Mayor launches Outer City upgrade housing program

Mayor William Schaefer officially has launched the Outer City Program designed to maintain and upgrade housing in all areas currently not covered by Urban Renewal.

The mayor said, "throughout my career as a city official, I have fought to prevent blight and urged programs designed to improve maintenance of existing quality structures. I make a pledge that as Mayor, I would put into action projects which will do just that."

The program will be administered, starting April 15, by the Neighborhood Development Division of HCD which will coordinate the efforts of all HCD and Health Department personnel working with the project. The Department of Public Works will supply a liaison official.

A total of 116,000 outer city homes will be covered by the program. However, certain areas have been designated for concentrated efforts.

Specifically, the outer city will be divided into three categories:

1. Preservation Areas — 19,000 structures 6 areas — Govans, Pimlico, Upper Park Heights Hilton, Monastery, and Mayfield. These sections are showing the the most advanced stages of blight. Team inspections will be made house-by-house to identify exterior housing and sanitary defects that require their correction.

2. Cooperation Program Areas — 21,700 structures — 7 areas — Northwood, Chiquipin, Belair, Edison, Waverly, Charles Village, Hanlon Park, and South East Improvement Association area. The Association members will investigate exterior housing and sanitation conditions and seek voluntary compliance. If this fails, the association will turn the matter over to the Outer City Team assigned to their area.

3. Environmental Patrol Areas — 75,000 structures — in all other outer city areas — HCD and Health Department teams will inspect every block on an average of once every two monts. Sanitary Violations will receive notices and major exterior structutal violations will be turned over to the HDC inspector for further action.

Price index soars on food fuel

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Because of soaring food prices, the cost of living rose one-half of 1 per cent in February—sharpest one-month rise since last summer, the Labor Department said Thursday.

The 0.5 per cent increase in the Consumer Price Index, which measures retail prices across the nation, was the same when based on actual prices and after adjustment for seasonal variations.

Food prices registered the greatest one-month jump in 14 years, 1.7 per cent when seasonally adjusted, with meat prices accounting for nearly three-fourths of it. But fresh fruit and vegetable prices also were up sharply.

Not since March, 1958, had there been a larger one-month jump. Food prices that month soared 1.9 per cent.

The overall food price index includes both groceries and restaurant meals. The increase in prices at the supermarket level alone was even greater—1.9 per cent in February. This also was a 14-year high.

The 0.5 per cent rise in the overall index was the biggest one month jump, on both a seasonally adjusted and unadjusted basis, since last June. That was two months before President Nixon imposed a 90-day freeze on wages and prices.

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PATTERSON SUPPORTED

Citizens overwhelmingly favor decentralization

At Poly-Western High School Wednesday night citizens overwhelmingly supported Superintendent Roland N. Patterson's plans to decentralize the school system. Of the 44 citizens speaking eight were against, 36 were in favor.

On hand were Mayor William Donald Schaefer, the entire Board of School Commissioners, 11 of the 19 members of the City Council and Dr. Patterson. Audience capacity was estimated at 220.

Among those supportive of decentralization was Mrs. Angela Lee, a veteran campaigner for quality education.

Mrs. Lee said,

"I understand that the council is here tonight to afford the public the opportunity to express its concerns and opinions about decentralization. If this is the right understanding then I wonder why, for the first time the City Council is doing this.

"I remember not too long ago when I addressed a problem concerning the past Superintendent (Dr. Thomas D. Sheldon) that Mr. (Alexander) Stark (D. 5th) told me that he could not interfere in the Superintendent's decisions. (Mr. Stark is chairman of the Council's subcommittee on education).

"I remember the Council members addressing themselves to the School Board. I remember the Mayor (Thomas J. D'Alesandro III) stating that the School Board was autonomous.

"Everytime you look around certain members of the press, City Council and the Board of Estimates are attacking the new superintendent (Dr. Patterson). This was not true of our last superintendent. Dr. (Thomas D.) Sheldon broke the law and we had to go to Washington and bring the Federal Government in and City Council members still begged him to stay."

She continued, "Dr. Patterson is rocking the boat too much by trying to change the school system for the better. Dr. Patterson, don't you know that although Dr. Sheldon made some changes at 25th Street he knew what changes to make.

"I think that your problem is that you are making changes without waiting to be told. Do you realize that certain politicians have contracts and certain people at 25th Street are keeping them in business, and by making too many changes you will interfere with their pockets, and in order to improve education you will interfere in these areas."

Also speaking in favor was Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D.7th) Rep. Mitchell said:

"For more than a decade we have been gravely concerned about the quality of education offered in our public schools. This deep concern has manifested itself in:

a). The testing of creative new programs;

b). The development of new public school programs, some of which died aborning and

c). By increased demands on the part of parents for significant change in our public schools.

"No matter," he continued, "what new programs were tried all too often they failed to achieve maximal success because there was no attempt tochange significantly the administrative structure of our schools.

"Every large scale organization, serving a broad and diverse population tends over the years to become bureaucratized. As bureaucratization continues almost inevitably it means that administrative control becomes inflexibly bound over to a relatively small number of admin strators.

"Tonight we speak to you about a plan for decentralization of our public schools. I support this plan because it offers viable and innovative alternatives to a type of bureaucracy which has unfortunately developed. This plan lends itself to meaningful citizen participation in the affairs of our public schools; it suggests that schools can become an increasingly vital part of neighborhood and community change and finally, but most importantly it presagres the start of a dramatic change in quality education in out public schools."

* * *

One speaker, Donald Johnson, of [illegible] terson because of the purported small n[illegible] of citizens who responded to the survey on decentralization, distributed by the school system and printed by the media.

Norman Reeves, speaking for the William L. Moore Foundation noted, "I am glad to see the City Council take a hand in something positive . . . Dr. Patterson attempted to get the response of the community, whether he got 5 or 50,000 responses to the questionnaire doesn't matter."

Mr. Reeves said he would rather pay taxes for increased quality education for children "than pay taxes on a road I don't want (the proposed East-West Expressway)".

Wednesday's meeting grew out of a Council request that the School Board take no steps on decentralization until Council members had time for their own hearing.

The board is expected to render a final decision on decentralization after Dr. Patterson presents a formal report in April.

Brilliant audience marks 'Save The Children' opening

"Save The Children" ten and directed by Mrs. Rateena Blake was presented to a packed house brilliantly decked out in furs and tuxedos Saturday evening in the Slayton House in the Village of Wild Lake in Columbia.

The musical is a satire on the many frustrations black citizens encounter trying to keep self dignity; a decent family by working and supplimenting with welfare and coping with an infested, dope-ridden environment.

One of the highlights was the church congration being robbed and a member killed by two hoodlums.

The exacting scenes and superb acting leaves little doubt about the problems and frustrations of ghetto life.

The highly creative dance routines backed by choreographer Travis Winkey and the dynamic sounds of Frankie and the Spindells.

Asked what were her future plans for the play, Mrs. Blake responded "Take the musical to the Morris Mechanic."

This is a show appealing to all ages races and colors and no doubt will be one of the most exciting plays of the century.

* * *

Members of the cast include: Princeton NeClure, Queen Esther Hill, Janie Gibbs, Cassandra Tuggle, Janet Brown, Mamie Gibbs, Doris Tuggle, Herman Winkey, Rae Ross and Brenda Sharpe.

Also, Derryl Bowles, 9, and Kurt Blake, 6 are both making their acting debut.

Miss Katie Grove the musical director. Mrs. Mary Reinhardt and Mrs. Alfreda Bowles are co-producers for the show.

Lawyer workshops announced

A series of workshons dealing with the economic conditions of lawyers will be presented by the Bar Association of Baltimore City during late March and April, Herbert S. Garten, on Economic Conditions of chairman of the committee Lawyers, has announced.

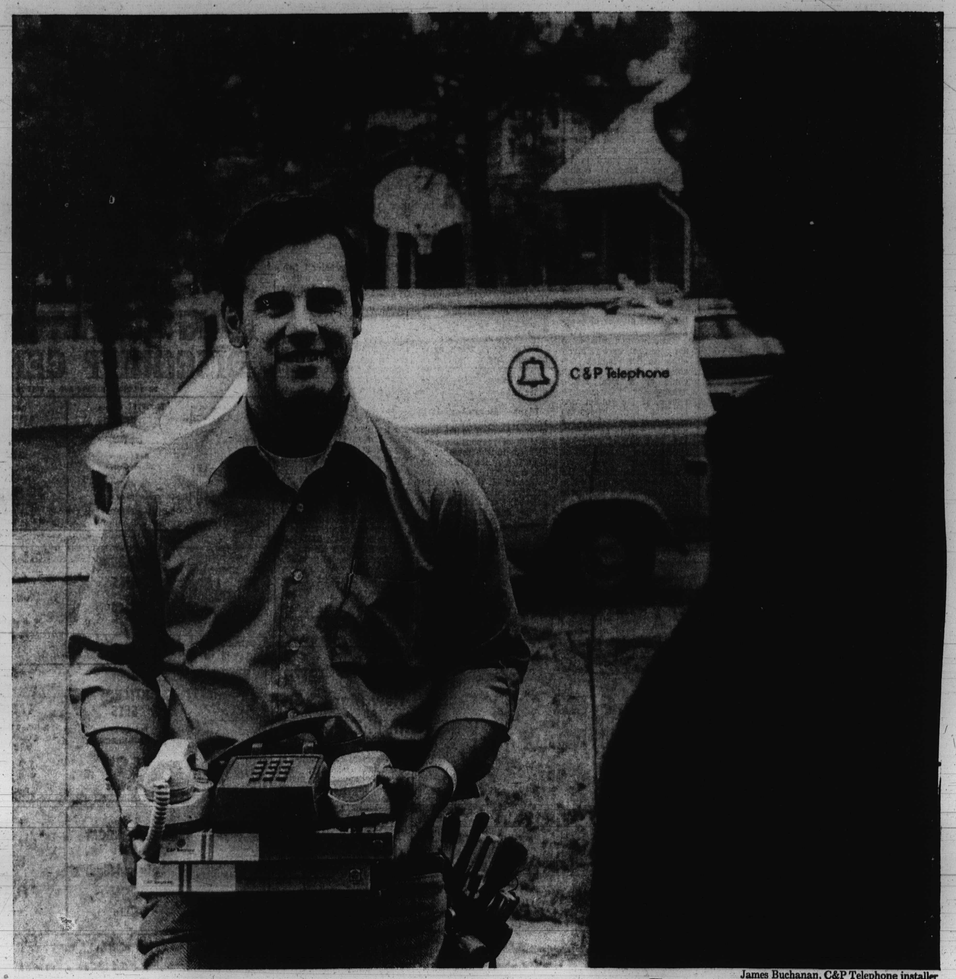
According to Mr. Garten, the series includes two workshops dealing with lawyers' personal economics and four workshops directed to specific problems in professional office management.

A seventh seminar will be conducted entirely for legal secretaries.

Enrollment is separate for each topic so that lawyers may attend those workshops which will benefit them most.

The committee has assembled this program at the direction of M. Peter Moser, president of the Association. Some of the workshops are directed especially at smaller law firms, it was announced.

The first seminar, Personal Tax Planning for Lawyers, will be led by Gilbert M. Cantor of the Philadelphia Bar, a specialist in personal taxation and investments. Mr. Cantor is a partner in Cantor and Franklin and an alumnus of the Harvard Law School. His workshop is scheduled for March 25th at 10 a.m.



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