, 25, unit block S. Miller St., were arrested in Newburgh, Feb. 6.

A third suspect in the robbery - murder which netted an undetermined amount of cash was arrested Feb. 9 by State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation agents and city police.

He is Robert Fletcher Culbreth, 28, 200 block First St.

Two material witnesses, Miss Vicki Eve Gober, 16, 200 block Grand St., and Edward Lee Warren, 25, unit block S. Water St., are also being held. Mr. Ingrassia reported.

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THIS IS the first time police officials have been able to get their hands on the elusive Jerry Lee since Nov. 22, when he walked, ran or was carried from the Maryland Penitentiary, where he was serving a 20 - year armed robbery sentence.

A candidate for imminent parole, according to Warden Roger B. Copinger Jr., Jerry Lee was working in the State Use Warehouse and the office of Commissioner Vernon L. Peperszack as a "trusty."

In the subsequent AFRO search which included a visit to Salemburg, N.C., it was reported that nobody was interested in finding Jerry Lee because nobody was looking for him.

If they were it was noted, police and prison officials didn't know who they were looking for because nobody had any idea as to the whereabouts of the warrant.

Asked late Thursday if prison officials had any further word on the 'missing man,' assistand warden, James Jor-

(Continued on Page 23)

STOLEN CARS UNCOVERED — Crime Lab technician dusts down stolen cars for fingerprints. Three GTO's were recovered from two garages Wednesday in the rear of the 2400 block Brookfield Ave.

Garages yield stolen cars

By ROGER J. NISSLY

With the uncovering of several stolen cars in the process of being stripped, Northern District investigators appear close to breaking a car theft ring operating on expensive autos from the area below Druid Lake.

The ring, besides concentrating on expensive models, shows the mechanical skill of "professionals," according to police.

Northern District Sgt. John Vogl, who is handling the investigation, said yesterday that five cars have been recovered in the area.

The area, a thorn in the side of the Northern District, in recent months has been the object of some 50 burglaries.

A breakthrough in the burglary ring, which police said was formed to finance the dope habits of its members, also was made known this week.

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WEDNESDAY officers discovered- three late model Pontiac G.T.O.'s in various states of dismantlement in garages in the area

From all three the drive shafts had been removed. Wheels and seats were missing. The motor was being taken apart on a 1966 model.

Sgt. Vogl said he believes considerably more than the five cars recovered are involved.

With the investigation continuing, he said, he expects arrests shortly.

Head of the Auto Squad, Lt. David Ralston, confirmed yesterday that the three G.T.O.'s had been turned over to the squad.

(Continued on Page 21)

Urge Your Congressman To Back The President

By CLARENCE MITCHELL, Jr.

President Johnson has shown the kind of courage that the times demand.

He has again asked the Congress to pass a Civil Rights Bill including a prohibition against discrimination in the sale and rental of housing.

Denial of homes, apartments and other living accommodations on the basis of race is one of the most disgraceful aspects of American life.

This problem affects the poor and the so-called middle class alike.

It is the scourge of the civilian population and also lashes servicemen and women even when they are assigned to various parts of the country to defend us against foreign enemies.

Opposition Expected

The plain political fact that we must face is the President's housing program will be opposed by real estate interests and segregationists. They will pour money into propaganda campaigns and exert enormous pressures on the Congress.

New Votes Needed In Senate

Present estimates indicate that some 10 to 14 new votes must be gotten under the Senate cloture rule if we are to break a filibuster against the bill.

Because of defeats in the 1966 election, a shift of 10 votes may cause the measure to win or lose in the House.

This means that there is a heavy responsibility on the supporters of civil rights throughout the country.

It is not enough to persuade the members of the House and Senate to give him backing.

Commitments Needed

Now is the time to get firm and unequivocal commitments from each senator and each congressman in favor of fair housing legislation and the entire civil rights package sent to Congress by the President.

AFRO poll on fair housing finds Rubenstein optimistic

By MICHAEL DAVIS

"Bigotry has reached a high-point in Baltimore, but I think the attitudes of the people are changing. I believe we are approaching a period of enlightenment. If we keep plugging away, I think we can pass the open housing bill." Baltimore city Councilman Leon A. Rubenstein told the AFRO Wednesday.

Rubenstein, a former state representative, said he will vote for the administration-backed bill introduced for Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, when it comes before the council.

Rubenstein took issue with City Council president, Thomas D'Alesandro and Councilman Henry G. Parks, who have charged that the bill, banning discrimination in the sale or leasing of real estate, is little more than a political gesture.

"McKeldin's position on the civil rights question is well known," Rubenstein said. The mayor doesn't have to make false gestures to any group."

D'Alesandro, who said he would vote for the measure, charged that McKeldin "knew the bill wouldn't pass" before he introduced it Wednesday.

Similar bills aimed at wiping out real estate discrimination in Baltimore have met with failure in recent years.

A majority vote of the 21-man council is necessary for the measure's passage.

FOURTH District Councilman Walter T. Dixon, who introduced a similar bill in 1963 was optimistic. "Hope this time," he said, "some of the people will undergo a change of heart."

Second District Councilman Thomas Ward, and Fourth District Councilman Maurice Soypher said they will support the bill.

Soypher told the AFRO he felt the bill would be defeated by a small margin.

Second District Councilman Clement J. Prucha, who has opposed the bill in the past, refused to discuss the new version with an AFRO reporter.

When asked if he would support the measure this time, Prucha replied, "I'd rather not say."

Fifth District Councilman Reuben Caplan, another opponent of the measure in previous years, said he "hadn't seen the bill" and had no comment.

Second District Councilman Charles Paniuska, confined to a local hospital, was not available for comment.

JERRY LEE PARKER

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