Despite the law, county residents cart home Baltimore taxpayers' millions

No wonder the town is crying 'poor mouth' about taxes etc.

By Al Rutledge
(See Photo Page One)

A recent AFRO investigation into the 10 largest city agencies reveals that 20 men, all of whom are employed as executives of those agencies, cart away about $886,426 a year; at least 11 of these men dump their carts, containing about $300,000, in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties.

Moreover, several of those men earn their salaries, something averaging more than $30,000 a year, at the expense of Baltimore tax payers who are slipping into a harbor of deficits on a declining revenue base.

Meanwhile, Mayor Schaefer calls a rank-and-file job freeze (to save money) on the one hand and on the other appoints countians Francis W. Kuchta and Joseph M. Axelrod to run the Department of Public Works at combined salaries of $66,650 a year.

Civil Service appointments are equally impressive:

* * *

Commissioner Douglas S. Tawney, Baltimore County, and his deputy, Gerald W. Bunn, Anne Arundel County, together earn $55,652 to run the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Keeping things afloat at City Hospitals, Frederick G. Hubbard, Anne Arundel, Walter A. Williams and Richard C. Burt, both Baltimore County, take $105,103 down the Beltway annually.

The disturbing thing about all this is that the City Council passed legislation which seriously questions the legality of out-of-towners running Baltimore City.

For example, Resolution 4, passed July 11, 1974, at the expense of Baltimore tax payers who are slipping into a harbor of deficits on a declining revenue base.

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Commissioner Douglas S. Tawney, Baltimore County, and his deputy, Gerald W. Bunn, Anne Arundel County, together earn $55,652 to run the Department of 1973."

Indeed, the question is intensified by a 1974 ruling which expanded the 1973 law to require that not only board directors and commissioners must comply but also agency directors and department heads.

Both laws were introduced by Dr. Emerson R. Julian (D. 4th) the most recent became effective Jan. 1, 1975.

The appointment of Kuchta, Axelrod, Tawney and Bunn became effective Jan. 1, 1976. Kuchta was originally appointed to the post my the mayor in 1974, then two years after the law went into effect.

All of this, however, has occurred to Dr. Julian who says, "This is a tricky situation. When the law was first introduced the mayor gave, at least outwardly, his support to the principles of the document.

"But recent events and the interpretation given by the city solicitor read something more or less than the intent into the law."

What Councilman Julian observes as the most incidious aspect "Is the realization that blacks represent more than 50 per cent of the city's population and lose, through salaries to these men, enormous [illegible] of revenue.

Think of what the minimum amount of a sale tax, the 50 per cent piggyback tax or just spending power this money represents in losses to the city."

The solution, Dr. Julian predicts, can be accomplished "If the aggregate body of the councilmtves to put pressure on the mayor and insists on an actual policy of enforcing the intent of the law."

The 10 largest agencies in funding: Recreation and Park; Urban Services Agency; Department of Education; Public Works; the Police Department; Health Department; City Hospitals; Fire Department; Department of Social Services; Manpower Resources are all funded at amounts from $21,178,865 (USA) to $453,715,685 (Dept. of Education).

With the exception of the Department of Education and the Police Department whose heads reside in the city all of the other agency chiefs live in the counties.

Del. Walter Dean (D. 41st) told the AFRO that in his opinion "Mayor Schaefer should move immediately to honor his own directive that top agency heads should be residents of Baltimore City."

It was Del. Dean and other members of the Legislative-Black Caucus who sent a heated letter to the mayor in an effort to convince him that the proposed job freeze would "do irreparable harm to poor [illegible] and blacks in the city."

[illegible]elation that more than half million dollars flows out of the city in the pockets of county residents, Del. Dean said: "It is bad enough that far too many agency heads do not reflect the racial composition of the city. But to allow the highest paid positions to go to countians is intolerable.

"I believe the spirit and the intentions of the mayor's own directives are being violated when non-city residents are allowed to have such prominent roles in city affairs when there are many eligible and willing city residents anxious to serve.

"The mayor has an obligation to serve first not only city residents, but black residents who are under-utilized in the area of jobs and on boards and commissions."

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell voiced equal concern.

"I've taken the position for some time that Baltimore should give consideration to methods other cities have used to cut off this flow of city funds into surrounding counties.

"For instance in Sacremento, no city worker at any level resides outside the city. Baltimore is losing revenue, cultural bases and a grip on its own destiny by having the life strings pulled by county based bosses, who have no real stake here, beyond drawing their pay."

Mrs. Madeline Murphy,

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

AFRO columnist, said that "Inherent in this attitude of the administration is the self fullfilling death wish for the city while it builds expressways and subways, low cost housing and office buildings, avoids human misery and problems and fails to find meaningful solutions to get the hell out of Baltimore period!"

The outspoken Mrs. Murphy suggests a solution: "The solution could be accomplished rather easily if a city tax were to be imposed on all county residents who leave the city dry of its resources.

"This would spread the tax net, not only for agency heads but also for large numbers of police officers, clerks, sanitation workers, and others who live outside but work inside the city."

The 10 agencies canvassed employ about 33,000 people and carry payrolls amounting to approximately $414,018,297. How much of that is carried out of the city into the surrounding counties is almost impossible to determine outside the government because no single set of records is kept to pinpoint employee residences.

Mrs. Murphy warns that all this amounts to "The dissolution of strength of a potentially powerfully black electorate.

"And one fears that the black community, like the "Worrybird," is spending behind at we its been r too much energy looking behind at where it has been and not ahead to where it's going."

Exhibition on Baltimore opens Jan. 11

"Baltimore, then and now," is an exhibition of historic photographs, to be shown at The Johns Hopkins University from Jan. 11-31.

Presented by the Office of Special Events through the courtesy of the Peale Museum, the exhibit will be in the galleries of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library on the University's Homewood campus. The galleries are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Included in the exhibit are photographs of the original Johns Hopkins campus, the first Baltimore Museum of Art, the Lexington Market and the Block.

Honors to Colts scheduled Jan. 17

Honors to Colts 18 pt

Officers and members of the Colts will be honored at a banquet to be held next Saturday (17th) at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

The Colt Appreciation Committee will pay tribute to general manager Joe Thomas, head coach Ted Marchibroda, quarterback Bert Jones and running back Lydell Mitchell.

The committee is comprised of local boosters from business, government and civic interests.

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