City officials cannot agree on mass transit

By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Baltimore officials cannot agree on what type of mass transit the city should have.

The split among city administration people was evident last Tuesday morning when they met with the Baltimore City Delegation here.

The city is waiting for General Assembly approval of state aid to the proposed subway system. The federal government has granted the state $500 million to build the 8½-mile system which would run from Reisterstown Plaza to Charles Center.

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Walter Orlinsky, City Council president, opposes the present plan. Instead he feels a light rail coupled with a monorail system would do the job just as well and for less money.

If the city does not build the system which the federal government has approved, it will lose the $500 million.

Mr. Orlinsky stated, "I believe very firmly that it would be better for the city of Baltimore to for go this round of federal grants.

"...Even if you go two or three years of hearings, you will still complete the light rail faster than the proposed subway."

* * *

Last week, Mayor Schaefer said the federal government ruled that the city could not change the type of system it wanted to build without losing the grant money.

Despite this fact, Mr. Orlinsky said the city could let those funds go back, reapply for new funds, hold the necessary hearings and still have his alternative in operation just as fast as the subway.

Del. Lena K. Lee, D-38 asked the City Council president, "Wouldn't we have to give $35 million, which we have spent already, back to the federal government?"

Orlinsky responded, "I think to give back the $35 million is the best way out."

* * *

Robert Embry, housing commissioner, told the delegation "Whatever we construct will operate on a deficit. Even if we don't build anything, there is going to be the bus deficit."

Embry, representing the mayor, also said that with a subway system, the amount of deficit would be lower.

In answer to proposals about light rail systems, Embry said a light rail system above ground would be using the same routes as regular traffic which is impractical.

He stated, "To tunnel for light rail would cost the same to construct but 50 per cent more per seat, per mile."

Del. Arthur G. Murphy Sr., D-41, asked Embry to explain this.

Embry explained that to tunnel would cost the same, but with heavy rail the cost per seat, per mile would be only 1-2 cents while for light rail the cost per seat, per mile would be 1.5-3 cents.

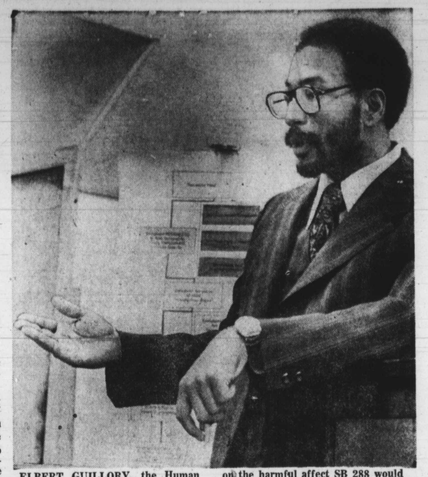
The cost would be higher for light rail because it requires more labor and energy.

Embry told the delegation that it was being taken for a ride worrying whether or not the counties would join.

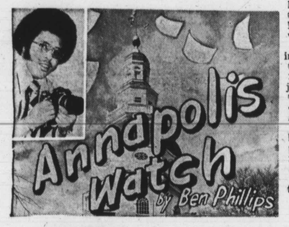
He said, "The counties don't care what mode of transportation you pick. These guys are mad because the city will get transportation funds. Back in 1972, you voted for a gasoline tax increase of two cents with the stipulation that one cent would go to the city for mass transit."

He further stated, "From 1972-1982, this will generate $190 million. We are only asking the state for $147 million. All the county guys care about is money for their highways."

Delegation Chairman Paul Weisengoff, D-37 said that some decision would have to be made soon on what course to take. The delegation is expected to hold a few more morning conferences to hear all sides on the issue of Rapid Transit.



ELBERT GUILLORY, the Human Relations Commission executive director, gave a detailed presentation on the harmful affect SB 288 would have if passed. AFRO staff photo by Ben Phillips.



By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS—For approximately the last 10 weeks, Baltimore officials have met with the Baltimore City Delegation here to discuss the mass transit system.

There is a split among city officials as to which route the city and state should take. Both sides have valid arguments and concerns. All the facts have not been laid on the table yet, but in any event, the delegation will have to make a decision soon on what it will or will not support.

Earlier this week, Del. Lloyal Randolph, D-40th, and Del. Arthur Murphy, D-41st said that they had not heard any response from their constituents either for or against the propose subway.

They say that they wish their constituents will write or call them in Annapolis and let them know what they think about the proposed subway.

They would really like to know what you think. So take a minute and write them about it. The address is House of Delegates Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

If you wish to reach them or any of your other legislators by phone, the toll free number will be listed on this page each week.

Recently, there was an inquiry from someone in the 40th Legislative District about wages while on jury duty. The caller feels that it is ridiculous to receive only $10 a day while serving.

I asked Del. Troy Brailey, D-40th, about this practice. He said that it is true that a citizen only receives $10 a day, but he added, in many instances, the individual's employer makes up that difference.

Del. Brailey further stated that there is no proposed legislation planned. He asked that if the caller would like for him to put in such legislation he should write him in Annapolis.

Del. Kenneth Webster, D-40th, is filing legislation that would require a write-in candidate to file no later than the seventh day following the primary election.

At the present time, the law requires this to be done no later than the fourth day following the primary election.

In Senate action, Sen. Verda Welcome, D-40th, has a bill on domiciliary care homes which should come up for third reading the early part of next week. The bill is SB 142.

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-41st, is pushing one of his bills towards final passage in the Senate. SB 213 calls for a review of drug prescribing practices in nursing institutions.

Sen. Robert Douglass, D-45th, said he would like for the bill to require a report be submitted back to the Senate on such practices.

The House Appropriations Committee had hearings last Tuesday on HB 59 entitled Veteran's Preference sponsored by Delegates Kenneth Webster, D-40th, and Walter Dean, D-41st.

The bill would allow veterans who had criminal records prior to going into service, to still receive the five preference points given to them while applying for state employment.

In the past, if an applicant had a record, he was denied these points.

In previous editions, there has been some confusion about the toll-free number for Annapolis. The number to call and talk to your delegates is 269-1858. This is the only toll-free number for both delegates and senators.

SB 288 opponents testify

By Ben Phillips

During the Senate hearings on SB 288 last Wednesday, only the opponents were allowed to testify. Sen. Conroy chairman of the Constitutional and Public Law Committee announced that the hearings would continue on Tuesday, Feb. 10, so that proponents could be heard.

Among those who testified Wednesday were Del. John Douglass, D-45th, who strongly opposes the bill.

Said Del. Douglass, "Presently an investigation costs $2,000 per case. Under this bill it would cost $12,000 per case.

"I conclude that SB 288 costs would be ineffective and wasteful. I suggest that if the business community insists on this bill that they pay the additional cost.

"That money," Douglass, who is fiscal expert of the Black Caucus said, "could be acquired through the raising of corporate and corporate franchise taxes."

* * *

Del. Douglass ended his testimony by showing those in attendance how the bill would require 60 new positions on MCHR staff, new equipment and additional operating expenses.

He said, "The bill would require that MCHR have an additional $1 millioin in funds."

Del. Douglass was followed by Sen. Clarence Blount, D-41st, who declared, "This bill is a ripper bill which not only weakens enormously the ability of a very important agency of this state, but also attempts to deny or thwart the rights of individuals granted under the Constitution of the United States and federal law."

Nathaniel K. Smith, president of the Maryland Conference of NAACP Branches, said, "It is extremely bad legislation. This bill takes away rights citizens already have, and it is an affront to those who have worked so long and hard to obtain these rights."

Walter M. Dickerson, director, Baltimore district office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission stated, "There is, undoubtedly, some desire, principally from the business community, to weaken the law because of the inconvenience or difficulty encountered in the process of eliminating discrimination in employment."

Dickerson further testified, "Changing the state legislation to accommodate those who find the administrative processing of charges an inconvenience to their purpose, will not have the desired effect of cancelling out the obligations of employers covered under State and Federal law."

"In each instance where the Maryland commission does not follow procedures that satisfy the standards of the federal act, the EEOC will be obligated to re-process charges commensurate with those federal standards."

* * *

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th, sent a position paper in opposition to the bill. Here in part is what he said.

"Surely, the peculiar concerns of vested interest groups such as the Chamber of Commerce (the true authors of this bill) cannot be made paramount to the rights and protections which must be accorded each citizen."

* * *

The Baltimore alumni chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was represented by Alfred Woolridge.

He said, "Our understanding of SB 288 leads us to the conclusion that there is a serious effort being made in this state to take away the protection of citizens regarding discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation. Therefore, we oppose this bill and urgently implore this committee to reject it."

* * *

The American Friends Service Committee, Baltimore Jewish Council, Baltimore City Community Relations Commission, Frederick County Human Relations Council, and the Prince George's County Mental Hygiene Association sent representatives and position papers to oppose SB 288.

In the words of John B. Ferron, director of Baltimore City Community Relations Commission, "Contemporary discrimination is extremely complicated. I can assure you that the amendments proposed in SB 288 would cripple any serious Civil Rights agency.

Sen. Robert L. Douglass Black Caucus chairman testifies

Scholarship bill nixed by Senate

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — State Senate President Steny H. Hoyer said Tuesday he is unlikely to push for Senate approval of a Mandel administration bill to the controversial state Senatorial Scholarship Program because he doubts the Senate will support it.

"I'm not of mind to push the administration bill," said Hoyer. He barely lost a vote on his own compromise Scholarship Reform Bill during the last General Assembly session.

* * *

The Senate last year also defeated a Scholarship Reform Bill advanced by Sen. James Clark Jr., D-Howard, which based scholarship on need only.

Under the current system, the senators themselves are allowed to distribute college scholarships to their constituents. Some senators have awarded funds to sons and daughters of supporters, while others have school committees which play a large part in the selection.

* * *

The bill proposed by Gov. Mandel would award state scholarships up to $1,500 to college students based solely on need.

Last week Kenneth Shook, head of the current program, testified before a legislative committee that he has encountered few examples of abuse under the current program, but it has potential for abuse. He endorsed the proposal to base the program on need.

Study shows revenue picture is 'bleak'

(UPI — Despite last year's property reassessments which added nearly $520 million to the citys tax base, Baltimore's revenue picture looks "bleak," according to a study done for the City Council.

The Council's Office of Financial Review said in the study that revenue expected to come from property reassessments will produce at most about $24.6 million in additional revenue, not taking into account some reductions after appeal hearings.

About 30,000 taxpayers have appealed the new assessments on their property and special night hearings have been scheduled in Mid-February to hear some of the appeals.

The office also said built-in expenditures in the fiscal 1977 budget, which take into account no new programs, already have been estimated at $53.6 million.

The report was prepared by George A. Piendak, a fiscal aide to the Council.

"Although the revenue picture looks bleak for Baltimore in terms of the fiscal 1977 budget, the very real prospects of problems caused by built-in expenditures in the new budget year are chilling," he said.

"The built-in expenditure estimates are significant because they eclipse in significance the $24 million in new revenues projected as tentatively available from the property tax reassessment process."

An aide in Mayor Schaefer's office said the report came as "No surprise. The mayor's been saying it for months."

The spokesman said Schaefer "has been warning department heads for months there will be no additional money for new services. They have to come in with tight budgets, and he will not be sympathetic to large increases in expenditures."

NAIROBI, Kenya — According to the chairman of the Kenya Planters Cooperative Union Ltd., it is expected that some 66,000 tons of coffee will be picked this season, the highest coffee harvest on record in Kenya.

He said that the pay-out to coffee growers might also be the highest. This was due to several factors affecting other coffee-producing countries.

HB 77 would eliminate state bar examinations

By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — It is the considered opinion of the Maryland State Conference that HB 77 which calls for allowing persons to engage in the practice of law in this state, if they have received their degree from an accredited law school in Maryland, is not only justified, it is vitally needed."

This was the opening statement of Leon Perry, director of public relations for the Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Perry was testifying for HB77 which is being sponsored by Delegates Walter Dean, D-41st, and Arthur G. Murphy Sr., D-41st.

Perry further stated, "The failure rate among blacks taking examinations for admission to the bar, as well as other professional examinations, has reached staggering proportions."

"I'm sure that the members of this august body can clearly understand our grave concern, when you examine the fact that few blacks are able to successfully navigate their way through the law schools at the University of Maryland or the University of Baltimore."

* * *

A. Dwight Pettit, vice-president of Monumental Bar Association, testified before the House Judiciary Committee that there was no validation that the bar exam tests the ability of the student to practice law.

He further stated that it was a subjective test which required an oral interview at least before the results were given.

Pettit told the committee that there were ways which the examiners could find out, an applicant's race. He gave this example.

"When I went for my oral interview, I was asked about the fact that I had been a plaintiff in a discrimination suit when I was a child. This did not have anything to do with my ability to practice law."

* * *

Miss Georgia Goslee, a Baltimore attorney, told the committee there is indeed institutional racism at the University of Maryland. This was one of the questions raised by proponents of the bill.

Del. Andrew Burns, D-43rd, said that he went to law school at the University of Maryland, and he did not see any institutional racism.

Miss Goslee replied, "Del. Burns, if I could offer you my shoes to walk in for a day, you would see it."

* * *

Johnny L. Stubbs, a citizen who was concerned enough to take time and testify, said, "In this country, lawyers have power, and the bar examination determines who has access to that power."

He further stated, "As citizens of this country, black people would like to share in the utilization and control of that power."

Stubbs' rationale was that less of whether the exam was intended to be color blind, the net effect of the exam was that it discriminated against blacks.

Stubbs rationale was that 50 per cent of whites that took the exam passed while only 6-9 per cent of the blacks that took it passed.

Stubbs drew this analogy. "Whether your intentions are to shoot me or not, if I am shot by your bullets then the end result is the same, I am dead."

* * *

Opponents to the bill stated that the bar exam is necessary to test graduates' knowledge of the law.

Francis J. Monahan who represented the Maryland State Bar Association told the committee his organization is the watchdog of the profession.

He said he made a study of why black citizens did not pass the exam. "The problem is that blacks are only two-thirds qualified when they enter law school."

He explained that the University of Maryland lowered its standards by one-third in order that more blacks may enter the school, but the standards for graduating were not lowered at all and neither was the bar exam.

* * *

Other opponents of the bill were Vincent Gingeich, chairman of the Board of State Bar Examiners and John Bonner, secretary of the board. They testified that statistics showed that the law schools were not academically ready to allow students to practice law upon graduation. They felt that schools needed to improve academically first before they could do so.

APPOINTMENTS—If you wish to make an appointment to speak before the Black Caucus, here is the person to call. Miss Rosalyn Smith is secretary to Sen Robert Douglass, the Caucus chairman. Use the toll free number. 269-1858 and ask for Sen. Douglass' office.

Sen. Broadwater has new food stamp bill

By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — The Senate Finance Committee hearings last Tuesday were on SB 356 sponsored by Sen. Tommie Broadwater, D-Prince George's County.

This bill would require change standardization in relation to food stamps.

Sen. Broadwater explains it this way:

"Have you ever gone to the store and when you paid for your food with the stamps, received store chips as your change? Well, each store has a different chip and the corner store gives you an I.O.U. instead of currency.

"The problem is that over a period of time these chips add up and you cannot just take them all to one store. This bill would establish a standardized system of change so that if a person has 50 cents left over from store A and 60 cents from store B, he can go to any store and spend the change."

There was no opposition to the bill per say. However, the State Department of Resources said that this type of action would have to be done at the federal level.

Sen. Broadwater said that he is going to make the bill a Senate Joint Resolution which would go to the federal level asking officials to look into such legislation.

The senator said he is going to follow through to ask federal legislators from his district to look into the issue.

After the hearing, he said he did not know why currency is not given as change. He commented, "It would make it a lot easier."

Sen. Tommie Broadwater

Report from Philip Morris

Twelve Year Effort Ends With Unprecedented Flavor In Low Tar Smoke.

New 'Enriched Flavor' discovery for 9 mg. tar MERIT achieves taste of cigarettes having 60% more tar.

The greatest challenge to cigarette-makers in recent years has been how to make a low tar cigarette that wasn't "low" in taste.

Now after twelve long, hard years, researchers at Philip Morris have developed the way to do it.

The cigarette is called MERIT.

It delivers only 9 mg. of tar. One of the lowest tar levels in smoking today. Lower than five current low tar leaders.

And the taste? If you enjoy smoking—you'll be interested.

Smoke Cracked: 'Enriched Flavor' Achieved

Others have tried to design a special filter or filtering system that would somehow filter out tar but not taste.

We tried too. Our results were almost predictable: the more tar we took out, the less taste we got.

So for flavor, we concentrated on the business end of smoking. The tobacco end.

By using an instrument called an analytical fractometer, we began "cracking" cigarette smoke down into its various ingredients.

Some 2000-plus ingredients were isolated, one by one.

What we discovered was startling. *There are ingredients in tobacco—basic flavor units—that deliver taste way out of proportion to tar.*

By selecting only those units that proved themselves to be high flavor yet low tar producers, what we call 'Enriched Flavor' was developed and then added to the tobacco to make MERIT.

A flavor concentrate for tobacco. To give it extra flavor. Natural flavor. Flavor that couldn't burn out, couldn't drop out, couldn't do anything but come through for you.

We packed 'Enriched Flavor' into MERIT.

And began the series of taste tests that were to prove we had real news for smokers.

Taste-Tested By People Like You

9 mg. tar MERIT was taste-tested against five current leading low tar brands ranging from 11 mg. to 15 mg. tar.

Thousands of smokers were involved, smokers of filter cigarettes like yourself—all tested at home.*

The results were conclusive:

Even if the cigarette tested had up to 60% more tar than MERIT, a significant majority of all smokers tested reported new 'Enriched Flavor' MERIT delivered more taste.

Repeat: delivered more taste.

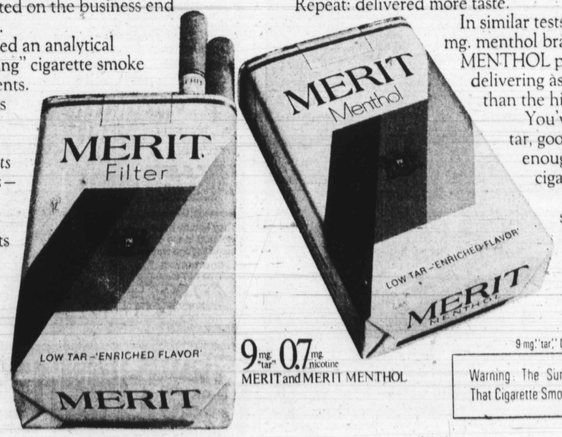
In similar tests against 11 mg. to 15 mg. menthol brands, 9 mg. tar MERIT MENTHOL performed strongly too, delivering as much—*or more*—taste than the higher tar brands tested.

You've been smoking "low tar, good taste" claims long enough. Now you've got the cigarette.

MERIT. Incredible smoking pleasure at only 9 mg. tar.

From Philip Morris.

*American Institute of Consumer Opinion. Study available free on request.



9 mg. "tar" 0.7 mg. nicotine
MERIT and MERIT MENTHOL

9 mg. "tar," 0.7 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC Method.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

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