Going after Swisher's job

Pettit has until Monday to decide

Keating blasts Swisher's performance

A. Dwight Pettit, the Baltimore attorney who lost a chance to become U.S. Attorney for Maryland earlier this year, may run for the office of Baltimore City state's attorney.

Pettit, according to reports, is expected to make a formal announcement on Monday when he files for candidacy at the Board of Elections in Annapolis.

The 32-year-old president of the Monumental Bar Association would not comment on reports of his intentions, but reliable sources stated that Pettit reached his decision earlier this week. His decision reportedly was made without persuasion from any major black political organization.

Black political groups had been looking for a black candidate to challenge William Swisher, the incumbent, and Anton Keating, a white challenger.

A. Dwight Pettit

Del. Arthur Murphy, who died of an apparent heart attack June 10, had decided to run for the post and was expected to file for candidacy June 13.

After Murphy's death the major black groups which included the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, seriously courted several leading black lawyers to persuade them to run.

The lawyers included William H. Murphy, City Councilman Michael Mitchell, David Mitchell, who sought a judgeship on the District Court, and Pettit.

Pettit, in earlier statements to the AFRO, said he had been approached but that he had no intentions of running for the post.

Anton Keating, who is challenging incumbent William Swisher for the Democratic nomination for State's Attorney, said Wednesday that Swisher's performance in office over the last four years is the main issue in the campaign.

"Swisher was elected in 1974 as a law and order candidate, yet he has failed to take full advantage of all prosecutorial powers," said Carol Hirschburg, a Keating spokesperson.

"There are two statutes passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1973 which permit prosecutors to sentence certain four-time offenders who have committed violent crimes to mandatory life in prison without parole. Swisher has never taken advantage of this," she said at a $50 per person fundraiser in his honor.

Ms. Hirschburg cited figures released by Swisher's office showing that almost 50 percent of all persons charged with crimes and processed by Swisher's office last April were released without trial.

Samuel Fonte Jr., Swisher's campaign manager, replied, "That's the way it was while Milton Allen was state's attorney also."

Keating said another issue is Swisher's connection to the local political machines.

Swisher has said he had a close relationship with Jack Pollack and George Hofferbert, two late influential politicians.

"Had Swisher been just a political hack only relying on the bosses, he wouldn't have won in '74," Fonte said.

"But because Bill is such a good campaigner and wins a tremendous amount of converts, he won the election by 5,000 votes," said Fonte, who also managed Thomas D' Allesandro III's campaign for mayor in 1967.

Keating, who served as an assistant state's attorney four years before joining the Public Defender's office from which he recently resigned to run for state's attorney, said, "When I worked as an assistant state's attorney under Milton B. Allen there were 12 black assistant state's attorneys in the office. Under the present State's Attorney William Swisher there are only two.

"With more and more black men and women graduating from law school every year, one must question why there is not more black representation in Swisher's office. This is particularly true in light of the majority black population in Baltimore City."

Keating said that he believes the lack of black state's attorneys is due to the fact that present State's Attorney Swisher is insensitive to the black community and neither encourages nor makes blacks feel welcome to apply.

100,000 voters saved by Phil Smith's suit

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

If you have ever voted once in any election or hold a voter's card, you can vote in the September primary election.

This is the result at this point of the court action taken by Candidate For Sheriff Phillip Smith.

Briefly, this means that the more than 100,000 voters the Board of Supervisors of Elections has threatened to "take off the voting list because they had not voted in five years," will remain on the list as voters until after the Sept. 12 primary.

According to Smith's attorney, Nelson R. Kandel, the suit filed in Circuit Court early this month has had successful results so far.

Kandel summarized the action, "The Election Board was going to strike over 100,000 persons from its voting list because they had not voted in past elections.

"Candidate Smith contended in his suit that the majority of persons threatened to be eliminated are black.

"We alleged that it is just as unjust and undemocratic to require a voter to vote as it is to refuse him the right to vote.

"I was recently advised by the office of Francis "Bill" Burch, the Maryland attorney general, that the election board does not contemplate eliminating any voters before the Sept. 12 primary election. That is, while Smith's suit is pending in court.

"The immediate result is that Candidate Smith urges a large turnout for the primary and in his behalf.

"It is to be noted that if the Elections Board should strike anyone not voting in the last five years, we will take the case to court to declare the entire primary election invalid."

Kandel says that following the suit Smith first filed against the Elections Board to halt striking the voters from the list, he contacted by letter the chairman of the Elections Board, Davis Prefler.

The letter, also on file, asked that the Elections Board delay striking the voters "until after the Sept. 12 primary.

Since Preller was out of town, the next action was taken to the office of Attorney General Francis Burch.

Burch's assistant Diana G. Motz writes Kandel in a letter dated June 19 in part as follows:

"I have been informed by officials of the Board that the Board does not contemplate further action pursuant to No, 3-20 Article 33 (the law on striking voters who have not voted in five years) prior to the September primary election."

In talking with Sheriff's Candidate Smith, the AFRO received this comment:

"This leaves more black voters freedom to vote as the Constitution allows, a sacred right. No other city or county in the state has such a ruling as Baltimore and we contend it is illegal. We will go all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. This concerns the birthright of over 100,000 citizens.

"At least at this moment we do not have to declare the results of the entire primary election null and void.

"This will save the hundreds of candidates who are spending trying to win the primary the thousands of dollars they would lose if we had to declare the election illegal."

Mrs. Zatella Giles files for House of Delegates

Mrs. Zatella Giles, coordinator of the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore, has decided to run for a seat in the House of Delegates for the 45th Legislative District.

Mrs. Giles, who filed Thursday, will join the slate of Titus Garnett, along with Concerned Citizens officials Loretta Carrington and Thelma Tucker, who will also be running for seats in the House.

Each candidate also plans to run for a seat on the Democratic State Central Committee.

The Garnett Team will be opposing the Douglass Team of Sen. Robert Douglass, Dels. Hattie Harrison, John Douglass and Joseph Chester in the Sept. 12 primary.

CITY STATISTICS

DIVORCED FILED

Janet B. Gorman vs. Earl C. Davis

Charles F. Lemon Sr. vs. Dorothy M. Lemon.

Sheila L. Brogden vs. Leonard Brogden.

Joseph Briggs Jr. vs. Tonya B. Briggs.

Sylvia L. Vick vs. Robert L. Vick Sr.

Deborah A. Jantz vs. Nicholas A. Jantz Jr.

Luvenia Alston vs. Raymond Alston.

Melvin Neal vs. Betty T. Neal.

Kathryn E. Manear vs. Kenneth G. Manear.

Carolyn M. Young vs. Chester M. Young

Gerald J. Presbury, M.D. vs. Linda D. Presbury.

Betty Artis vs. Brutus Artis Jr.

DIVORCES GRANTED

Deborah Jane Novak from Gilbert Adam Novak.

Manly Bell from Donna D. Bell.

Betty J. Whitaker from Benjamin Whitaker.

Joyce A. Batts vs. James McCless Batts.

Betty J. Plank from Robert A. Plank.

COURT DOCKET

Traffic Violation — Stanley Johnson; Eugene W. Shin, not guilty, as to each; James W. Crook Jr, guilty, fine $10; Same, guilty, fine $50.

Assault — Maxwell Sinclair, verdicts stayed section 641, 1 year probation.

Resisting Arrest— Same, same disposition.

Gambling — James C. Traynor; James Weatherford; Thomas Adams; Stevenson Umberger, guilty, sub curia pending pre - sentence report, as to each.

Attempted Bribery — Odell Lucas, guilty, 6 months imprisonment, suspended 1 year probation and fine $25.

Violation of Probation — Thelma Cummings; Walter S. Tasker Jr., not guilty, as to each.

Murder — Nathanie M. Vinson, plea of 2nd degree; 15 years imprisonment, concurrent with present sentence.

Larceny — Craig L. Ringgold, guilty 90 days imprisonment; William M. Fenwick, guilty, 18 months imprisonment, concurrent.

Narcotics Violation — Samuel E. Pointer, guilty, 6 months imprisonment consecutive.

Assault — James E. Dixon, guilty 3 years imprisonment, suspended 2 years probation; William Gresham, guilty, 1 year imprisonment, suspended 2 years probation and fine $200; Gloria Baker, guilty, 3 years imprisonment, suspended 3 years probation and fine $30.

Resisiting Arrest — Stanley M. Jones, guilty, 3 years imprisonment, suspended, 2 years probation and fine $200.

Hand Gun Violation — Same, guilty 2 years imprisonment, suspended 2 years probation and fine $250.

Traffic Violation — Ronald L. Summers; Donald W. Beatty, guilty, fine $100, as to each; Frederick D. Voltz, verdict stayed section 641, 1 year probation; James E. Metts, guilty, fine $100; Garfield Jackson Jr., guilty, fine $30.

Shoplifting — Rebecca Turner, guilty, fine $75.

Narcotics Violation — Arlene Morton, verdict stayed section 292, 18 months probation; Steven F. White, guilty, sub curia pending pre - sentence report.

Deadly Weapon — Same, guilty, 1 year imprisonment, suspended 18 months probation concurrent.

Hand Gun Violation — Gideon Page, not guilty; Donnie Moore, guilty, 3 years imprisonment, concurrent, suspended; Robert E. Shaw, guilty, 3 years imprisonment.

Traffic Violation — Robert L. Tyson, guilty, sub curia pending pre - sentence report; William J. Ambrose, guilty, fine $30.

Assault — Donnie Moore, guilty, 3 years imprisonment, suspended 3 years probation.

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'Ghost' Kane pleads guilty

Philip B. Ghost Kane, 36, pleaded guilty to two charges involving a major drug conspiracy that brought heroin from New York into Baltimore for distribution.

Kane, of the 3700 block Liberty Heights Ave., appeared before U.S. District Judge C. Stanley Blair on June 28. He now faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and $20 000 in fines.

He agreed to cooperate with federal authorities and was released on $50 000 bail. Judge Blair ordered a presentence investigation and will impose sentence after he receives the report.

Kane and Theodore Kellam were indicted in March on conspiracy to distribute heroin and interstate travel charges. Kellam is scheduled to go on trial July 10.

Kellam, 28, of the 900 block Brooks Lane, was arrested on the grounds of Community College of Baltimore.

Court records state Kellam was one of the individuals in the Kane organization who assisted in transporting heroin in interstate commerce and in cutting, packaging and distribution of heroin in Baltimore.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Neal M. Janey is handling the case.

Kane is the brother of Linda Carol Kane, who was shot to death along with dope kingpin Nathaniel "Junior Bunk" Johnson Jr., last summer.

Lottery offering Summer Bonus game

The Lottery is offering new bonus prizes.

The first Summer Bonus drawing will be held July 5.

Each Super 50 cent ticket has one special dix-digit Summer Bonus number, and the 17 for $1 tickets will have two Summer Bonus numbers imprinted on them.

To win one of the five Super Summer Bonus Prizes, the Lottery player needs to match the Summer Bonus six-digit number on a Super 50-cent ticket or either of the two Summer Bonus six - digit numbers on a 17 for $1 ticket and claim his winnings.

Each weekly super 50-cent and 17 for $1 ticket have a four-color picture of one of the Super Summer Bonus Prizes.

The prizes are: $10,000 in cash; an Oldsmobile Regency 98, plus cash to equal $10,000; a Trans Van Recreational Vehicle, plus cash to equal $10,000; a vacation to anywhere in the world, plus cash to equal $10,000; and a Sea Ray Sun Runner Yacht, plus cash to equal $10,000.

Yearly subscription ticket lottery players will use their special events number in its entirety in the Summer Bonus Game. An exact match of their special events number to the six - digit Summer Bonus lottery number will win the subscriber his or her choice of any of the five Summer Bonus prizes.

Drawings will continue through Sept. 6, 1978.

The deadline for filing claims in the Summer Bonus Game is Dec. 11, 1978.

Mrs. Rose Davidson belonged to St. James

Mrs. Rose Davidson, 88, died June 28 at the Deaton Medical Center. The family will receive friends July 3, 11 a.m. at St. James Protestant Episcopal Church, Arlington and Lafayette Aves.

Funeral services will be held following the wake. Born in Oklahoma July 2, 1890, Mrs. Davidson was a graduate of Lincoln Institute.

For several years, she was employed as a licensed mortician in Oklahoma. In November 1948 Mrs. Davidson moved to Baltimore and became an active member at St. James Church, where she was also a senior member of St. Agnes Guild.

Mrs. Davidson is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Yvette Davidson Murphy; one sister, Mrs. Pearl Taylor of Kansas City, Mo.; one son-in-law, James H. Murphy; a brother-in-law, George Taylor; cousins, Clarence Woffard and Mrs. Eleanor Woffard and a niece, Mrs. Dorothy Brown.

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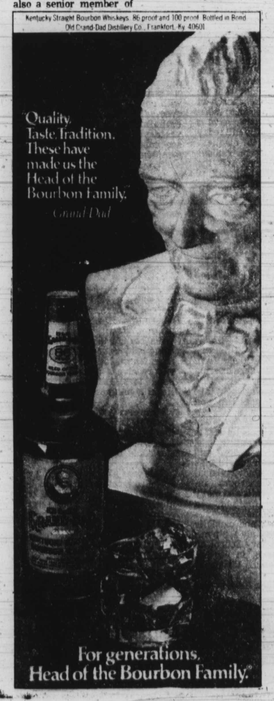

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