Hearing concludes on Senate Bill 288

By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — "The Maryland State Chamber of Commerce represents 6,000 industrial and commercial businesses. The chamber is 100 per cent behind elimination of discrimination in this state."

This was the opening statement by Sam Christine who represented the chamber at the second public hearing Tuesday on SB 288. Mr. Christine led the major proponents of the bill.

Christine used two attorneys as his witnesses in testifying to alleged abuses of power by the Human Relations Commission.

Throughout his testimony to the Senate Constitution and Public Law Committee, Christine emphasized that the role the chamber played in creating this bill was strictly as one of the three parties.

The other two parties were the committee and the commission. SB 288 is supposedly the result of many meetings this summer of representatives of the chamber and commission before the committee. The bill is looked at as an equitable compromise of the two parties.

* * *

The first witness presented by the chamber was Carol Hament of Shawe and Rosenthal law firm. He stated, "What I find distressing here is that the bill is attacked in its entirety with no compromise.

"The image of the Human Relations Commission in the business community is not good."

Mr. Hament stated that characterizing the bill as the end of civil rights and other tiresome generalities fell flat when opponents were pressed for details.

The Baltimore attorney further testified that the time limits and specificity of the bill was not asking too much but rather gave the respondents a fair shake. In substantiating his testimony, he used for the most part cases which were foru five years old.

* * *

In concluding he said, "All citizens need the safeguards written into SB 288. The commission has been its own worst enemy."

Leonard Cohen of the law firm Bright, Bernstein, Conaway and Goldstein said, "Everything the commission has done is not wrong. Every single case I had has not been handled badly."

Mr. Cohen said that he does not understand why it takes an average of six months for the respondent to be notified.

He also brought up the fact that if the respondent refused to adhere to the interrogatories, he could be found automatically guilty.

Cohen said that there is the general feeling that the respondent is wrong, and the great burden of proof is on the respondent.

* * *

Ralph Hapsteader, publisher of the Eastern Star Democrat, said that the commission has acted irresponsibly and outside of the law.

He claimed that he had been a victim of time. Therefore, he felt any new law should proscribe time limits on the commission.

Proponents of the bill constantly referred to cases which took two or three years to be settled.

Other proponents were Walter Donaldson, Dreyfus Brothers, Inc. and Robert Ammons, an attorney.

* * *

Upon the completion of the 2½ hour testimony by proponents, the rest of the opponents were allowed to finish giving testimony.

Mrs. Elaine Newman who represented the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women told the committee that her organization was opposed to passage of the bill because it crippled the commission, limited rights of citizens and required burdensome procedure.

Mrs. Dale Balford, president of the Maryland League of Women Voters, said that the bill would require too much dependence on the commission itself which is voluntary and politically appointed.

James Griffin who represented the Maryland Association of Non-White Rehabilitation Workers presented a resolution to the committee passed by the group.

Basically, they opposed the stripping of the executive director of the commission powers. Mr. Griffin further stated, that he knew from experience as a past vice-president of the Board of School Commissioners in Baltimore that it was hard for them to handle hearings like those called for in SB 288.

Dr. Oakley Saunders told the committee that the Chamber of Commerce must have a short memory. He said that he can remember them going before the City Council opposing open housing.

He further stated that all he saw was a battery of lawyers representing anonymous interests testifying for the bill.

"I am totally against the bill. How do you compromise fair play in employment, civil liberties and access to the resources of the commission."

In closing, Dr. Saunders called upon the chamber to publish a list of its membership so that the black community could see what businesses supported this type of legislation.

* * *

Mrs. Jane Vallery Davis, chairperson of the Legislative Committee of Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., told the committee that the health and welfare of the commission was of vital concern to BNI.

One part of their program is giving assistance to an individual who feels that he has been discriminated against when seeking housing.

Alan Paul Dean, chairperson, Maryland Association of Human Rights Agencies, stated, "SB 288 would destroy the most outstanding human rights agencies in the country and make a mockery of Maryland's anti-discrimination laws. This bill would not serve the best interest of the citizens if we are going to continue our struggle for common liberation and for justice."

* * *

Hearings were concluded on SB 288 for the most part. Next Tuesday, the committee will begin the hearing of SB 351 which is being sponsored by the five black senators.

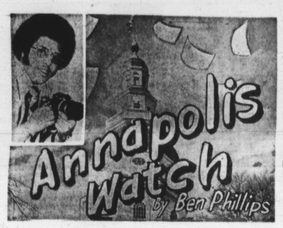
After the hearing, Elbert Guillory, executive director of the Human Relations Commission, pointed out that most of the problems sited by proponents related back before his administration. He further stated that many of them had been corrected.

As far as the power the commission has of finding a party guilty if he does not adhere to the interrogatories, Mr. Guillory stated that his administration has never used this power.

He also said that the power was not unusual in that many administrative agencies have such a power as well as judicial arms of the government.

Phillip Tierney, general counsel for the commission, said that he never really agreed on SB 288 for the commission during the summer. Basically, he said that he never really saw SB 288 in its present form today.

Tierney said that he only composed part of the so-called Shawe amendments, and he denied that Steve Shawe assisted him.



By Ben Phillips

ANNAPOLIS — I like to start this article out this week with an important piece of information. To anyone who feels that it is not important for individuals to testify before committees for or against a bill is totally out of touch.

Every senate committee now is recording its session, typing up briefs of how many groups or citizens testified for or against a bill.

A good example is the hearing in the Senate Constitution and Public Law committee on SB 288. Committee members will receive the list of those persons who testified for or against the bill. This will affect the committee's final decision.

In addition, testimony by citizens gives the black senators a platform to stand on when fighting for or against a bill.

An example might be that a bill of importance to blacks comes up and there is no testimony from the community supporting or opposing the bill. When the black senator or delegate goes to support or kill the bill, he can be questioned as to whether or not it really is as important as he claims.

Tuesday, hearings will begin on SB 351 which is the bill sponsored by Senators Verda Welcome, D-40th; Robert Douglass, D-49th; Clarence Blount, D-41st; Tommie Broadwater, D-Prince George's County, and Clarence Mitchell, D-38th.

It is important to these sponsors that as many citizens and groups show up to support this bill as showed up to oppose SB 288.

The Human Relations Commission is in full support of SB 351.

* * *

Del. Larry Young, D-38th, has introduced HB 1402 which provides for civil rights and medical care to all Maryland citizens who are mentally ill.

Del. Young said, "Every person who is mentally ill is entitled to fundamental civil rights, medical care and other professional services in accordance with accepted standards of the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene."

He explained, "We can no longer ignore the needs of those less fortunate in mental capabilities. These people suffer from the same hazards that any others would and they should receive equal health benefits under the law."

* * *

Del. Walter Dean, D-41st, has received favorable responses on his article which appeared in last Friday's paper. It was on rapid transit and it said that mass transit doesn't necessarily mean jobs for blacks. If you missed it, go back to last week's edition and pick it up.

Monday on the third reader calendar, two election reform bills came up for final consideration. Del. Kenneth Webster, D-41st, objected to the bills. They were HB 674 and HB 675.

HB 674 would require that within 30 days following an election, a bill must be presented to the candidate of money he owes. The bill has no provision as to when the money is to be paid.

What makes this bill worthless is the fact that nothing happens if the bill is not presented within 30 days. I am sure the man is going to get his money. Therefore, I cannot see the sense in this bill.

HB 675 is no better. It provides that a candidate can use his personal checking account of up to $25 for petty cash. Anything over that must be done by way of usual accounting procedures.

I think it is mild to say that these two bills are ridiculous examples of election reform.

* * *

Sen. Clarence Mitchell, D-38th, has introduced SB 528 which calls for the changing of penalties for conviction involving the use or possession of a certain amount of marijuana. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee.

Last week, a similar bill on the house side which was introduced by Del. Larry Young had a hearing. Del. Young is concerned that some persons might misinterpret the bill. Neither bill calls for the legalization of marihuanna, but rather, they call for the lessening of penalties.

Del. Young will further explain his position in one of his upcoming columns.

* * *

Did you know that Del. Joseph Chester, D-45th, is vice-chairman of the appropriations budget subcommittee?

Del. Hattie Harrison, D-45th, is walking a little taller this week. The president of Dunbar High School's senior class is visiting here as one of the pages. His name is Julio Lentl, and to be completely honest, she is tickled to death. Anyone who knows the delegate knows that she loves working with children and that Dunbar is special to her.

269-1858

This is the toll free phone number to call if you wish to talk with your elected state officials in the legislature.

Your legislators are anxious to know your concerns. Call them. Or, if you prefer, write to them: Address letter to members of the House, to House of Delegates Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401. To members of the Senate, James Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

Pallottines are subject of debate

ANNAPOLIS UPI) — In the House debate was expected on a bill affecting charitable organizations. The bill was amended in committee to remove the financial disclosure exemption for religious organizations that conduct extensive mail-solicitations.

Members of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee said the amendment is designed to bring the controversial Pallottine Fathers under the financial disclosure requirement.

The Pallottines have been subjects of numerous accounts charging that the missionary order received vast amounts of money through mail solicitations but sent little of it overseas.

The Senate passed a bill prohibiting cremation of a dead body until at least 12 hours after death. Sponsors say the measure is needed to allow consultation among family members over disposition of a dead relative.

SERVING TIME—This week, two of East Baltimore's finest were in Annapolis serving as pages. It was a learning experience for both of the young men. From L to R. Julio Lentl, senior class president, Dunbar High School, and Tony Hewitt, a senior at Merganthaler Vocational High School.

Eastside's finest

By Ben Phillips
Annapolis Bureau

ANNAPOLIS — Two of the House of Delegates pages for this week came from East Baltimore. They were Julio Letl, Dunbar High School, and Tony Hewitt, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School.

Both young men were enthusiastic about their job of keeping up the delegates desks and generally seeing the legislative process in action.

Mr. Letl is a senior at Dunbar and also its class president. He is the son of Mrs. Alfreda James. He has five brothers. The family attends Berean Bible Chapel.

Upon graduation, Letl plans on entering the service. On his experiences, he said, "I enjoy it. I have learned quite a bit, and it is interesting seeing the legislators in action."

* * *

Tony Hewitt is a graduating senior at Mervo. He has already been accepted at the University of Maryland College Park where he wants to go into the field of conservation.

He was chosen by the school's Student Council. Hewitt is the son of Mrs. Doris Lewis. In addition to himself, he has two older sisters. The family attends Arlington Baptist Church.

A shooting victim of 1972, this enthusiastic page gets around with the assistance of crutches. He did not let his disability flop him from getting around on the floor.

Athletic competition is his stick. He is a member of the wheelchair track and basketball teams. He also swam for his school last year. Unfortunately, he couldn't swim this year because of his basketball schedule.

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Boise	225.00	97.00	Medford	252.00	108.00	Rochester	57.00	25.00
Buffalo/ Niagara Falls	57.00	25.00	Memphis	108.00	46.00	Sacramento	252.00	108.00
Cedar Rapids/ Iowa City	111.00	47.00	Merced	252.00	108.00	Saginaw/ Midland/ Bay City	80.00	34.00
Chattanooga	85.00	37.00	Milwaukee	95.00	41.00	Salem Ore.	252.00	108.00
Chicago	92.00	40.00	Minneapolis/ St. Paul	122.00	52.00	Salt Lake City	207.00	89.00
Cleveland	59.00	25.00	Modesto	252.00	108.00	San Diego	252.00	108.00
Columbus	60.00	26.00	Moline/ Rock Island/ Davenport	104.00	44.00	San Francisco	252.00	108.00
Dayton	69.00	29.00	Monterey	252.00	108.00	San Jose	252.00	108.00
Denver	175.00	75.00	Muskegon	88.00	38.00	Santa Barbara	252.00	108.00
Des Moines	119.00	51.00	Newport News/ Hampton/ Williamsburg	38.00	16.00	Seattle/ Tacoma	252.00	108.00
Detroit	70.00	30.00	Norfolk/ Portsmouth/ Virginia Beach, Va.	38.00	16.00	South Bend	85.00	37.00
Eugene, Ore.	252.00	108.00	Oakland	252.00	108.00	Spokane	230.00	98.00
Flint	76.00	32.00	Omaha	130.00	56.00	Stockton	252.00	108.00
Fort Wayne	77.00	33.00	Pendleton	230.00	98.00	Toledo	70.00	30.00
Fresno	252.00	108.00	Philadelphia	38.00	16.00	Visalia	252.00	108.00
Grand Junction	193.00	83.00	Pittsburgh	46.00	20.00	Youngstown/ Warren/ Sharon	52.00	22.00
Grand Rapids	84.00	36.00						
Huntsville	92.00	40.00						
Kansas City	125.00	53.00						
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Lansing	80.00	34.00						

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Summer discounts begin June 1st: it's still 50% off for children, but 20% for adults. So now's the time.

The friendly skies of your land.

UNITED AIRLINES

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Struggle to get taste into low tar smoking ends suddenly with new 'Enriched Flavor' discovery for 9 mg. tar MERIT.

For years, dependency on tar for taste has created a taste barrier for low tar cigarettes.

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Now that barrier has been broken.

Broken by a remarkable cigarette called MERIT. MERIT packs a radically-new 'Enriched Flavor' discovery developed after years of research by Philip Morris.

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Up to 60% more tar.

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If you smoke, you'll be interested.

Tobacco—Not Special Filters—Ends "Low Tar, Good Taste" Search

Special "low tar, good taste" filters are what most other cigarette makers came up with to try to get flavor into low tar smoking.

And are *still* coming up with.

But the answer, the real answer, comes from the other end of smoking. The tobacco end.

By "cracking" tobacco smoke down into its various ingredients, researchers at Philip Morris discovered there *are* certain basic ingredients more important to taste than others.

Ingredients that deliver taste way out of proportion to tar.

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The taste-test results were startling.

Taste-Tested By People Like You

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

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

The results were conclusive:

Even if the cigarette tested had 60% more tar, 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.

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MERIT and MERIT MENTHOL

9 mg. tar 0.7 mg. nicotine

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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