Many blacks losing social security benefits

by Dr. Sidney Kobre

Hundreds of Baltimore blacks may be failing to obtain social security benefits to which they are entitled, according to Margaret Walker, field representative of the Social Security Administration.

She discussed this problem and what can be done about it, on the program, "Wednesday Morning on the Square," on Dec. 19.

Theprogram was the last in the series of six presented at the Lafayette Square Multi-Purpose Center, 1500 W. Lafayette Ave. each week by the Community College of Baltimore, the Center, and Eating Together in Baltimore.

Mrs. Walker believes that many retirees—both men and women—overlook the benefits from the supplementary security income provision of the Social Security Act. Although this provision began in January, 1974, older persons often do not get their benefits, she pointed out. These beneficiaries may not know what is due them, she said.

At the Lafayette Square program, the speaker explained in simple, non-legal terms the provisions of the security measure relating to retirement, to disability and to the benefits for children.

Mrs. Walker presented a movie about the operation of the social security system and furnished a free Social Security Kit and various specialized pamphlets on the act and its provisions.

An experienced representative, Mrs. Walker has been with the Social Security Administration's Baltimore offices for 12 years. She served as claims representative, supervisor and then, in 1976, became a field representative, talking to various organizations about the Security Act.

Prior to joining the security agency, she was a teacher at elementary school No. 149 at Rutland Avenue and Federal Street, then worked with the Urban Renewal and Housing agency.

Mrs. Walker, whose office is 707 N. Charles Street, has two children W. Austin Walker, and Mrs. S. Brown, and one grandson, Theodric Brown.

Sachs appoints two black assistant attorneys general

State Attorney General Stephen Sachs has announced the appointments of Luther D. Jefferson as an assistant attorney general to the Department of Licensing and Regulation and Deborah Kay Hines as an assistant attorney general with the Consumer Protection Division.

The appointments bring the number of black assistant attorneys general to nine out of 172. Four blacks have been named by Sachs since he took office in January 1979.

Jefferson served as an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City for the past five years. From 1973 to 1974, he participated in the Neighborhood Legal Services program as an action volunteer for VISTA.

He completed his undergraduate studies at Howard University and received his law degree from the University of Maryland in 1973. Prior to his admission to the Bar in 1973, he was a legal intern for the Department of Defense and for the Legal Aid Bureau of Baltimore City.

Jefferson resides in Seabrook, Md.

Ms. Hines was promoted from her previous position as legal assistant in the attorney general's office. Of the eight legal assistants, four are black, all of whom were hired by Sachs.

She is a 1978 graduate of the National Law Center of George Washington University, where she clerked for the General Counsel's Office, Department of the Navy. She was also a student litigator for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

As a student intern, she handled complaints and researched cases in the areas of landlord-tenant disputes, small claims and consumer contracts.

Ms. Hines lives in Baltimore.

Alma L. Borenstein was also appointed as an assistant attorney general with the Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Teen gets 35 years for murder

A 16-year-old boy was sentenced to 35 years in prison for killing a 70-year-old man on June 10 during a holdup attempt in the 800 block Whitmore Ave.

Criminal Court judge Elsbeth L. Bootheby imposed sentence on Curtis E. Williams, of the 2400 block Arunah Ave. after he pleaded guilty to second degree murder, attempted robbery and a handgun violation.

Court records state Williams drew a gun from a bag and demanded money from Mr. Hardy. The victim was shot in the chest and the youth was later arrested after police received a tip from a witness.

17 indicted in police bribery case

Following a 16 month investigation conducted by the FBI and the Police Department, 17 men were indicted for conspiracy to commit racketeering and aiding and abetting in an attempt to bribe two Northern District vice squad officers, George L. Klein, 27 and Broderic N. Kinkeay, 26.

Commissioner Donald Pomerleau stated at a Tuesday press conference, "Those indicted are all civilians. There are no police officers involved other than the investigators who worked long and hard to bring the case to this point."

Individuals who were indicted are Sidney Alien, 67, 6700 block Western Run Drive; Roy E. Calhoun, 48, of the unit block of Slavin Court; Joseph Minogiio, 49, 9700 block Liberty Rd; James C. Hooper, 51, 1900 Mount Carmel Rd; William H. Weinstein, 67, 3100 block Chestnut Ave.

Also, Stanley Diamond, 43, 5700 block Maurleen Rd; Benjamin Garonzik, 65, 3000 block Woodhome Ave; Robert J. Griffin, 31, of the unit block of Brakewater Court; Benjamin N. Cloft, 59, 3600 block Clarks Lane; Morton Baumgarten, 52, 6500 block Park Heights Ave.

Racketeering, conspiracy to commit racketeering and aiding abetting are each punishable by a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, $25,000 fine or both.

Others indicted are Eugene Modei, 37, 3500 block Gwynn Brook Ave; John F. Ford, 43, 6800 block Park Heights Ave; Irvin Buddy Dubin, 53,600 Hunt Ridge Rd.; Michael Wolfe, 31, 1100 block Northern Parkway; David Miller, 52, 6100 block Buckingham Manner Dr.; Gerald J. Previti, 39, 1900 block Wilhelm Ave. and Joseph Hayman.

Pomerleau stated that the police department will do everything within its power to bring before the bar of justice those persons who would corrupt or attempt to corrupt police officers.

$ crunch for nurses may halt home visits

The Visiting Nurse Association of Baltimore is in dire financial need and at the present, the city does not have funds to bail it out.

The association sends registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nutritionists and other health practitioners to patients' homes who cannot afford hospital or nursing home care.

The association, a non-profit, United Way agency, has a $500,000 deficit and needs $100,000 per year to continue operation

Dr. Jean Galkin, the agency's director, said the city matches the United Way funds. For the past two years, the amount of city funds has not kept pace with inflation and the cost of living.

The city claims it does not have the funds, Dr. Galkin said.

The 80 health practitioners visited 10,000 patients 90,000 times in fiscal 1979. They treat patients, administer medication and provide physical therapy.

It costs one-tenth less to treat a patient at home than in a hospital, an association spokeswoman said. The added benefit to the patient who can be treated at home is the psychological benefit of a familiar environment.

Members of the association met with representatives from 30 other agencies to testify to the need for the program to continue.

Dr. Galkin said the agency has already reduced the number of patients visited and she predicted the Visiting Nurse Association can only survive about six months.

"We plan to keep up the struggle for funds. If necessary, we will go to the governor," she said.

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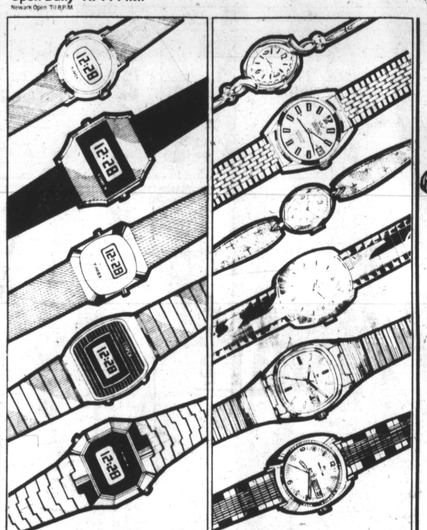

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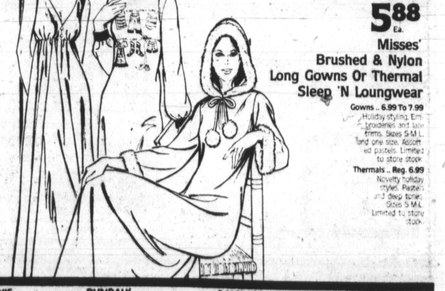

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NEW SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

Lakeview towers dedication stresses respect for elderly

City officials joined more than 100 residents and guests to mark the completion of Lakeview Towers, a 305-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly and disabled persons, at a dedication ceremony held Friday, Dec. 14.

Housing Commissioner M. Jay Brodie served as master of ceremonies for the occasion, held in the 13th floor auditorium of the 15-story building located at 717-727 Druid Park Lake Drive.

"What is important is not the building itself, but the people in the building. Hopefully this building will help people live a better life," he said.

Brodie stressed the importance of caring for and respecting senior citizens.

"The mark of civilization is the way elderly are treated. It is up to us to show that we care and respect our elderly so that one day we can get that care and respect back," he said.

Van Story Branch, director of the Division of Housing Management, chronicled the growth of low-income public housing in Baltimore.

Between 1937 and 1969, there were 10,280 public housing units. In the past 10 years, construction of new units has brought the total to 16,800 apartments for low-income families. Of that number, 3,609 are available for senior citizens.

Branch described the Lakeview apartments. There are 201 efficiencies and 104 one-bedroom apartments in the two adjoining towers. They are equipped with electric ranges and refrigerators, heat and air conditioning windows with screens, grab bars in the bathroom and private balconies with sliding doors.

The apartments are equipped with smoke detectors and peepholes in each outer door. An emergency call-in connects each tenant with the lobby where there is a closed circuit television.

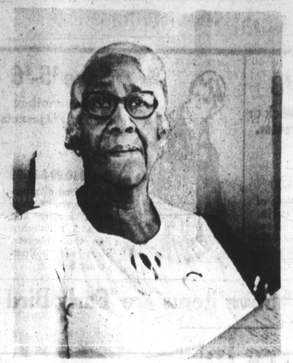
Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, 2nd District, commented on the panoramic view from the auditorium.

Mrs. James Haynie Rosewood Auxiliary Prexy

Mrs. O. James Haynie has been elected to serve as president for the Rosewood Center Auxiliary.

Serving with her as vice-president will be Mrs. John Macsherry, recording secretary will be Mrs. John Hanks; corresponding secretary will be Dr. E. Petan and Mrs. George Bertsch will serve as treasurer.

Anyone interested in joining the auxiliary to help the mentally retarded residents of Rosewood Center may call the Volunteer Office at 363-0300, extension 250.



HOUSING DEDICATION — Mrs. Marion Wood, a resident of Lakeview Towers and a member of the apartment's singing group, listens to Van Story Branch, director of the Division of Housing Management, talk about the completed senior citizen complex at 717-727 Druid Park Lake Drive.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

—'Given hope'

(Continued from page 1)

Churches such as Gillis Memorial, Bethel, Mt. Olivet Baptist, St. Timothy's Central Baptist, Mt. Olivet Free Will, Enon Baptist, Holy Temple and Emmanuel have given the services of their members as well as food, clothing and funds. Organizations from the Salvation Army, the Absalom Jones Center, and the Prince Hall Masons to Trinity Lodge No. 75, Girl Scout Troop 427, and the M and M club have given assistance.

"It's such a spiritual uplifting," Mrs. Hughes states. "People have talked with me, said prayers with me, they've really given me hope."

She adds that the outpouring of aid from the community has given her hope that the family will be able to stay together.

"When the accident happened," she relates, "I said I'd rather put my children in foster homes than watch them go through another winter freezing in this house. But now I really think we can make it."

She adds that a poem sent to her, "We Can't, But God Can", by Helen Steiner Rice, has given her additional inspiration.

"I must have read that poem about 50 times," she says.

Jerry Hughes has also received some good news from Sinai Hospital, where he has been receiving treatment for his injuries.

One of his feet is almost completely healed, and the bandages have been removed.

Both are still hoping for a job, and Mrs. Hughes says she thinks she may get a job with the Mass Transit Administration as a bus driver.

"I'm going to take some tests for the job tomorrow, (Wednesday, Dec. 19), and I'm really optimistic about it."

But their problems aren't entirely over yet. Mr. Hughes is still hoping for a job, and, according to Mrs. Hughes, the family has been involved in a series of disputes with their landlord involving rent payments and a lack of heat in their home.

An appointment has been made, however, by city housing authority with the Hughes' to discuss the possibility of the family obtaining section eight housing, and both anticipate finding a better home for both them and their six children.

And both say they will never forget what the community has done for them so far.

—Ms. Santa

(Continued from page 1)

raised $504.10 in the AFRO booth outside Chicken George. They will be manning the booth Friday and Saturday, Dec. 21 and 22.

Mrs. Santa is on the phone and has ordered $9,000 in $10 food certificates from Pantry Pride, A and P, Food-A-Rama and Acme Markets.

The Maryland National Guard under the direction of Sgt. Lloyd Scott is out on the street with seven trucks and 17 men delivering baskets made up at Super Pride stores worth $6,000.

Mrs. Santa's store at 622 N. Eutaw St. will be open Saturday, Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide clothes and toys for needy families.

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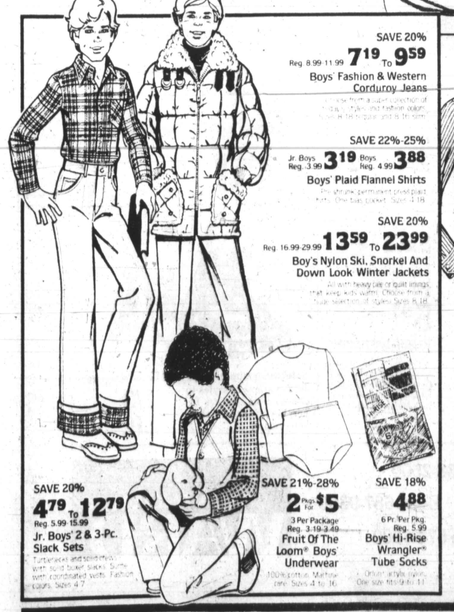

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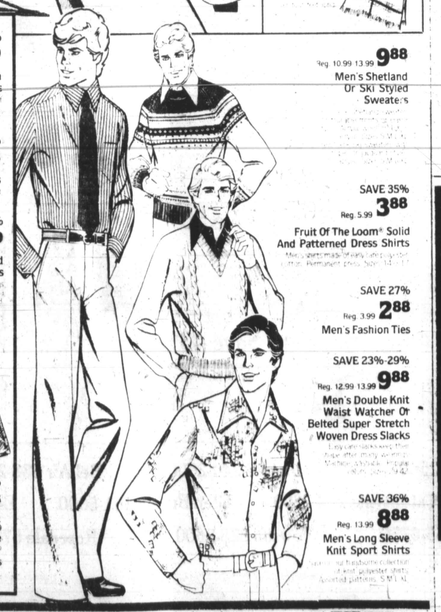

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