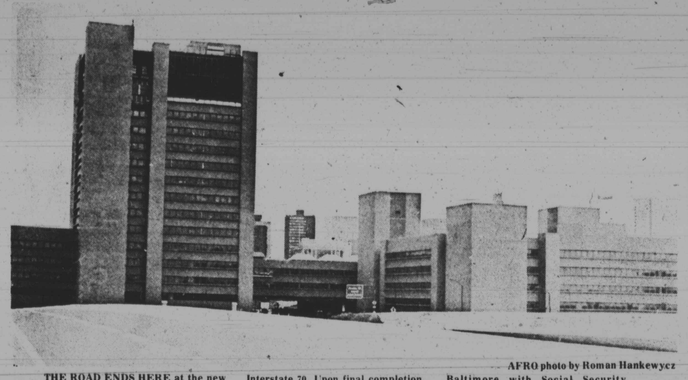
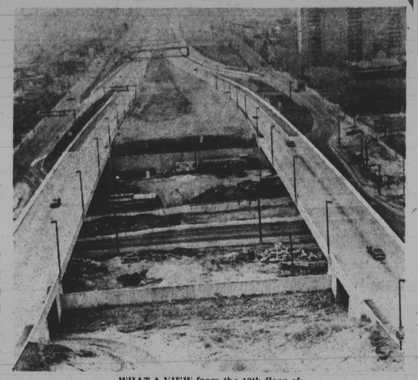
$92 million Metro-West Social Security building will house 5,200 workers



AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

THE ROAD ENDS HERE at the new Social Security building located on Greene St. and the eastern end of Interstate 70. Upon final completion, I-70 will connect the new Social Security complex and downtown Baltimore with Social Security buildings in Woodlawn and points west to Frederick and beyond.



WHAT A VIEW from the 13th floor of the new Metro West Social Security building on Greene St. looking west.

New Federal building spur to downtown regrowth

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Downtown merchants, city, state and local administrators and the Mass Transit Administration are ecstatic about the new Metro West Social Security building at Franklin and Green Streets.

However, are the workers themselves happy?

As of March 10, some 2,835 employees have been transferred from the SSA headquarters Woodlawn building, Paca and Pratt building and the Civic Howard buildings and are now working at Metro West.

Metro West will provide a greatly improved working environment for employees

Several of the employees who talked with the AFRO said they like the new $92 million building but not its location.

Mrs. Loretta Towson, a six - year employee says she would prefer working in Woodlawn since she lives in Howard County and has to drive to Edmondson Village every day and then catch a bus.

There is limited parking space and some employees say they are afraid to walk to their cars after dark. Construction began in May 1976 and was completed Feb. 1, 1980.

By the middle of June, there will be 5,200 employees working at Metro West. Social Security has a high percentage of black and female workers.

There are only 550 parking spaces for employees and first priority is for the handicapped, second is for van pools and third is for car pools with six people.

A Social Security spokesman told the AFRO, "We are going along with President Carter trying to get more people to car pool, use public transportation and use less gas.

Security is tight at the new building because of the highly confidential nature of data processed here. Most of the employees work on wage reports that come in from places of business on their workers.

There are 13 floors and a spacious cafeteria with seating space for 952 employees in the new Metro West facility. In the brown bag lunch area, there are 452 additional seats.

There are three main entrances: Saratoga and Greene Streets, Franklin and Greene Streets and Saratoga Street. Metro is not open to the public. Among design features at the new building are a telecommunications link from remote data communications centers in Metro West to computer facilities in Woodlawn.

The building is designed for ease of access to and use by the handicapped. There is a drive - through roadway (Pearl Street) in the basement for use by Social Security administration freight and supply trucks.

There is a positive interior pressurization to prevent air pollutants from entering the building and a complete security system supported by closed circuit tv and motion detectors.

There is also a complete fire protection system supported by sprinkler and fire exits throughout the building.

In the main lobby of the building there will be a bank for employees.

PINOCHLE — Employees are often seen spending their break time playing pinochle. Shown (from L) are Robert Mahlstedt, Ms. Barbara Turner, John Moore and Ms. Lurena N. Sabb.

MRS. DELORES RAWLINGS has been employed with Social Security for 11 years and was formerly working at the Woodlawn building. She is shown seated at her new desk in the Metro-West building on Franklin Street.

HARVEY DENMARK is shown at his desk processing earning records. Denmark was formerly employed at the Woodlawn building.

COMPLETING FILES — Ms. Joan Sterling and Ms. Vi Stelmack are shown working with the lektriever file system. They have been working in the new building for nedrly three weeks.

New McDonald's to serve Metro-West community

Osborne Payne, owner of McDonald's at 524 West Franklin St.sayshe designed and built his fancy new fast food restaurant with the community in mind.

"We are anxious to serve everyone, the Murphy homes, Seton Manor residents as well as the Social Security Metro-West employees." The new McDonald's opened in February and has a train station motif. It is the first new business in the area since Metro-West Social Security opened.

Payne feels that one of his difficult task has been to let people know there is a McDonald's in the area. He also operates McDonald's at North and Broadway, North and Charles Street and Liberty Road and Northern Parkway.

The new store has a fairy tale fantasy room especially for birthday parties for children and has a talking tree. The store will be the first McDonald's in the area that is selling chicken sandwiches and is open 6 a.m until 11 p.m. daily.

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KENNEDY OR CARTER?
AFRO takes a 2nd street poll
—Page 6

Killer of Malcolm X breaks 15-year silence
See page 32

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR
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$12 million in summer jobs called 'totally inadequate'

City festival, Easter egg hunt Sunday

Parade your spring finery, wear your best bonnet and sharpen your eggstra-sensory perception for Baltimore's annual Easter Festival and Egg Hunt Sunday, April 6 from 1 til 4 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Place.

An eggstravaganza of activities and festivities will fill the park beneath the Washington Monument including two egg hunts. Starting at 1 p.m., there will be a hunt for children 5 and under, and one for those over five years old. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to award prizes to those eggsperts who find the golden eggs.

Continuous entertainment around the square will include jazz by the Port City Ensemble, magic by John Carrington plus puppet shows, clowns, the Do Bee, a storyteller, jugglers and more.

Mt. Vernon Place will be blooming with plants and flowers, dolls, wooden toys and a variety of crafts exhibits and demonstrations. Strollers will also be able to enjoy sweet treats, cider, caramel corn and other refreshments.

Get Eggcited on Easter Sunday April 6 with George Washington, the Easter Buuny, Do Bee, Eggatha and other friends at Baltimore's Easter Festival and Egg Hunt. It's eggstraordinarily eggsellent entertainment for the entire family, brought to you by the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism. For further information call 685-TOUR.

ABOUT TO CLIMB DOWN FROM SKY is Army Pfc. Ronald Lewis. He is tightening gear before boarding 82nd Airborne Division helicopter. (At L) Lewis descends from sky on ropes. This is called "repelling." This exhibition was staged by U.S. military personnel at Walbrook Senior High and other area schools Thursday, March 26.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

It means one thing says Mitchell—U. S. 'policy is upside-down'

That 12 million dollars earmarked for summer jobs for Maryland youth has been termed a "mere pittance" and "totally inadequate" by Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D. 7th.

Mitchell was responding to the AFRO's query as to whether he felt federal aid in that amount was enough to lessen the effects of unemployment in this state.

"It means one thing" said the Maryland congressman "This country's policy is upside down."

On Monday, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration had announced that this state would receive $12 million of an $80 million allocation to states in the mid-Atlantic region to hire about 95,000 people.

Those eligible to participate in the summer youth program must be between the ages of 14 and 21. Baltimore City residents and from low income families. The jobs to be provided under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) will run from June 30, though August 8 and the pay will be no less than $3.10 per hour.

(Continued on Page 2)

Ethel thrills 800

ETHEL ENNIS thrilled over 800 at Sunday concert to benefit the Council of Equal Business Opportunity (CEBO) held at Johns Hopkins University, Shriver Hall.

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Md. legislators ponder abortion funding

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

A conference committee comprised of three delegates and three senators of the General Assembly will be charged with the task of deciding whether low income and poor women in Maryland should be able to get state funded abortions.

The conference committee is a result of the House of Delegates and the Senate striking all of the amendments tacked on to the state budget which leaves the task up to a committee to resolve.

Heavy restrictions had been placed on the abortion funding with an amendment adopted by the Senate that would only permit Medicaid abortions if the life of the mother is in danger.

But the House in a more liberal approach relaxed those restrictions by voting for an amendment that would allow funded abortions when the physical and mental health of the mother is in danger.

The House also adopted an amendment introduced by Delegate Howard P. Rawlings, D-40th that would prohibit state funds from being used to pay for insurance coverage which provides abortions for state employees. The Senate earlier rejected a similar amendment.

According to figures by the Department of Fiscal Services, 884 abortions were performed in 1979 under the state employees' medical plan by Blue Cross, Blue Shield at a total of $240,942.

Another amendment voted down by the House abortion.

Once the conference committee is selected and has resolved the issue, the House and Senate would then receive the new language for a vote. If both houses don't agree a new committee would be selected and the whole process would begin again.

(Continued on Page 2)

Loud radios after dark will bring $ fines

The familiar sight and sound of a youth strolling down the street late at night with a transistor radio blaring in his ear will soon be a lot rarer in Baltimore.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer has signed into law a city council bill banning the use of radios or other sound - producing devices in residential areas between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The law takes effect Saturday.

City residents complained to council members about the noise from the radios, tape recorders and other devices being carried around by teenagers during the early morning hours.

Persons found in violation of the radio ban could face a $100 fine for each conviction. The ban does not apply to public parks, government - owned facilities, Memorial Stadium or in the operation of public service firms.

Credit card interest rates could reach 18 cents per dollar

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

It is expected that the House of Delegates will pass a bill this week that would allow all lending institutions in the state to increase their interest rates.

The Senate bill, introduced by Jerome F. Connell, D-Anne Arundel County, would allow the interest rate to be increased to 18 percent. This will in some ways help the consumer as much as hurt him.

Banks that were not lending money or were cutting down on their credit card departments becausesthey were not making any profits based on the amount of interest they charged and what they had to pay the Federal Reserve Bank, may start lending more money.

But more money would be available for the consumer at higher interest rates which may put such a crunch on the consumer he may not be able to afford to borrow any money.

Currently on loans over $3,500 only 12 percent per year can be charged on the unpaid balance but the new legislation would permit that to increase to 18 percent.

Mike McHee, an aide to Sen. Connell, explained that the intent of the bill was to "loosen up some money in the market."

He also said that this is the maximum amount that could be charged and that the interest rates are expected to begin to drop by the summer.

An example of how the bill would affect consumers would be if a person borrowed $4,000 from a bank or other finance company and the balance of the loan is $3,600 the interest at 12 percent would be $432. If the bill is passed and the bank can charge 18 percent, the interest on the same balance of $3,600 would be $648.

Mastercharge cancels 909 card holders

The plastic money crunch has arrived in Maryland with the announcement that a major bank will cancel the Mastercharge accounts of 909 delinquent customers.

Maryland National Bank announced this week that the accounts of the 909 customers would be immediately cancelled in response to President Carter's credit tightening policies. Bank officials said another 20,000 cards held by out - of - state customers would also be immediately revoked.

Suburban Trust Co., meanwhile, announced it would stop issuing New VISA cards for at least 30 days. Senior Vice - President William Bytnar said the moratorium on new cards would be evaluated in a month to determine if it should be continued.

Citicorp, a New York bank that has attracted many Maryland credit card customers, said it was reducing the credit limit to $800 for all VISA and Mastercharge cardholders.