PRESIDENT GREETS TOP 100 — At White House ceremony where he hailed chief executives of 100 biggest black businesses, President Carter listens intently to response to his remarks to the group. In second panel are chief executives of publishing firms among 100 top businesses (L to R) John H. Murphy III, chairman of the board, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers; John H. Johnson, Johnson Publishing Company and Earl G. Graves, head of Earl G. Graves Ltd. Graves is publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine which compiles the Top 100 list annually. In third panel is A. G. Gaston, oldest chief executive cited. One of his firms, the Booker T. Washington Insurance Co. of Birmingham, Ala. is among the leaders in that category. In final panel, Dr. W. O. Bryson, president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan in Baltimore, chats with B. Doyle Mitchell, head of the Industrial Bank of Washington, D.C. Advance ranked tenth in building and loan Association and Industrial Bank was fourth among banks in the listings.

Mitchell conducts city hearing

Housing programs benefit rich, bypass poor

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Poor people are being put on the back seat when it comes to federal housing programs that were designed to benefit them, several witnesses told Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-Maryland, at hearings he conducted Monday and Tuesday nights, June 26, 27.

"Seventy-five percent of all housing subsidies go to the wealthiest people," said Father Vincent Quayle, director of the St. Ambrose Housing Center and the second witness called by Mitchell.

Quayle also told Mitchell and the group of panelists on stage and an audiences of about 500 who attended the hearing held at St. Ambrose Church in Park Heights that the number of modestly priced houses are decreasing.

"We got an interesting statistic in today (June 27) and it said that the number of houses in Baltimore in the $10,000 to $20,000 range is down 44 percent from last year," Quayle said. "This is significant because poor people buy in that range."

M. Jay Brodie, commissioner of Housing and Community Development for Baltimore, faced a tougher line of questioning by the seven-person panel who joined Mitchell.

The panel included Del. Lena K. Lee, Kenneth Webster, Larry Young and Walter Dean; and Baltimore City Councilmen Michael Mitchell and Nathaniel Urby.

"We would like to see a more consistent level of funding we can depend on with not such rigid guidelines that would help us help more families," Brodie told the panel.

During his presentation he cited such programs as the Federal 312 Loan Program, Real Loan Program and the Homesteading and Rehabilitation programs.

"You named a lot of sophisticated programs," said Del. Lee after Brodie finished his presentation. "We are not getting the most of taxpayer money and the people who have a real interest in rehabilitation are not being represented."

She told Brodie that the city government is in the business of cycling slums and when help was needed from the department of Housing and community Development, no one from HUD was available.

"We are running a cheesebox system," she said. "What plans do you have to guarantee that the consumer is not ripped off by contractors?"

Brodie told Lee that he could not list bad contractors because it is against the law but his assistant, Acting Rehabilitation Administrator Eleanor Bacon, told the delegate before a contractor can get paid, the owner must release the check to the contractor.

Another witness during the two-night public hearing was Mildred Randall, a resident of Park Heights and a February 1977 applicant for the Section 8 program.

She said that she applied for the Section 8 program and has only received an I.D. number and an eligibility card.

"I have been on the waiting list for Section 8 for over a year and I am tired of waiting," Mrs. Randall said. "Who knows how long it will take for me to find a place that meets the Section 8 program standards even after I receive my certificate of eligibility."

Rep. Mitchell ended the hearings by saying that the information obtained from the hearings will be submitted for the record to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development of the U.S. House Banking Committee

Which school employees may collect unemployment?

With summer vacation here, the status of school personnel and their eligibility for unemployment compensation "should be clarified," said Frank O. Heintz, executive director of the Employment Security Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

To avoid confusion and eliminate unnecessary efforts by individuals who are not eligible for unemployment insurance, the agency issued classifications of individuals who will be eligible or ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits during the summer months based on the Maryland Unemployment Insurance law.

The following individuals will be denied benefits if they have reasonable assurance of returning to work in the fall:

a. Teachers, professors, research persons and principal administrators.

b. Custodial, cafeteria, teacher's aides, secretarial and clerical staff who are employed by an elementary, junior high, or high school.

c. Substitute teachers will also be denied benefits.

The following employees are eligible to collect benefits during the summer if unemployed and actively seeking work even if they have reasonable assurance of returning to their school employment in the fall:

a. Custodial, cafeteria, secretarial and clerical staff who are employed by a college or other institutions of higher education.

b. Bus drivers for private bus companies, crossing guards paid by city government rather than the school system, and nurses paid by the Health Department rather than the school system.

MMCA to investigate statewide agencies

The Maryland Minority Contractors Association announced Thursday that it will launch an investigation into various state agencies in order to establish the necessary background research to establish patterns of discrimination.

Doug Sands, head of the contractors association and candidate for the House of Delegates in the 41st District, said the organization is instituting the investigation in light of the Bakke decision handed down by the Supreme Court Wednesday.

"The Supreme Court is saying that affirmative action programs can be sustained if they are based on evidence of previous discrimination," he said. "So what we're going to do is look at every agency and document cases of discrimination.

Sands explained the minority contractors are starting with the Department of General Services because it does not have an affirmative action program.

He added they also intend to draw up a plan for affirmative action for the agency.

Sands is asking anyone employee or contractor that can document records of discrimination in any agency to get in touch with the minority contractors association.

Museum Shop to hold sale

The Museum Shop of The Baltimore Museum of Art is holding a summer sale which includes most of the items featured in the shop. The sale will begin Wednesday, July 5 and continue through Sunday, July 9.

The Baltimore Museum is located just off Charles and 32nd Sts.

Labor Party official to run against Mitchell

Debra Hanania Freeman, a key official in the Baltimore area in U.S. Labor Party, has announced that she has filed as an independent candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives Seventh Congressional District.

Ms. Hanania-Freeman, who has been unofficially campaigning against Rep. Parren J. Mitchell for the last year, said at a press conference this week: "Phase I of the campaign is accomplished.

"We've submitted over 9,000 signatures to qualify for ballot status. Now I can throw the campaign into full gear Congressman Mitchell.

"The congressman is weak right now," she went on. "He alienated significant sections of the black community when he rejected the NAACP's call for the massive development of nuclear energy in favor of his own labor intensive, pick and shovel programs. He has no solutions for the problems that plague this district and people need solutions."

Ms. Hanania-Freeman added she anticipates vast support from Democrats as well as Republicans and other independents.

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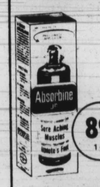

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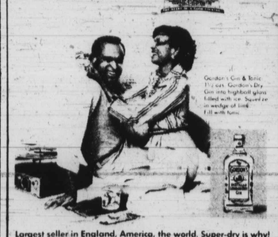

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(AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz)

DON'T CALL HER SARGE ANYMORE — City Policewoman Bessie R. Norris was promoted to the rank of lieutenant June 28. Twenty other police officers were also promoted. Lt. Norris, formerly assigned to the personnel division of the police department, will become shift commander at Northwestern District. In the above photo, Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau congratulates Lt. Norris.

Parent's protest prevent closing

Gifted student program saved—temporarily!

Vehement protests from some 170 parents and community residents have convinced school officials to hold off on closing the city's center for gifted children at Harford Heights Elementary School.

After the furor, Dr. John Gist, deputy school superintendent, said he would recommend that the center be kept open next year but with a smaller staff and very likely without transportation for the students who are currently bused from all parts of the city.

At a meeting held Tuesday, June 27, at Harford Heights, parents had a chance to make school officials aware of how strongly they felt about the closing of the Gifted and Talented Elementary Program (GATE).

Several weeks prior the Department of Education had planned to close the center in order to live within the $288 million budget recently approved by the city.

The budget would leave the school system about $9.8 million short of the amount it would take to maintain the present GATE services.

According to Dr. Gist the center costs about $2,500 per student. Closing it and moving the students into the system-wide satellite schools would cost $1,700 per student.

It would also eliminate the cost of busing which is about $80,000.

But the parents would have none of that.

"Project GATE performs a function which is not an expendable luxury but an educational necessity and moral responsibility," said John Parker, spokesman for the parents.

"Closing the GATE center would hammer another nail into the coffin of public education. GATE is a microcosm of Baltimore. The people who have sent their children here represent families of all the social and economic areas and segments of the city.

"If the city turns its back on their needs," Parker went on, "in effect this will close our public school system and our city to their families."

One parent told Gist, Dr. Rebecca Carroll, deputy superintendent for education and other school officials that she was extremely pleased with the GATE program at Harford Heights and can tell the vast difference between the Harford Heights center and the satellite centers where students are given special lessons for 45 minutes a day.

"I have a son in the program here (at Harford Heights) and a daughter in the school-based program," she said. "My daughter's teachers resent the time she spends in GATE and she's not allowed to make up the work she missed."

Gist said that the chances of the program being saved are "favorable" and some sort of decision is expected from the school board next week on his recommendations.

Gist's solutions include trying to cut costs in operation of the center by studying elimination of transportation for students, by failing to fill vacancies created by staff retirements and by trying to boost enrollment to reduce per pupil costs.

Grover McCrea, the only school board member at the meeting, vinced by the parent's concern that recommendations to continue GATE be approved.

Mark Joseph, school board president, could not be reached for comment.

The GATE program was begun in 1973 and developed both at Harford Heights location and at the 18 satellite programs.

At the present time there are about 210 students in the program.

Lee, Hoyer promise 'Renewed Maryland'

Acting Gov. Blair Lee III and State Senate President Steny Hoyer have opened a campaign headquarters with the promise of a "Renewed Maryland," if the state's Democrats nominate them for governor and lieutenant governor and they win next Fall's election.

Lee and Hoyer opened their campaign headquarters in Baltimore Monday after filing their official notice as a governor-lieutenant governor ticket for the Democratic primary at the State Board of Election Supervisors in Annapolis.

Lee said the crowd of nearly 150 well-wishers at the opening was "absolutely tremendous."

"There are people here from almost everywhere," he said. "I want to express my total gratitude."

Hoyer added: "This ticket is committed to serving all the needs of the state. We are working for a renewed Maryland."

Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis, one of Lee's main opponents for the Democratic nomination, is running a campaign for a "New Maryland."

House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, D-St. Mary's, gave the Lee-Hoyer ticket his official endorsement.

"These two have distinguished themselves with a total of 31 years of experience," Briscoe said. "They have the best proven ability to represent the diverse interests of this state."

He also said he implicitly believes in the integrity and sense of duty of both Hoyer and Lee.

Lee said his campaign is moving in a "good, strong direction" due to the team approach he and Hoyer are taking.

He called Hoyer, who abandoned his own gubernatorial campaign to run on Lee's ticket, one of the next generation of Maryland leaders.

Hoyer returned the compliment, saying Lee is a "person who has demonstrated that he understands the concerns and geography" of the state.

The campaign headquarters was filled with politicians sipping wine and beer and endorsing the Hoyer-Lee ticket.

Among those present were Sens. Rosalie Abrams, D-Baltimore, Arthur Helton, D-Harford, Arthur Dorman, D-Prince George's, and Verda Welcome, D-Baltimore, and Dels. Steven Sklar, D-Baltimore, and Benjamin Cardin, D-Baltimore.

Former U.S. Attorney Stephen Sachs, running for Maryland Attorney General, also attended the gathering.

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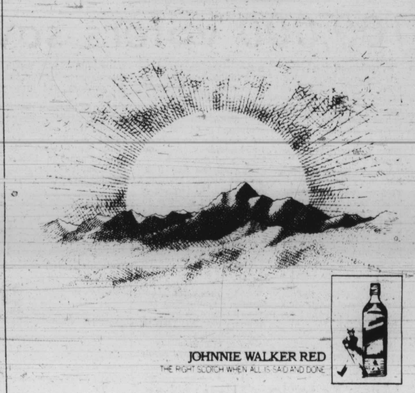

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THE RIGHT SCOTCH WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE

BY JOE BLACK

By the Way

Quite often in previous commentaries I have challenged Black Americans to re-strengthen our family units. I'm certain that all of you understand the necessity of getting families to eat together, communicate with one another, and above all respect each other. But perhaps some of you parents need a "push" that will bring you closer to each other. Read these words from Charles Jefferys. Just maybe you'll learn how to tell your mate, "We have lived and loved together."

"We have lived and loved together
through many changing years;
we have shared each other's gladness
and wept each other's tears;
I have known ne'er a sorrow
that was long unsoothed by thee;
for thy smiles can make a summer
where darkness else would be.
We have lived and loved together
through many changing years;
we have shared each other's gladness
and wept each other's tears.
And let us hope the future,
as the past has been will be:
I will share with thee my sorrows,
and thou thy joys with me."

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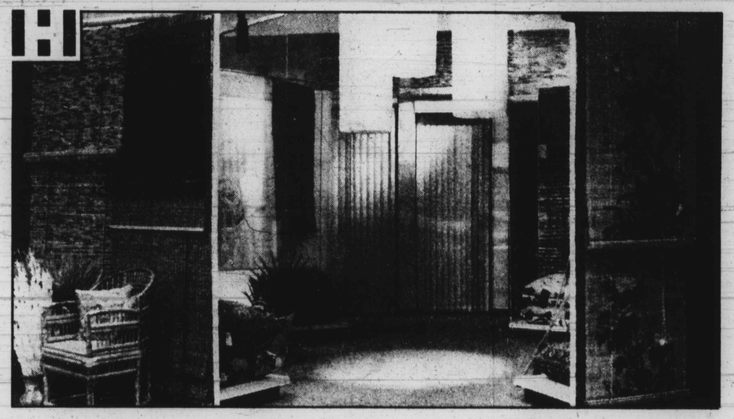

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