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Did Hughes welch on prison?

Cross burners convicted

Two Catonsville men, arrested as they deposited Ku Klux Klan literature at a newspaper office, have been convicted of burning crosses at a Woodlawn recreational field.

District Judge William Evans imposed $250 fines on Paul Hoskins, 22, and Robert C. Fraser. 21. Hoskins also was placed on probation for 18 months.

Hoskins was found guilty of burning crosses at the Windsor Mill Road field on Oct. 31 and Nov. 7.

Fraser was convicted only in the Nov. 7 cross burning.

Jay Miller, Baltimore County police spokesman, said the charge "statutory burning" is a misdemeanor which carries a maximum penalty of $500.

The two were found innocent of charges of possession of a deadly weapon —a knife— because Evans said police had no probable cause to conduct a search of their vehicle that resulted in the discovery of the weapon and their arrests.

However, Evans said statements the men made to police implicating themselves in the cross burnings were admissible.

The two were arrested Jan. 26 after police saw them pushing KKK leaflets through the mail slot of a Catonsville newspaper. Police said they were concerned the action could be interpreted as an implied threat.

Miller said one of the men admitted that he had been a Klan member for about one month at the time of his arrest.

Local Republicans already on campaign trail

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Despite their 9-to-1 numerical disadvantage in registered voters, Republican candidates in Baltimore are gearing up for the 1980 elections.

Two members of the "Grand Old Party", have thrown their hats in the ring against the perennial victor in the 7th congressional district for the past nine years, Parren J. Mitchell.

They include Ted Williams, a young medical technician at Johns Hopkins Hospital, who is making his first foray into politics, and Victor Clark, a city Republican who was last seen losing the 4th district City Council elections last November.

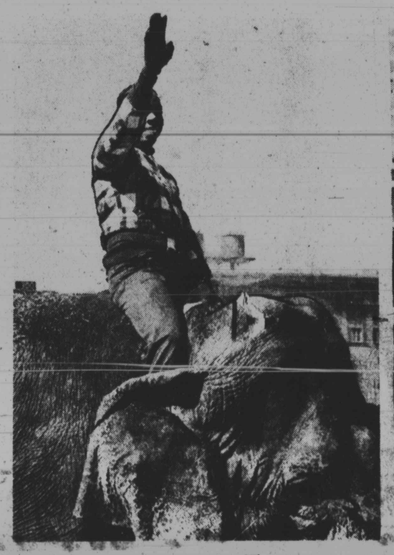
Williams is reportedly being groomed for the race by Carl Adair, a staunch city Republican who has lost his bids for a City Council seat from the 5th district three times in as many city elections.

One of the few strong state Republicans, Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., will find several challengers for his Senate seat in the September primaries and the November general elections.

They include two State Senators, Victor Crawford, D-20; and Robert Douglass, D-45.

Representative Clarence Long should be expecting some stiff opposition from Thomas Kernan, D-10, who is the Assistant House Majority Leader of the Maryland General Assembly.

The entire legislative black caucus has endorsed Kernan over Long, who has evinced black rage by several inopportune remarks he made at a meeting of the Baltimore County NAACP meeting last month.



AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

AFRO REPORTER RIDES — AFRO Reporter James M. Abraham smiles as he waves to the crowd from atop one of the circus's biggest (!) attractions. Happy children lined the route of the traditional circus parade as it wound into town, Tuesday, March 11. Judging from their expressions, they weren't disappointed.

Fearless reporter rides circus elephant

Prestigious performance on ponderous pachyderm

By James M. Abraham

It all started about a week ago, when Ida Peters, the AFRO's entertainment editor, approached the city desk with an armful of circus material and asked "who's going to ride the elephant this year?"

"I'll do it", I said manfully, but I had no knowledge of what the ride would entail.

So, sure enough, Tuesday, March 11, this young reporter arrived at a railroad yard in South Baltimore to begin his feat of strength and daring.

One look at the large, lumbering beasts, however was enough to cause me to have second thoughts. As I began to fade into the crowd, Vanessa Johnson, an assistant to Mrs. Peters, pushed me back to my face-to face confrontation with the massive grey beasts.

Fortunately, due to the frigid temperatures and high winds, the ride was shortened to about four blocks, so we had to hasten back downtown to Camden rail yards to meet the pachyderms (elephants).

As they approached along Washington Blvd., cheers went up from the waiting crowd, and my heart began to drop. But I pulled on my gloves, and prepared to meet my fate, or at least my elephant.

Smoothly the long line of pachyderms swung into line, and, at a shout from their trainer, Alex Gautier, all knelt on one knee to accept passengers.

Silently I looked back at all that was dear to me, then like a modern Hannibal, prepared to mount my elephant to begin the ride.

She was female of about 30 years, and, although I've heard women can be tempermental, she was a jewel.

Slowly she rose on all fours, even as I leaned forward to wrap as much of me as I could around her ample back.

I recalled the circus movies that I had seen, and knew I had to start waving my arms like an old pro, but when I moved to release one hand from the blessed rope I was clinging to, I nearly fell off.

Before I could offer my seat to Vanessa and head back to the relative safety of my desk, my ride took off, so I had no choice but to sit tight.

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Governor ignores task force findings

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

When Harry Hughes announced that Gordon Kamka, former warden of the Baltimore City Jail, would be assuming the position of Commisioner of Public Safety and Corrections, many interpreted this as a sign that the governor planned on endorsing Kamka's policy of a system of smaller, community-based penal institutions.

In Maryland, where 7865 prisoners are incarcerated, and there is only space for 5576 inmates, the news was greeted by prison advocates with relief.

Many felt that the age of "warehousing" of prisoners was at an end, and that Maryland would soon adopt a more "enlightened" attitude toward its prison system.

But the prison question appeared to overwhelm the Hughes administration, and, shortly before Christmas, news that Hughes would soon submit plans to build a new 500-bed prison near the Maryland House of Correction in Jessup shocked most of the state.

"This is the first I've heard of it," said William Eakle, an administrator of Howard County.

Eakle predicted that the choice would encounter opposition from area residents, and, as it turned out, that was an understatement.

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Jean Adams replaces Bass as top black Hughes aide

Governor Harry Hughes announced today March 14, the appointment of Jean Adams, an aide to Mayor Schaefer, to replace Josie Bass as the highest-ranking black woman on his executive staff. Ms. Bass resigned in January of this year.

Ms. Adams will begin her new job on April 16. Her duties on the executive staff will include human resources, corrections or both, according to a spokesman for Hughes.

A native East Baltimorean, she

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LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Black lawmakers sponsor 300 Assembly bills so far

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Of the more than 3,000 bills introduced thus far in the 1980 General Assembly, only about 300 have been introduced by the state's black representatives.

Many black legislators have repeatedly stated that their bills will either die in committee or be killed on the voting floor.

Black legislators who number 20 (six senators, 14 delegates) represent 16 percent of the 188-member General Assembly.

In this session they have proposed legislation which totals 10 percent of the bills under consideration thus far in the 1980 Assembly.

And they point out that black sponsored legislation that requires the state to produce thousands of dollars has two chances of getting passed... slim and none.

For example, a bill introduced by Walter Dean, D-41st, to increase the monthly welfare payments would require $216 million from the state.

Governor Harry Hughes has previously stated that he will include an 11 percent increase in welfare benefits in the budget. That increase amounts to $32.7 million, far less than what the black lawmaker proposed. And chances are the Dean legislation will face a slow death in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Some of the major issues raised by the black representatives include the District of Columbia voting rights measure introduced by Sen. Clarence Mitchell. This resolution to ratify a constitutional amendment passed in the Senate and received a favorable recommendation in the House Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee.

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State challenges bias charges

According to Robert Zarnoch, an assistant counsel to the General Assembly, a response to the recent Equal Employment Opportunity Commisssion charges of racial discrimination against the General Assembly's Department of Legislative Reference has been filed with the EEOC.

"We've sent our response to the EEOC, and now all we can do is wait for their reaction," he said.

The EEOC charges were the result of a complaint filed with that body by Ralph Hughes, a 30-year-old employee of the Department of Legislative Reference.

Hughes had claimed that he was denied a promotion because of his race, and that the department had systematically excluded blacks from higher-level positions.

The EEOC upheld Hughes' charges, and also claimed in its report that the department had taken retaliatory action against Hughes by giving hin an unsatisfactory performance rating after he had filed his complaint with the EEOC.

Statehouse politicians have been mum regarding the charges.

Benjamin Cardin, D-42, Speaker of the House of Delegates, stated that "the matter will be handled through the Attorney General's office."

His statement sums up the attitude of most of the General Assembly regarding the charges. Sources in the state government doubt if any constructive action will come of the matter, instead, says one politician, "they may get a few blacks in visible positions, but that'll be all."

New councilman very quiet

Whatever happened to Norman Reeves?

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

You remember Norman V.A. Reeves. He is a Northwest Baltimore real estate executive and educator who ran for City Council from the 5th District in 1971, 1975 and 1979.

His first two efforts were thwarted by the late political boss Jack Pollack who went so far to defeat him with a "name is the same" candidate on the ballot.

In the 1979 race, Reeves received the backing of the Trenton Democratic Club, controlled by Pollack's son Morton, and captured the seat.

He told the AFRO after the November 1979 election that his victory "gives us a mandate which states that government must be representative of the people and responsive to the people."

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Norman V. A. Reeves

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