—Brailey quits caucus

Continued from page 1

"To this end, I hereby submit my resignation from the Legislative Black Caucus, effective immediately."

Brailey's move is unprecedented in this state's recent political history and confirms reports that some black lawmakers were unhappy with the direction the legislative black caucus has been heading since Senator Douglass assumed leadership for the first time in 1979.

Brailey told the AFRO that he had been weighing his decision for sometime but waited until the Assembly session ended before acting so as not to compromise any legislation vital to the black community.

He said further that he sought election as caucus chairman on April 3 "although I knew all along that Senator Douglass had the votes to have Delegate Frank Conaway, D-40th, succeed him as chairman.

"For example, Brailey stated, "He (Douglass) had the four votes from his district, three votes from Sen. Tommie Broadwater's district, two from Sen. Blount's district, one from the 38th District and Delegate Conaway himself."

Brailey said he knew this before the caucus chairman election but "would not get out of the race and let Delegate Conaway take the chairmanship by default."

In seeking the post, Brailey said further, he wanted a clear line drawn between a leadership that was "people oriented" as compared with one that is "pro-business."

Conaway, a wealthy insurance company executive, was elected new caucus chairman on April 13. He will take over on July 1 for Douglass, also an affluent businessman, head of an electronics firm and publisher of a regional magazine which is published monthly.

Brailey, alone among black legislators, opposed the bill that would have raised credit interest rates. Defeated on first hearing, the bill became law toward the close of the session when black legislators provided the votes needed for passage.

In a letter to the governor dated April 4, Brailey said "Senate Bill 92 which passed the House recently, raising the interest rate to 18 percent on a permanent basis will hurt the working poor, especially black the most.

"They have to depend on credit to live from one week to the next. Furthermore many of them are already suffering because of job lay - offs. Still expect to be laid off.

"I am afraid these people will lose everything they have. To this end I respectfully urge that you veto Senate Bill 92."

The credit rate hike will become law on July 1 . . . now that the House has also voted approval.

Black lawmakers in both the House and Senate, save Brailey, voted unanimously for the bill.

Brailey, a long-time civil rights and labor activist, also decried the refusal of his fellow lawmakers to take firm stands on the issue of rent control, racial discrimination within the state police force, the complaint of Ralph Hughes, a black employee with the Department of Legislative Reference who charged that agency with bias in its personnel and promotion practices.

Brailey also criticized some of his co-legislators for having "ties too close to Mayor Schaefer for the black community's own good."

"I have championed the cause of the working poor and those on fixed incomes, he said further.

"I am not anti-business by any means. I am just pro consumer. Someone must represent the people, especially the poor and blacks."

Brailey said he felt strongly that the black caucus had to be the chief advocate in Annapolis for the black community. "Our people do not have lobbyists walking the hall of the State House lobbying in their behalf. The Caucus should look out for them.

"Most businessmen, black and white alike, are in business to make a profit, not to help poor people."

The caucus leadership was singled out for Brailey's ire on the recent city bond issues controversy.

Several months ago, Baltimore city black legislators had devised a strategy whereby they would work against city bond issues being pushed by Mayor Schaefer in the General Assembly unless Schaefer agreed to appoint more blacks to city boards and commissions and to accelerate the number of municipal contracts awarded to minority businesses.

After meeting with Schaefer at a subsequent meeting, with Sen. Douglass as chief spokesman for the black caucus, the caucus backed down on its demands.

Several days later Sen. Douglass received a city backed loan on an economic project in which he was involved. The propriety of this loan was questioned by some legislators, daily media and the AFRO-AMERICAN as well.

Brailey's sentiments echoed those by other black lawmakers who have complained that Douglass, as chairman does not consult with the caucus and goes ahead and makes deals which may or may not reflect the real interests of the black community.

"Bob says he does not discuss these deals with the caucus as the details may get out," said Brailey when asked by the AFRO why some legislators are left in the dark on some of the outgoing chairman's negotiations.

He contrasted Douglass' secretive style with that of former Delegate Lloyal Randolph who early on served as caucus chairman.

"Randolph would lay it all out for all caucus members. All things considered he was an effective chairman."

Asked for his reaction to Brailey's split with the caucus, incoming chairman Frank Conway said:

"I did not know about Brailey's resignation. I have no comment on it at this point.

"I did not think the caucus should have backed off of the 25 percent set aside program if there weren't any concessions," he said referring to the city bond controversy.

Conaway did not know the status of the 25 percent program being developed by City Solicitor Ben Brown.

Conaway also stated that the AFRO has a copy of the letter he sent to the mayor concerning Ja-Wan McGee and that he would personally be involved in the matter.

When asked if the caucus was involved he said, "I don't know but when I become chairman July 1, I know they will. But that's a little ways down the road."

When asked if he can anticipate other resignations, Conaway said "yes" but when asked why, he said "I think it's obvious."

Outgoing caucus Robert Douglass told the AFRO:

"I have not received a letter from Troy and if I have, I have not seen it yet.

"His resignation surprises me. He has not discussed with me — not that he has to — any problems that he has.

"The caucus is a voluntary group. We feel our collective strength is better than our individual support of those things that affect the black community.

"Let me say unequivocally that there was no deal with the mayor or the city administration as far as the city bonds are concerned.

"My city councilman, (Clarence "Du" Burns) is vice-president of the council and he can work with the administration to get something for East Baltimore."

About Ja-Wan McGee, Douglass said "I would say to the caucus not to get involved. I don't see where we can do any good. That's the problem. People think the caucus should be all things to all people but we can't do that, not without a staff.

"It doesn't take a delegate or a senator to deal with the police commissioner. The city council can do that."

Delegate Walter Dean, who voted for Brailey as chairman said:

"I understand it perfectly. (Brailey's resignation) It's hard to maintain membership in the caucus. A couple of us are discussing and evaluating the caucus or the so-called caucus.

When asked by the AFRO if he would resign, Dean said, "I don't know. I'm evaluating the caucus now. Among the individual black legislators there will be no change that I can see if the caucus breaks up.

About the Ralph Hughes case he said "No one in the caucus has been involved in his case at least not openly. But Ralph Hughes told me and others not to get involved because he was working on some things and did not want us to intervene at this time.

—$65,000 insult

(Continued from page 1)

Following the trial Thursday, Holly told the AFRO, "I feel vindicated and thank God it is over. Everyone thought we did not have a snowball chance in hell but I believed in this case from the beginning and Marvin Ellin believed in the case.

"Unless it happens to you, it is difficult for someone to understand. The issue is was Johnny Walker right in what he did, and I say no."

Holly's contract with WMAR-TV was canceled by the station because ratings fell and the station reorganized the news department in 1979. He is now unemployed and said he will continue to look for a job. If the right job comes along he said he will stay in Baltimore.

His attorney Ellin, told the AFRO the jury represented a cross section. "We had seven black and five white citizens ranging from their early twenties to their middle sixties. We had a mixture of men and women and there can be no suggestion that this case was decided along racial lines.

"Dennis Holly deserved to win and the jury concluded that his suit was justified."

Theodore Sherbow, attorney for Walker and WFBR said he will file a motion for a new trial. Before coming to Baltimore with WMAR-TV, Ellin stated Holly worked at a television station in Pittsburgh that was one of the 10 largest stations in the country. "This man has dignity, I respect him for it," Ellin told the jury.

Last week Holly took the witness stand and told the jurors he in jured his knee during a Santa Claus anonymous benefit football game in November 1978. He was recuperating from a several ligaments when the remark was made on the radio.

Holly testified, "I had a great deal of concern that someone would take what was said seriously. I was also concerned about being a black professional and being in the public eye."

In Sherbow's closing argument to the jury Thursday, he said, "Mr. Walker makes a living out of being a comedian. He is a morning disc jockey. Every person who testified in this case said it was funny. There is not one shred of evidence in this case which indicates that Johnny Walker was thinking about race.

WFBR General Manager Harry Shriver said the decision is "difficult to believe. We seem to be less able to laugh at ourselves at a time in our national history when we need to laugh at ourselves. This case will have an affect on all the sense of humor on television and radio."

—Bank

(Continued from page 1)

Gibbs told Corbley it was bad judgment on his part to issue the bank charter at the time the bill was under consideration because of the assumptions that could be drawn, but denied any unethical coconduct, the licensing secretary said.

"This man is an absolute gentleman, so straightforward and honest," said Corbley. "I'm sure in his mind he never saw that it could be interpreted as being connected."

Corbley also stated that "only a person with his degree of integrity" would resign after an investigation showed no wrongdoing.

Md. Lottery

The winning numbers in the Maryland lottery at Wednesday's drawing were as follows: six digit, 933191; five digit, 76356; four digit, 2857; three digit, 912, and two digit, 95

—Kennedy here

(Continued from page 1)

Hit particularly hard was Carter's handling of the country's spiraling inflation which Kennedy compared to "a shell game," now you see it, now you don't.

Escorted throughout the day by feisty Barbara A. Mikulski, 3rd District congresswoman, Kennedy drew particular cheers from her when he reminded the audience that America had been created by "founding mothers as well as founding fathers."

All in all, Kennedy's breakneck whirl through Baltimore was a matter of clear need to replenish drastically low campaign coffers as well as inspire the faithful to push for a win in Maryland which he needs badly, if the cumulative effect of this, and other approaching primaries, is to keep him within a long shot of wrestling the nomination from the president.

Kennedy's best hopes rest now on going into a splintered New York Democratic Convention four months hence and preventing a Carter first ballot sweep.

Ms. Mikulski insisted that the "Big M is for momentum. We are going to win in Maryland. Things are going well for Kennedy. Give us hope, give us help, give us Kennedy," she predicted.

Among the handful of blacks present were Councilman Kweisi Mfume, D-6th, and Nathan Irby, D-2nd.

Wednesday's AFRO coverage brought about another skirmish with the Secret Service over proper credentials, something that seems to happen each time a major national politician comes to town.

Library celebrates anniversary

The Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Road, Hyattsville Md., will celebrate its 10th anniversary with day long festivities beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 12.

The library has a staff of 18, headed by branch librarian, Carolyn Estridge, and a book collection totaling 85,000 volumes. The celebration will be highlighted by gathering in the Tugweil room of the facility, lasting throughout the day, a star trek episode at 10 a.m., and an 11 a.m. puppet show. Short films will be shown in the miniature theatre at 12 noon, storytelling will be held at 1 p.m., at 2-4 p.m. refreshments will be served by the Greenbelt Women's club and at 3:30 p.m. drawing for door prizes will be held.

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Former official charges racism, mismanagement in markets

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

A former assistant superintendent of city markets, fired after only six months on the job, charged his ex-boss with racism, sloppy management and favoritism toward certain merchants.

Charles Cotel, who likened his tenure in the market system to working "in a Nazi cell under Ku Klux Klan guidelines," says problems in city-managed markets begin with the superintendent, Clemens A. "Art" Tittel.

"Tittel is incompetent. He just isn't qualified," Cotel told the AFRO, Thursday, April 10. He aired similar opinions at a public City Council hearing investigating charges of mismanagement at the markets held Wednesday, April 9.

Cotel's occasionally strident testimony before the committee evoked "boos" and applause from the spectators, some of whom spoke in praise of the job Tittel has done since he assumed his position in 1973.

One instance of discrimination occurred in Belair Market, Cotel said. Thousands of dollars of city money were spent to renovate an area rented to a white merchant who never occupied the space although he had signed a lease.

In the same market, a black merchant spent thousands of his own funds to fix up his stalls, Cotel said.

In another instance, Cotel said a black employee at Northeast Market who suffers from asthma complained about chest pains. The market manager allowed the worker to go to the hospital but would not provide transportation. The employee walked to the hospital.

Cotel testified that he wanted to put a letter of reprimand in the market master's folder but Tittel told him it was not necessary.

Cotel cited another example of what he called "bigotry" in markets. Of the four market masters, all of whom appointed since Tittel took over, are "100 percent male, white and of Germanic descent," Cotel said.

"This isn't 1920 or 1930. Out of the city population which is 60 percent black, they couldn't find one black person to be a market manager?" he said.

Cotel also lambasted city Comptroller Hyman Pressman, who ultimately has control over the markets.

Calling Pressman a "two-bit bureaucrat," Cotel questioned his authority to both approve expenditures for markets and audit their books.

"The markets have no right to be under the supervision of the comptroller. He is saddled with an inherent conflict of responsibility and interest," Cotel said.

A resolution drafted by 6th District Councilman William A. Myers calls for the creation of a seven-member commission with authority to process leases and appoint a superintendent of markets.

Cotel also questioned Pressman's apparent ignorance of a $1 million cost over-run in Belair Market.

"Why did the cost over-run have to come out in the papers? Where was 'The Watchdog'? We have a watchdog responsive to the name of Rip Van Winkle," Cotel said, referring to Pressman's nickname as watchdog of city finances.

Several other merchants from city markets testified about conditions and their dealings with Tittel. Some praised the supervision of the comptroller. He is also the city's harbormaster, and some complained that he gives particular merchants preferential treatment.

Second District Councilman Nathan Irby Jr. sharply questioned reported instances of favoritism and condemned it, saying, "Granting special favors fosters a climate where more is done for one merchant than others. If you are going to apply policy then apply it evenly across the board."

And although some merchants who testified commended Tittel's performance, they also voiced complaints about trash collection, rodent infestation and market policy.

The third and final Council meeting investigating management at city markets is scheduled for April 23, at 7 p.m. in council chambers. Persons interested in testifying should call 396-4804.

Regional platform committee meets here

Eastern Dems want foreign policy as key November vote issue

Democrats from across the country converged on Baltimore Thursday and indicated they want foreign policy to be a key part of the Democratic platform in November.

The eastern regional hearing of the 1980 Democratic Platform Committee was dominated by testimony on how the U.S. has met foreign policy challenges since 1976 and what it should do in the next four years.

But dozens of individuals and groups also testified about such issues as opposition to nuclear power, federal aid to cities and states, abortion and the rights of the disabled and homosexuals.

Sam Huntinton, a Harvard University professor, credited President Carter with building a foundation for improved relations with other nations in the face of numerous problems and said those efforts must continue.

"An array of foreign policy challenges faced the Carter administration when it took office," he said. "The overall pattern of relations had deteriorated significantly over the previous decade."

Huntington said Carter eased world tensions by negotiating the Panama Canal Treaty, normalizing relations with China, reaching agreement on the Salt II Treaty and signing trade agreements with developing nations.

He and White House spokesman David Aaron credited Carter with reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil and encouraging nations to give greater consideration to human rights.

He said Democrats must demand a stronger military to check the Soviets, stabilize the Persian Gulf, solve the Palestinian autonnomy problem and make the U.S. economy more competitive with those of its allies.

Representatives of both sides in the Arab - Israeli dispute sought party support of efforts to achieve peace in the mideast.

Morris Amitay, of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, urged the party to renew its 1976 commitment to support Israel, while James Sands, of the National Association of Arab Americans, and others pushed for recognition of the rights of Palestinians.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young chaired the hearing, which was attended by such Maryland Democrats as Gov. Harry Hughes, State Party Chairwoman Rosalie Abrams and Comptroller Louis Goldstein, a platform committee member.

Hughes said he thought the platform's will focus on, "The issues that are on everybody's mind — energy and inflation."

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