AWARD WINNERS — Some of "Baltimore's Best" pose with Mayor William Donald Schaefer at Inner Harbor ceremonies held Aug. 1. Shown are (L to R): John H. Murphy III, chairman of the board, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers; Imo Dennard Gayle, operation CHAMP; Officer Allen Burke, founder, Operation CHAMP; Mayor Schaefer, Mrs. Ida Peters, AFRO Clean Block director; Minister Helen D. Russell, Baltimore Street Church of God; Nathan Carter, Morgan State University music department and Police Agent Harlow Fullwood Jr.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

Local Urban League officials attend convention

Travis W. Vauls, president, Harold K. Kennedy, vice president, and Bonita J. Dancy, vice chairperson of the Executive Board, will represent the Baltimore Urban League at the 68th annual national Urban League Conference in Los Angeles, Calif.

The theme for this year's gathering is "Better Cities for a Better Nation," and it will begin Aug. 6 and end Aug. 9.

Some of the highlights of the 1978 meeting will be discussions on education and the black family, national urban policy, international affairs, equal opportunity, the black image in motion pictures and television and community development.

In addition, a special forum, "Ten Years After the Kerner Commission Report: The Mayors Look at Their Cities" will be held on Tuesday evening. Julian Bond, Democratic State Senator of Georgia, will be the moderator.

Among the Mayors scheduled to participate are: Thomas A. Bradley of Los Angeles, Calif.; Richard G. Hatcher of Gary, Ind.; Ernest N. Morial of New Orleans, La.; and Coleman A. Young of Detroit, Mich.

Mayors from other large cities are also expected to participate in the forum which will examine our nation's urban areas ten years after the civil disturbances of 1967-68.

Vernon E. Jordan Jr., president of the National Urban League, will deliver the keynote address on Sunday evening.

Also during the four - day conference, Vice President Walter Mondale is expected to participate.

The Los Angeles Convention Center will be the headquarters for the conference and registration is open to the public.

Lee wants Medicaid fraud investigated

Acting Gov. Blair Lee III said Thursday he has directed the Attorney General to apply for a federal grant to create a special unit to investigate Medicaid fraud.

Lee attacked Baltimore County Executive Theodore G. Venetoulis, one of his three opponents for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, saying Venetoulis does not comprehend the workings of government.

Speaking at a morning news conference at the state house, the acting governor termed a Venetoulis plan to rebate surplus state revenue and repeal the tax on carry - out food "demonstratively foolish."

"Were it to be done, it would lead to a tax increase very early in the next administration," said Lee, who a week ago said he would protect an anticipated $60 million surplus to possibly prevent a general tax increase in the next four or five years.

"There is no possibility the General Assembly in 1979 would permit him (Venetoulis) to do what he's talking about because it's so demonstratively foolish," Lee said.

Calling the proposal a "political gimmick," Lee said, "I won't say it disqualifies him as a serious candidate for governor, but it certainly doesn't help him."

Concerning the Medicaid investigation unit, Lee said 90 percent of the funding for the project would come from the federal government, with a possible maximum entitlement of $720,000.

He said a similar unit in New York had recovered $4 million during its first year of operation and was projecting $20 million in recoveries this year.

While noting that New York is a much larger state with more institutions than Maryland, Lee said the state could realize savings of $3 million in recovery from Medicaid fraud during the unit's first year of operation.

Insurance rates up again

The State Farm Mutual Insurance Co., the largest auto insurer in Maryland, is seeking a 3 percent statewide rate increase, the first requested this year by Maryland automobile insurers.

Company spokesman Michael J. Miller said the proposed rate would offset increases in claim costs and cover accident expenses expected in 1979.

"It takes six months before everyone has renewed at the higher rates," said Miller. "So if we're going to have rates in place reflecting 1979 on their own recognizance,

Miller said the company has proposed raising rates for Baltimore customers only four - tenths of 1 percent. Under the proposed rate structure, Miller said rates in the suburbs actually would drop 6 percent.

State Farm insured 360,496 Maryland motorists at the end of 1977. Miller said the company expected a 6 percent increase in that number this year.

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JUST THINKING

Clarence Mitchell wasn't there

By Al Sweeney

WASHINGTON

Everyone knows by now that the NAACP held its annual convention in Portland, Oregon a couple of weeks ago.

Most of the people, who have been reading the AFRO, must have gotten the idea that Ben Hooks and his new associates are in charge.

The manner in which genial Ben, a former member of the Federal Communications Commission, pastor of a couple churches and a former judge, among other things, assumed command of the NAACP machinery dispelled all of the rumors.

What folks don't know they will assume, as they say, so from what they assumed, turned into unverified reports that the man from Memphis was so disgusted with the problems he was facing that he was looking elsewhere.

But from what the delegates and observers report, it isn't so Ben Hooks is running the national NAACP. While Hooks was establishing himself with grassroots delegates, there was one report that saddened me.

I understand that Clarence Mitchell missed the annual NAACP convention. It seems like it was the first time since the Niagara Movement founded this NAACP that Clarence Mitchell was not circulating among the delegates.

How could an NAACP convention be held without the presence of the 101st senator? was asked by many.

Although, I must confess I wasn't in Portland, I just couldn't believe it.

So, being the newsman that I am, I called Mitchell. "It's true," he admitted, "I wasn't in Portland."

"There was too much going on in Washington," Mitchell explained.

It appears that a congressman from Pennsylvania is tossing sand into the government's affirmative action machinery by affixing an amendment to the appropriations bill that would prohibit the use of federal funds for affirmative action programs.

On another front, the expanded EEOC functions are having its - financial troubles because an Ohio congressman has introduced an amendment for an across - the - board appropriations cut.

So, Clarence said "I had

Clarence Mitchell

to stay home and mind store."

It seems that a black lawyer named J. Clay Smith, ex - FCC general counsel, and a California Hispanic named Rodriquez are about to be named by President Carter to the EEOC. Then, the agency will have full complement.

Therefore, Clarence Mitchell, who winds up as the NAACP's lobbyist on New Year's Eve will be trotting up on the Hill in the next few weeks to put his blessings on the new commissioners.

The use of congressional amendments to kill civil rights program is not new. During World War II, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia knifed President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Fair Employment Commission by denying appropriations to any agency that was using emergency funds to maintain an office that existed for more than a year and failed to come before Congress for an appropriations hearing.

The Russell amendment, aimed at crippling the FEPC, turned out to be a boomerang. Because there were several war agencies that were financed out of special emergency budgets. Agencies such as the War Production Board, War Information Agency and other wartime agencies were stifled by the Russell Amendment.

Congress corrected that Russell ruse and when he tried a direct attack on the FEPC agency during attack on the FEPC agency during President Truman's reign, the Missouri Storingman used this executive office funds to support the fair job agency by issuing a series of new executive orders.

Mitchell played a hand in the survival of the FEPC back in the New Deal and Square Deal days and is still doing his thing today.

To me, it is too bad that the Portland convention was not the scene of his last hurrah.

No matter how some people feel about Clarence Mitchell, he has devoted his life to the NAACP and civil rights.

Sure, a bunch of Washingtonians got together a couple of years ago and kicked in a few dollars for a testimonial luncheon. That was swell and it was a moving tribute.

But wouldn't it have been a greater tribute to have dedicated the final night of the NAACP's 1978 convention to this grand old warrior?

In this cold, cruel world, where everyone asks "What have you done for me lately?" certainly there is room for a bit of sentimental slobbering.

What was it that the late HHH observed, to shed a tear is to show that you have a heart?

30,000 shriners in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Thousands of Prince Hall Shriners are expected to converge on this city for the 65th annual imperial council session and the 67th annual meeting of the imperial court, Daughters of Isis, of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America and Its Jurisdictions, Inc., set for Aug. 20 - 26.

Presiding over the event will be imperial Potentate Dr. L. L. Melton, a member of Nafud Temple 80 in Beaumont, texas. He will be assisted by Deputy Imperial Potentate Eugene Dickerson of Mecca Temple 10 in Washington, D.C. Dickerson is slated to succeed Melton in the top post at the end of the session.

A spokesman for the fraternal organization said that confirmation figures indicate more than 30,000 persons will be attending the event.

Delegates and guests are expected to come from across the nation, North and South America, the Bahamas, Canada, England, France, the Far East, West Germany, Japan, Korea and Okinawa.

Highlights of the week - long session include a church service and memorial service in honor of deceased members. There will also be the annual grand parade, expected to have more than 5,000 participants, including Tanya L. Taylor of East Lansing, Mich., the 1977 - 78 Prince Hall Shrine national Queen.

Woman jailed in death of grandson

Lillie P. Brown, 41, was sentenced to four years in prison last Tuesday after she was convicted of the involuntary manslaughter of her grandson who died from exposure to the cold in an unheated bedroom last November.

Mrs. Brown who used to live in a rented house in the 400 block East 23rd St. was found guilty by a jury in the death of Mark, 3.

According to the prosecution the third floor bedroom where Mark slept with three other youngsters was unheated and had broken windows.

Medical testimony showed Mark died from exposure to the cold. The youngster, who was put to sleep on a cushion on the floor later rolled off and was found sprawled on the floor, the evidence showed.

The prosecution told the jury the $108 - a - month rented house had not been heated for two years and the only heat in the house was provided by a small electric heater in the second floor bedroom which Mrs. Brown shared with two infants.

2 held in steel workers death

A Garrison Junior High School student and a 22 - year - old man have been charged with killing Algon Landrum, a Bethlehem Steel employee.

Landrum, 53, of the 2600 block Woodland Ave., was found near a stream on Purnell Drive in Northwest Baltimore on July 29 by two teenage boys riding their bikes. Police reveal Landrum had been shot in the back.

Charged with murder and robbery are Kevin E. Anderson, 16, of the 3800 block Belle Ave., and Edward R. Forby, 22, of the 3700 block Belle Ave. Both men are now being held at City Jail.

Police report the two suspects were arrested July 31 when they were stopped at Cold Spring Lane and Wabash Avenue, while sitting in the victim's car.

Bail was set at $75,000 for Anderson and $125,000 for Forby.

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UAW endorses Lee

The Maryland United Auto Workers Council, representing 20,000 members, has endorsed Acting Gov. Blair Lee III for governor and Senate President Steny Hoyer for lieutenant governor.

The Council voted to back the Lee - Hoyer ticket and urged it's 20,000 members in 13 locals to do the same.

Stephen H. Sachs, a Democratic candidate for attorney general, and State Comptroller Louis Goldstein, were also endorsed.

The UAW's endorsements all went to Democrats, except for Republican Rep. Newton Steers in the 8th District and Republican Robert Pascal, the Anne Arundel County executive.

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