Wilkins shocks NAACP convnention

Special to AFRO
By Larry Still

MEMPHIS — Roy Wilkins, 75-year-old NAACP executive director, threw a bombshell into the 67th annual NAACP convention here in Memphis by declaring he will not resign his office in January 1977 as scheduled, but will fight to remain in office until next year's convention in St. Louis, Mo. or longer.

Making a surprise appearance before the 2,500 delegates near the closing plenary session Wilkins charged that some members of the NAACP board had carried on 'a campaign of vilification' against him since the death of Washington Methodist Bishop Stephen Spottswood and declared he would take his fight to remain in office to the convention floor.

Later in a press conference, Wilkins and his wife charged that board president Margaret Bush Wilson of St. Louis had called him senile.

Wilkins said there should no age limit on the office of executive director, "but there should be an age limit on board members."

* * *

He charged that some 90-year-old members of the board were setting policy for the organization.

Wilkins says he personally does not resent young members taking greater control of the organization, but says there are some board members who have opposed young people, white people and everybody.

* * *

Wilkins said when he arrived in Memphis, "it was with shock then that I learned that a campaign of vilification of me had been started after the death of Bishop Spottswood by certain members of the board of directors and continues until this day."

He stated in part, "At the insistence of my family and friends I retained counsel with a view to entering suits in the courts against certain board members for defamation of character for which counsel advised I had adequate reasons. However, a member of the board in whom I have great confidence persuaded me that such action would be hurtful to the NAACP.

* * *

"When I arrived in Memphis I noted that the Tri-State Defender said that this would be my last convention. And indeed it may, for by the time of the next convention I may be communing with the saints or arguing with the devil. But so indeed, could anyone of us in this room. Though we may chart our lives, there is a wiser power that alters the course.

"Many of you have asked me to postpone my retirement until after the St. Louis, Mo. convention in July 1977.

"St. Louis is the town to which my parents migrated right after their marriage to escape the awful proscription of life in Mississippi. St. Louis is the town where I was born. St. Louis is the town where my mother died when I was four years old. St. Louis is the town where my wife of 46 years was born.

"If God is willing, I shall be at the St. Louis convention as an active directing member of the NAACP facility. If the board elects to fire me before that time, then I shall have to call upon you to let me represent your interest directly."

* * *

Wilkins' action stunned the assembly, which recessed immediately. Delegates walked about shaking their heads at the action. Many members indicated they supported the executive director, but regretted his actions. One board member termed the action as "rule for ruin."

Wilkins was scheduled to meet with the board late Thursday night. Several members believed a compromise would be worked out.

Members of the Region Six NAACP conference, which includes Washington, Maryland and Virginia, had indicted they would oppose extension of the director's service past the Jan. 1 deadline.

One member of the delegation said, "we have given Mr. Wilkins an excellent arrangement." She indicated that the director's salary had been increased to $40,000 annually so he could retire at half pay of $20,000.

Officials also stated that Wilkins had been offered a lifetime "consultantship" with the association at an additional $20,000.

—Birthday cake

(FROM PAGE ONE)

veals that Key witnessed the bombardment at 7 a.m. Sept. 13, 1814. This was the War of 1812 and not the birthday of the United States which came July 4, 1776.

WALLY SAYS

According to Orlinsky, oficial head of the Baltimore Bicentennial Committee, the actual cake is yellow pound cake with red, white and blue icing.

He stated that the icing that was washed away off the plywood model on the barge in Baltimore's harbor Wednesday night was donated by Herman's Bakery of Dundalk.

He says instead of replacing it, the model was painted with a texturized paint composed of a sparkle, a cement compound to avoid future running.

Orlinsky told the AFRO that he will not know until after July 4 how much the cake will cost.

He said, "If enough people buy cake, it won't cost the city anything." He also hoped that enough cake would be sold to help with the city's Bicentennial restoration program.

When asked how much Herman's Bakery would be paid, Orlinsky explained that the amount of payment would not be determined until after July 4 when the committee knows how much cake was sold.

—Bicen services

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Rev. Dr. Chester L. Wickwire, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and the Baltimore Baptist Association.

Also, the United Methodist Board of Churches and Board of Rabbis, the Office Society the Baltimore offices of the Chaplains for Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland Churches United.

Other participants include Cong. Parren Mitchell Dr. Harvey Webb, Mrs. Rudell Martin, Rev. Marion Bascom, Rev. Vernon Dobson, Rev. Wendell Phillips, Del. Bert Booth and Cantor Saul Hammerman.

Representatives of groups concerned with employment, hunger, medical care, housing, peace, women's rights, minorities and human rights will also participate in the program.

The occasion will provide an opportunity to note the role of religion in the beginnings of the United States and at the present but also its significance at the beginning of our third century. A declaration of interdependence will be shared.

The Freedom Bell will ring and the Shofer Horn used by Hebrews in their Year of Jubilee will be sounded.

The public is invited to attend the early morning services at the church which is located at Charles St. and Mt. Vernon Place.

New barber shop offers good services

The Afro Hut, a barber shop located at 4656 York Rd., which is very close to Cold Spring Lane, has been in that neighborhood for approximately a year.

Both men and women appreciate the excellent services rendered at this establishment which include among others, haircuts, manicure and arching the eyebrows.

A few of the patrons are residents of Washington, Philadelphia and New York who come to the "Hut" whenever they visit Baltimore.

Willie Harry is the proprietor.

CHERYL DAVIS, daughter of Joe and Mrs. Mae Davis, was recently elected Student of the Year at Rognel Heights Elementary School. Cheryl was chosen by two teachers for excellence in behavoir and academics.

—Hunter Home

(FROM PAGE ONE)

ation of Baltimore and began soliciting funds in 1950.

This group was able to raise enough money to occupy the property at 2115 Allendale Rd., and called it the Ideal Home for the Blind.

When they were unable to meet with the city requirements, they moved to their present site at 1321 Eutaw Place, known as the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind.

Changing times and high prices seem to have the home on the brink of disaster. The home has space available for 14 people in need of a home.

—Testifies against sister

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Court and will testify at Mrs. Williamson's trial. He was sentenced to life in prison.

* * *

The night of Oct. 5, 1975 Boone stated he took his wife to work at Provident Hospital and later went to a party with his sister and her husband.

* * *

After leaving the party, Boone testified he went to visit some friends and came home around 3 a.m. "I went to bed and my sister woke me up because she heard her husband call for her from outside.

* * *

Police report quotes Mrs. Williamson as saying on Oct. 5, 1975 she and her husband had been to a party and she drove home because he had had "too much to drink."

After driving home, Mrs. Williamson told the police her husband wanted on "sleep in the car." Mrs. Williamson left the car and went to her bedroom.

Police report Mrs. Williamson said she heard loud voices outside around 3:30 a.m. in front of their house. Mrs. Williamson says she found her husband lying in a pool of blood on the front passenger's seat of the car.

* * *

During cross examination, defense attorney Harold Glaser asked Boone, "In your opinion is your sister crazy?

Boone hesitated and said "yes."

Other questions the attorney asked the witness were:

Q: "Did you tell Merrick you had a crazy lady who wanted her sister knocked off?"

A: "Yes."

Q: How long did you have the feeling your sister was crazy?"

A: "I don't know."

Q: "Why didn't you tell your brother-in-law, your sister wanted him killed?"

A: "I don't know."

Mrs. Williamson has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity. Her attorney asked Boone didn't he know his sister was a "very, very sick woman."

Assistant State's Attorney Dana Levitz told the jury in his opening statement a psychiatrist will testify Mrs. Williamson is "not insane and is capable of standing trial."

* * *

Mrs. Williamson has been confined to Baltimore County Jail under $50,000 bail since she was arrested. The couple was married Jan. 8, 1974 and had been living in their Randallstown home for one year and were buying their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Boone had a yearly income of "approximately $20,000" and Williamson only paid his sister, Mrs. Williamson "$30 a week rent."

Williamson was a correctional officer at the Maryland House of Corrections, maximum security prison at Jessup.

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HOPKINS HOSPITAL GIFT—Dr. Glenn Rosenquist, vice chairman of the staff conference committee at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, presents a $1,300 check to officers of the Eastside Community Committee to help its various activities for East Baltimore youths, Accepting the gifts were Mrs. Thelma D. Ray, president, and Elsie Adams, financial secretary of the group. Among its activities is sending youngsters to the Children's Fresh Air Society Camp in Harford County each summer.

What's taking place in school, on campus

By Clarence W. Hunter

Dean Herman E. Westerberg, head of the Division of Continuing Education at the Community College of Baltimore states that it is not too early to begin registering for the fall and evening classes.

Registration for both the Liberty and the Downtown Harbor Campus is currently under way Monday through Thursday on the Liberty Campus. Call 396-6380 for more details.

BELATED THANKS

When a plea for funds to ship the body of Miss Semainesh W. Andom home to Ethiopian after being murdered on Jan. 4, 1975, Eastern High School's students responded by collecting $50.00 and sending a letter of sympathy to the family.

More than a year later Principal Miss Betty Williams recently received a letter of appreciation from Afework Woldehaimanot Andom, brother of the slain Coppin student.

In his letter Adom explained that he did not receive Eastern's letter of condolence until February of this year, more than a year after its postmark.

FACE FACTS

Didya know that . . . . . the Samuel F. B. Morse Elementary School at Pulaski and Ashton Sts., are presenting a summer playground through Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children from 5 to 14 years old are invited.

. . . The Cockpit in Court summer theatre will present "Godspell" July 9-11 and July 16-18 at the Essex Community College Call 682-6202 for ticket information.

. . . Dr. O. C. Bobby Daniels who is known for developing a cultural free test that measures racial comprehension, was one of the educators at the Leadership Development and Team Building Laboratory Summer Institute at Walbrook High scheduled to end today, Friday.

. . . 10 students from several shon classes at Fairmount Hill Vocational School worked since last October renovating a nearby store that the community saw as badly in need of improvement.

REGISTRATION

Applications and registration for the ninth, 10th and 11th grades for September, 1976 at Cardinal Gibbons High School are now being accepted.

Any student may make application by submitting, from his present school, a complete transcript of his scholastic records. Acceptance is based on the student's ability to work successfully at his grade level, his past achievement, and his desire to attend the school.

Applications and further infomration may be obtained by calling 644-1770.

MINI COURSES

Special one-credit courses in drug identification and theatre orchestra are among the more than 60 courses available at Essex Community College during the final five-week summer session July 19through Aug. 19

The Mini-courses designed to help students adjust to college life and to explore career potential are also included in the wide variety of offerings in physical education, science and mathematics, humanities and arts, social sciences, business and industrial management, and allied health. Call 682-6000 for more details.

CASHIER CLASS

The Area of Adult and Community Education for the city schools has announced that the final-summer Cashier-Checker Class will begin Tuesday. The class will be held in Room 303 at the Calvert Adult Center, 200 E. North Ave.

The course is open to adults 16 years of age and over not presently attending a public day school. Each class is held for 5 weeks, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Call 396-1568 or 396-6700 foor more details.

SOCCER CAMP

Edward A. Wren, coach of the 1974 National Junior College Soccer champions, will teach youngsters new skills and techniques at a soccer day camp at Essex Community College July 15 through July 28.

The clinic, which will be held weekdays from 10 a.m. until noon, is open to all aspiring young soccer players aged 10 to 14. Tuition for the camp is$12 and includes the use of all equipment. For more information call 682-6000 Ext. 405.

DEADLINE

The dealine for graduation pictures is 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 7. No pictures will be accepted after that time.

Send all pictures before that time to Clarence W. Hunter, AFRO City Desk, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201.

Allen to head voter registration drive

William Allen, deputy clerk at the Baltimore City Court House, was recently selected by the New Breed Coalition to direct the organization's voter registration drive this summer.

Allen 38, who in 1965 became the first black to hold his position, will head the effort to make citizens more aware of their voting power in the city and to acquaint them with the importance of voting in state primaries.

He has long been active in politics, drafting legislation to institute the Merit System in the clerk's office in 1974, in which year he also ran for Criminal Court Clerk. Last year, Allen was a campaign manager for Irvin Conway in his bid for City Council.

* * *

Presently, he is advocating against the Bill of Consolidation of the Baltimore City Courts, arguing that there are no elected black clerks despite the city's near 60 per cent black population.

A graduate of Douglass High School, Allen is currently writing the script for "Concert '76," a joint effort of local Baptist and Methodist churches to be presented in the fall.

Allen is married to the former Delores Hamilton, recreational director for Operation Champ

WILLIAM ALLEN
Criminal Court deputy clerk

Piano festival, competition at Maryland

The sixth annual international piano festival and competition will be held at the University of Maryland's Tawes Fine Arts Center Aug. 5-11, on the College Park Campus.

The present festival, under the direction of Dr. Stewart Gordon, professor of music on the campus, offers professional pianists, teachers and students the opportunity to attend workshops, lecture-recitals and master-classes.

For further details and ticket information for both the competition and festival, please contact Dr. Gordon or Ms. Joan Johnson in the Music Department, 454-2501, or write: Music Department, University of Maryland at College Park, Md. 20742. Photos are available upon request.

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Dr. Crew joins UF fund drive

Baltimore City's new school superintendent, John L. Crew, has been named a member of the board of the United Fund of Central Maryland and honorary chairman for the Baltimore City Schools Division of the 1976 UNITED FUND-CICHA CAMPAIGN.

In accepting the voluntary positions, Dr. Crew told Frank A. Gunther Jr., general campaign chairman, he hopes it will allow him "to further perpetuate my concern for mankind in general and the citizens of the metropolitan area in particular."

The UNITED FUND-CICHA CAMPAIGN supports over 90 affiliated health and human service agencies in the Central Maryland area.

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