Delegates Vote 'White' On Small Loan Bill

ANNAPOLIS—Inner city black delegates broke with the Black Caucus of the general assembly joined with white conservatives and voted to increase the interest rates on small loans.

Del. Frank M. Conaway and Del. Hildargadies Boswell (D.4th. Balto.) told the House of Delegates they had received letters from black people who said they worked for small loan firms telling them that if they voted for the small loan bill, they would be hurting their black brothers and sisters.

Del. Conaway and Del. Boswell told the House Wednesday that they would not be intimidated by what they called "fake letters" and would vote for the bill.

Del. Conaway also told the House that it had been alleged that they had been bought off by lobbyists from the small loan industry.

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Del. Troy Bralley (D 4th. Balto.) told the House that he represented people in the inner city and this bill would hurt his people.

Therefore said he was voting against it.

Del. Bralley was the only Delegate from the 4th District who voted against the small loan bill.

Delegates Boswell, Frank Conaway, Ike Dixon, Calvin Douglass, and Lloyal Randolph, all of the 4th District voted for the bill.

Also voting against the bill Del. Walter R. Dean, Kenneth Webster, from the 5th District, Del. John Douglass, (D 2nd.) Dr. Aris Allen, Anne Arundel County; Del. Joseph A. Chaser (D. 2nd) and Arthur King, of Prince Georges County abstained from voting.

Opponents of the small loan bill said that this was the most damaging bill to black and poor people in this session of the Legislature.

They also stated that it was the most heavily lobbied. They said small loan people from all over the Eastern Seaboard were in Annapolis lobbying for the bill

Why did they desert Black Caucus?

AMONG SPRING THINGS are baby birds, romance, poetry, income taxes, chilblains, screuss and fertility rites. However, among other measures shot down as the conservative Maryland General Assembly nears the end of its 1973, 90-days session, was the abortion bill, killed in the House Tuesday.

Abortion bill dies in House

AFRO ANNAPOLIS BUREAU

ANNAPOLIS — With a second, more convincing defeat on the House floor Tuesday, it now appears Maryland will be left without any legal restrictions governing abortions in the first three months of pregnancy.

The Supreme Court ruled In January that state laws prohibiting abortions during the first trimester of pregnancy were unconstitutional.

An earlier vote Monday had seen the measure aimed at bringing Maryland law in line with the recent court ruling fall short by one vote of gaining House approval.

The new defeat bill, cosponsored by Del. Aris T. Allen (R. Anne Arundel and Del. Torrey C. Brown (D., 2nd Baltimore), the only two physicians in the House of Delegates, would have granted state health officials the authority to decide where an abortion could be performed during the second three months of pregnancy and would completely rule out abouditions during the lost three months except to save the life of the mother.

Chief objection to the bill came from delegates representing predominantly Catholic areas who remained unalterably opposed to any form of abortion legislation.

In so doing, the urgings of Dr. Allen who argued that the medical profession should have the right to "police its own profession" seemed to go unheard.

House measure lauds black businessman

AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS—The House of Delegates has given official recognition to John Elwood Jones, proprietor of the newly-opened Elwood's Fine Meats, Inc. in historic Annapolis.

Del. Kenneth Webster (D., 5th Balto. City) introduced the resolution citing Mr. Jones, a native born Annapolitan, for his entrepreneurship.

On Feb. 12, 1873, Mr. Jones opened his own market located on the waterfront after 11 years of involvement in the art of butchery, first as an employee, now an owner.

Del. Webster first learned of Mr. Jones' new enterprise through news accounts of the occasion of the opening last month and initiated his personal interest in it.

"I felt that Mr. Jones should be commended, that recognition should be given to the fact that he had progressed through his own initiative and labors to reach this plateau of self-proprietorship.

I also think it is a good thing for the city of Annapolis to allow a black man to set up his own business," he said.

Assisting Mr. Jones in launching his business was the local office of Community Enterprise Development Assocation, Inc. (CEDA), located at 142 South St., Annapolis.

CEDA operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of minority Business Enterprise to render guidance to socially and economically disdavantaged business people and returning Vietnam veterans in starting or expanding business ventures.

CEDA's Executive Director Leonard Blackshear spoke with obvious optimism about the future success of Mr. Jones' business.

He expressed belief that "first the individual should have the opportunity to venture into business, provided his idea is feasable. The individual must be willing to provide time, energy and resource to make a business a success.

We feel we can make a substantial and significant contribution to the economic development of the area and to the growth of financially stable business with CEDA clients own or operate," he said.

General Assembly Report

Descendants of Ft. McHenry heroes file lawsuit against expressway

Four descendants of soldiers who fought the Battle of Fort McHenry, along with the Locust Point Civic Association,

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have filed a suit in U.S. District Court against the U.S. Department of Transportation, seeking to halt construction of a highway beneath the fort.

They charge in terstate 70 running 32 feet below the fort with its heavy traffic and resultant vibrations and clouds of exhaust fumes would "destroy" the peaceful setting of the fort and "cause the Fort itself to crumble."

Calvin Ball Jr., a Morgan State College student, is among the plaintiffs. He is descended from Charles Ball, who is documented as being soldier involved in the famous battle that the National Anthem is all about.

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Other plaintiffs are Stanley Cohen, descendent of brothers Mendell and Philip Cohen, who had manned a cannon at the Fort; Alfred D. Armstead, related to George Armstead, the general in charge of the Fort.

Also the Rev. William Stricker is descended from General John Stricker, commander of the 3rd Maryland Brigade that fought the British at the Battle of North Point.

In their suit, they claim the Department of Transportation's plan is in "opposition to the expressed policy of Congress" because Ft. McHenry is part of the National Park System and so must be left "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

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The traffic that would travel the Interstate route would be according to the plaintiffs, "in tremendous volume, on a roadway 300 feet wide."

The suit also claims there would be "ventilation towers50 feet high discharging noisome and deadly gases," and "the noise of heavy traffic will be readily audible to visitors of the Fort."

Leonard Kerpelman, general counsel for the Society for Environmental Litigation, filed the suit for the plaintiffs.

Ban on cut-rate sales advances in Senate

ANNAPOLIS BUREAU

ANNAPOLIS — A bill to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages at less than 12 per cent mark up over the wholesale price gained preliminary Senate approval Tuesday despite the claims of one Senator that the bill represented "the worst possible sort" of special interest legislation.

The measure, having already received the House go ahead, is designed to reduce the competitive advantage enjoyed by large discount houses who through high volume sales are able to greatly undercut the prices of smaller businesses.

Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, III (D., 4th Baltimore) said earlier of the bill "it gives everybody a fair shot at making a go of this kind of business."

In design, he went on, this bill affords protection to the "little man" so that he might "survive" the competition of larger discount houses many of whom are smaller operators who have bonded together to lower operating costs.

Sen. Mitchell also sees the measure coming at a time when "block ownership" in Maryland is on the rise and sorely in need of such safeguards.

A similar measure has already been signed into law in New York state, he disclosed.

Legislative briefs

AFRO Annapolis Bureau
GREATER POLICE ROLE FOR MAYOR REJECTED

ANNAPOLIS — A bill proposed by the city administration to give the Mayor increased powers over the actions of the police commissioner was killed this week by the House Judiciary Committee.

Despite the approval of the city delegation, four Sixth District delegates bitterly opposed the measure arguing that the bill would give the commissioner two bosses.

RENT CONTROL BILL ADVANCED IN SENATE

ANNAPOLIS — A House-passed measure which would create the state's first rent controls inched slowly toward eventual passage as it won the approval of the Senate Economic Affairs Committee Tuesday.

Under its terms, landlords could not raise rents by more than 5 per cent of what they were before President Nixon lifted his Phase 2 federal rent controls unless increases could be otherwise justified.

Refunds for rents charged in excess of the new ceiling would be returned for the almost seven month period.

Landlords who rent fewer than four units would be exempt from the proposed controls.

COMPLAINT BOARD URGED IN HOUSE RESOLUTION

ANNAPOLIS — A resolution sponsored by the Baltimore City delegatog requesting the police commissioner to establish a complaint evaluation board as a permanent agency of the department passed the House Tuesday.

A companion measure also given House approval requests the mayor to study the Baltimore State's Attorney's office with a regard to position, salaries and equalization of comparable professional tasks.

SENATE VOTES TO PAY COST OF BOOKS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

ANNAPOLIS — A bill to provide textbooks and other instructional materials to non-public schools passed the Senate by a vote of 25 to 16 despite signs that it may be petitioned to referendum.

Sen. Verda P. Welcome (D., 4th Baltimore), an opponent of the measure which would cost the state $5 million, reminded senators that a bill providing scholarships to pupils of private and parochial schools was turned down in referendum last year.

The measure which would not become effective until 1974 now goes to the House for its approval.

AMENDED LAND USE BILL HEARD IN COMMITTEE

ANNAPOLIS — As the Monday 12 midnight deadline rapidly closes, Senate President William James (D., Harford) has prepared 25 amendments he will offer for the House-passed land use bill.

The amendments are designed to water down the House bill which requires subdivisions to adopt development regulations for critical areas in line with guidelines developed by a nine-member state land commission.

Bill to weaken unemployment fund killed

AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Sen. Robert L. Dallas (D., 2nd Balto. City) was successful in killing a bill on the floor of the Senate this week which would have created instability in the state unemployment insurance fund and humiliating difficulty for recipients.

In a 45 minute speech, Sen. Dalton told his fellow Senators that current unemployment payments of those who have left employment voluntarily without good cause attributable to the employer to be covered out of the general fund instead of charged to the employers account would "play havoc" with the program. The unemployment insurance fund is already at a low balance of $107 million compared to $226 million in 1970.

Committee amendments to a Senate bill would have made it mandatory that unemployed individuals appear in person at least one employment office to receive payments.

Proponents say that it would provide a better motivation to make sure that every individual who is receiving unemployment benefits is actually looking for a job.

"What is terrible" said Sen. Dalton, "If could serve no purpose at all except to make people wait on long lines."

Senator Dalton then said this would be "humiliating" it would create confusion and it is just a means of harrassing recipients."

His succesful fight on the Senate floor against the bill means that at least for this session, the effort to enact these provisions into law is ended.

Welcome asks relief for care homes

AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS—Having received Senate approval, a measure is now under consideration in the House to provide some relief of restrictions for domiciliary care units.

Introduced by Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D., 4th Balto. City), the bill would allow for installation of audio fire alarm systems or heat detection alarm systems instead of sprinkler systems, and dishwashers in place of a three compartment stainless steel sink in homes for from four to eight people.

The tight measures, established by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, have been labelled "economically infeasible" by Sen. Welcome.

"They are appropriate for homes of 50 or 100 people," she said, "but are unrealistic for smaller units."

The state allows only $86.50 a month for domiciliary care, while a sprinkler system can run from $10,000 to $200,000.

A spokesman for the Division of Licensing and Permits revealed that the less stringent restrictions had been developed by a committee anointed by the Department, but had been abandoned after a fire in a New Jersey home under similar standards had caused the death of 10 elderly people.

Dom ciary care homes can provide for many elderly, invalid or handicapped people. Without them, these individuals are forced to live alone, where they may not provide adequately for their own meals and other needs, or to become institutionalized, Sen. Welcome continued.

Domiciary care allows these people a cheaper, more desirable way of living. While there is some element of risk in reducing standards, it is unreasonable for the state to legislate them out of existence. People living in private homes run certain risks because their homes are not equipped with sprinkler systems too," Sen. Welcome said in closing.

Blount opposes time limit on complaints

AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Opposing a bill to limit the time for hearing complaints by the Human Relations Commission, Mr. Clarence W. Blount (D. 5th Balto. City) called it "an effort to cripple an already weak agency."

"No other agency is burdened with this kind of limitation," he said. "In fact, few other agencies in the state have so little enforcement power."

SB 709, as introduced by Senators Boyer and Bauman, would have required the Commission to hear and determine complaints within one year of the original report of violation, he pointed out.

The Judicial Proceedings Committee amended it to give the Commission two years to hear and determine complaints with the proviso that the time was to be exclusive of delays caused by the respondents.

Sen. Blount explained the passage of the bill would cause the agency to be less lenient in granting time for interrogatives and more insistent with respondents that they meet deadlines in every stage of the proceedings.

It would also make conciliation more difficult, since it usually takes more time to bring two parties into agreement through arbitration and concessions, he added.

The Bover-Bauman bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting action by the House.

Sen. Blount indicated his concern at yearly efforts to continue to weaken an agency with stiffing provisions so that it cannot satisfactorily perform the task it was assigned to carry out.

"It makes little sense to set up an agency and then prevent it from functioning properly," said Senator Blount.

THE STATE OF THINGS

Fighting against child abuse

By VAL HYMES

Donna Anne Stern died at the age of 9. Her life was an agony. Her death became a cause.

When Donna was pronounced dead last May in Montogomery County, her body was covered with severe burns and bruises inflicted over a long period of time. After the death of such atrocities as Donna being bathed in clorox and scrubbed with steel wool, a jury found her mother and father guilty, of her death. The father is still facing trial.

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As shocking as this was, the word used by the police investigator was even more alarming. He called the case "typical".

The polite phrase is "child abuse." Medical people call it the "battered child syndrome." What it means is that parents repeatedly beat and torture their children and in many cases, while society looks the other way, kill them.

The Stern case stimulated a new round of legislation in Maryland and in Congress aimed at a startling fact: Every before these children died, people knew what was happening but they didn't do anything about it. The issue has finally reached proportions nobody can ignore. Three cases have before local and state courts and on various administrative levels.

Through the publicity surrounding the Stern case, legislators have been appalled to realize that back in their own home towns there may be victims like Donna known to local officials who do nothing. With Donna's scarred and bruised body fresh in their minds A 3-month old tot named Sylvia Lynn Ward died of a blow to the head. She had been taken away from her parents by a judge because of neglect, then returned to them by Social Services workers without his consent.

This case, also in Montgomery County, kicked off an investigation by the Governor and Social Services Secretary David T. Mason at the request of Sen. Victor L. Crawford.

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These cases made headlines, but many do not. In fact, there were 584 reported incidents of child abuse in Maryland in 1971 . . the last year statistics are available including 389 in Baltimore. Of these 44 per cent were black. Of the total, abuse was eventually ruled out in 126 cases. But how many cases were not reported is anybody's guess.

The injuries include bruises and welts, puncture and cuts, burns and scalds, and broken bones like skull fractures. Typically, weapons include boards, paddles, rubber hoses, curtain rods and extension cords. Some were kicked. Some were thrown around. Some were tied or locked up. Many were starved. Some were even sexually abused.

Who was responsible? Usually both parents, and they can be of all ages, from all backgrounds, incomes and lifestyles — rural, suburban and urban. Most of them are all under some kind of emotional stress that could be cured if caught in time.

One common denominator, which shows that this is not just a product of modern times, is that most of the child abusers had been abused by their parents.

But the greater tragedy is that in so many cases other people — neighbors, teachers, even doctors — see severe of what's going on, but keep quite. They don't want to get involved with the police. Or, they reason a mark home is his castle, and everyone has the right to punish his own child, doesn't he?

One of this year's bills recognizes the reversion of police reports by taking child abuse out of the criminal code, where it is a felony, and putting it in the Social Services section. Sen. J. Joseph Curren's bill, introduced for the department, also requides educators, law officers, doctors and nurses to report supected cases.

So does a House bill, which grants them immunity from suit, and allows her to Social Services or the Police, but which every agency gets it must share it with the other to try and resolve the conflict between social workers and law officers.

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This bill, by Dels. Lucille Maurer, Pauline Menes, Frank Shore and Manning McKay, also removes many of the obstacles that have blocked convictions by redefining child abuse. The existing law, for example, requires that malicious intent be proved. Often this is impossible. It also requires that medical attention be sought. Often medical help is shunned for fear of exposure.

And a third bill introduced by Sen. Crawford recalls the Alphose-Gaston aspect of the Stern case and gives welfare workers the authority to enter the home when abuse is confirmed and remove the child immediately. And Sen. Crawford has also called for an intensive survey of the State's child abuse problem.

With the provisions, and the State, have been forewarned to put some muscle into the reporting systems by the Congressional hearings now under way. Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota has promised a bill requiring the states to draw up comprehensive plans for prevention and treatment.

And he wants to create a National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect as a clearing house and research center to learn why these innocent victims must fell now to this most tragic of crimes.

We can only imagine how many times it has in short and tragic life Donna Anne Stern cried out in agony.

Perhaps now she has been heard.

Mandel names friend to state judgeship

AFRO Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Brushing aside the objections of the city Bar Association, Governor Mandel Tuesday appointed Del. Sol J. Friedman (D., 5th Baltimore), a reputedly close personal friend and political ally, and Frederick W. Invernizzi to ten-year terms on the District Court of Baltimore.

The death last July of Judge John A. Maguire coupled with the more recent death of Judge Howard L. Aaron last week created two additional vacancies on the bench which apparently cleared the way for the Governor's surprise move.

Both men had received the official sanction of the Judicial Selection Commission which submits a list of nominees to the Governor.

Contrarily, the city Bar Association had failed to include Mr. Friedman's name on its list of lawyers deemed qualified for the judgeship.

The Senate Executive Nominations Committee will interview the pair Friday as confirmation is expected before the Assembly adjourns Monday.

A 51-year-old lawyer, Mr. Friedman who first came to the legislature in 1951 has known the Governor for 25 years. During his legislative stint, Mr. Friedman has concentrated most of his efforts in the areas of workmen's compensation and chairing the Motor Vehicles Subcommittee.

Mr. Invernizzi, in his early 60's, has worked with the Court of Appeals for more than 25 years, also serving for three decades as an associate professor of law at the University of Maryland.

NEW DIRECTORS of AFRO-AMERICAN Co., all under 30 years old are pictured above. Seated, Mrs. Jane Lottier Powell, Mrs. Marie Murphy Phillips Cooke, Mrs Frances Murphy Wood Peck and Mrs. Virginia Lottier Prettyman. Standing, George Arnett Lottier, William E. Knox, Milton P. Webster 3rd, John J. Oliver Jr., Robert M. Bell and Arthur Wheeler Murphy. Not pictured is Daniel H. Murphy. In lower photo view of 66th annual stockholders' meeting in Baltimore last week when new directors were elected. Mrs. Frances L. Murphy II, chairman of board is seated in oval. (AFRO Photos by I. Henry Phillips Sr.)

AFRO stockholders name 11 directors under 30

Eleven persons, all under 30, were elected to the Board of Directors of the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., at the 66th annual stockholders' meeting held in Baltimore last Monday morning.

Nine of the new members are great grandchildren of AFRO founder John H. Murphy Sr. He established this newspaper August 13, 1892.

They are:

Mrs.Marie Murphy Phillips Cooke, 24, AFRO women's editor, a graduate of Morgan State College and Community College of Baltimore, she is daughter of the late Frank W. Phillips Jr., longtime AFRO art director and Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, AFRO vice president-treasurer.

William E. Knox, 26, a student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he is program director at the Cunningham Community House. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs.C. Everett Knox (Clementine Murphy), of Port-au-Prince Haiti, where Mr. Knox recently resigned as U.S. ambassador.

George Arnett Lottier, 26 Lee) of Baltimore.

Milton P. Webster 3rd, 26, graduate of the University of Colorado and the University of Chicago, employed by Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. N.Y.; is General Banking Division, son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Webster Jr. (Jeanne Young), Chicago.

Directors reelected for the year 1973 include: Raymond M. Boone, Mrs. Mae E. Dyson, Frederick A. Howard, Mrs. Arnetta Murphy Lottier, Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, Mrs. Alice Quivers Murphy, Mrs. Frances L. Murphy II, Howard H. Murphy, John H. Murphy 3rd Moses J. Newson, John J. Oliver Sr. Miss Marilyn Oliver, Mrs. Ella Murphy Peters and Kenneth O. Wilson.

Mrs. Frances Murphy II who was re-elected chairman of the board, announced at the stockholders' meeting. She is a granddaughter of the founder and daughter of the late Dr. Carl Murphy, chief executive of the AFRO for 45 years until his death in 1967. Under his administration, the AFRO grew from one newspaper to a chain of 11 newspapers, the largest black weekly chain in the U.S.

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At the board of directors' meeting, immediately following a new post of vice president, general manager was created. Named to fill that office was John J. Oliver Sr., a voting trustee of the company.

Elected to his former post, vice president, production, was Frederick A. Howard, also a grandson of the founder.

Other officers reelected were John H. Murphy 3rd, president; and voting trustee; Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, vice president-treasurer and voting trustee; Mrs. Mae E. Dyson, secretary and a voting trustee; and Kenneth O. Wilson second vice president, advertising.

New member of the executive committee is Mrs. Arnetta Murphy Lottier. Reelected to the executive committee are Mrs. Frances L. Murphy II, John H. Murphy 3rd, Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, Mrs. Alice Murphy Quivers and Mrs. Mae E. Dyson.

All are grandchildren of the founder.

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During the stockholders' meeting, there was spread on the minutes a resolution in memory of Mrs. Lula Jones Patterson Mackay, a stockholder and longtime AFRO women's editor. She died in July 1972, after 43 years service.

Stockholders present at the meeting spanned four generations. Oldest was Mrs. Marie E. Murphy, 75, wife of John H. Murphy Jr., at 92, the oldest living incorporator of the company and a director emeritus.

Youngest was Miss Rachael Murphy Phillips, 17, Western High student and great granddaughter of the founder. She is daughter of Mrs. Moss and the late Mr. Frank Phillips.

Other stockholders present were A. Paul Moss, Robert W. Matthews, Mrs. Vashti Murphy Matthews, George C. Lottier, Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy, Miss Sharon Palmer, Mrs. Louise Gee Murphy, Houston W. Murphy, Miss Laura W. Murphy, Lawrence T. Young Jr. and Mrs. Madeline Murphy Rabb, both of Chicago and James H. Murphy.

Three minority firms get NASA subcontracts

WASHINGTON — A NASA contractor has awarded $410,000 in subcontracts to three minority business enterprises for significant technical and production activities in the operation of the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Facility in College Park, Md.

Sixteen minority-owned firms bid for one or more of the four technical and production contracts offered.

Three firms were selected for awards for the balance of the contract year — which ends in August 1973 — for a total of $410,000.

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These awards, combined with other contracts to minority firms for building maintenance, guard service, office supplies, and office maintenance, bring the total of minority contracts to $1.5 million or 15 per cent of the total $3 million contract value.

Reliable Engineering Associates, Inc., Philadelphia, was awarded two subcontracts from Informatics — one of $93,385 to catalog technical information and one of $92,908 to reproduce and photograph microfilm

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Automated Typographic Services of Arlington, Va., which was awarded a $134,000 contract to abstract and index technical information regards the subcontract as the company's first significant "commercial" contract.

Plato Systems, Inc., of Silver Spring, Md., is involved in data preparation, computer programming and advertising and design. Like the other two firms, the informatics contract ($92,000 to perform computer data entry work) greatly improved the company's cash flow.

African nation facing big economic upsurge from oil

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — The prospects of this west central African nation becoming one of the richest on the continent are becoming more evident every day as oil production increases.

Occupying more than 100,000 square miles and with a population of 500,000, this country has untapped forest reserves and since 1960 has developed its oil, iron ore, manganese and uranium to the extent that it has one of the highest per capita incomes in black Africa.

It is projected that by 1975, Gabon will be producing 71 million barrels annually. Drilling for oil began in 1949 and by 1957 two fields were in production.

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A French firm, Elf-Spafe, was the first to start offshore drilling for oil and by 1972, the number of fields had increased to 10, producing 46 million barrels annually.

The most important strike yet, in the Grondin area, revealed reserves estimated at 500 to 700 million barrels annually.

The most important strike yet, in the Grondin area, revealed reserves estimated at 500 million barrels. These and other rich fields are located where the ocean is no more than 200 feet deep.

So far, Shell, Chevron, Gulf and Texaco have joined Elf Spafe in the oil venture in Gabon. Most of the export goes to as crude oil to other African countries, Europe and the United States.

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Last year, exports amounted to $100 million, three-quarters of the country's total export revenue. The government has expressed interest in increasing its share of oil revenue to 25 per cent.

Although oil companies invest part of their profits in the country, increased government interest is seen as an attempt to make more money available for other segments of the economy.

In the last 25 years, about $425 million has been poured into oil investment in the country and by 1978 it is hoped that companies would be earning some $21 million.

2 sisters slain in Atlanta apart.

ATLANTA — A mysterious, execution-type shooting in a luxury apartment here has left two sisters dead and a St. Louis, Mo., lounge operator, who said he was in town to speak with Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wounded in a local hospital.

The dead women have been identified by police as Misses Shirley and Charlene Buchanan. Officials say that they are seeking another woman who is believed to have been the assailant.

Maurice Williamson, who suffered a gun wound in the upper part of his body, told police he was awakened by one of the victims calling a woman's name and asking, "How did you get a key to get in here?"

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He said when he sat up in bed he saw a woman standing in front of the bed with a pistol in her hand.

She ordered him and one of the victims to turn over on their stomachs, and then handcuffed their wrists, Williamson said.

He said then the woman went into another bedroom and a shot was fired. She then returned to the room in which he lay William said and first shot him and the victim.

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Police said that they believed the sisters were both employed in training programs at different department stores in Atlanta.

Williamson told police that he is a member of a St. Louis organization, HOME (Help Other Men Emerge), and that he and three others had recently arrived in Atlanta.

He said that he was to meet with Mrs. King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., about her possibly speaking at a rally in St. Louis.

REPORT FROM EUROPE

She spans globe captures award

By OLLIE STEWART

PARIS — She showed me some pictures. In one, she was shaking hands with Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie in the palace of his capital city, Addis Ababa.

In another (and very recent photo), she was being greeted by Premier Chou En-lai at the Great Hall of the People, in Peking, China.

Now, it's not every day that an American woman gets to meet people like the above-mentioned world figures and it's even more rare that I get a chance to say hello to such a woman.

But it happened near the end of March, shortly after I got a phone call and a voice I know well said, "This is Freddye. I'm passing through Paris, and if possible, I'd like to see you."

Ollie Stewart

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The Freddye, of course, is Freddye Henderson, founder and executive vice-president of Henderson Travel Service, Inc. She runs it in Atlanta with her husband Jacob and their son Jacob Jr.

When she phoned me recently during her one-day stopover in Paris she was the last leg of what has to be a dream trip.

"I rode Ethiopian Airlines from Addis Ababa to the Far East," she told me after I'd collected her at the Hotel Scribe. "I passed through Hong Kong, and went on to Peking. And after a marvelous reception by Premier Chou Enlai, I visited Shanghai and other Chinese cities."

Her face is very expressive, and her eyes were dancing as she talked. I've never seen any of the places she mentioned, and it's quite possible that my mouth was hanging open.

But to show her I know a few things, I took her for a ride on the Paris Metro — an experience she'd never had before. Country boy I may be, but at least I know the city in which I live.

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Anyway, Freddye and I talked of travel and kings, travel and black people. Then we visited some Americans in Paris, and before the evening was over I learned a lot of new things.

But most of all I gained an appreciation of the impact Freddye has made on the travel world in less than 15 years.

For instance, when Freddye accepted the sought-after African Trophy (on behalf of her company) at the 42nd annual ASTA World Travel Congress in Las Vegas, last fall, everybody in her field knew that she had arrived at the top.

"For making the greatest and most effective contribution to promotion of travel to Africa south of the Sahara," is what the African Trophy means — and every agency covets such recognition.

The Henderson agency is the first and only black company to walk off with this honor for outstanding tour promotion.

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Since 1957, when Freddye went her first time as a tourist to Ghana, she's been reaching more and more parts of Africa.

She long ago racked up ancient Timbuktu, Senegal, Mali, Liberia and the Ivory Coast — and then began regular tour packages to Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Tanzania and Zambia.

Now, mainland China suggests further expansion throughout Asia, but now something new has been added. Where the company formerly escorted the tours, the emphasis is now on putting tours together and selling them to other agencies.

Freddye and her husband Jake have taken their clients to many lands, and one of the photos I most enjoyed looking at was Jake in a camel's saddle atop a brave man. I know, I climbed aboard a camel once — and it's something to test your manhood.

Toll threat looms for local calls

WASHINGTON—A rate increase request to the New York Public Service Commission is the first gun in attempts to apply long distance rate rules to local phone calls, the National Association of Black Manufacturers believes.

Part of the New York Telephone Co.'s $30C million request would come from additional charges on local calls every five minutes.

In some areas, time is now a factor through a specialized use of message units. Generally though the message unit charge is applied to the number of calls in excess of a limited number included in the flat rate.

A one-hour call to a local call number now costs no more in most areas than a one-minute call. The manufacturers fear, however, that this could change within one to two years.

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Businesses could be hurt by widespread time charges for local calls. The New York commission is expected to approve the new rate structure.

The manufacturers' letter, the key, suggests that firms start training employees now to exercise maximum brevity in local as well as long distance calls.

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Black workers are statistically more likely to be union workers than white workers, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Week set aside for foster kids

BALTIMORE — President Nixon has proclaimed the week of April 8-14 as National Action for Foster Children Week.

He urges that local and state officials, voluntary agencies, and private groups pay special attention to the needs of foster children and recognize the vital role played by foster parents.

Action for Foster Children is a citizens' endeavor to help these youngsters and to back up the foster parents — who give so much for so little.

Life in Mozambique is changing, credit goes to freedom fighters

BEIRA, Mozambique—Things are gradually changing in this Portuguese African colony, attributed partly to increased guerilla activities by liberation forces.

Frelimo, the Mozambique Liberation Movement, began infiltrating the country about nine years ago and despite heavy Portuguese military presence, the front's effectiveness is being felt throughout the territory.

Portugal considers its territories as autonomous states and because of the poorness of that nation, the African territories have developed at a snais' pace.

The Portuguese have ruled this territory for almost 500 years, since Vasco da Gama sailed to what is now Beira.

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But in recent years, because of guerilla pressure, things are taking a new turn. For example, when Frelimo killed its first victim a Dutch Catholic missionary, in 1964, there were about 50,000 students in the entire territory.