CANDIDATES FACE CONFERENCE:

Hey, Hoyer, Lee, what will you do for black folk in '79?

The state's black elected and lay leadership called the 1978 gubernatorial candidates on the political carpet Sunday afternoon to hear how well they recognize an electoral fact of life.

The fact being, black people across the state intend to have a great deal to say about who succeeds Marvin Mandel in Government House.

The two candidates who showed up — State Senate President Steny H. Hoyer, D, Prince George's and Lt. Gov. Blair Lee III — at Morgan State University at a separate, but extended part of the three-day black leadership conference, were there to tell what can be expected of them should jungle and claim the top prize.

Each candidate was permitted an introductory statement followed by questions from the six-member panel. Questions pretty much stuck to the eight basic issues which had been the theme of the conference: health, education, urban policy and development, criminal justice, civil participation, employment, income maintenance, and business and industry.

In his introductory statement, Hoyer, the Senate president, said:

"I want to congratulate

More answers from these two candidates in Tuesday AFRO

all of you who have played a role in this conference. Had it not been for the black community in 1966 in Prince George's County, I would not have been in the state Senate. I would not be here today," he declared.

* * *

He claimed credit for appointing State Senator Clarence W. Blount, majority whip, the second in command on the floor at Annapolis. He lavished praise — one by one — on each of the Senate's four other black senators — Mrs. Verda Welcome, Senators Robert L. Douglass, Clarence N. Mitchell, III and Tommie Broadwater (Prince George's).

Senator Hoyer told the audience he believed in the inclusion in the decision-making process, all citizens. He acknowledged that blacks basically have been shut out of the decision-making process in Maryland. "It is clear that we are not taking action," he said.

"I pledge to you if I am successful, we will not have a condition where there are no black people in my cabinet. There will be blacks in all levels of the state government," he added.

He declared that jobs and education have an impact on every person and problem in the state.

"We have to do better. There have to be more jobs for everyone," he said.

Hoyer claimed the same political ideology, as Adlai E. Stevenson, the late Ambassador to the U.N. "Trust the people . . . trust them with fact . . ."

Lee, who has been acting governor, since Marvin Mandel took ill suddenly weeks ago, said, "The conference has been a good thing. It begins significant political action next year."

He mentioned non-voting patterns in the black community as a problem that needed attention; said racial progress had been over the last 30 years; urged blacks to use their political muscle; gave some advice on what to watch out for in other political candidates.

He urged the black community to ask, "What is the guy's basic feelings about race relations."

LEADERS' LINE-UP—Shown at the first statewide leadership conference in 30 years last weekend at Morgan State University are (left to right) Councilman Clarence "Du" Burn and Delegates Lloyal Randolph, Pinkney Howell, Arthur G. Murphy, Monroe Trotter, Kenneth Webster and Walter Dean.

SAID PLANNERS NOT 'SENSITIVE' TO NEEDS OF PEOPLE

Panel discussed failure of housing

By Jerry McCall
AFRO Staff Writer

Several suggestions concerning housing and land use were made recently at the Maryland Black Leadership Conference. Members of a task force pointed out that minorities, low-income families and the handicapped are victims of planning that is not sensitive to their needs.

The committee assembled in Jenkins Hall on the Morgan State University campus to discuss the failures of housing and land use planning commissions on the local, regional and state levels.

Task force member Gil Wagner points many areas where disadvantaged citizens are short-changed.

"The state has recently been stressing the decentralization of State institutions because of their overcrowdedness. Nearly everyone acquainted with the problem supports the idea. However, when the vote is taken they often say, 'I'll support the halfway house, home for the retarded — as long as it's (sic) not in my neighborhood' " stated the Irritated Wagner, who is a regional planner for the Department of State Planning.

Wagner continued, "Perhaps the state should develope zoning legislation for this problem which overrides that of local governments, or the State could say to the counties, 'You must provide facil-

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WE WILL BE FAIR—Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN editor Ralph Matthews Sr. told statewide political conference audience that the newspaper would continue to play no favorites and support all who made positive contributions to the progress of black citizens. (See story this page)

POLITICIANS WARNED

'Will tell people when you tom'

Selecting the statewide political conference at MSU for his first public appearance since becoming editor of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, Ralph Matthews Jr., let the assembly of politicians, scholars and students know in clear terms that the newspaper would continue its crusading, independent stance on political matters.

"Speaking for management I want to assure you that we have a fairness doctrine. Our pages are open to all political points of views. We have no favorites and we don't intend to play any favorites."

Matthews warned, however, "when you're wrong, when you are 'tomming' we will tell the people." He repeated this point for emphasis.

His brief, terse talk, explained the editor, was motivated by his desire" to say hello to old friends, and to hopefully, this evening make new ones for your community newspaper."

"My dad, a pioneering black journalist, used to tell me that while politicians were, extremely likable people wouldn't necessarily want your son or daughter to marry one." This statement drew laughter.

In amplifying, the AFRO editor said that there was a traditional, necessary adversary relationship between newspersons and political figures. "We'll be friends tonight but come Monday morning, we will be adversaries again, it has to be that way."

Despite the traditional relationship between the press and politicians Matthews reminded the audience that the black press has habitually come to the aid of the black elected official when in stress.

"Traditionally when the black elected official has been unjustly attacked by the white press or the non-black public we have patched you up and put you on your feet again," seriouslone. "We will constated Matthews in a more serious tone. "We will continue to do this because you are all we have and we are really all you have when the chips are down."

Matthews, who has been editor since January, cited the example of Washington's Mayor Walter Washington.

"While Mayor Washington was in his position as a Presidential appoint he was loved by D.C.'s daily press but just as soon as he became elected by black people he has been

(Continued on Page 15)

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Brand V	10	0.7
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Brand M	8	0.5
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