—Del. Chester

(Continued from page 1)

"Legislation has been introduced in the Senate for a pay raise," he said. "I will be working very hard to get this bill passed in the House."

Chester also stated that he was interested in seeing a pay raise for state employees as well, particularly state police officers. He has a bill that would provide a cost - of - living adjustment for these employees.

Another measure would permit any Baltimore City deputy sheriff to ride public transportation free of charge during his employment.

He noted that several other city employees including police officers have this privilege and the bill would "help to alleviate downtown parking problems" faced by sheriffs who travel in the area.

Employees at the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital may get increased retirement benefits should Chester's House Bill No. 1651 be passed.

Speaking on pension reform, Chester stated that he saw a need for a new pension system and that the bill passed to the House from the Appropriations Committee last week is "one that every state employee can live with for the future."

He commented on the amendment to give the District of Columbia full voting rights by saying that he was in support of the issue and expected the Senate resolution to pass in the House, even though the House failed on two occasions to approve its own resolution.

Chester not only serves on the House Appropriations Committee but is vice - chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment.

—Rev. Cleveland

(Continued from page 1)

The Cleveland Singers will perform as well as the combined choirs of Gillis Memorial Church and the Imani Messengers of Bethel A.M.E. Church. Emcees will be Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis and Ms. Mary Clayburn.

The Rev. Mr. Cleveland and the Salem Inspirational Choir were nominated for a Grammy for their album "I Don't Feel Noways Tired", now number two on Cashbox's Top Spiritual Albums.

Altogether he has four hits on the current charts. They include, "Everything Will Be Alright" with The New Jerusalem Baptist Church Choir; "Reunion" by the Rev. James Cleveland and Albertina Walker; and "Is There Any Hope For Tomorrow?" by the Rev. James Cleveland and the Charles Fold Singer Volume 3.

—Teachers pay and kids performance

(Continued from page 1)

Although additional personnel would be needed to conduct the type of reviews and analyses required by the legislation, any decrease in annual raises would offset the expense for extra staff.

Prepared for a tough fight, Rawlings states, "A lot of teachers are going to be mad as hell, but I feel I have a commitment to my constituents who expect a decent education for their kids."

Rawlings, an instructor at the Community College of Baltimore, at the same time introduced another bill that requests the State Board of Education to develop and implement a program of accreditation for elementary and junior high schools.

Currently, only high schools in the state are accredited which means that studies were made to identify the schools strengths and weaknesses to set certain performance standards.

Meanwhile, 400 non - public schools are accredited and the Department of Education reports that the program for these schools could be applied to the public elementary and junior high schools.

The project would include in excess of 1,400 schools and requires 16 additional professional and 8 clerical employees at a cost of $633,300 for salary and operating expenses.

However, that amount could be reduced if the plan were implemented over a five - year period at a rate of 280 schools per year.

—Welfare moms

(Continued from page 1)

They will also ask for a special meeting with Gov. Hughes.

Advocate organizations had called for an appropriation which would raise aid to poor families to a level of need set in 1969. Currently a family with three children and one parent receives a maximum of $267 a month, regardless of how much more they need to live on. This is 51 percent of the need set 11 years ago, and 51 percent of the federal poverty level.

Some advocates had asked for a $10 million commitment from the governor to bring the grant to $314 per month. "We viewed this as a compromise position, since $314 represents a standard of need set to meet 1969 prices," Bob Cheeks stated.

"Why is two cents per child all our new Governor can find at a time when the state surplus is higher than it has been for years? This is a disasterous beginning of the Year of the child in Maryland," added Cheeks.

Maryland is the fourth in the country in median incomes, but 33rd in the level of its welfare payments.

The Thursday afternoon meeting was a serious one of commitment and planning strategies, but at many times it became very emotional.

An example: — welfare mother, Paula Coates, of O'Donnell Heights, a white single mother of four said in tears, "I know what it is to cry, I know what it is to worry about tomorrow and not only about today. I've voted in each election and what has it gotten me? I've looked for jobs, but was rejected because I didn't have enough education.

"I returned to school and got my education and now I still can't find a job. My kids go hungry, without shoes, without proper clothing and it makes me angry that I do vote — that I do care.

"I will go to Annapolis and tear down the walls of the State House in Annapolis so I can prove that I am human and have digni..."

Another welfare mother stated, "Hughes has never been hungry, his kids have shoes. Anytime someone can only spare two cents for your children, that's saying you aren't a human being. No one can live off of this small budget."

Kalman R. Hettleman, Hughes' secretary for human resources said that "no one said that the level of grants would be high enough" and that the grants are still way below the poverty level.

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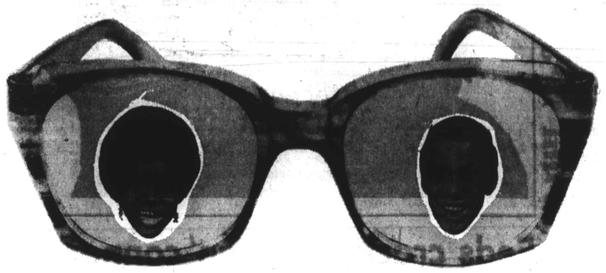

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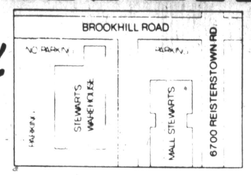

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