THE NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

MITCHELL TESTIFIES

U.S. must support minority business

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th-Md., will be the first witness before the subcommittee on Minority Enterprise and General Oversight of the House Committee on Small Business, to testify on H.R. 567, the Minority Enterprise Act of 1977, and H.R. 4980, a bill to assist Minority Enterprise small business investment companies (MESBIC).

Mitchell is the primary sponsor of both pieces of legislation.

KEY TO JOBS

The American Association of MESBICS estimates that passage of the Mitchell MESBIC Bill will allow the financing of more than 400 minority and disadvantaged businesses and create 11,500 private sector jobs which would generate annually at least $10 million in Federal taxes, $8 million in Social Security contributions and $3.5 million in state and local taxes.

Cong. Mitchell said his upcoming testimony will emphasize that "strong minority businesses are a must."

He states, "Economic parity is a clearly desirable and attainable goal, a direction in which this country must move or suffer the consequences of continued high rates of unemployment, higher taxes and increased government spending."

HEARINGS July 29

In a lteter from Subcommittee Chairman Joseph P. Addabbo, D-N.Y, Mitchell was notified that an initial day of hearings has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 20.

It is expected that Cong. Mitchell and Small Business Administrator A. Vernon Weaver will be the only witnesses called for on this first day of hearings.

The subcommittee move represents the first substantive step by the House of Representatives toward hoped for final enactment of thee two Mitchell bills aimed at enabling minorities to achieve the goal of "economic parity."

Mitchell, with a national reputation as "the" Congressional spokesman and advocate for strong minority business enterprise stated he is "confident that this initial day of hearings signaled only the beginning signaled only the beginning of an intensive look by the subcommittee at the ways in which the bills address the very real problems of survival and growth of disadvantaged entrepreneurs."

PITFALLS NOTED

Originally introduced during the 94th Congress and reintroduced again in the current 95th Congress with 56 House co-sponsors, the Minority Enterprise Act attacks pitfalls faced by minority businesses such as lack of capital and operational finance and lack of access to contracting and sub-contracting opportunities.

The primary features of the Act are: (a) the expansion of assistance under the Small Business Administration to minority small business concerns, (b) the provision of statutory standards for contracting and subcontracting by the United States with minority businesses and (c) the creation of a Commission on Federal Assistance to Minority Enterprise.

Unfortunately, however, the MESBIC program itself is being "hampered" from achieving its goal as a result of the need for technical amendments to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 which would reflect the realities of today's capital markets. Cong. Mitchell's bill seeks to provide those needed amendments.

URBAN GARDENING — That's what it appears to be as construction workers plow up cement in an effort to complete an Orchard St. housing complex located near downtown on Druid Hill Avenue.

SCHAEFER BLASTED ON BLOCK JOB CUTS

City's $13 million starts coming July 8

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell disclosed Wednesday that Baltimore will begin reieiving on July 8 some $13 million federal funds due to come forth in five quarter periods.

He reveals the money comes through public law signed by President Carter under the Counter Cyclical made available by Congress to help political subdivisions which are having fiscal difficulty, Mitchell said.

Loiking back on the city's laying off workers last week and the Mayor's fight to keep municipal employees from getting promised raises, Mitchell says, "It was unnecessary."

He also demands that Mayor Schaefer submit to the citizens of Baltimore the racial and economic breakdown of those he has laid off.

Mitchell maintains the figures will show that most of those put out of work are poor and black.

THE FACTS

Cong. Mitchell's statement is as follows: "In my opinion, the receipt of this money by the city of Baltimore is sufficient to prevent any layoffs of city civil servants and sufficient to grant the incremental increases which Mayor Schaefer pledged to provide for municipal workers.

NO NEED TO FIRE

"It runs counter to the intent of Congress for political subdivisions to receive these funds and at the same time reduce the number of city employes and thereby reduce city services.

"There are those in city gobernment who would argue that the reduction of civil servants is necessary because of budget difficulties.

"However, I would maintain that since the first release of the $13 million is due July 8, it is not necessary either to reduce the city work force or deny salary increments to city workers.

"Unless the Schaefer administration tampers with the figures, the public will find the bulk of layoffs will include the black, the unskilled and the non-management workers.

"I challange Mayor Schaefer to set forth the layoff figures based upon race and poverty.

"The whole community should be gravely alarmed over the Schaefer contribution to the ranks of the unemployed raher than vigorously attacking the problem of unemployment, specicically as it relates to working poor and black citizens."

'What to the American slave is your Fourth of July?...'

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

"I answer: a day that reveals to hom, more than all other days in the years, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim.

"There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour."

The July 4, 1852 words of Frederick Douglass, over a century ago, reflect on a situation that still tragically could not be more true than it is today.

In Baltimore, where the general unemployment figures were at 8.9 per cent in April and probably higher now, the unemployment for blacks was estimated at higher than 25 per cent.

Slum landlords, rascism on jobs, talk of urban renewal, higher food prices, higher taxes all continue to take their toll on black victims.

Oil companies are saying that with dwindling reserves there is no telling what energy will cost if the winter is cold or if the winter is not cold.

The city has already seen its first pollution alert, but as all persons in the city who go downtown on a regular basis know, only after rain is there a relief from the air pollution which seems rebound after every shower.

Other workers know that the Supreme Court has backed seniority systems based on discriminatory practices. Blacks therefore are without guaranteed chances of advancement, regardless of how much time has been spent in a company of governmental agency.

In 1852 Douglass also said on July 4:

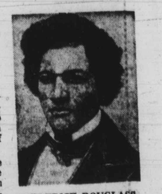
"To him your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and hearless; your denunciation to tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of libery and equality, hollow mockery; Your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages."

There will no doubt be countless barbecues in the community on July 4 with each separate city celebrating with fireworks, parades, banners, etc.

The strange thing is that many poor people seem to find happiness and joy during the day and the city sidewalks will be filled, front and back, with people laughing, drinking and talking.

"Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the Old World, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practicef of this nation, and you will say with me, for revolving barbarity and shameless hypocisy. America reigns without a rival."

That's how it was July 4, 1852. Could Fred Douglass make the same speech today?



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Who set up Tony's murder?

Did Tony Lewis know his killer or was the man who wore the green trash bag over his head a hired hit man?

Police are not able to answer the above questions and are still investigating the June 23 murder of Anthony "Tony" Lewis, of the 4100 block Maine Ave.

Lewis, a 17-year-old Forest Park High School student was slain Saturday night at the corner of Liberty Heights and Garrison Blvd. when a man wearing a green trash bag over his head approached him and started shooting.

He was killed two days before he was to appear in court to testify.

Police state last October the victim's coat was taken from him following a dance at Forest Park High School.

Terrace L. Johnson, 21, who is charged with assault and armed robbery, was scheduled for trial June 27 and Lewis was to testify.

Relatives of Lewis were reluctant to talk and stated "Tony was assaulted on May 20 three days before he was to first appear in court but the case was postponed."

Assistant State's attorney Roy Brslow said the case was postponed Monday because he did not have all the information on the case.

Police have questioned several witnesses but have not made any arrest.

Newton freed without bail until Mon. hearing resumes

By Richard Van Abbe

TORONTO (UPI) — Fugitive Black Panther leader Huey Newton was released from jail Wednesday pending a decision by immigration authorities whether to deport him.

Newton, 35, was freed from a suburban Toronto jail shortly after a special immigration commissioner adjourned a deportation hearing until Monday.

Paul Copeland, Newton's Toronto lawyer, said his client was released without having to post a cash bond, after lawyers obtained a signature from a "prominent Canadian" guaranteeing Newton's appearance at a resumed hearing on Monday.

Copeland declined to identify the guarantor.

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Sheldon Otis, Newton's San Franciscco-based lawyer, later identified the guarantor as James Renwick, a member of the Ontario Legislature.

Newton was arrested by immigration officials Saturday at Toronto International Airport as he stepped off a plane from Cuba with his wife, Gwen, and U.S. lawyer Fred Heistand.

He came to Canada to consult with ottorneys before returning to California to face murder and assault charges.

Heistand said the U.S. Justice Department agreed to say extradition proceedings 10 days to give Newton a chance to prepare his defense.

Canadian immigration officials arrested Newton under a section of the Immigration Act which bars entry to persons with a criminal record involving charges of "moral turpitude."

Those charges stem from Newton's 1964 conviction of a misdemeanor batter charge, for which he received a six months suspended sentence.

Newton jumped $42,000 bail and fled to Cuba three years ago after being charged in California with the murder of a teenage prostitute.

According to Gwen Newton, she and her husband planned to fly to Vancouver to meet with attorney's before returning to San Francisco where Newton would surrender him self to authorities.

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Peel it & Paste it
Win $$ Dollars $$ in the AFRO In Your Home Contest

Academy sponsors field trip for youth

The Maryland Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources Recreation Support Program, is sponsoring 20 field trips for 800 Baltimore City youths. Forty children, ages eight to 14, will take each of the trips beginning July 5.

Ten of the field trips will be to a Metropolitan Baltimore geology site, while the other ten trips will be to the Calvert Cliffs' Maryland Miocene site. These excursions are an effort to expose Baltimore City youths to the unique geological formations in this region.

The trips are scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students will be picked up by bus at their local recreation center in the morning and returned by 4 p.m.

Gas co. increase denied by PSC

The Public Service Commission (PSC) denied a request this week by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. (BG and E) for a temporary rate increase that would have raised the average utility customer's monthly bill by $1.90.

The utility sought the temporary rate increase until the commission reviewed its permanent rate increase request. The PSC is expected to act on the permanent rate hike request by November.

BG and E sought an increase of $14.72 million, which would have been collected during the five - month period. It would have amounted to an eight per cent increase or $1.90 a month for the average customer.

The request was made to help cover the cost of the utility's three-year old Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant, however, the commission found that plant expenditures were not sufficient to create an emergency financial condition, according to the commission spokesman.

The commission earlier this year ordered the utility to return $32 million to customers for overcharging them in 1976 in their monthly fuel adjustment rates.

State will pay for abortions

Maryland will pay for abortions for poor women if federal Medicaid funds now used for the operation are cut off, according to John J. Kent official of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The Supreme Court Wednesday overturned a federal judge's ruling that it was unconstitutional for congress to order a halt to all Medicaid payments for abortions exlept where necessary to save the mother's life.

Initially the money for the abortions will come from the existing budget for the Health Department, according to Kent.

The state appears to be saying if the federal government won't see that poor people don't have kids, we will make sure. One can also wonder how much will state taxes increase.

Court rules against HEW

A federal judge said Tuesday he will issue a temporary injunction to restrain the Department of Health, Education and Welfare from withholding Medicaid money from some states for refusing to comply with nursing home regulations.

United States District Judge Barrington D. Parker said he would issue the injunction Wednesday in response to a suit the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Michigan brought against HEW.

Among the states facing the largest penalties are cluded Maryland, $2.2 million; New York, $33 million; California, $15.3 million; Pennsylvania, 13.5 million; Massachusetts, $9.7 million, and Michigan $9.1 million.

A controvery over the penalty to Maryland and 19 other states arose earlier this month when HEW announced that Medicaid penalties would be applied to all states that failed to inspect all nursing homes.

The law requiring the inspection calls for a one-third reduction in payments for states that do not meet requirements. The total penalty for all 20 states would be $142 million.

ATLANTA — Noted educator Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College 1940-1967, has been given the 1977 James Bryant Conant Award by the Education Commission of the States.

He received a $1,000 stipend and a sterling silver "lamp of learning."

IT'S A KILLER

Md. curbing asbestos dust pollution

Emergency regulations will be written in the future to help locate areas where crushed stone with high levels of asbestos has been used in Maryland, according to a state official.

Asbestos is a nonburning grayish mineral that appears as a threadlike substance and is used as a fireproof material. High asbestos levels have been linked to cancer.

"We know it is widely used by state and county roads people in the area," he said, but added that he could not give a figure on how widespread its use is.

High asbestos levels were discovered at two quarries serving the Baltimore area.

The Environmental Protection Agency also has reported that some tests have shown asbestos dust levels in parts of Montgomery County 400 times that of normal urban asbestos levels.

FAVOR MORE EASTERN SHORE SERVICES

Regents wants UMES

The University of Maryland Regents want to solve the financial and enrollment problems on the predomiately black University of Maryland-Eastern Shore by merging it with nearby Salisbury State College.

The Regents' recommendations contrast with a legislative report that UMES should become a part of Salisbury. That suggestion drew sharp attack from black leaders who said the preservation of UMES is crucial to blacks and should remain independent.

The report released during the 1977 Maryland legislature said UMES is the state's most costly undergraduate school and is losing students to Salisbury State, a predominantly white college 12 miles away.

The report said operating costs at UMES have tripled in the last six years, while during the past two years enrollment fell from 956 to 759. Salisbury costs also have tripled since 1971, but its enrollment grew from 1,538 to 3,100 during that period.

In addition to financial and enrollment considerations, the state is under pressure from the federal government to desegregate the two schools. Present plans call for a 50 per cent black student body at UMES by 1980. The current enrollment is 77 per cent black.

Blacks comprise seven per cent of Salisbury's student body and plans call for a 12 per cent black enrollment by 1980.

It may be that another predominantly black university will become diluted and become just another state university.

Navy blowing up Bay fish

Two ond one- half tons of fish have been killed as a result of an explosion of a 10,000-pound charge by the Navy, Maryland natural resources police said Wednesday.

Seafood wholesalers in the Hooper Island, Md. area said the extra volume of fish - almost all weakfish — was enough to reduce prices from 25 cents to 10 cents a pound.

A fish market in Baltimore said weakfish are sea trout that sell for about 65 cents per pound and are good fish but nothing special.

The explosion that occured Friday was the largest in a seeries of underwater test conducted each year near Hooper Island, Md. by the U.S. Naval Ship Research and Development Center at Bethesda.

The Navy conducts the tests to determine the effects of underwater explosions on ship structures but evidently gives little regard to the thousands of fish that are killed each year as a result of the explosions.

People mover coming

A U.S. Senate - House conference committee has approved a legislative report making it even more likely that Baltimore will get federal funding for a $25 million downtown moving sidewalk.

The people mover is an elevated rail system with small, enclosed cars that would transport riders between major gathering points and subway stations in the downtown area.

The system is designed to link the subway system and would be an integral part of the downtown renewal effort.

The Department of Transportation has already told four cities — Houston, Los Angeles, Cleveland and St. Paul — they would get money for the project.

Included in Baltimore's share is $1.5 million for an Amtrak Station at Baltimore - Washington International Airport.

With the possibility of 1,500 workers being laid off in the near future lurking in the air, Baltimoreans should wonder where the local, state and federal governments place their priorities.

Also, who will have the money to ride?

REGINAL DEMINDS, a 14-year-old AFRO news carrier, appears all smiles when he recently received a 12-inch portable black and white television from Baltimore AFRO circulation manager Robert M. Rea Sr. The ninth-grade student at Polytechnic High School is a second time winner in the AFRO news carrier contest.

(AFRO photo by Fred Hines)

Tears abound as Wilkins nears end of NAACP era

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Roy Wilkins said farewell to the leadership of the nation's oldest civil rights organization Tuesday night but promised to remain active in the struggle for justice.

The 75-year-old Wilkins was honored at an emotion - filled program at the 68th annual convention of the NAACP which he has headed for 22 years.

"I retire from active leadership of the NAACP," he said. "But I shall not retire from active participation in the struggle for racial justice. I will continue to speak out, to write and to make suggestions."

Speaking haltingly, he urged the 450,000 - member association to not be deterred by recent court decisions he said had set back civil rights.

"As long as there is breath in my body, I shall be with you in this fight," he said. "Let us use every tool at our disposal and every hand on deck — black and white, young and old. There is unfinished business for us to take care of."

With those words, Wilkins — his arms locked with those of dignitaries at the head table — joined the more than 5,000 persons in the convention hall in singing, "We Shall Overcome."

Missouri Gov. Joseph P. Teasdale was among the 21 speakers who paid tribute to Wilkins, who had insisted on remaining as executive director for the duration of the convention in St. Louis, his birthplace. He will be succeeded Aug. 1 by Benjamin Hooks, a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

Among the letters of greetings presented to Wilkins was one from President Carter who praised him as a man "who has been a voice for calm and reason when cool heads were needed."

Wilkins steered the NAACP through the turbulent years of the civil rights movement that began with the federally ordered desegregation of schools in the South in the mid-1950s.

Wilkins' wife, Minnie, brought tears to many in the convention hall as she described her husband as "a modest, sensitive and even shy man . . . but who can be a man with the aggression of a stalking lion when he sees an injustice done to any man."

She said during their 48 years of married life, Wilkins has been satisfied with living in simple surroundings.

"As I've said to him before, I'd rather be on relief with you than to be a millionaire with someone else," Mrs. Wilkins said.

Afterward, Hooks introduced Wilkins, smiled broadly and said to him, "I wish you hadn't done so well. You'll be so hard to follow."

—'Mr. Fro' dough

(FROM PAGE ONE)

combination winner.

Martha Fleming of 3600 Duvall Ave., off Garrison Blvd., drew the number 283 but hit 832 with the dart.

Not much of a surprise to her and very calmly after she hit the combination she said: "That's part of it, isn't it?"

Ms. Fleming had already won $10 after receiving a call from Ms. Fro after she spotted an AFRO sticker on Ms. Flemings door.

End a Brown of 725 George St. in West Baltimore was also called by 'Ms. Fro' and received $10 for having the AFRO in her home.

Because she had had an operation on her leg and could not come down from her second floor apartment, she was presented with a check for $10 by Mr. Fro' and a promise to return at a later date when she felt better.

Gladys Ross of 623 Appleton had the AFRO in her house when 'Mr. Fro' spotted it and "I read the AFRO" sticker in her window. Her attempt to win $100 was unsuccessful.

Lucenia Burgin of 2121 also won $10 when 'Fromobile' spotted an AFRO sticker in her window.

Emergency service studied by lawmakers

The tip of Baltimore's emergency service iceberg was exposed to a group of visiting state lawmakers Wednesday, on a tour which was designed to "sensitize" them to poor people's needs.

Initiated by Del. Walter Dean, D-41, chairman of the Health and Social Services subcomittee of the House Ways and Means committee, which has oversight for emergency welfare legislation, the tour was conducted by the Franciscan Center, a Catholic organization.

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Del. Dean initiated the tour as a result of a meeting in May his office had with recipients of emergency aid assistance, who were protesting legislation which required cuts in furniture grants.

He pointed out, however, that the tour was focused primarily on ' emergency service" and not money grant.

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The three-stop tour included the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Baltimore Rescure Mission Inc., and the St. Vincent De Paul Church, where representatives of Baltimore social service groups answered questions from the lawmakers.

Dean was accompanied by Del. George Price, R-5b, a member of his committee, and three other staffers from Annapolics incuding Dorsey Stewart of the Budget Analyses offices, whose job it is to balance the budget.

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The two legislators were the only members of an original group of 10 who were expected by the tour's organizers.

Sister Irene, the Franciscan Center director, said the tour was designed to show what happens to peiple "who run out of food stamps," and cannot affort to eat.

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The tour was set up, she said, to "follow the steps of what happens to people' who must apply for emergency help either through government agencies or private charities.

"We want to sensitize the director of People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment. (Placts , which co-sponsored a study on the problems the poor have getting emrgency help in Baltimore City.

As many as 180,000 cases, or "individuals," as Dr. Stan Wencourt, the study's other sponsor put it, were handled by 37 of the 41 social service agencies in Baltimore.

The study pointed out, Wenocur said, the public sector referred applicants for assistance first to private agencies before providing help.

It (government) "does not contribute" any money to these agencies, which are usually church — sponsored and organized, the University, "does not contribute" any money to these agencies, which are usually church — sponsored and organized, the University, "does not contribute" any money to these agencies, which are usually church — sponsored and organized the University of Maryland instructor said.

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Wenacour recommended to the lawmakers the establishment of "categories," suggesting they have assistance on "need alone." Additionally, Wenocur said new laws should "expand the definition of an emergency."

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Receive with any $10 or more purchase from Barbara Walden a complimentary gift of Free and Set. In cosmetics at Howard Street, Reisterstown and F Street in Washington.