Fight for D.C. voting rights goes to Annapolis

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS — "We did all right," Del. Walter B. Fauntroy said in a calm but extremely optimistic voice.

It was perhaps the most understated comment made as proponents of the proposed constitutional amendment to give full voting rights to the District of Columbia lobbied fiercely at the Maryland State house this week and emerged from the first week of battle — virtually unscathed.

Fauntroy, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry and City Council President Arrington L. Dixon had come to Annapolis under a handicap.

Incoming Maryland Gov. Harry R. Hughes had just said in a press conference that he will oppose the legislation, the D.C. leaders are seeking.

Sen. Edward T. Conroy, D - Prince Georges County, chairman of the important senate constitutional and public law committee was somewhat ambivalent on the issue.

But Fauntroy, Barry and Dixon took the state house by storm and changed the minds of Hughes and Conroy.

The change of heart, however, is far from a guarantee.

The amendment would give the District two senators and a voting member in the House of Representatives.

To become effective, it must be ratified by 38 state legislatures within seven years of last summer's approval by the Congress. Thus far the amendment has an uncertain track record. Ohio, Michigan and New Jersey have ratified the amendment.

But Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Delaware have rejected ratification and North Dakota and California recently deferred action. An Arizona Legislative Committee voted Tuesday to reject the proposal.

That hasn't stopped Fauntroy.

Testifying before the constitutional and public law committee Tuesday, Fauntroy said Maryland's support of a constitutional amendment would "give him a bat to play ball with."

"The United States can no longer deny the people of the District the basic right to representation in our national legislature," he said.

"The amendment presently before you would extend this basic citizenship right to the only remaining group of citizenships but who are denied the right to be represented in government."

After Fauntroy testified Hughes was meeting with him, Barry and Dixon, on the same issue. Later in a press conference Hughes said that the delegation, which included several members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, gave him "insight" on the issue.

"It was a very good meeting," said Hughes. "I have always had an open mind on this subject. The human rights element has always bothered me. My only hang - up has been a philosophical one on the structure of government and the sovereignty of states."

Hughes added that no commitments were asked and none was made. He further pointed out that he will decide within a week whether to endorse the resolution.

Sen. Conroy said he was so impressed with Fauntroy's testimony that he was now partial to the delegate's position.

"You're tending to persuade me to lean that way," he said. His support of the measure would assure smooth passage through his committee and give the proponents of the measure an influential spokesman on the floor.

But the committee is not expected to vote until sometime after Feb. 1 after they hear a bill sponsored by Sen. John J. Garrity, R - Prince Georges, that would postpone a vote on the amendment until after a 1981 referendum could be conducted.

Conroy did try to pin down Fauntroy on the subject of a possible commuter tax, but the Washington minister fielded the question skillfully, pointing out that it was not designed "to cloud the real issue."

The amendment was not without its opponents, though, the biggest being Rep. Robert Bauman, R - Md., who said Wednesday to grant the District full voting rights violates the doctrine of a state and could be crucial on whether Congress approves a commuter tax.

"It fundamentally alters the union of the states for the first time in our 202 years," he said. "It opens the possibility that all the other political entities will seek the same rights."

Bauman suggested Maryland legislators delay a ratification decision until "we see what the other states do," adding he objected to the political precedent the amendment would create.

"What this amendment does is make them a state that isn't a state," he pointed out. "The long term implications of this are so damaging to our system. It does violence to our constitution."

But Del. Lena K. Lee, called him on that point reminding him that while he was in the Senate he attempted something similar, introducing legislation that would make the Eastern Shore a state.

Since the constitutional and public law committee is not expected to vote on the amendment until after Feb. 1 and the House constitution and administrative law committee will not begin public hearings until next Tuesday on a similar resolution, proponents of the legislation, led by the Maryland Black Caucus are now planning strategy for their next moves.

Del. Nathaniel Exum, D-Prince Georges, and chairman of the caucus D.C. voting rights committee said the group met Thursday to map out strategy but refused to divulge any information.

"I can't give out any information until the proper time," he said adding the "proper time" would be in about two weeks.

Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, D - Baltimore, sponsor of the Senate Resolution said he has four affirmed votes in the eight member Senate committee and "is working on getting more."

"It looks good," he said. "I don't want to make a prediction with hearings on the bill just ending. But at this point I see four affirmed votes."

Mitchell said he fears the commuter tax issue will alienate Washington suburban legislators, adding the issue "is being used as a veil for other kinds of opposition," including racism and party preference.

Exum last week said while he supports the amendment he has some problems with the commuter tax issue.

Proponents of the bill hope that the success in the Maryland legislature will set the tone for the remaining state legislatures.

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Minority groups disgruntled

Black enrollment drops at U of Md.; 1980 desegregation goal won't be met

In 1977 there were 2,947 black students at the University of Maryland College Park campus. Last year it was 2,765. Next year it's expected to be less.

University officials say because of the last year's decline in the black enrollment to 7.4 percent it would not meet the 13 to 16 percent black enrollment quota.

This 1980 quota was established under a desegregation plan adopted five years ago by the state. It means a minimum of 3,822 black student enrollees will be needed in 1980.

Heads of three black statewide groups, however, are not buying the excuse.

Robert L. Gluckstern, College Park campus chancellor, said the university will have trouble attaining its desegregation goal as long as black students prefer to attend predominantly black colleges and because of competition for black students from the University of the District of Columbia.

He added that the university also probably lost some black students last fall because of problems dealing with the federal Basic Education Opportunity Grant, procedures.

But Glenwood Brooks, equal employment director for the state board for highes education said the College Park campus was not hit that hard and the heads of the three statewide black groups have trouble accepting Gluckstern's excuse.

Nathanial Smith, president of the state NAACP, said he was not pleased with the announcement, but would have to reserve further comment until he had an opportunity to study the figures.

"I cannot see any justification for them making such an announcment," he said. "I will be assigning someone to study the figures.

Del. Lena K. Lee, chairperson of the state black caucus' education committee, said the caucus intends to look into the situation in its continuing investigation of discrimination on the College Park Campus.

She said the enrollment drop would be part of the group's study of procedures and mechanics of desegregation on the campus.

But the strongest comment came from Dr Archie L. Buffkins, assistant dean for graduate studies on the College Park campus and spokesman for an unofficial inter-campus group of minority students, faculty members and administrators.

Buffkins told the AFRO that he "did not for a moment believe that the university could not meet its 1980 goal.

"They must find innovative ways to meet their goals," he said. "The university is dealing with an area that's new and they can't use traditional data to go with non-traditional situations."

Buffkins said the university's excuse that they would not meet its goal was "partly a copout." He thinks with aggressive ways, the university could increase its black enrollment.

"If the University of Maryland is sincerely interested, i must remain flexible," he said. "It can't use hard, cold data for minorities because they don't fit traditional molds."

Until this year, the proportion of black undergraduates have increased slowly from 6.3 percent in 1974.

Brooks said College Park is one of only a few predominantly white Maryland campuses that will not meet its 1980 goal for black enrollment. The others are Anne Arundel, Charles and Frederick community colleges.

He added "While university administrators are committed to recruiting and retaining increasing numbers black students, they should be working harder."

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No smoking in county buildings

It will be against the law to smoke in buildings owned by Frederick County, effective Feb. 1, a spokesman said.

There was no opposition voiced at a public hearing this week. The Frederick County commissioners enacted the law and it will take effect Feb. 1.

A spokeswoman for the Mid - Maryland Lung Association, which pushed for the ordinance, said the group will now push for voluntary restrictions in restaurants and stores.

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	Tar	Nicotine
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Kent Golden Lights	8	0.7
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Wants to run for Mayor

Rinaldi fights residency rule

Robert T. Rinaldi, the former assistant superintendent fired by the city school board wants to run for mayor but the city's board of election supervisors won't let him.

So he's suing them.

Rinaldi, Wednesday, filed a federal lawsuit challenging the 10 - year city residency requirement for mayoral candidates.

According to the legal brief he attempted to file for mayor Jan. 19 but his application was rejected because he has lived in the city for only six years.

He charged that the residency requirement violates his rights to equal protection of the law, to interstate travel, and freedom of association.

The courts being asked to declare the requirement unconstitutional and order members of the city election's board to accept his certification.

David J. Preller Sr., president of the board; Percey Davis, secretary; and Marshall Jones, a board member were named as defendants.

The city school board fired Rinaldi as assistant superintendent in charge of special education last Nov. 8 for insubordination and misconduct in office.

He had announced previously that he intended to run for mayor and said this time he meets the other requirements to be a candidate.

Rinaldi added that any delay in filing his certificate will hurt his campaign for election this fall.

Prior to filing the suit, Rinaldi said he was not running against Mayor William Donald Schaefer because he was fired from his job.

"Rather," he pointed out, "I was motivated by a desire to exercise my rights and responsibilities as a citizen and to offer Baltimore a choice in chief executives."

Schaefer has not announced whether he is a candidate for re - election.

Reaction to Carter's budget

Officials worried city may lose federal funds

City officials said they are concerned that President Carter's proposed 1980 budget could mean a loss of funds for Baltimore.

The city would lose federal funding for 20 percent of its public service jobs, 33 percent of its summer jobs for youths and for some public housing construction, city officials said.

The losses would be partially offset by increases in federal money for transportation, education and urban renewal.

Budget Director George Pienda pointed out that Congress could restore some of the funds to the budget.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer said he has "some concern" about how the cuts would affect social programs because "with older cities like Baltimore federal aid is essential."

However, he said he is hopeful that the budget adopted by Congress will reflect Carter's pledge of commitment to aid cities.

'Casual' pot smokers accepted as state cops

PIKESVILLE, Md. — Persons who have admitted using certain illegal drugs on an experimental basis will now be allowed to join the state police, the department's superintendent says.

Col. Thomas Smith said Tues. that admitted "casual users" of hallucinogens such as LSD and marijuana will be permitted to join the force under new regulations that begin with the training class in July.

Several applicants who admitted using drugs are being considered for the summer class, Smith said.

General orders outlining the new policy went into effect Jan. 16 and were greeted with skepticism by some members of the state Fraternal Order of Police.

F.O.P. lawyer, Benjamin R. Wolman said he sent a letter to Smith expressing the organization's concern over the matter and hopes to meet with him next month.

Dr. Patterson will be host

Local teachers to tour South Bronx schools

Scores of Baltimore public school teachers will be on their way Monday at 6:45 a.m. for a trip to New York to visit the South Bronx School District No. 9 where former Baltimore school chief Dr. Roland Patterson is superintendent.

Leading the educational tour is Glasco Catlin, vice principal of Clifton Park Junior High School. Dr. Patterson was Baltimore superintendent of schools until his controversial dismissal in June 1975.

The day-long visit of the Baltimore teachers begins with arrival at 10:30 a.m. at Dr. Patterson's Educational Center with the superintendent himself as host.

A full agenda is planned with various administrators serving as guides and hosts. Highlight is a tour of the various schools and the South Bronx community which is composed of many racial and ethnic groups.

A forum with questions and answers concludes the experience.

Man charged in shooting

A 35-year-old man who is charged with killing his former girlfriend on Jan. 9 as she left her Lexington Street home for work, is still confined to City Jail.

Lamont Matthews, 35, is being held without bail and is charged with killing Miss Beverly E. Smith, 22.

Relatives told the AFRO Miss Smith had stopped dating the accused man in June 1976 but he continued to harass and threaten her.

Police report Miss Smith was allegedly shot when she started walking down the steps. Relatives said her assailant was hiding behind a neighbor's steps.

Miss Smith was employed as a secretary with the Municipal Employees Credit Union and had talked to relatives and friends about being afraid to go out alone because she had been attacked several times.

City delegation sets hearing

The Baltimore City Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at City Hall, Room 470, at 7 p.m., for a hearing on Baltimore City bond issues.

The bond issues include: community development loan; commercial rehabilitation loan; residential financing, economic development; industrial financing; recreation and parks loan; sewer and drain loan; fire department loan; residential energy conservation financing, and solid waste disposal loan.

Persons interested in attending this meeting are cordially invited.

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