Del. Art Murphy's last day

Del. Walter Dean gives AFRO first-hand account

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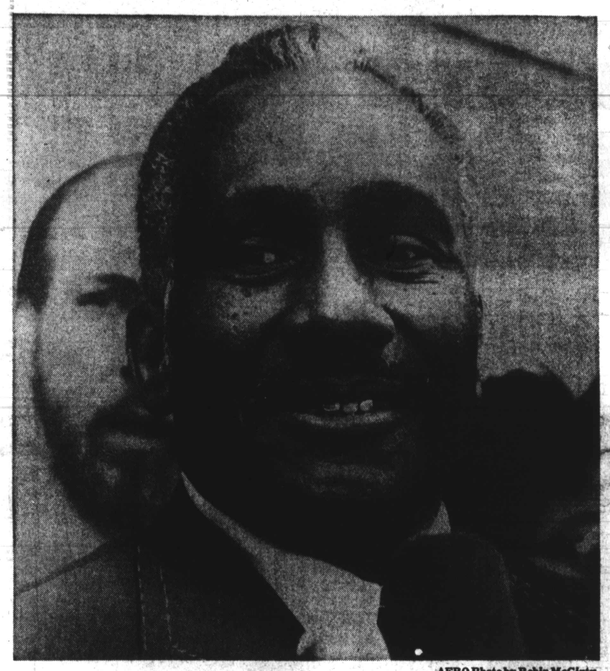
Watkins indicted



AFRO Photo by Robin McGinty

VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION — Col. James H. Watkins is suspended without pay from the Police Department, pending the outcome of his trial. He is charged with bribery, extortion and obstruction of justice.

Who snitched?

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO staff writer

Col. James H. Watkins, 53, veteran of 27 years with the Baltimore City Police Department and the force's second highest ranking black officer, has been indicted on 10 counts which charge him with bribery and illegal associations with drug dealers.

His indictments were not unexpected. Watkins had been the focus of an 18-month investigation by the State's Attorney's office.

That the probe was nearing its climax was obvious Tuesday evening, June 13, when investigators armed with a search warrant entered the colonel's Dolfield Avenue home seeking certain evidence.

The next day, Wednesday, in Criminal Court part one, the sealed indictments handed down by the special grand jury were made public.

Deputy State's Attorney Mary Ann Willin requested that the sealed indictments not be made known until Col. Watkins had a chance to read them.

(Continued Page 2)

Rev. Julius Caesar Hope left them angry

That NAACP Unity Ball speech

By Michele L. McRae
AFRO Staff Writer

"If the prophet can't tell it like it is, who is left to tell the truth? We want people to tell us what we want to hear and not what we need to hear."

That was the comment made Thursday morning by the Rev. Julius Caesar Hope when the AFRO asked for his response to a citizens' uproar following his Friday night, June 9, speech at the second NAACP Unite Ball. The Ball was held at the Eastwind, 9000 Pulaski Highway.

Rev. Hope added, "I see nothing wrong with what I said because it was the truth. They are upset because there were some white folks sitting around, but whites know the truth about us better than we do ourselves."

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Read Gordon W. Crane page 11

Will Allen get GOP no. 2 spot?

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Dr. Aris Allen, an Annapolis physician and head of the Republican party in Maryland has been mentioned to run on the GOP ticket for the post of lieutenant governor.

DR. ARIS ALLEN (far right), head of Maryland's GOP group is shown at the June 13 reception with former President Gerald Ford and (L) longtime Republican, Baltimore mortician Marshall W. Jones.

When the AFRO alked with him Thursday, he did not deny it but said, "I've heard it but nothing definite yet. If it's true, that's good."

Should Allen's name be on the September primary GOP ballot, it will mark the first time in history a black candidate has run for Maryland's number two spot.

Giving a strong hint that Maryland "must do something" to attract black voters to the November governor's race was former U.S. President Gerald Ford who appeared in Baltimore at a $100-a-plate fund raiser June 13.

In answer to the AFRO's question on the subject, Ford replied: "We want them (black voters) on our side, Democrats, Republicans and independant.

"We want them to help us pick a Republican ticket. Black citizens are disenchanted and looking for an answer. They want strong national security. They want work rather than short jobs on the public payroll."

(Continued on Page 30)

Phil Smith's voter suit could kill primary

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

If the City's Board of Supervisors of Elections fails to keep the 100,000 registered voters on the list until the suit by Phillip Smith, a candidate for sheriff, can make its run through the courts, Smith says it could force him to wipe out results of the entire primary election.

In his latest legal move, Smith says, "If this transpires, I will file a procedure to declare the entire September primary null and void."

This could mean that millions of dollars various candidates may use in hopes to win the Primary could be lost.

This warning is contained in a letter filed in court and written to David J. Preller Sr., chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

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Mitchell on Burch ticket?

The AFRO learned recently that Attorney General Francis "Bill" Burch is considering state Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III for lieutenant governor. Burch is running in the Democratic governor's race as second on the polls to Acting Gov. Blair Lee III.

Burch admitted that a black man for the number two spot on his primary ticket would be a great asset and in a lengthy conference with Mitchell said he is "giving it more than serious thought."

(Continued on Page 30)

Michelle Yates Miss Black Maryland 1978

Miss Black Maryland breaks her silence

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Del. Murphy's last day

By Walter R. Dean
Delegate, Md. General Assembly, 41st District

"I got to go. I'll see you all later."

Del. Arthur Murphy was anxious to leave the dedication of the Rosemont Doctors Center that Saturday morning.

As a member of the Lutheran Hospital Board of Trustees, he was a prime mover in developing the new Doctors' center.

When Art arrived at the dedication, Mayor William Donald Schaefer was speaking. He declared that one of the most effective legislators in Annapolis was Art Murphy

Members of the Lutheran Hospital Board stood when he passed them, and President John McDaniels gave Art a cheerful "hello."

There was some confusion as to where Art should sit. In his characteristic way, he chose to sit with the audience.

Art was there to help dedicate the new center. None knew that would be his last official duty for the 41st District.

Mrs. Agnes Welch, Rosemont community organizer and chief citizen mover of the new center, acknowledged Art's presence from the platform. She told the audience that she was proud that he was present.

When Art Murphy left the dedication, Mrs. Welch was sitting on the podium in front of the words ROSEMONT DOCTORS CENTER.

(President Jonn McDaniels stated that the Hospital's trustees out of respect and love for him, will memorialize the Center in the name of Delegate Arthur Murphy.)

(Continued on Page 12)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Del. Walter R. Dean, long-time friend and political associate of the late Arthur G. Murphy Sr., is a former AFRO staff writer.

This is his first-hand account of Del. Murphy's last day. Murphy, until the time of his death June 10, was a state legislator and chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

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