Gordon Kamka talks about prison progress

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Gordon Kamka embattled head of the state corrections system addressed the Maryland Conference on Social Concerns Wednesday April 2 at the Sheraton Hopkins Hotel.

Kamka expressed relief that after almost three months of confronting skeptical legislators in Annapolis he had the opportunity to speak to a crowd that shared his concern for Marylands prison system.

Richard Ullrich a member of the conference and head of the groups Corrections Committee introduced Kamka as "a long-distance runner. You know that requires a great deal of staying power and concentration."

"Id like to re-affirm my commitment" said Kamka. "To make Maryland the most cost effective and humane prison system in the country."

He described how he approached the GeneralAssembly with an eight-point program and how seven of the goals survived the session in good shape.

One of the main tenets of his program was the expansion of community corrections facilities or CARCs.

"We wanted to change the funding so that the state will provide 100 percent of the costs for these facilities. Our emphasis is that local governments should own and operate the CARCs with state support. ast year four local governments were implementing CARCs. Now we have 11."

Kamka added that he expected to have 900 CARC beds throughout the state by 1985.

He also expressed relief that the most controversial issue of the 1980 General Assembly prison construction had been resolved and outlined the sites of the new prison in East Baltimore near the Latrobe Housing Projects as well as the plans to renovate the Maryland House of Corrections and the Maryland Penitentiary.

According to Kamka the penitentiary population will be restricted to 1000 inmates and the Latrobe prison will be a minimum security prison housing 500 prisoners. Jessups House of Corrections will be revamped and two facilities holding a total of 700 beds will be constructed there.

Kamka feels that the problem of finding adequate alternatives to the constant warehousing of prisoners is one which requires "an expanded base of involvement."

One step toward that goal he said was his efforts to make the Governors Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice a committee established by statute as opposed to its current status as a commission empowered by executive order.

Kamka assuredthe crowd of 50 that the state would be able to meet the June 1 deadline for ending overcrowding in its institutions a move that would require the release of almost 6C0 prisoners.

"Short-term offenders are the primary target of our moves to decrease the prison population" he stated. He also said that parole hearings would begin shortly to determine which inmates should be released.

Another option currently under discussion he said is the possible commutation of sentences for all inmates over 55 years of age.

"Maryland traditionally has a high rate of incarceration" stated Kamka. "Something has to be done if only to end the cost and the human waste. The cost of a new maximum security prison is $70000 per bed."

He stressed the need for more concerned citizens to get involved in examining and working with the state criminal justice system. He gave a plea for more advocates in order to offset those who want to "lock in up and throw away the key."

"Until we buck that constituency I am pessimistic about any alternative solutions."

He said that the major dissapointment he suffered at the hands of the legislature was the exclusion of both a new medical package and rehabilitative programs for inmates. But he says he plans on pushing for the projects next year when the legislature reconvenes.

Feds don't want to move to B'more

A two - year policy aimed at persuading federal agencies to move back into cities hasn't done much to help Baltimore.

In 1978, President Carter said he wanted federal agencies with suburban offices to move into cities if possible.

Thus far only one federal office has moved to downtown Baltimore; the new Social Security building at Green and Mulberry Streets.

Still, city officals say they remain hopeful that some federal office will more into town.

Mark Wasserman, an aide to Mayor William Donald Schaefer, said, "The mayor is taking President Carter's policy at face value and is optimistic that the urban policy will bear fruit eventually."

Since the policy was announced, leases for at least five federal agencies in nearby suburbs have expired.

A spokesman for the General Services Administration said in each case there were mitigating factors that made the move impossible.

The lease for a Housing and Urban Development office in Columbia is to expire at the end of this year and the GSA spokesman said a review is being made to determine if that office will be moved to Baltimore.

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THE LIVING CHURCH

Gospel extravaganza draws 12,100

THE ORIGINAL CARAVANS were among the groups participating at the Sunday show. Members shown are Inez Andrews, Albertina Walker, Delores Washington Green and Cassietta George. One of their most popular songs is "Lord Keep Me Day By Day."

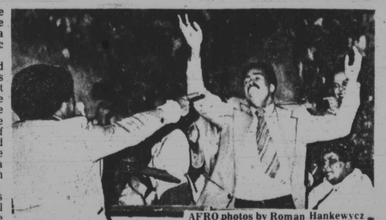
People from all walks of life were seen Sunday March 30 at the Palm Sunday extravaganza sponsored by the Olympic Development Center.

The four hour gospel show had the audience rocking in their seats patting their feet and shouting out loud "hallelujah Praise the Lord." There were 12100 people attending the show featuring the nations best crown prince of gospel the Rev. James Cleveland and the Cleveland singers ad the number one quartet in America the Mighty Clouds of Joy who won the Grammy award.

Other nationally known groups singing were the Original Caravans The Voices of Supreme from Washington; the Singing Disciples Mrs. Katie Jackson The Gospel Leaders and the Maryland Mass Choir.

Emcees were Ms. Mary Clayburn Aunt Pauline W. Lewis James Stephney Ms. Aurelia White Cal Hackett and Pastor Naomi Durant.

Gospel music is more popular today mainly because of young people and it spills over to the adults. Another gospel show is scheduled for April 7 7 p.m. at Bethel AME Church Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street. The Rev. Edna Isaac and Green Sisters will celebrate their 20th anniversary. Special guests will be the Dixie Humming Birds and the Rev. George Barry from Nassau.



AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

FEELING THE SPIRIT — When the Mighty Clouds of Joy brought the gospel to the Civic Center, it was too much for many of the onlookers. This young man was completely overcome by the spirit of the singers who filled the center with gospel music devotees.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

GOSPEL GIANTS — The Rev. James Cleveland, nationally known gospel singer, is shown with Aunt Pauline Wells Lewis, one of the emcees at the Palm Sunday extravaganza show March 30 at the Civic Center.

GILLIS USHERS — The male and female ushers and the Friendly Group of Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church were among those seen Sunday at the Civic Center. Ushers shown clapping their hands seem to be enjoying the groups singing.

550 friends salute Rev. Ernest P. Clark

HONOREE — The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest P. Clark were honored on March 21 at the Hilton Inn. The Rev. Clark has served as pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale Street and Carrollton Avenue for 12 years.

AFRO photos by Mark Gail

SPEAKER — The Rev. Dr. Quincy Cooper, director of Morgan Christian Center and friend of the Rev. Ernest P. Clark, was the speaker March 21 at a banquet honoring the Rev. Ernest Clark.

Friends, relatives, colleagues and members of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale Street and Carrollton Avenue attended a banquet honoring the Rev. Ernest P. Clark on March 21.

For 42 years, Rev. Clark has been a minister and served as pastor of Metropolitan for 12 years. His ministry at Metropolitan will end when the annual session of the Baltimore Conference is held in June and he plans to retire.

Speaking of retirement, Rev. Clark says he will continue to be active in the church and plans to work in a small church. The honoree was described by the Rev. Dr. Quincy Cooper as a man who has "committed his life to God."

Rev. Cooper, director of Morgan Christian Center was the guest speaker and among friends who extended greetings were Dr. William E. Bishop, the Rev. Roscoe C. Williams, Dr. Forrest C. Stith, Dr. Carroll A. Doggett Jr., Mrs. Eva S. Tyger, Mrs. Winifred Ashby, James Carter, Mrs. Florence Carter, Mrs. Ruth Hall, Mrs. Emma Dudley, Mrs. Janet Cox, Mrs. Susanna Watkins and the Rev. Walter Cox.

Rev. Clark has dedicated his life to the Christian ministry. From 1942 to 1943 he served in Montgomery, West Virginia. During the short period from 1943 - 1947, Rev. Clark established the Jones United Methodist Church in San Francisco, California into a strong developing congregation.

Returning to the east coast in 1947, he accepted a church in Roanoke, Va. From 1950-1955, he served the Simpson United Methodist Church. Having established a record as a good leader with strong adminstrative skill, Rev. Clark was appointed district superintendent in the Old Washington Conference on the Charleston District. Following this assignment, he went to Ames United Methodist Church, where he served from 1961-1968 and began his tenure at Metropolitan United Church.

Rev. Clark has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Relations Committee, The Board of Diaconal Ministry, Board of Trustees of N. M. Carroll Home and Advisory Committees of the Wesley Theological Seminary and the Family and Children's Society of Maryland.

Rev. and Mrs. Lantha Clark have been married 40 years and are the parents of Loraine, Donna and Ernest Jr. Their grandchildren are LaTasha and Leon Clark. Rev. Clark has shown a deep concern for people of all ages and social levels in the church and in the community.

Metro Church Briefs

The Apostolic Ministerial Alliance of Baltimore and Vicinity will sponsor services on Good Friday, April 4, 12:00 to 3 p.m. at First Apostolic Faith Church, 27 South Caroline St. Bishop W. A. Showell is pastor.

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Members of Timothy Baptist Church, 1214 Saratoga Street will celebrate their 25th anniversary April 6-11 with services being held at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Mark Reddick will be the speaker and the Rev. James L. Ball is pastor.

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The Church Ushers Association of Maryland Inc., will have its state convention April 7- 11 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 1121 Lanvale St. The Rev. Ernest Clark is pastor.

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The Chancel Ensemble of Wayland Baptist Church, 3200 Garrison Blvd., will sponsor "An Evening With Tom [illegible] Peters-son" on April 13, 4 p.m. The concert will feature a 100 voice choir.

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The Junior Matrons of Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave., will sponsor a retreat on April 11 - 13 at St. Gabriel Retreat Home. The Rev. Ellen Blackwell of Fairfax, Va., is the workshop leader and Mrs. Myrna Powell is the speaker. The Rev. Matthew R. Silver is pastor of Concord Baptist.

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The Interdenominational Women's Ministerial Alliance presents the Rev. Mrs. Eva Sapp in concert on Sunday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. The concert will be held at East Baltimore Deliverance Church, 1001 Caroline St. The Rev. Christine Phillips is pastor.

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A prayer breakfast will be held [illegible] Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive, 8 a.m. April 5. The breakfast is being sponsored by the Missionary Society of the church. Mrs. Daisy Franklin is president. Mrs. Carrie McCormick, program chairperson and the Rev. Charles M. Franklin is pastor.

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The Deaconess Board of Israel Baptist Church, Preston and Chester Streets will celebrate its second anniversary on April 13, 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Harlie W. Wilson Jr., will be the speaker. Mrs. Julia Lilly is chairman and Mrs. Roberta Phillip is program chairman.

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April is Evangelism Month at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Eiting Streets. The Rev. John Coleman is pastor and Mrs. E. Dougherty [illegible]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS who helped to plan the program shown (from L) are Clarence Davis, Mrs. Naomi Hayes and Eugene Ward, members of Metropolitan United Methodist Church.

APR