State General Assembly gearing up for the 80's

IN THE HUDDLE — Planning a little strategy before voting during the first day of the session are Senators Verda Welcome, D - 40th Clarence Mitchell, D - 38th and Julian Lapides, D - 39th.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

RELIGIOUS GUEST — Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan (l) was the honored guest of the House of Delegates and opened the session with a prayer. Seated with him are (l to r) Dr. Francis McIntyre, legislative representative for the Catholic Bishops and Delegate Isaiah "Ike" Dixon.

LEGISLATIVE LEVITY — Delegates Nathaniel Exum (L) and Sylvania Woods, both representing Prince George's County's 25th District, exchange an early - in - the - legislative - session laugh.

FIRST FEMALE — Delegate Hattie Harrison, D - 45th, was the first female chair of the Executive Rules and Nominations Committee. She is now in her second year of her second term.

SECOND TERM — Delegate Larry Young now in his sixth year as representative for the 38th District has focused part of his attention on legislation for energy assistance and information.

EAST BALTIMORE REPS — Delegates Joseph Chester and John Douglass who represent the 45th District in East Baltimore confer during session opening Jan. 9.

THE BIG SCOREBOARD — The electronic tally board in the House of Delegates is blank for now but will soon be used to take the count as the 141 delegates vote on legislation during the session.

ATTENTIVE — Baltimore City delegates Patrick McDonough, Frank Conaway, Howard "Pete" Rawlings and Troy Brailey (L to R) pay close attention on opening day of the General Assembly, Jan. 9.

The General Assembly

Morgan issue high on list of black priorities at Annapolis

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

It was back to the drawing board Wednesday for members of the Maryland General Assembly as the 1980 session got underway shortly around noon.

This session begins the second year for the 188 legislators, 20 of whom are black.

Most of the 20 black legislators when queried as to what they felt would be the most important issue to come before the legislature, gave as their verwhelming response the proposed merger of the University of Maryland and Morgan State University.

Aris T. Allen, the first black senator to represent Anne Arundel County commented, "I would like to review the reasons the State Board for Higher Education is giving for even considering this merger.

"If it does happen, it would destroy one of the finest schools and model images we have for our black youths."

The area of minority development funding was high on the list of priorities for veteran legislator, John Douglass who recently ran fothe office of Baltimore city comptroller.

"I plan to do something that would require an overall funding program for minority firms in the city," he said.

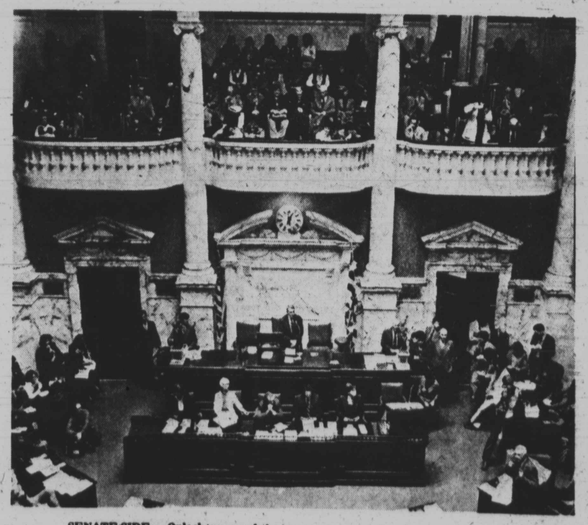
Currently, the city does not have a percentage requirement of contracts that must be given to minority companies. However, the state mandared that at least 10 percent of its contracts must be awarded to minority firms.

Robert Douglass, East Baltimore senator who is chairman of the Maryland Black Caucus pointed out a number of issues to receive special attention from the group.

One of the most important issues he explained is the court consolidation bill which has raised concern with the caucus because the measure would eliminate several clerk's positions currently held by blacks. The clerks would be retained but as deputy clerks.

The fire is so delightful..

Wood burning stoves are gaining popularity as alternative energy sources, but they can also be potential fire hazards. In tests at the National Bureau of Standards, the stoves have reached temperatures of 300 C (572 F), while stovepipes have become even hotter. If you have a stove, make sure that it is installed properly with wide clearances between the stove and floors, walls, ceilings, and furniture. You should also ask for local fire department or building code officials to check the installation for safety.



SENATE SIDE — Onlookers crowd the balcony as they watch the proceedings get underway in the Maryland Senate. This is 365th Maryland General Assembly and citizens are allowed to view the proceedings from the balcony throughout each 90 - day session.