GETTING ORGANIZED — Sen. Robert Douglass, newly elected chairman of the Black Caucus, is shown here with his secretary, Miss Roslyn Smith. They are going over correspondences which he wants sent out and his schedule for the day.

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND—

Legislative Black Caucus sets Wednesday meetings

By Ben Phillips
(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — The Legislative Black Caucus held its second meeting of the 1976 session Monday noon.

Black Caucus Chairman Robert L. Douglass, 45th District said that the meeting was held to discuss putting together a priority list and setting a regular time for future meetings for the rest of the session.

"Once we establish this list, we're going to call upon the governor for an appointment to discuss our priorities with him and see if we can get some support," Sen. Douglass told the AFRO.

He explained: — "Some items on the priority list will probably be our position on Senate Bill No. 288 which is commonly known as the Chamber of Commerce, our position on the proposed convention center and rapid transit, and the Code of Fair Practices.

"We're also interested in several appointments, such as the Director of Drug Abuse, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, and judgeships."

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Sen. Douglass announced that for the rest of the session the Black Caucus will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 in the Baltimore City Delegation room of the House of Delegates here in Annapolis.

One of the main reasons for meeting at this time is to allow citizens to come down and address the group.

Sometimes, he said, meeting time will vary, but it will always meet on Wednesday evenings.

Anyone who wishes to address the Black Caucus may call Sen. Douglass' office and speak to his secretary, Miss Rosalyn Smith.

The toll free number is 269-1658 and ask for extension 1502. Address letters to the Black Caucus, c/o Sen. Robert Douglass, chairman, Room 202, James Building, Annapolis, Md., 21404.

Sen. Douglass told the AFRO he hopes citizens will take the time to come and see how the Caucus operates.

HRC head emphasizes opposition to SB 288

By Ben Phillips
(AFRO BUREAU)

ANNAPOLIS — Chairman of State Human Relations Commission Jacob Edelman held a brief news conference in the State House press room Wednesday morning.

He emphasized the unified and unanimous position of both the staff and commissioners against Senate Bill No. 288 which is being sponsored by the Chamber of Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Edelman stated, "We negotiated with our friendly adversaries, the chamber of commerce, with the hope of coming to an agreement.

"After a number of the bill would make it impossible to do justice for the citizens who wish to institute complaints."

"When the staff told the Mr. Edelman added: commission about the number of booby-traps in SB 288, we realized that it would work against the commission."

• • •

One example cited by Edelman was the time limits which would be set for the institution of certain presedures.

He explained that the respondent's could use tactics to delay the commission from finishing within the prescribed time period by asking for depositions to be taken or even lawyers going on vacation.

The proposed legislation states that if the action is not completed in the prescribed time period, it is automatically thrown out.

Chairman Edelman added, "Lawyers for respondents know they can use the time table in their favor. As a result, the respondent could get away scot free."

The bill will come up for public hearings this Wednesday before the Senate's Constitutional and Public Law committee.

Chairman Edward T. Conroy, told the AFRO that the bill will receive a fair hearing. "Both sides will get their chance to testify."

He added he expects the bill to draw a lot of attention.

In the meantime, the Human Relation Commission bill being sponsored by the five black senators has been introduced, read for the first time, and assigned to the Constitutional and Public Law Committee. It is Senate Bill No. 351. Hearing have not been scheduled.

The five sponsors are: Senators Verda Welcome, 40th District, Clarence Blount, 41st District, Clarence Mitchell, 38th District, Robert Douglass, 45th District and Tommie Broadwater, Prince George's Co. All are Democrats.

Welcome bill would ease elderly home restrictions

By Ben Phillips
(Annapolis Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — Public hearings were held last week on Senate Bill No. 142, entitled Domiciliary Care Institutions.

The sponsor, Sen. Verda Welcome, 40th District, testified before the Senate Finance Committee that legislation was urgently needed to stop a good number of small resident homes from going out of business.

Sen. Welcome told the committee, of which she is a member that under the present law any such institution which has 4-8 patients must install a sprinkler system.

She explained many of these homes are owned and run by senior citizens. They house senior citizens who need the minimal amount of care and in many instances the patients seeks only companionship.

The senior citizens who own these homes are not interested in a profit, instead they just want to make a living.

Sen. Welcome added that the other problem is that many of the homes are worth between $7,000-$10,000, and the owners can not invest $12,000-$20,000 for a sprinkler system.

The proposed bill would exempt these homes from having to install such expensive devices, but they would have to keep up to other prescribed standards set by the State Health Department which is responsible for inspecting the facilities.

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Hal Gordon, chief of licensing and regulations for the department, told the committee, "The problem is that there were just not enough domiciliary desirable beds"

He stated, "We have people in our state stuffed into places we don't know about. Up until last year, small units of 4-8 persons were not pressed hard to put in the sprinkler systems, and they were just required to submit plans."

Mr. Gordon told the committee that it has taken a long time to get these type of institutions to apply for licenses and be inspected.

"If we require such stringent standards, they will once again go underground."

Mr. Gordon was in support of the bill and told the committee that without the sprinkler systems the licensed homes have more protection than many residential homes.

No one appeared in front of the committee in opposition to the bill, but George Burnett Jr. who represented the Commission on Aging did urge the committee to delay action on until his office could submit its comprehensive plan.

Members of the committee responded that something had to be done right away to correct the situation.

Del. Dean bill to end GI discharge use by civilian employers up again

(AFRO BUREAU)
By Ben Phillips

ANNAPOLIS — The house committee on Economic Matters held public hearings Tuesday on a bill which prohibits employers from considering the type of armed service discharge when hiring or firing a former G.I.

H B 58 is sponsored by Delegates Kenneth Webster, 40th District that an amendment would be drwn which would limit the bill to administrative discharge.

An administrative discharge is one which can be by one's commanding officer to circumvent the military's judicial system.

For instance, a soldier can be given such a discharge for disagreeing with a commanding officer, health reasons, or protesting discrimination.

Generally, it is a means by which the military can get rid of those soldiers who do not fit into the military way of life.

Three types of administrative discharges. They are honorable, general or undesirable.

Charles Cole, representing the American Friends Service Committee, explained these three grades.

He stated, "These grades of discharge depend largely on the "reason" for discharge, but many employers probably consider only the grade of discharge, and assume that a person with anything but an honorable discharge is an employement risk."

A lot of times a serviceman will receive a general discharge because a commanding officer felt his performance was only fair. As a result, the serviceman is branded for life as an employment risk.

"Certainly these shouldn't be the grounds a civilian employer uses when deciding to hire a person."

Mr. Cole revealed, "What I found as a shock to me is that black servicemen are twice as likely to receive less than honorable discharges than white servicemen. This is evidence of institutional racism."

Luther C. West, Prince George's Co. attorney, gave the committee an example of such a practice.

A black taxi driver received a dishonorable discharge because he objected to discrimination by his commanding officer.

As a result, he had a hard time getting a job.

Another example cited by Mr. West was a case where a lady served five weeks and received an honorable discharge, but there was little notation which said, "for the good of the service."

This notation is given when a person accepts a discharge rather than have a court-martial. As a result, Mr. West said, the young lady lost her State Police job and faced loss of another state job unless she had the notation changed.

The attorney told the committee, "This procedure cost her $530. Her problem was that when she went to basic training, she was taken off of private medication. As a result, her feet and arms swelled up.

"Because of this, she naturally couldn't march. So they offered her a general discharge. The young lady told them she would accept nothing less than an honorable discharge."

West concluded, "They gave her an honorable discharge, but the clerk added the notation which caused her to lose a job some years later.

It is unfair to brand these people. In addition, it is hard to get a hearing to change the stigma before the Army Board of Corrections."

Representatives of the C and P Telephone Co. and the Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. opposed the bill.

Orville Wright representing C & P company stated, "We would not hire someone whose discharge involves a history of robbery or rape, which could seriously affect the safety of our customers."

This was the basic position of both companies.

However, Del. Dean told the AFRO his bill is aimed at first-term men who for some reason or another just did not accept military rule.

"As a black person, he might fight racism and as a result, be given an administrative discharge."

The AFRO asked Mr. Wright if the amendment specifying administrative dischargees would be looked upon favorably by the telephone company.

He replied C / P only uses a discharge to determine if the person previously engaged in activities which would endangern their customers and other employees.

Further, Wright said, he feels such action would be more appropriate if handled by the Army rather than by the General Assembly.

However, Del. Dean told the AFRO that there was no action to correct this from within the army. "Therefore, it is up to the individual states to correct this injustice."

The amendment to the bill is expected to be presented to the committee the early part of next week.

This is the third year such a bill has been introduced. Del Dean says he is hopeful it will get through this time.

Sen. Douglass not sold on either mass transit plan

By Ben Phillips
(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — "It is unfortunate to have a division among city officials on this issue. I will say this, however, the city plan is the only one which has been approved by city, state, and federal governments."

Mayor William Donald Schaefer made this comment before the Baltimore City Legislative Delegation here Tuesday morning.

Under discussion was the city's proposed subway system.

Phase One of the city system would consist of 8½ miles in the northwest corridor from Reisterstown Road Plaza to Charles Center at a cost of $750 million.

Baltimore already has secured $500 million from the federal government.

The state is being asked to put up the remaining amount, due to come from gasoline tax increase of 1972. Part of the revenue generated by this tax was explicitly marked for this purpose.

• • •

Mayor Schaefer revealed he asked Robert Patriceli, director of the Urban Mass Transit Administration, if any of the $500 million could be used in developing a system outside of Phase One.

The mayor said that Mr. Patriceli advised the money could not be used out of the corridor, and if the city did not use it in the proposed way, it would go back into the general fund.

"I effect, we would lose this money," the mayor explained.

• • •

Speaking in behalf of the mayor's plan, Robert Embry, housing commissioner, told the state legislators that the construction of the system would create 5,000 new jobs for five years and 300 permanent jobs once completed.

The delegation saw a slide presentation which showed the system could service 87,000 persons daily.

City Council President Walter Orlinsky made a presentation opposing the mayor's system.

He told the delegation, "We told the delegation 3½ miles servicing 87,000 people daily. If you can get all county and city workers in this corridor to ride this, you will still only have 25,000 daily trips. So, I don't know where this figure of 87,000 is coming from."

• • •

Mr. Orlinsky discussed his alternative, a monorail from downtown to Mondawmin Mall and light rail on out to Reisterstown Plaza.

The most expensive part of the system, which the mayor proposes, is the 3½ miles from Mondawmin to downtown which would cost $361.5 million. The alternative proposed by Orlinsky would only cost $52.5 million.

The mayor's position is that it would take two years to come up with an alternative plan and get it to the stage where his is.

Mr. Orlinsky said, "Assuming that there is a two-year delay, this alternative system would still be in operation faster than the proposed system."

• • •

The AFRO asked Sen. Robert Douglass, 45th District, and chairman of the Black Caucus, how he felt about the two plans.

Sen. Douglass said: "Well, I'm listening to both sides. As a legislator, I must listen to both sides and a lot of what they are saying makes sense."

"Ultimately, we'll have to come to a decision about the system. I'm swayed by the obvious job creation factor of the mayor's proposal, but I'm not swayed by the enormous deficit I see in that system because whatever benefits you reap in job production you ultimately lose it when you have high deficits."

• • •

Sen. Douglass pointed out that for now the thing to do is listen. "We have to be very careful of what we are talking about and not be panicked into a decision."

He added, "I am looking out for us. They say that it will create more jobs, but how many of these jobs are for blacks?

"A case in point is the expressway being built. Go over and look at it and show me how many of those jobs are for blacks."

"So, I say we have to be careful, but I have no problem in making a decision."

Changes in scholarship procedure

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — Maryland's system of permitting delegates and senators to hand out scholarships has the potential for abuse and should be changed to see that more of the funds are allocated on the basis of need, the head of the scholarship program said Wednesday

Kenneth Shook told a House committee that he has come across very few instances of actual abuse of the controversial scholarship program.

"But it has the potential for abuse in that it allows delegate awards without regard to need and Senate awards that have to consider need but don't have to make the award on the basis of need," he said.

Shook told the House Ways and Means Committee that the federal government has said Maryland must allocate more money on the basis of need for the state to get additional matching federal dollars.

He said the government asked the state to increase its contribution to the "need' based programs" by about $250,000.

Gov. Mandel has introduced legislation once again this year that provides for scholarship money to be awarded by an impartial board on the basis of need.

A similar proposal has been debated for at least a decade and defeated four straight years because most lawmakers do not want to lose the patronage of handing out scholarships.

Annapolis Watch

By Ben Phillips

Ben Phillips

ANNAPOLIS — At this particular time, I wish to tell my readers my purpose in doing this column.

As the General Assembly sessions progress, this space will be used to let you know how I see a particular issue.

Also, there will be updates on where a certain bill which you may find important is, and generally little tidbits of information on bills which are before the different committees in both the House and Senate.

This is my first time handling the Annapolis Bureau for the AFRO, but you can rest assured that I have the assistance of some 60 years experience from our Baltimore editorial staff to help me keep up with the concerns of black citizens.

• • •

In addition, members of the Legislative Black Caucus try to help in whatever way they can to let me know what is where and where is what.

The AFRO feels it is important to have an Annapolis Bureau because it feels there should be someone to deal in depth with black concerns, areas which the dailies and news wire services might not deem important.

Also, this column will tell you what your black representatives are doing and what they think and how they vote on critical legislation.

The Human Relations Commission proposal, Convention Center and the Rapid Mass Transit are three things of paramount importance to us.

So, if you feel that I am missing something, feel free to give me a call and let me know about it. My number in the State House is 269-0749. It's toll-free.

• • •

The Legislative Black Caucus will be faced with some serious questions in relation to Rapid Transit. I must admit that the presentation given by city officials was an impressive one.

However, one must not lose sight of the possibility that mass transit might be built only to serve as another fast route for county residents to come to and from work within the city.

In addition, Sen. Robert L. Douglas the Black Caucus head, expresses it right. He says, "They are talking about creating new jobs, but how many of these jobs are going to blacks."

Too many times, people have been misled by promises of new jobs. There may be more jobs for those who are imported from other state. A visible example is the expressway being built in the city.

• • •

Black legislators here tell me that one of the things which their constituents can do is write to them on such issues as the convention center and mass transit and let them know what their views are.

One delegate confided to me that in many instances, an important issue will come up, but his constituents won't take the time to sit down and write him a letter to let him know what their views are.

Believe it or not, your representatives care what your think.

If they don't, they should. If you have a problem getting through, write me c/o AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

• • •

The address for senators in Annapolis is the James Building, Annapolis, MD. 21404. Write your delegates at the House of Delegates Building, Annapolis, Md. 21404.

Remember, you can call your delegates or senators by using the toll-free number, 269-1858. However, it is best to write.

• • •

An example of the kind of bill citizens should react to is the one introduced by Sen. Clarence Blount, 41st District. I'm sure Mr. Blount would like to know what you think about his bill which was before the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday.

The measure provides for a review of drug prescribing practices by the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene. The review would include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the services by the patient or provider.

Sen. Blount introduced the bill because he felt that there is the likelihood that more xepensive prescription drugs will be prescribed when a cheaper overathe counter drug would suffice.

Mr. Blount said that if money could be saved by such a review that maybe money could be made available to rescind part of the cuts in service.

The fiscal note on the bill is $180,000 to begin implementation of the program. The money is for five positions to be added in order to comply if the bill is passed.

The proposal has received support from the Department of Mental Hygiene Office on Aging, and the Maryland Branch of

(Continued on Page 27)

Toll-free phones of legislators

(AFRO BUREAU)

ANNAPOLIS — The Legislative Black Caucus is composed of all black members of the Md. General Assembly. Now in session are four senators and eleven delegates from Baltimore city and 1 senator and 2 delegates from Prince George's County.

Their names, addresses, districts and toll-free phone numbers follow:

State Senators

James Office Building, Annapolis, Md. 21404
Clarence W. Blount, D-41 267-5434.
Robert L. Douglass, D-45 267-1592.
Clarence M. Mitchell, III, D-38, 267-5035.
Verda F. Welcome, D-40 267-5704.

House of Delegates
House Office Building, Annapolis, Md. 21404
Troy F. Brailey, D-40, 267-1563.
Joseph H. Chester, D-45, 267-1575
John W. Douglass, D-45 267-1576.
Walter R. Dean, Jr., D-41, 267-1557.
Isaiah (Ike) Dixon, D-38, 267-[illegible]
Hattie N. Harrison, D-43, 267-1573.
Pinkney A. Howell, D-41, 267-1559.
Lena K. Lee, D-39, 267-5690.
Arthur G. Murphy, Sr., D-41, 267-1558.
Lloyal Randolph, D-40, 267-1554.
Kenneth Webster, D-40, 267-1575.
Larry Young, D-38, 267-5671.

Prince George's County
Sen. Tommie Broadwater, 267-9853.
Del. Nathaniel Exum, 267-5237.
Del. Decatur Trotter, 267-5236.

Advance Federal report shows

(Continued from Page 11)

either office to arrange for direct deposit by the federal government of your Social Security check in Advance Federal.

Individual Retirement Accounts or Keogh Retirement Accounts may now be opened at either office. Near the end of 1975 we added IRA and Keogh accounts.

The self employed, individuals with self employment income and employees who are not covered by qualified pension plans may benefit by placing savings in accounts that will reduce the amount of income tax that they pay for 1976 because the tax will be deferred. We look forward to having a substantial amount of money put in these accounts.

STAFF PROMOTION

Miss Beatrice F. Golder, executive assistant to the president, was made our loan officer last year. We congratulate Miss Golder upon her promotion to a position of greater responsibility.

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Two new tellers and a secretary were employed during 1975. One teller who worked part-time, one day a week in 1974, became a full-time employee in 1975.

Since two tellers resigned during the year, ADVANCE FEDERAL had two more employees at the end of 1975 than it had at the beginning of the year.

If you put additional savings in ADVANCE FEDERAL, you will help provide more employment as well as more mortgage money in our community.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 1976—WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Bicentennial Year should be a great year of achievement and growth for ADVANCE FEDERAL and the Baltimore community that it serves. We plan to provide more employment and mortgage loan money for Baltimoreans during 1976.

A number of citizens have been complaining about the failure of certain institutions to employ members of the ethnic group that founded ADVANCE FEDERAL.

These individuals also complain about the failure of some institutions to make mortgage loans in Baltimore.

If the individuals who complain about lack of employment and lack of mortgage money in the city are sincere and intelligent, they will help get money TRANSFERRED to ADVANCE FEDERAL this year in order that we may provide additional employment and make the loans that are needed in the city.

Don't complain. Take positive action. Transfer your savings to Advance Federal and we will be able to make more loans in Baltimore and employ more Baltimoreans to handle your savings and mortgage business.

If the members of this community put at least three million dollars of their savings in Advance Federal during 1976, we shall provide a minimum of five million dollars in mortgage loans. With the increased volume of business, we would be ready to start planning a third office to serve our savings and borrowing members.

CONVENTIONS bring millions of dollars to Baltimore's economy.

Md. National

(Continued from Page 11)

corporation, Maryland National Optimation Services, Maryland National Leasing Corporation, Maryland National Industrial Finance Corporation, Maryland National Advisers, Maryland National Realty Investors, Inc., and Redwood Capital Mangement, Inc., exceeded $700,000 — approximately doubling those for 1974. They now amount to approximately 3 per cent of total corporate earnings.

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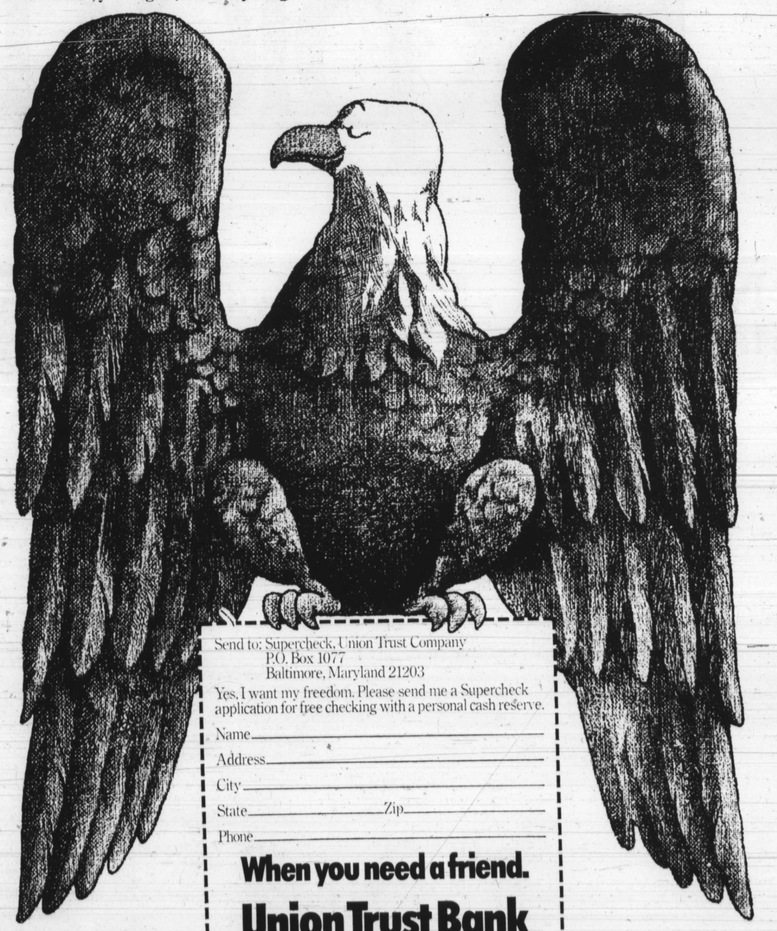

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