—AFRO helps family

(Continued from page 1)

It was not until she came to the AFRO that things began to happen.

Disgusted and frustrated, Mrs. Lee says she was not giving up.

She felt "someone, somewhere could help me find a decent home for my family."

For the last 12 days, the Lee family has been renting a house at 104 N. Mount St., for $100 a month.

"I did not have a choice and had to take the home. My children were staying with friends and I wanted us to be together as a family," Mrs. Lee said.

She and her two daughters and son have been sleeping on the floor in a house that is in no condition to live in. There are large holes in the floor of each room of the house, no hot water and no gas and electric and a strong disagreeable odor could be smelled in the house.

While sleeping on her makeshift bed made from old headboards, Monday night, Mrs. Lee was awakened by a strange sound.

"I heard a noise and later saw rats eating some peanuts we had on the floor. I was afraid and ran out of the room," said Mrs. Lee.

Mrs. Lee says her children were sleeping on the floor in another room and she spent the balance of the night sitting on the steps near her children's room.

Mrs. Lee formerly lived on Auchentoroly Terrace until her husband left her.

"I sold our furniture to pay our rent in our apartment because I did not want to go on welfare. After selling our furniture, I lost my job working as an insurance agent and was evicted because I could not pay my rent, said Mrs. Lee.

Everytime Mrs. Lee would go to the Housing Authority of Baltimore City for shelter, she was told, "We do not have any apartments available."

While looking for an apartment, her children would stay with a relative or friend, "who really did not have space for us," she told the AFRO.

The Mount Street home where Mrs. Lee has been staying is owned by an elderly lady. Neighbors could not say where the landlord is now. However, the AFRO learned the landlord's minister has been collecting the rent and was not available at AFRO presstime.

When the AFRO went to the Housing Authority on Thursday with Mrs. Lee, she was told again, "we do not have any houses available."

After the AFRO talked with Supervisor of Housing Applications Mrs. Esther Frank Siegel, she made several phone calls and was able to find a three bedroom house in Westport.

With a smile on her face, Mrs. Lee told the AFRO, "I feel good. What took seven months could have been done in two days. If it were not for the AFRO reporter going with me I would still be forced to stay in a house with rats."

Mrs. Siegel stated she was not aware of the facts in the Lee case and indicated there are 17,000 dwellings now filled and a waiting list of 25,000 families for homes.

(AFRO Photo by Mark Gail)

RATS IN HOME—Mrs. Viola Lee points to a hole in her Mount Street home where rats enter the home. The vacant room is also where the children are forced to wash.

—Patricia Harris

(Continued from page 1)

was chosen because "she's a team player, and Califano was not."

"Califano would say I disagree with you, Mr. President, and I'm going to do it my way, but Harris would say I disagree with you, Mr. President, but you're the boss and I'll do it your way."

—

Originally the most controversial of Carter's cabinet appointments, Mrs. Harris slowly has won the respect — if not the loyalty — of the feuding interests in the housing and urban affairs areas she handled.

Her appointment was denounced by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and opposed by Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., who suggested during confirmation hearings HUD needed "someone sympathetic to the poor."

Mrs. Harris, a successful, middle-class black woman who has been ambassador to Luxembourg, a member of the board of directors of IBM and Chase Manhattan Bank and dean of Howard University Law School, bristled at Proxmire's words.

"Now listen," she told him, "you don't understand who I am."

She proceeded to remind Proxmire she was the daughter of a pullman porter who went to college on a scholarship and on to law school when that was a hard route for a woman.

Being black and being a woman are at the heart of Mrs. Harris.

"If I fail," she told one interviewer, "it's as a female and a black."

Failure plagued some of Mrs. Harris predecessors at HUD — a sprawling empire that handles such diverse matters as flood insurance, mobile home purchase programs, fair housing and the vast elements of FHA, housing construction and urban development.

When she took over HUD it was probably the most criticized and most demoralized federal agency.

The department has managed to turn itself around, signified dramatically by the fact the Mayor's Conference — which criticized her appointment — gave her an award for her "responsive, effective service to the cities of America."

—

She has not endeared herself to everyone, however.

She battled the White House staff, Congress, budget officials and other members of the cabinet — most notably Califano — when it has suited her purposes.

And she has become the administration's primary spokesman for the aspirations of the poor, the blacks and other minorities — a constituency with which is in trouble and which she can ill afford to further alienate.

As the cabinet shuffle took place, high HUD aides described the mood at the department as "relaxed" and "confident."

"She's done a hell of a job here," one said after Tuesday's mass offers of resignation. (UPI)

Singers from 5 states in gospel competition

The National Gospel Symposium will present its 22nd annual gospel music workshop on Saturday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ, 1701 11th St., N.W., Rev. Benjamin E. Lewis, minister.

A tribute will be paid to the late Lucy Campbell and Cleavant Derrick, gospel music songwriters. Instructions will be given in group harmony, vocal skills, harmonization patterns and directing.

The general theme is "The Role of the Church In Establishing Non - troppio, Non - philosophy on Gospel Music Interpretations."

Bernard Battle, local gospel music songwriter is chairman, assisted by Prof. Jim Hawkins of Clinton, Md., Rev. Edward Harris, and Walter E. Kennedy, III workshop director.

On Sunday, July 22, at 3:30 p.m. the national gospel music competitions will be presented at the Second Baptist Church, 1200 Canal Ave., S.W., Rev. H. Joseph Franklin, minister.

This festival will bring together gospel groups and concert singers from Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Winners will be presented the annual Mahalia Jackson trophy as best artist in six categories.

The Mahalia Jackson plaque will be presented to Aaron Brown, producer of Canaanland Records, Nashville. Brown was also instrumental in producing an album of Rev. Cleavant Derrick when he needed it most, doing his last months of life. Rev. Derrick was the composer of the nationally known gospel song, "Just A Little Talk With Jesus," and many other songs and dramas.

The Roberta Martin Memorial will be presented to Myrna Summers, director of the International Youth Choir, Washington, D.C. A mass choir of 40 voices will also sing.

—100 turtles

(Continued from page 1)

Spectators of all ages, mostly children, crowded the plaza unconcerned about the noon-day heat and humidity to watch the race which consisted of 10 heats.

A turtle had to be the first in its group to go from the center to any edge of a 25-foot circle marked on the stage in order to win.

Sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Special Projects, the annual race which has been held for the past 39 years was organized by Virginia Baker.

Speaking on the day's activities, Ms. Baker said, "We had loads of kids coming from different day care centers. This was just a real kid's fun day."

Persons of any age could enter a turtle in the race. Three top winners from each of the 10 races participated in the grand sweepstakes for the top three winning spots.

Among the many prizes given the winners were gift certificates from Cedonia Mall, key chains, and certificates to Polock Johnny's.

—Wes drops out

(Continued from page 1)

Ivey is a member of Metro and Dr. Welcome was a top official in the Fourth District Democratic Club, Metro's political rival headed by Sen. Verda Welcome, D.-40.

Ivey was reluctant to comment on his possible selection prior to the Thursday meeting but did admit to the AFRO that he was being considered for the post. However, he did point out that his withdrawal from the councilmanic race had nothing to do with him being considered for the state central committee seat.

"I entered the race because I felt Metro might need me in order to make up a viable ticket," he said. "But now that they (Metro officials) have come up with a viable ticket I can withdraw. I never really wanted to run in the first place and my withdrawal has nothing to do with being considered for the state central committee seat."

Metro is expected to back incumbents Mike Mitchell and Victorine Adams and challenger Mary B. Adams, chairperson of the state central committee.

Consideration for a replacement on the state central committee began just a few days after the Welcome funeral with speculation that a key member of the Fourth District Democratic group would support Mrs. Adams, in exchange for a seat on the council.

—Swisher

(Continued from page 1)

with engaging in a corrupt relationship with the late North Baltimore political boss Pollack.

The prosecutor told the court he has "documentary evidence" which together with witnesses and concurrence of certain evidents in the state's attorney's office would show that Swisher received the money.

Swisher is accused of accepting money from Pollack for his 1974 election campaign in return for dropping an investigation of political corruption in Baltimore.

The prosecutor charges that Swisher did not report the $4,000 and another $6,000 from his private practice on his 1975 tax return.

Judge Harvey said he agreed to two trials because the tax evasion counts regarding Swisher's income in 1974 and 1976 were not related to the extortion scheme.

He ordered prosecutors to provide him with the information they will use to try to prove that Swisher received money from Pollack in 1975.

He said that information will be sealed and reviewed in a close hearing to determine if his ruling should be changed.

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Appeals court modifies 'speedy trial' decision

The State Public Defender has asked the court of appeals not to reverse its recent ruling that criminal defendants have a right to trial within 120 days of being charged, because a speedy trial is a constitutinal right.

Assistant public defender Thomas J. Saunders filed a petition Tuesday that aid the 120-day rule should stand because providing a speedy trial to defendants is the stae's duty.

Saunders' petition oposed one filed earlier by State Attorney General Stephen Sachs asking the court to reconsider its June 25 decision.

As part of that decision, the court said a criminal trial cannot be postponed beyond 120 days except under extraordinary circumstances.

Sachs said the decision has seriously disrupted criminal court dockets. He said in Baltimore, more than 90 cases — including many murders, rapes and arsons — may be dismissed because they were not tried within the 120-day limit.

Sachs said applying the 120-day deadline to cases that began before the opinion would free many defendants who should be tried.

But Alan Murrell, the state public defender, said the right to a speedy trial is guaranteed by the constitution.

He said court dockets have been backed up because prospectors load needless charges, which are used in plea-bargaining, on defendants. He aid that type of legal maneuvering is time-consuming, and will be inmited by the new rule.

Court says an attempted rape is the same as the crime

The General Assembly's reform of the state's rape laws has not downgraded attempted rape to the lessee crime of sexual contact without consent, the stae Court of Special Appeals has ruled.

The court ruled this week on charges against Lawrence S. Gray, who apealed a 10-year second-degree rape conviction. If he had won his appeal, his sentence would have been reduced to a maximum of one year.

Gray was charged in an incident in November, 1977 in which he allegedly invited two Prince Georges county junior high school girls to a party.

The girls aid Gray threatened then, knocked one of them down, and forced sexual contact on them, which they believed was a prelude to rape.

Both girls escaped before intercourse could take place.

Prosecutors alleged Gray intended to commit second-degree rape, which is defined under the new law as intercourse by force or threat of force.

But George E. Burns, the public defender who represented Gray, argued in his that there is no such crime as attempted secnd-degree rape.

He said the legislature made no reference to unsuccessful attempts when itredrafted sexual offense laws in 1976.

Judge Charles Moylan said traditional common law sanctions against criminal attempt are in effect, because they were not specifically replaced by the general assembly.

—Massive vote drive

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday, July 21, at the Oldtown Mall from 1 to 5 p.m., Jerusalem Temple No. 4, 1226 McCulloh St. from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Northwest Plaza from noon to 6 p.m.

With several black citizens vying for city offices continuously held by whites, area community leaders report that if black citizens can come out on election day, they have the opportunity to change the face of City Hall.

The Welfare Rights Organization, headed by Bob Cheeks, has already begun its voter registration campaign and to date has registered more than 1,000 people.

"Our goal this year is to register 5,000 people," said Cheeks. "Last year we got 3,500 so I know we can make it this year."

Cheeks, who pointed out that his organization would also be urging citizens to go out and vote after they have registered, stated that the voter registration drive will be in three phases.

First to get people registered, then educate them about the voting process and finally motivate them to go out and vote on election day.

A recent study analyzed by John Douglass shows that more than 45,000 people have been purged from the voting lists because of failure to vote within the last five years.

If a citizen who is registered does not exercise his right to vote within a five-year period, his name is taken off the books at the Board of Election Supervisors and in order to vote he must register again.

Douglass in an article which appeared in the April 25 issue of the AFRO, says that about 80 percent of the peopl who have purged from the voting lists are black.

"As fast as we're registering people, they're purging off the books," said Douglass, who is running for the city comptroller seat.

Douglass with a large number of volunteers is conducting voter registration in target areas throughout the city.

Officials at the Board of Election Supervisors report that anyone who registers to vote will receive his card no later than Aug. 20. The deadline to register for the primary election is August 13. To date, approximately 389,000 people are registered.

The NAACP will continue its campaign through Aug. 11. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 24—Mondawmin Mall and Edmondson Village, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 28 — Northwest Plaza, noon to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 2 — Murphy Homes, - 900 Argyle Ave., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 - 1068 Argyle Ave., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 5 - Lyndhurst Recreation Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11 - Northwest Plaza, noon to 6 p.m.

Voter Registration Day, co-sponsored by the Baltimore City League of Women Voters and a local radio station, is scheduled for July 24, at several locations throughout the city from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Day-long registration points will be Lexington Market, Mondawmin Mall, Giant Food on Reisterstown Road, the Rotunda, Northwood Shopping Center, Food-a-Rama in Highlandtown and Edmondson Village.

Residents may also register from a van at Cross Street Market, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; War Memorial Plaza, noon to 1:30 p.m.; John Hopkins Hospital, 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Bel Air Market in Old Town Mall, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m. in the lobby at Memorial Stadium prior to the Oriole-Seattle game.

$1,000 REWARD

Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company will pay a total of $1,000 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the two persons who assaulted its employee about 12:00 noon on Wednesday, July 11, 1979 in the rear of the 1200 block of West Lombard Street, Baltimore City.

The Company will not disclose the name of any person or persons furnishing such information to it.

Anyone having such information should call 234-5411.

$1,000 REWARD

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewyez)

ALUMNI GIVE $3,900—The Baltimore Alumni Chapter of the Howard University school of social work presented checks to the Walter P. Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund and to the Howard University school of social work Scholarship Fund on Saturday, July 14 at the home of J. Brown Hardy, director of Patuxent Institute. Pictured during the presentation of the $3,900 check to H.U. School of Social Work are: Sylvia Grace, financial secretary; Lucille Green, corresponding secretary; Wilbert Walker, executive committee member; Audrey E. Williams, president; David Tabler, treasurer and Johnnie Smith, executive committee member (L to R). Not shown are J. Brown Hardy, vice president; Delano Thomas, recording secretary; Dr. Nancy H. Bennett, executive committee member; Mrs. Beverly Williams, and William Mercer, executive committee members.

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