Residents, Pressman granted hearing on Continental Can demolition contract

ANNAPOLIS — A court hearing is set for this month for two city residents and Baltimore Comptroller Hyman Pressman to prove that a demolition contract was illegally awarded by the State Board of Public Works.

Anne Arundel County Circuit Judge James Wray scheduled the hearing for Jan. 6 in a lawsuit filed by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Giles and Pressman claims the contract was awarded to a firm owned by a man who has admitted bribing a former city official for lucrative demolition work.

The contract at issue was awarded by the board to Greenvale Crane Service Inc. to demolish buildings at the former site of the Continental Can Co. in East Baltimore to make way for the construction of a new state prison.

Mr. and Mrs. Giles and Pressman filed suit last week charging the board with violating the state Anti-Bribery Law.

The plaintiffs claim that Charles Collison, who has admitted illegalities in past demolition work, owns Greenvale.

The state board and Collison contend the firm is owned 70 percent by Collison's family members.

Collison's admission of past illegalities in important to the contract award because state law forbids awards of public contracts to persons who have been convicted of bribery or have admitted bribing public officials.

The suit charged that the state board — comprised of Acting Gov. Blair Lee III, Comptroller Louis Goldstein and Treasurer William S. James — illegally awarded the $568,380 demolition contract to Greenvale Dec. 16.

The suit said Collison, who has pleaded guilty to tax evasion and no contest to mail fraud in connection with demolition work, cannot be awarded a demolition contract.

Defense lawyers met in Wray's chambers last Thursday and asked that the suit demonstrate that Collison owns Greenvale.

The suit seeks to stop demolition work at the factory site where an 800-bed medium and minimum security state prison is to be built. It has been the subject of demonstrations by neighbors who fear the community will be less safe if the prison is built.

Collison testified in federal court in the political corruption trial of Ottavio Grande, former deputy director of Public Works in Baltimore.

He testified that he paid $30,000 in bribes to Grande in return for city demolition contract work.

Grande and five contractors were convicted on political corruption charges.

FLOWERS FROM THE MAYOR — Provident Hospital patients received flowers from Mayor Schaefer. Bernina W. Grady (R) of Provident's administrative staff presents a plant to patient Annie Gross.

Hytche angry over new UMES threat

PRINCESS ANNE — Dr. William P. Hytche, the chancellor of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is upset and angry about an Anne Arundel county delegate's proposal that his school be closed in favor of a community college, calling the move "upsetting but not surprising."

"The state board task force did not recommend what was advocated by Western Shore politicians," he said.

"I hope the state will not allow the study the task force did to be another waste of the taxpayers' money. If some unknown politician from the Western Shore can determine the future of higher education on the Lower Shore, I wonder why we need the task force in the first place."

Earlier last week, Del. Robert R. Neall, the western shore delegate, sent a letter to Acting Gov. Blair Lee III asking that the governor consider closing the college "as we know it now."

Neall suggested that the campus offers an opportunity for the Lower Shore to get a regional community college and that the plant at the school could become a facility for the kinds of programs being offered by Wor-Wic Technical Community College, a recently developed two county college without walls.

Dr. Hytche said that he was sorry Neall had issued his proposal before the State Board for Higher Education or the legislature has had a chance to react to the recommendations of the task force.

A spokesman for the state board said the board is giving "thoughful consideration" to the recommendation of the task force.

Hytche added the proposal has been released at the very time he is reviewing phase two of a long range master plan for UMES which calls for $15 million in construction, renovation and utilities for new programs.

WASHINGTON — President Carter, honorary chairman of the United Negro College Fund Capital compaign drive recently met with UNCF officials,

Two hospitals to house Emergency Care Centers

Two Baltimore hospitals have been selected as regional centers in an emergency care system planned for Maryland, according to a state health official.

Sinai Hospital and City Hospital were chosen to house emergency care centers similar to the Shock Trauma Unit currently operating at University Hospital.

When completed, the system will provide specialized emergency treatment at hospitals throughout the state.

Dr. R. Adams Cowley who heads the emergency care network said Sinai will specialize in the difficult birth problems, as well as general types of serious injuries.

The emergency care network will offer Maryland residents the best chance of surviving serious injuries and medical problems with the fewest lasting effects, Cowley said.

However, he said general hospital emergency rooms will continue to receive 85 percent of all patient emergencies. Only 15 percent of complicated cases will go to the new emergency care centers, he said.

Cowley said Maryland hospitals are now being divided into special care categories and staffs are being trained to accommodate patient referrals.

Under the new system, the shock trauma center could be maintained at University Hospital with referral facilities for burn victims at City Hospital and Washington Hospital Center.

People with spinal cord injuries will be able to receive long-term treatment and rehabilitation at proposed centers at University Hospital and Montebello Center, Cowley said.

A hand repair center would be located at Union Memorial. Johns Hopkins Hospital would have a child trauma center and there would be newborn problem centers at City, University and Hopkins.

Cowley said the shock-trauma unit at University Hospital will remain the principle center for the entire state and hospitals in Hagerstown and Cumberland will be designated to round out the state's emergency care systems.

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

FIRE SEASON IS HERE — Baltimore city firefighters worked for nearly an hour to bring this smoky one-alarm fire under control at Pennsylvania Avenue and Mosher Street recently. Fires increase as cold weather sets in. Although there were no serious injuries in this fire, officials report there were 43 fire fatalities in 1977, down from 57 in 1976.

Legislators divided over tax proposal

The Maryland Congressional Delegation is divided over whether President Carter has tax breaks in store for middle income workers next year.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., said he expects Carter's tax proposal, which is supposed to go to Congress next month, will mean a range of tax breaks for middle income families.

"I think it will be one of the major thrusts of the economic package," Sarbanes said.

But Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., is not as optimistic as his junior colleague in the merits of the White House tax proposal.

"I doubt any proposed tax rebate will hit the right people," he said. "And furthermore, how is he (Carter) going to do that consistent with his pledge to balance the budget?

"I am very cautious about predicting any massive deductions, unless there are other charges he's willing to make."

Mathias said tax reductions in 1978 will be a "major job" for Congress.

Rep. Gladys Spellman, a Democrat who represents Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, said she discussed the issue with the President and insists he "is aware of the tax burden on the middle class.

"He knows something definitely has to be done because it is the middle income person who is bearing the burden for everybody," she said. "This person is carrying the rich on one shoulder and the poor on the other."

Mrs. Spellman said "The middle income person will be paying less" after the tax package is implemented than before Carter took office.

"That means reform. Somebody's got to pay. The loopholes have got to be erased, and probably we'll have to come up with a minimum income tax which will affect the wealthy," she said.

Baltimore Democratic Congressman Parren Mitchell said tax reform is only a bare possibility, but Rep. Marjorie Holt, a Republican, said she is convinced the tax break is coming.

"Many members of Congress know that this is the way they have to go to get the economy moving," she said.

Texas variety hits state

Flu season begins in Maryland

The influenza season has begun in Maryland with at least two reported cases of a Texas variety for which there is no vaccine, the State Health Department said Wednesday.

Department spokesman John McAvinue said cases of Texas A influenza have been confirmed in Washington and Montgomery counties, "right on time" for the flu season that generally lasts for early January through March.

"We assume it is a regional outbreak of the strain until we identify another one," he said. "We can't give everybody a culture."

McAvinue said the Texas variety is similar to the A Victoria flu, for which vaccine was available in Maryland last fall, and persons who were inoculated might be somewhat protected.

"Because the two strains are so close we believe there is some crossover protection if a person was vaccinated last fall for Victoria," he said.

McAvinue said, "I know the flu is widespread in Maryland. We made calls to druggists and they reported an unusually high demand for medication for flu-like symptoms."

McAvinue said the symptoms are like most influenzas: fever, dry cough, headache, aching muscles and exhaustion.

"It is generally a mild flu," said McAvinue, who said the best prescription is juices and bed rest.

June Lee, a Baltimore druggist, said sales of prescription drugs are up 25 to 30 per cent in the past week.

"The patients receiving these drugs complain of a lot of diarrhea and vomiting, symptoms which are more like the flu than the common cold," said Lee.

John Gavlinski, another pharmacist, said he filled 100 prescriptions Monday compared to a normal work load of 30 or 40.

McAvinue said there have been no reported Maryland cases of an influenza strain that is sweeping Soviet Union.

MORGAN STATE CHEMISTRY GROUP HONORED — Morgan State University's student affiliate of the American Chemical Society, an organization of chemistry majors at Morgan, has been selected as "outstanding" by the Committee on Chemical Education. Representatives of the student group are (L to R) Phillip Keiser (president, 1977-78); Ernest F. Silversmith and L. Pearl Brown, faculty advisers and Willie M. Ringo (president, 1976-77).

Judge says child abuse law should protect victims

A Supreme Bench judge says that Maryland child-abuse laws that are designed to mete out punishment to guilty adults should be overhauled to offer protection to youthful victims.

Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan said that with the recent increase of child-abuse cases state courts are having trouble dealing adequately with the problem which he blamed on the "tension of the times."

"I am looking for some form of judicial administration that will allow us to look into a whole family situation, rather than just hear a criminal case relating to an abused child," he said.

In Maryland, child abuse is a felony punishable by up to 15 years in jail. Maryland was one of the first states to enact a child-abuse statute in 1963.

But Kaplan said last week that because the law affords the defendant full legal protections before and during the trial it is difficult to reach into family situations and discover emotional needs.

Kaplan said he thought that counseling the adult was an important consideration in many cases. But he said such counseling was often prohibited by the requirements of adjudication.

The child in such cases is often undergoing a "traumatic experience. Because of his love for the parent" and also needs counseling, said Kaplan.

Kaplan noted the law provides that persons convicted of child abuse are imprisoned, but psychiatric treatment for them can only be recommended, not imposed.

In addition, if the parent is jailed the victim then is faced with a "family hardship" because the parent is absent, he said. Kaplan also criticized the present laws that set rules for reporting suspected cases of abuse which rely heavily on the child's story. He said the child "who tattles comes to know he is subject to worse abuse."

Judge denies Teamsters' request

A federal judge has denied a request for an order to prohibit the installation of recently elected officers of Teamsters Local 990.

Judge C. Stanley Blair said the United States District Court lacked jurisdiction in the matter.

Unsuccessful candidates for office had charged in a suit that there were irregularities in the Dec. 15 election.

They charged that union members voted more than one ballot, ballots were counted wrong, a ballot box already had ballots in it when placed in service and one box was "inexplicably" missing for at least an hour.

EPA's bay program questioned

EASTON, Md. (UPI) — The objectives and needs for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's multi-million dollar Chesapeake Bay program have been questioned by an Eastern Shore congressman and a University of Maryland vice president.

Rep. Robert E. Bauman, R-MD., told the Annual meeting of the Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay Inc. Wednesday that he hopes "the plethora of federal studies and expenditures will accomplish something."

The EPA has given the Maryland and Virginia organization a $248,158 one-year grant to develop a public participation program as part of the overall five-year EPA effort to solve some of the pollution problems in the bay.

Bauman said he has sponsored a bill, along with Rep. Marjorie Holt, R-MD., and Barbara Mikulski, D-MD., which would establish an office for Chesapeake Bay Research coordination in the Department of Commerce to serve as a clearing house for federally financed research projects in the Bay area.

Bauman estimated that at least $70 million in federal money is currently being spent on research projects in the Bay.

"Something has to be done to bring them together once and for all," he said.

Dr. Frank L. Bentz, the University of Maryland Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, said during the first of the two-day conference that he wanted "to express a strong concern about the multiplicity of programs for the Bay area and the overlapping and lack of coordination among them.

"I fail to see why the EPA cannot work through the Department of Natural Resources for coordinated program in the Bay area."

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Will state law-makers exorcise Mandel?

See column 1

Martin L. King's life: full page
Page 32

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE IN OUR 86th YEAR

Al Hibbler's coming back
Page 17

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5th homicide was final straw

Vow crime-free Murphy Homes

Hundreds mourn

'Peaches' nabbed after 'Ricky's' funeral

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Ms. Ella Pearl Wright, 22, 1608 N. Aisquith St., was apprehended by police Wednesday, Jan. 11 and charged with causing the death of Ricardo Rogers Carter, a Morgan State University 1977 graduate and the son of the noted dramatist Mrs. Mary Carter Smith.

Police began to close in on the woman, known as "Peaches" as hundreds of mourners gathered at Grace Memorial Baptist Church in East Baltimore for the victim's last rites.

(Continued on Page 2)

Exorcists?

State senators over-ride Mandel's welfare bill veto

One big question facing the Maryland General Assembly this session is whether or not state legislators will or can exercise the lingering influence of ex-governor Marvin Mandel over this body.

One indication of the Assembly's intent came this week when the State Senate opened its session on Wednesday, Jan. 11 by overriding a 1977 gubernatorial veto by Mandel of increased welfare aid by a vote of 36 to 6, with five members absent.

The decision by the senators left the House of Delegates to decide whether or not to also override the veto. The delegates voted on Thursday to postpone action on the welfare bill until Monday.

From assembly sources, the AFRO learned that the delegates from Baltimore City have decided to vote on overriding the veto next week.

Before the senate vote on the bill, Sen. Clarence Blount, D-Baltimore, was instrumental in helping the 1977 bill get through. This legislation would see increases in aid to families with dependent children to the state standard of need which is $314 per month for a family of four.

Blount said the 1977 legislature "went on the record in support of human dignity . . . (and) now the strength of our conviction is being tested."

Del. Larry Young, D-Baltimore, said in response to the Senate action, "Because of what Blount did he has placed the weight on us." Young later commented that he expected the three months to be a "hard session."

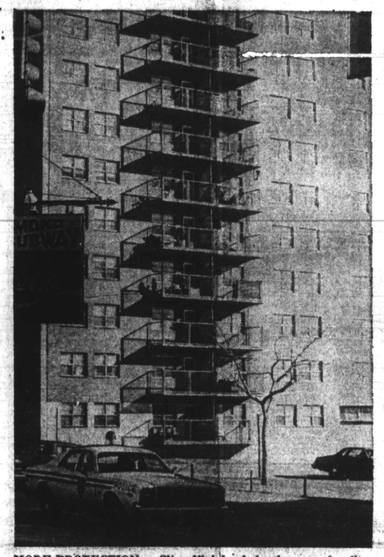
(Continued on Page 2)

Bravos for Jones' 'Robeson'

Actor James Earl Jones starring at the Mechanic Theatre from now through Sunday as the great Paul Robeson is receiving raves and standing ovations for his stellar performance.

Among notables and critics present opening night were School Superintendent Dr. and Mrs. John L. Crew; his assistants, principals and teachers; media personalities Sandra Banks, Fred Robinson, Mary Clayborn, Jessie Webster, Phyllis Shepton; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Lassiter, Naomi Lawson, Rochell Butler, Louise Johnson, Willie Bacote and Eddie Thomas, Al Stewart and Russell Allen.

Returned to the stage three times upon calls of "Bravo" and the extended standing ovation, Jones, bowed low with gratitude.



MORE PROTECTION — City officials pledge increased police protection for families in dope-ridden Fremont Avenue-George Street Murphy Homes neighborhood.

Housing, police brass pledge crackdown

City housing and law enforcement officials faced with five murders in 1977 in and around the George B. Murphy Homes, are taking cooperative action to end violence, narcotics trafficking and other crimes in the West Baltimore public housing neighborhood.

Following an AFRO editorial demanding protection for the 758 families living in the highrise building named for the late Baltimore educator, Baltimore Housing and Community Development (BHCD) officials and a ranking police officer asked to meet with AFRO editors to work on the Murphy Homes crime problems.

In his visit to this newspaper, Commissioner of HCD M. Jay, Brodie told editors that the Murphy Homes situation was uncharacteristic of the city's public housing projects. He admitted that the Murphy project was a problem but revealed that a Special Federal program had substantially improved many of the negative conditions at the project over the past two years.

Also meeting with the AFRO editors were Van Story Branch, who also ranks high in BHCD, and Col. James H. Watkins, representing the Baltimore Police Department.

Brodie said crime could be eradicated only through BHCD and police department cooperation and planning.

(Continued on Page 2)

See housing commissioner's letter on page 5

Votes beginning to mount

Church-of-the-year AFRO contest

Now is the time for you to help your church in raising money for your mortgage burning, an air conditioner or help improve your church property.

The AFRO is sponsoring a Church-of-the-Year Contest and you, your clubs and organizations in your church are invited to participate.

Your church may share in prizes and bonuses totalling over $3,000 in the AFRO's Church-of-the-Year Contest.

The contest is open to all churches in the city. A spokesman for the AFRO circulation department stated only three churches have sent in their coupons. Don't wait until the last minute to send in yours.

First prize is $1000; second prize, $500; third prize, $250; fourth prize, $100 and there are ten prizes of $50 each.

(Continued on Page 2)

Rally for Abernathy set for Jan. 29

Over 100 Baltimore Baptist ministers have set Jan. 29 as the date for their rally for the Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy of Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Abernathy is in danger of losing his home because of debts accumulated in his campaign to go to Congress in place of Andrew Young in 1977.

Now Ambassador to the United Nations, Young was the first black congressman from Georgia since Reconstruction.

The Rev. Dr. Abernathy was unsuccessful in his run to save the seat for a black man. A white opponent won the election.

The 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 rally will be held at First Baptist Church, McElderry and Caroline Sts. In addition to the Rev. Leroy Fitts, host pastor, supporters are ministers who head the various Maryland Baptist conferences and organizations and the Revs. A.C.D. Vaughn, Vernon and Harold Dobson, George Crawley, Lindsay Pitts, C. C. Alexander, William Rivers and William Johnson.

Baylor joins Supreme Bench

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Judge Solomon Baylor was sworn in as a Baltimore City Supreme Bench Associate Judge before a standing room only crowd of well-wishers in a 40 minute ceremony on Jan. 10.

Baylor became the 100th judge to sit on the 100 year old court, according to Chief Judge Anselm Sodaro, keeping the number of black judges on the bench at five.

Former Supreme Bench Judge Harry Cole was sworn - in last month to sit on the Maryland Court of Appeals temporarily bringing down to four the number of blacks sitting on the Supreme Bench.

Swearing - in ceremonies are often short — unlike opinions written by judges—with praise and honor being bestowed on the individual taking office. After being complimented about his past as a Baltimore District Court Judge, Baylor had his say

(Continued on Page 2)

CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR HONOR—Judge Solomon Baylor was sworn in Jan. 10 as Supreme Bench associate judge, at a ceremony at the court house. Among well-wishers were (L to R) attorney A. Dwight Pettit, Judge Baylor, Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor (Gladys) of Enon Baptist Church and Judge Ben Brown, city solicitor.

Super Bowl in a nutshell

AT STAKE—National Football League championship for the Vince Lombardi Trophy.
SITE—Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana.
DATE—Sunday, January 15, 1978.
STARTING TIME — Kickoff 5:00 P.M., Central Standard Time.
CAPACITY — 74,904.
NETWORK TELEVISION—Nationwide by Columbia Broadcasting System. Air time 5:00 P.M. CST (6:00 P.M. EST; 4:00 MST; 3:00 P.M. PST). Pregame program starts at 3:30 P.M. CST.
PLAYER'S SHARE — $18,000 to each member of winning team; $9,000 to each member of losing team (approximately $1.6 million total for personnel of two competing clubs).
GAME CONDITIONS:
Player Uniforms — The AFC champion will be the home team, will wear its colored jerseys and will use the West bench. The NFC champion will be the visiting team, will wear its white jerseys, and will use the East bench.
Sudden Death — If the game is tied at the end of regulation 60 minutes, it will continue in sudden death overtime. The team scoring first (by safety, field goal or touchdown) will win.

INSIDE

Showtime Page 17
Editorials Page 4
Our World Page 9
Sports Page 23

NOTICE

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN offices will be closed Monday, January 16, 1978 in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. The Tuesday edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN will be printed as scheduled. For news call 728-2300.