Workers, citizens may get cash payback for bias and bad job conditions

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The Baltimore City Community Relations Commission is seeking statutory powers through City Council Bill No. 166 to award more compensatory damages to victims of discrimination.

At present the agency can order only the payment of lost wages. But in an effort to make "victims whole" the commission is demanding for victims moving expenses, child care expenses as well as an end to bias in mortgage lending.

The bill granting the powers will come before Council Judiciary Committee hearing at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 14. The public is invited.

Individuals wishing to express their feelings about the bill in writing should send their letters before Dec. 14, to Councilman Frank X. Gallagher, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Room 552, City Hall 21202.

The anti-bias agency wants additional authority because, sometimes "compensation other than payback is needed to make a victim of discrimination whole again.

"One example of compensatory damages could be payment of moving expenses," explains the commission for, added the agency, "if an individual loses his job because of discrimination and has to change his place of residence to get another job, payment of back pay alone is not enough to restore him to his original financial state."

The agency said child care expenses could be reimbursed if a person were compelled because of discrimination to work an inconvenient shift. If the employe incurred extra expenses to enable him to work that shift, monetary restitution would be necessary to right the wrong.

* * *

Another feature of the bill is the prohibition of discrimination in mortgage lending institutions such as banks and saving and loan associations.

While much of the pressure for this portion of the bill has come from single women, CRC Director John B. Ferron explained, the proposed law would go a long way to protect all citizens from being denied ownership of a residence or business because of discriminatory policies.

Ferron explains: "Compensatory damages are not to be confused with punitive damages. The purpose of Bill No. 166 is to make the victim whole, not to facilitate an undeserved profit."

The bill was introduced by Councilpersons Curran, Mikulski, Adams, Waxter, Clarke and Spector.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ORCHARD STREET CHURCH?—Countless passersby on the busy Druid Hill Ave. thoroughfare constantly ask the AFRO that question. Here are some answers in AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyc. The Gift Shop scheduled a year ago by the Restoration Committee is finally going up. (LEFT PANEL) L to R Glasco Royales, general manager, reviews blue prints with Principal City Inspector Albert DiMarcantonio. In the background are Bob Brown, Michael Cox and Stephen Carbary of the H. S. Leshcar Contractors. (RIGHT PANEL) Mrs. Troy Brailey, Gift Shop Committee chairman shows off the Memorial Bricks as she stands by the 16-foot display case. Opening will be announced later. Meantime, the three houses next door to the 510 Orchard St. slave church are being converted to a residence and office building. Private developers are building houses on the lots surrounding the famed structure dated 1827 and now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission has selected Turner Associates of Washington, D.C. and Cambridge Seven Associates of Cambridge, Mass. in a joint venture as the consultants for the research and design work at $750,000 city, state and and federal funds.—EMO

Top MCHR officials resign

The two top executives of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations resigned this week.

Elbert L. A. Guillory, the executive director and Washington Green, his deputy, both in office since 1973, sent letters of resignations to the governor, who appointed them.

Guillory said his resignation is effective Jan. 31, 1977 and Dec. 31 would be his last day in office. He told Mandel, "Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the citizens of Maryland. I have certainly enjoyed my association with the government of my newly adopted home state."

Green could not be reached for comment when the AFRO called at his office Wednesday afternoon.

* * *

Both men had come under fire during the last days of their tenure centering on whether they had indeed submitted their resignations as early as September to the chairman of the commission, Jacob J. Edelman. At that time both men denied they had resigned. Edelman said they did and informed the governor.

Mandel declared the positions vacant and established a search committee for replacements.

Guillory's resignation was dated Tuesday and Green's letter was dated Wednesday.

New body to help businesses

Attorney General Francis B. Burch has announced the establishment of a business review procedure to aid firms in complying with the State antitrust law.

Burch said that although the attorney general's office does not give advisory opinions to private individuals, the antitrust division will respond to inquiries from companies and other private parties with respect to proposed business conduct and transactions and may state the attorney general's enforcement intentions under the antitrust law. Alternatively, the attorney general's office may decline to pass on the request or take such other position as is appropriate, he said.

Attorney General Burch said that only written requests with respect to proposed rather than hypothetical business conduct will be considered.

In addition, "the requesting party is under an affirmative obligation to make full and true disclosure with respect to the business conduct under review and provide the Attorney General with whatever additional information or documents that are requested," he said.

Books Needed

The volunteer services department of Provident Hospital is forming a patient library. Books, magazines, games and puzzles in fairly good condition are needed. Anyone interested in donating any of these materials should contact the volunteer services office of Provident Hospital at 225-2044.

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EARLY MORNING DISASTER — Baltimore was struck by two early morning disasters Thursday after a house blew up in the 600 block of Hillview Ave. (left). Believed caused by leaking natural gas, the explosion broke area windows and sent two persons, Fulton Tabb, 60, and his wife Clara, 65, to South Baltimore General Hospital. Mrs. Tabb, is listed in satisfactory condition there, but Fulton Tabb had to be transported to the Washington Burn Center where he is in guarded condition. Just after the Cherry Hill explosion, a three-alarm fire broke out in the 1300 block Poplar Grove St. There were no serious injuries in that fire. (AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyc.)

Ford selling his Virginia house?

(UPI) — President Ford's old house in suburban Alexandria, Va., is on the market for $137,000, and Susan Goldwater is the real estate agent handling the sale.

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said Wednesday the Fords do not expect to "have a permanent home in Washington" after the President leaves office, so they are selling the home they lived in for about 20 years.

The Fords own a condominium in Vail, Colo., and have looked at property in Palm Springs, Calif.

Susan Goldwater is the wife of Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., (R-Calif.) Sen. Barry Goldwater's son.

An employe of Previews, Inc., the large realty firm handling the deal, told UPI she would be the agent.

The two-story brick house with a heated swimming pool will be shown to prospective buyers for the first time this weekend, Nessen said.

TAMMY RIVERS, 13, an 8th grade student at Harlem Park Elementary School, is reportedly missing from home since Sunday, Nov. 28. Her mother, Mrs. Bertha Stewart, 1161 N. Calhoun St., reports Miss Rivers was last seen wearing navy corduroy pants, orange coat with stands 5 ft. 4 inches tall and white and black scarf. She stands 5 ft. 4 ines. tall and weighs 130 lbs. Call Missing Persons Division of the Police Department, 396-2324, if you see her.

Last rites held for Rev. Watkins

Funeral services were held Nov. 26 at St. James AUMP Church in Towson, Md. for the Rev. Edward B. Watkins of Towson. He is buried in Pleasant Rest Cemetery.

The Rev. Mr. Watkins died Nov. 21 at Montebello Hospital after a long illness. He was 74.

A native of north Towson, Md. the Rev. Mr. Watkins was born June 3, 1902, the son of the late William and Mrs. Essie Watkins.

He attended public schools in Towson and later became pastor of Union Bridge AUMP Church and Barry Hill AUMP Church.

* * *

A member of the Pride of Towson Elks, the Rev. Mr. Watkins served as a community advisor focussing his attention on the young persons in the neighborhood.

He is survived by a host of nieces and nephews. They recently expressed their appreciation to all the persons who offered their aid while he was in the hospital and after his death.

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