Citizens made aware that state may up sales tax

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — In what may be a growing consensus, a top aid to Gov. Marvin Mande said it is like the state sales tax will need to be increased by 1 per cent to meet a revenue shortfall.

"It lokks almost inescapable" that the tax will have to be boosted to 5 per cent, Frank Defilippo, Mandel's press secretary and a top advisor to the governor said Tuesday. "There's no way around it."

Defilippo's statement was another incidation hat the governor may ask the General Assembly to approve a tax increase next year.

Previously, Mandel and other aides have taken a neutral position on a tax boost, claiming it was too early to determine whether any tax increases were needed.

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But Defilippo's comments paralleled statements made this week by Lt. Gov. Blair Lee III, who said that there was "no possible way to avoid" a sales tax increase next year.

The State Board of Revenue Estimates will be presented with a report Friday estimating the state's financial outlook for fiscal year 1978, which begins in July.

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A report released last week showed the state may have a sales tax shortfall of between $45-850 million for the current fiscal year, which ends in June, and the following fiscal year.

1 per cent boost in the sales tax would generate about $100 million in additional state revenues.

"There's no way to offset that revenue shortfall except through a sales tax increase," said Defilippo. "Only a miracle can reverse it."

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State Comptroller Louis Goldstein has said he believes the state can avoid a sales tax boost by exercising "fiscal restraint."

But Defilippo disputed that. "He can preach all the fiscal restraint he wants but when you have a gap like that there's no way you're going to do it without raising the tax."

Defilippo blamed the sales tax shortfall on a sluggish economy and legally mandated boosts in certain types of state spending.

Even with a boost to 5 per cent, Defilippo said Maryland's sales tax would be "in line" with other Eastern states.

Schaefer gets brotherhood award

MAYOR SCHAEFER

Mayor William Donald Schaefer received the Annual Brotherhood Award of the Maryland Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The presentation took place at the 48th Anniversary Dinner at the Hilton.

The award bestowed for "outstanding commitment to the values of brotherhood," gives recognition to the Mayor's efforts at uniting "the many ethnic and racial groups in Baltimore into a working whole, while at the same time supporting and encouraging increased self-awareness and self-esteem within individual communities," and "ameliorating the intergroup tensions that can mar civic, social, and inter-personal relationships."

Presegting the award was Dofnald H. Wilson, Jr., president of Monumental Life Insurance Company, and chairman for the 1976 fund raising event.

Featured speaker was the noted defense attorney, F. Lee Bailey.

Some 600 persons attended the $100 a plate dinner, the proceeds going to support the local NCCJ chapter, which conducts programs in intergroup relations, among them a youth leadership training institute, a community breakfast seminar series, and a police community relations institue, as well as providing continued financial and staff support for Project Open, the citizens coalition for better public schools.

Officers this year are: Robert L. Berney, James L. Fisher, Gerard L. Gaudreau, and Theodore J. George (regional co-chairmen) and Herbert S. Garten, regional treasurer.

WASHINGTON — Dr. William L. Peters, a Florida A and M University entomologist, and Dr. Booker T. Whatley, a Tuskegee Institute horticulturist, recentist award given by the ceived the outstanding scihistorically black land-Bicentennial Research Symposium here.

The award was presented at the symposium honquet by Robert L. Long, U.S. Department of Agriculture assistant secretary for conservation, research and education.

Counties confab opens in D.C.

(UPI) — Top officials from seven Maryland counties will meet in Washington beginning tonight for the first National Conference of Urban County Leaders.

Officials from about 50 urban counties around the country will attend the three-day conference, which is being held to discuss problems shared by urban counties and to focus federal attention on their problems.

Among those expected to attend the conference are leaders from the Maryland Counties of Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard and Carroll.

MHRC hits AA college with bias

(UPI) — The Maryland Human Relations Commission has found "probable cause" to believe Anne Arundel Community College practices racial discrimination in hiring.

A commission investigative report reportedly found that the college does not provide equal opportunity for blacks in hiring and that blacks are "underutilized" by the school except in maintenance positions.

There was no comment from the commission and school officials.

The finding follows racism charges against the school from several black groups.

-Blast victim

(Continued from Page 3)

home near Greenspring area was because she felt her grandchildren could receive the best education from the schools in that area.

She also wanted a house close enough to the schools so the children could walk to school.

"The oldest will be starting junior high next year and I want her to go to Greenspring," she said, referring to her oldest grandchild, Madeline, age 11.

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Hotel officials stated they will provide rooms for the Ford family as long as they need them.

"These are self-sufficient people, who through no fault of their own were suddenly thrown onto the street," said Ms. Phyllis Brotman, spokesperson for the Holiday Inn.

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State police seek more pay, threaten to issue fewer tickets

(UPI) — As a protest against a salary decision Maryland State Police will soon begin issuing fewer traffic tickets, according to State Police Supt. Thomas S. Smith.

Smith said the job action, to begin Dec. 15, was approved by members of the fraternal order of police, which represents more than two-thirds of the 1,500 Maryland State Troopers.

"I'm not happy about the action," said Smith. "But I am not overly concerned. I do not think it will affect the public's safety."

State trooopers now earn a minimum of $10,091 a year. Smith proposed increasing the salary by 18 per cent to $12,000. But state officials argued that it was too expensive.

After negotiations with state officials, representatives of the FOP and others, a 10 per cent increase was approved, setting the minmum at $11,101.

However, state police members of the FOP turned down the compromise raise and at the same time voted to begin a "work study," which simply means state police will issue less traffic tickets and therefore reduce state revenues from traffic fines.

Ben Wolman, lawyer for the FOP, said the membership voted to work "according to the regulations." By that, he explained state troopers will spend more time on each violation, reducing the total number of tickets issued.

The state now collects between $8.5 million and $10 million annually in traffic violation fines.

Smith said state police in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia earn more than Maryland troopers.

A CONVERSATION with Clarence Mitchell, Jr., will be a telecast on WMAR-TV, Channel 2, Sunday, Dec. 12, 8:30-9 p.m. New Director George Rogers will talk to the distinguished director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, who is also legislative chairman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Lapides supports 'right to die' movement

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — Maryland's Death with Dignity Movement is getting new life from growing national sentiment that persons suffering from a terminal illnesses have a "right to die."

"The California law has created new interest in the matter and I'm very encouraged over support that already has been generated for my bill," Sen. Julian L. Lapides, D-Baltimore Co., said.

Lapides received scant support from earlier efforts to pass legislation permitting a patient to refuse extraordinary means to prolong life.

• • •

The California law effective Jan. 1 allows persons to sign a statement that life sustaining medical treatment shall cease in a terminal illness.

The law was promoted by the highly publicized Karen Ann Quinlan case in New Jersey.

Miss Quinlan's parents sought to have life support equipment withdrawn and were forced into a court battle over the issue. Miss Quinlan remains comatose in a New Jersey nursing home, but is breathing on her own.

• • •

The Lapides Bill, modeled after the California statute, would not apply in cases such as Miss Quinlan's. Both measures stipulate that the patient must consent to withdrawal of life support methods.

"This is one of the main features of the bill, the fact the person decides for himself. It's not up to relatives or anyone else to make the decision," Lapides said.

"Several leaders in a statewide association of retired persons indicate the group will support my bill, and there will be more backing from churches than I've had before. The Catholic church is still against it," Lapides said.

• • •

Opponents argue that the measure is the first step towards legalized mercy killing. But many doctors say that the bill codifies what is already practiced in many hospitals.

Under Lapides' Bill, entitled the natural death act, a person would have to sign a directive at least 14 days prior to when life support ceased. The statement would be good for five years but could be renewed.

The measure stipulates that signing of the statement cannot be considered as evidence of suicide by insurance companies.

Joseph Fletcher, a prominent Episcopal theologian and visiting professor of ethics at the University of Virginia spoke in favor of the Lapides bill at a recent symposium in Baltimore.

"What medical technology and refinement have done is not to prolong life, but to prolong dying," said Fletcher.

• • •

WILBERFORCE, Ohio — The Central State University Chorus was to present a concert of Christmas music in Terry Auditorium, Simpson Hall.

Selections were to include choral compositions by Vivaldi, Pergolesi, Rossini, John Jacob Niles, Mitchell Southall, Willis Lawrence James, William Dawson and Miklos Rozsa. The chorus also was to perform the Bach Cantata 140.

The CSU chorus is under the direction of Arthur Herndon, assistant professor of music.

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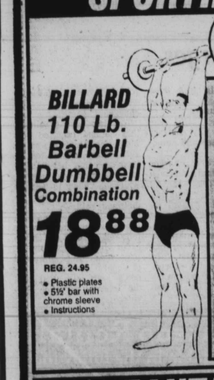

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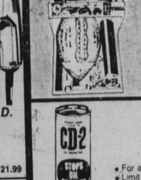

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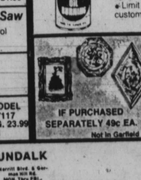

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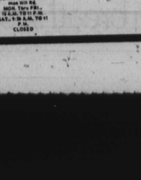

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