—Where is the $½ million?

Continued from page 1

Mrs. Blair told the court, "I thought my attorney and Mr. Queen had come to an agreement when I came to court this morning. I know they have talked."

The AFRO learned there was not any plea bargaining because Mrs. Blair refused to cooperate with the government and refused to tell prosecutors where the money is.

Queen described Mrs. Blair as "the central figure" in a complicated conspiracy case involving knowledge of the Social Security computer check issuing system.

In earlier trials, Mrs. Blair's accomplices, Ms. Stella M. Abrams, 31, of Philadelphia and Malcolm Blair, her 29-year-old brother-in-law pleaded guilty to conspiracy and each faces five years in prison. Blair is now contined to a federal prison on unrelated charges.

Mrs. Blair told the court she attended Strayers Business School for one year and A and T College in Greensboro, N. C., for a year.

Prosecutor Queen told the court that Mrs. Blair manipulated a computer to steal $500,000 in a year's time. Queen explained to the judge her role in the swindle.

He produced enlarged copies of checks and other identification cards used in the scheme to cash the fraudulent checks in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Queen told the court the conspiracy headed by Mrs. Blair began Jan. 1, 1978 and ended on Nov. 30, 1979.

He said Mrs. Blair would invent fictitious people to receive checks and she had access to blank Social Security forms. The defendants would get identification cards in names other than their own.

With the fake indentification, they would open bank accounts in assumed names. The assumed names and addresses were transmitted to Mrs. Blair and she would select a Social Security account number and then put the fake names into the computer system.

Mrs. Blair would then cause the Social Security system computer at Woodlawn to receive the fictitious data by submitting to it forms containing the information. Since the Social Security administration computer system operates on the basis of the Social Security account numbers and not beneficiary names, the computer failed to detect the fictitious payees.

While explaining how the scheme was operated, Mrs. Blair took notes on a yellow legal pad and would often whisper to her attorney.

Queen further told the court the defendant's home in the 900 block Rosedale St., was searched last year by Secret Service Agents, who found several drivers licenses and Social Security passes with her picture but with different names.

Mrs. Blair would often use the name "Jackie Hall" and had rented an apartment in Washington where several checks were sent.

The prosecutor told Judge Blair, "There were no signs of the apartment ever being used except for checks being sent to the address."

The defendant was also known as "Shirley Mingle." While working at Social Security, Queen stated that Mrs. Blair reported that she was single. However, it was not known until she was indicted that she was married.

The AFRO has learned that Mrs. Blair's husband is serving two consecutive life sentences in California for killing his lawyer and his lawyer's wife nearly two years ago.

Queen also mentioned the name Ronald Skipworth to the court on Tuesday while explaining the scheme. Skipworth was involved in the conspiracy but was not charged because he was killed several days before the Secret Service agents approached Ms. Abrams about her involvement.

The government is still investigating the case. The Secret Service spent 18 months trying to trace the stolen money through false disability claims and called the theft scheme "very sophisticated."

The court was told on March 30, 1978 Mrs. Blair's co-defendant Ms. Abrams, posing as Ms. Shirley A. Singleton, withdrew $9,000 in cash from a bank using the proceeds to purchase $4,000 in travelers checks.

The real Ms. Singleton filed a police report in Philadelphia in 1978 indicating her purse and personal papers had been stolen.

Federal investigators told the AFRO that Mrs. Blair's guilty plea does not end the case. They still intend to track down the small fortune in pilfered government money.

The mysterious slaying of Skipworth just before he went to be questioned regarding this case and a possible second murder of a principal in this case are still being probed.

Mrs. Blair is now in City Jail on $75,000 bail. Bail had originally been set at $100,000 and she continues her silence.

—UNCF telethon

Continued from page 1

These Marylanders represent a cross section of business, legal, industry, labor, education, medical, government, and civic leadership in the Maryland community.

Citizens throughout the metropolitan community will also host commercial and residential viewing parties, where guests will make tax-deductible contributions to aid UNCF schools.

Members of the Citizens Steering Committee are adding their efforts to those of WMAR-TV, the UNCF Regional Office, and the Budweiser Brewing Company to stage the telethon.

Mesdames Laura Knight and Hazel Parks are co-chairpersons of the citizens committee, which also includes:

Mesdames Thelma Daley, Eleanor P. Howard, Frances West, Thelma P. Cox, Jewell M. Marsan, Idell S. Pugh, Rislyn Smith, Virginia S. Draper, JoAnn Williams, Mildred Williams, Ruth Daniels, Alice Sue Lee, and Martha Allen.

Also Ms. Karen Spencer, UNCF area director; Tea Montier; Charles Caldwell, Alvin M. Parks, James Tull, and George W. Collins.

Christopher F. Edley, UNCF executive director, said that the telethon is a new and effective way to raise funds for schools that are filling a special need.

"This year, some 50,000 students, many of them economically or educationally disadvantaged, are enrolled in UNCF colleges and universities. Money raised by the telethon helps keep tuition low," Edley explained.

UNCF schools cannot raise their tuitions to meet the pressures of inflation, according to Edley, but funds raised through the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars," is one way to keep the private, predominantly black schools alive in the financially troubled 80s.

"The television special will give people in hundreds of communities the opportunity to show their support for the United Negro College Fund," Edley pointed out, adding:

"President Carter, an honorary chairman of UNCF, has endorsed the agency as 'uniquely committed to the best interests of our nation as a whole because it has the broadbased benefit to influence the future of our nation!'"

Both Gov. Harry R. Hughes and Mayor William Donald Schaefer have issued proclamations designating Saturday, May 31, as "United Negro College Fund Day" in Baltimore and Maryland.

CONGRATULATE
/THE GRADUATE
See Page 23

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For your father to be eligible this coupon must be enclosed with your letter of entry

—Dad-of-year

Continued from page 1

In today's America, the definition of a father can be nebulous. Perhaps the following acrostic can shed some light and give you some insight on what to include in your entry letter.

A Father
F - FUNCTIONS in a paternal capacity
A - ACTUALLY sires his child

T - TAKES in a foster child and gives him parental care
H - HUSBAND to the mother whose child is from a previous marriage
E - EVEN a brother, uncle, grandfather, cousin or friend who serves as a father figure.
R - REARING a child as his own through legal means

Deadline date is June 10. Awards will be made on June 14.

So hurry. Get your entry letter in, along with the AFRO Father of the Year COUPON found in each issue of the AFRO. Make your father a winner.

—Motorists

Continued from page 1

"Both Montague and I were able to back away from the group, and Montague managed to get into the car. We saw that they had Wyche on the ground, and he was getting the worst of it. I shouted at Montague to back the car up into the group of them, and when he did that, I got in and Wyche was able to jump into the back seat."

He added that one of the youths shattered the back window of his car with a baseball bat.

According to Dennis Hill, police have the names of several suspects, but at AFRO prestime no arrests had been made.

3 black doctors considered for commission

A Baltimore legislator has proposed that three black physicians be considered to fill one of two vacant spots on the Maryland Commission for Medical Discipline.

Delegate Frank Conaway, D-Baltimore, asked the state health secretary to name Dr. Emerson Walden, Dr. Bernard Harris or Dr. William Russell, all of Baltimore, to fill a vacancy at the end of June.

The seat is now held by Dr. Jerome Colier of Pikesville. It is one of two seats by law that Health Secretary Charles Buck is allowed to fill. The other seven seats are filled by the State Medical Society.

A black doctor has never served on the commission, which disciplines incompetent and unprofessional physicians.

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—Hughes signs credit bill

Continued from page 1

Sklar questioned the wording of the bill in addition to explaining in detail to the governor the somewhat dubious history of the bill in the House of Delegates, saying, "it's unfortunate that the banking commissioner took part in the controversy".

Days after the bill passed, the banking commissioner, W.H. Holden Gibbs resigned, when there was some indication that a deal had been made between him and several black legislators to ensure a black bank, Harbor National Bank.

In his testimony Sklar advised the governor that the banking commission had failed to commply with the House and attorney general's request to "justify" the ned for a rate increase.

SB 92, was termed a "permanent solution to a temporary crisis that no longer exist" by Sklar. He further stated that if the bill is signed, banks will have a permanent windfall from a temporary situation."

Senator Jerome Connel Sr. the prime sponsor for the bill was the first speaker urging Hughes to sign the bill, terming the bill a "needed and anyone with any sense will know it". Connell repeated several times that he wished he was still in the House so he could have debated the issue, explaining that the interest increase would allow small business people to borrow money, thus easing unemployment.

William Weaver, of Maryland Bankers Association, testified that unless the interest rate is increased banks will be unable to make consumer loans. The present rate is 12 percent, causing banks to only make loans to very favored customers.

"This bill does one thing, it permits the residents of Maryland to borrow money", ended Weaver as he urged the governor to sign the bill.

Another proponent was Ned McNeal, of the Retail Merchants Association McNeal testified that with increased break rate of $700 the maximum increase it could cost credit card holders would be $12 more per year.

Sen. Connell may have sited a key issue when he told the governor "there is no opposition in the general public because it makes good sense".

That must have been the prevailing mood, since there was no notice of public outcry proir to the veto hearing or at the hearing itself.

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PENN IS FOR THE PEOPLE!

Rent court, Tuesday, May 27, 10:30 a.m.

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

About 20 to 30 people sat in the long wooden seats of Rent Court, located in the Municipal Court Building on Gay and Fayette Streets.

Although all had been requested to appear at 9 a.m. it was now 10:30 and most had sat through the series of trials since early morning.

The current case involved an old, greying man with glasses who, according to his landlord, a skinny, small guy with a large red, white and blue shirt on, had not paid his rent in full since he moved into the apartment in early October.

"I told him he could move in and pay me when he got things straightened out, until he got his social services checks," said the landlord. He then produced a partial list of rent stubs which showed that the man had only paid portions of his rent sporadically.

"But," said the tenant's lawyer, a young, chubby Italian with dark hair, "you never really told him when rent payments would begin."

Judge Richard Motsay looked down at the lawyer incredulously.

"Do you really think that this man met him on a street and just said, "Hey, I have a vacant apartment, you can come live with me'?"

The audience tittered, and the landlord turned around and nodded his head with a wry grin.

The lawyer then said that it was the landlord's responsibility to provide the tenant with an orderly bookkeeping system under Maryland law, so his tenant should not have to pay rent.

The landlord look at the lawyer in amazement.

Then the lawyer produced a housing inspector, who began to read off a list of violations he had found in the apartment in question.

The landlord then pulled at a sheaf of gas and electric bills which totalled over $1,000, and said that the tenant had refused to pay those bills also.

Motsay shook his finger in the tenant's face, and told him he doubted if "you'll ever get any gas or electric again in this city."

The tenant's lawyer then asked if there is anyway the city could help his client, and Motsay referred him to Jim David, a housing official.

"Who knows," said Motsay sarcastically, as the lawyer, the tenant and the landlord all shifted around and looked ill-at-ease, "maybe he can find you an ivory tower, with vines trailing up the sides of the wall!"

He then ordered the tenant to leave the building, and advised the landlord to shut down his property. The landlord assented.

Even before the small group could move away from the railing facing Motsay, a court clerk had stood and announced the next case.

"1400 West Lombard St!" she boomed.

A housing inspector approached the bench, and found that he was the only participant in the case who had bothered to appear. The case was postponed.

All were asked to rise and a 15 - minute break was announced.

Outside the courtroom, the voices of a landlord and a tenant were raised in argument.

"Well look, just pay me my money," said the landlord, a short, beer-bellied white man with thinning hair, "and I'll fix the place up."

But his tenant didn't trust him. "Why don't you just give me the money, and let me buy what I need to repair the place."

In another corner, the guy who had earlier stood trial for not paying his rent huddled with his lawyer and a woman, and all three glowered at the man's landlord as he rushed angrily by.

They all muttered about him as he went out of the door.

Democratic delegate selection explained

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Saturday, June 7, state Democrats will go to the polls to elect their delegates to the party's national convention, scheduled for late summer.

This year marks the initial tests of a new delegate selection process which, according to the Democratic State Central Committee, will be much more streamlined than the old system of having voters select their delegates on the same day as the state primaries.

The new voting procedure uses the vote count of the May 13 elections as the basis for determining how many delegates each of the Democratic presidential aspirants are entitled to.

For example, if a candidate pulls 20 percent of a district's vote, that candidate will receive 20 percent of that district's delegates.

As each Democrat shows up at one of the eight polling places, he will be asked to state which of the Democratic presidential candidate's delegates or alternates he will be voting for.

The delegates are selected on the basis of the number of votes they receive from the caucus balloting, and are apportioned according to the vote tallies from the May 13 election.

Each of the eight Congressional districts is alloted five delegates; except the First, which has four, and the Seventh and Eight, which are both allowed six.

There are also 30 alternate seats up for grabs.

Second district delegates will vote at Loch Raven Junior High School, located at 8101 La Salle Road. Third district voters will cast their ballots at Notre Dame College, located on Charles Street and Homeland Avenue.

Democrats from the Sixth district are required to vote at Dunbar Senior High School, in the 1400 block Orleans Street.

Polls open at 2 p.m. and wil remain open to 10:30 p.m. For further information, call the Democratic State Central Committee at 366-4600.

All of the candidates are not established political figures. Two of the newest faces in the political arena, Dr. Gwen Cooke and Leonard Jackson, are also seeking seats at the convention. Dr. Cooke is an administrator with the Baltimore City school system. She is one of the few black women running for a seat and is seeking election as a Carter delegate.

"There had better be room in politics for a sensitive woman," she says, "one who is independent of the system and aware of her civil rights."

The Chapman, Ala. native says that women have to face special problems when entering the field of politics as a candidate.

"Some women can't perceive themselves as being in the limelight," she admitted. Some women are super-sensitive to the point where they can't take the criticism that comes with the process. Also politics is a luxury, especially for women. "It's so time-consuming."

She adds that one of the main problems the black community faces is the gulf between blacks on the lower rung of the socio-economic ladder and those who have managed to be upwardly mobile.

"Middle-class blacks just have to remember what it was like when they were poor. That experience is different for each of us. I made it one way, but there may be other ways it can be done."

Leonard Jackson, past president of the Morgan State College Alumini Association, is also seeking a seat, but he is running as a Kennedy delegate.

He says that President Carter has "betrayed black people."

Although Jackson has served as co-coordinator of the successful House of Delegates campaign of Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings two years ago, this is his first effort as a candidate. He is quick to stress his independence, and feels that the black community is fed up with traditional political leadership.

"We need a new type of politics instead of the established political games which include only a handful of people. The old-line politicians are more interested in making deals than in solving problems," said the 37-year-old candidate.

Well-known local black politicians who are running include State Senators Clarence Blount, D-41, Robert Douglass, D-45 and Verda Welcome, D-40. Nathaniel MacFadden, Eastside Democratic Organization political strategist, and Westside community activist Agnes Welch are also in the race.

All of the above are Carter delegates, while City Councilman Kweisi Mfume is seeking a slot as a Kenedy delegate, and Edmondson Village community worker Marguerite Campbell is running as an uncommitted delegate.

Calendar of Events

Folk guitarist Michael Hedges will present concert to the public on Monday, June 2, at War Memorial Plaza. The concert is scheduled for noon and is free and open to the public.

The concert is sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Special Projects. For more information, please call 396-4891.

The Port City Jazz Ensemble will give an outdoor performance of jazz music on Thursday, June 5, in War Memorial Plaza. The public is invited to this noontime concert free of charge.

For more information on this concert, please call the Mayor's Office of Special Projects at 396-4891.

Baltimore County Public Schools will close for the summer at the end of the day, Thursday, June 12. The last day for teachers will be Friday, June 13.

Schools reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1980 following Labor Day. Teachers will report for their first day of work following the summer vacation on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 1980.

Mail stolen

Thieves stole and undetermined number of Social Security checks from a mail truck Tuesday, police said.

Police said the thieves reached in the truck parked in midtown Baltimore about 10 a.m. and took five sacks of mail. There was no immediate word on how many checks were taken, but officials said those people affected live in the Bolton Hill and West North Avenue areas of the city.

Police said they have no suspects.

There's Good News IN The AFRO
Silver Dollar Saturday

Win $25, $15 or $10 prizes in morning or afternoon contests at Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Center, Saturday, June 7.
After Silver Dollar Saturday, you're going to be a little richer. We'll pay you over a dollar for every five pounds of all-aluminum cans you bring to this recycling center. And, if your collection is one of the three biggest either in the morning or afternoon contest, you'll win $25, $15 or $10.
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Just be sure it's clean with no other materials attached to it. Cut long pieces into 3 foot lengths or less, and keep separated from the cans. Call for details.
Commercial accounts welcome, but not eligible for prizes.
Reynolds Aluminum Baltimore Recycling Center locations and contests are as follows:
Morning Contest
Reynolds Aluminum Baltimore #1 Recycling Center at Memorial Stadium 1000 E. 33rd Street Tuesday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Afternoon Contest
Reynolds Aluminum Baltimore #2 Recycling Center at K Mart Shopping Center 200 North Point Blvd. Tuesday - Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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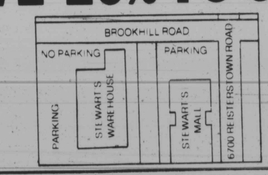

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