Prison gets 90-day extension

A federal judge Friday gave state officials an extra 90 days to reduce overcrowding at two prisons but threatened to personally order the release of inmates if the new deadline is not met.

U.S. District Judge Alexander Harvey II ruled that the new deadline of Sept. 1 was final and that "no further extensions will be granted, absent an intervening event or events of an extraordinary nature."

"If the goals establish by the court's decrees cannot be reached by Sept. 1, 1980, the time will have come for this court itself to take the drastic action of ordering the release of state prisoners to reduce the overcrowded conditions of the Maryland house of corrections and the penitentiary," Harvey said in his 13-page opinion.

State corrections officials had sought a 10½-month extension of the June 1 deadline to end the practice of housing two prisoners in cells designed for a single inmate at the two prisons.

Attorney General Stephen Sachs said he was pleased that Harvey had extended the deadline but expressed disappointment the state's full request for an April 15, 1981, deadline had not been granted.

"On the one hand we are disappointed that our entire request for a 10-month extension was not granted and that we are now operating against the much shorter deadline of Sept. 1, 1980," Sachs said.

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"On the other hand we are pleased at Judge Harvey's recognition that more time is ncessary and, especially, his recognition of the progress that the Maryland had made towards reducint its unconstitutional doublecelling in recent months."

Sachs said he may appeal the order if it appears the state would not be able to meet the deadline. But he noted that corrections officials are only 278 prisoners short of their goal of meeting the court-ordered levels at both prisons.

That number will be reduced by 128 in August when an emergency housing unit opens at the Maryland correctional institution in Hagerstown, Sachs said.

Gov. Harry Hughes said he appreciated the extension but added: "I am disappointed that the court court could not grant us the additional time that we had requested, but I assure the court adn the public that the state will continue its efforts to meet the constitutional standards established by the court in a manner consistent with the public safety.

"We cannot say with certainty at this time that we can meet the court-imposed standards within the 90 additional days that have been granted," he said.

However, the attorney general's office and our corrections officials will be reviewing the situation and will advise me as to our best course of action within the next month," Hughes said.

Harvey observed that "Maryland officials have been making a good-faith effort to comply with this court's decrees, although on hindsight it is apparent that they have not been as imaginative or resourceful in their approach to the prison overcrowding pro lem as they might have been."

The judge acknowledged that corrections officials had made progress by setting up a special task force to identify prisoners who could be granted early release.

The judge concluded that the forced release of a large number of prisoners would be more harmful than extneing the deadline for compliance with his order.

Harvey and the late Judge C. Staley Blair ordered the state in 1978 to reduce overcrowding at the two prisons. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals modified the orders and set a limit of 1,294 prisoners at the House of Correction in Jessup and 1,003 a the penitentiary in Baltimore.

By Monday the House of Correction will have met the goal but the penitentiary will have 278 extra inmates, Sachs said.

Sachs said it is important for Maryland "to get rid of this cancer once and for all" because of the costly litigation involved in defending an "unjustifiable" condition.

The state has paid more than $100,000 in legal fees to attorneys representing the inmates who brought the two overcrowding lawsuits, Sachs said.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

HONORED — Hiram Ammoms, art teacher at Frederick Douglass High School, recently received two awards: one from the faculty, staff and students at the school and the other from the Maryland State Senate, for his contribution of teaching art. Ammoms, who has been at Douglass for three years, said the school's students have won 22 first, second and national awards, more than any other school in the city.

Figinski files another suit

City Supreme Bench Judge Albert Figinski, the first Baltimore judge since 1970 to lose his seat in a primary, has filed a lawsuit asking that the city Board of Elections be required to count absentee ballots delivered after the polls closed May 13.

Figinski lost **a chance** to get the **fifth slot on the** Republican **ballot in the** November general election, when voters will elect five city judges. He lost to attorney **William** Murphy Jr. **in the GOP** Primary by **13 votes and** by a much **larger margin** in the **Democratic Primary.**

In his lawsuit, Figinski **said a large** number of **absentee** ballots were **postmarked** before the polls closed at 8 p.m.

Who's on first?

Eddie Murray is city school's special assistant

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

For the past two months School Superintendent John Crew has been working with a new assistant on a special project.

The new assistant is Eddie Murray, first baseman for the Baltimore Orioles and the project is a and answer session with several fifth and sixth graders in the city's elementary schools.

Murray's position as honorary special assistant to the superintendent at a grand salary of $1 per year was approved by the Board of School Commissioners at a meeting in April.

During the visits to nine elementary schools, Murray, a native of Los Angeles, Calif. who has been with the Orioles since 1973, talked with students about his career and nowthey should prepare for their own.

"You don't have to be a baseball player to be good," he told the students at Edgewood Elementary School recently. "Whatever it is you decide to be, be the best at it."

Students asked such interesting questions as "What sign are you?" "Are you married?" "Who is your favorite player on the Orioles?" "How much do you make?" "Who decides what schools will be closed?" and "If the city spends millions of dollars on schools why does everyone saystudents aren't getting a good education?"

Following the question and answer session Murray took time out to hand out signed pictures, autographbaseballs and gloves and have his picturesnapped with some of his fans.

"I feel good if I can help somebody," said Murray. "I'd like to help these kids think positive."

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Baltimore native is West Point grad

2nd Lt. Karl Grace

Karl F. Grace, son of Pearl and Andrew Grace, master Sergeant retired, recently graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Grace, a second lieutenant, is a 1976 graduate of Northwestern High School and was appointed to the academy by Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-7th.

He specialized in armor at the academy and will spend three weeks at Fort Benning, Ga. before a six-month tour of duty at Fort Knox, Ky. After [illegible] tour, he will [illegible]

[illegible] of the 2300 block Longwood St. [illegible] West Point [illegible] commencement exercises.

Other Marylanders graduating with the class of 1980 include Darryl Dennis of Baltimore; [illegible] Al [illegible], Carol Barkalow, [illegible] Collins and [illegible]

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EEOC charges IBM with bias

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Tuesday charged IBM, the nation's eighth largest company, with racial discrimination in its employment practices at four data processing facilities in Maryland.

The EEOC took the action in a class action suit filed in a U.S. District Court at Baltimore.

It alleged International Business Machine Corp. failed to promote or consider black employees for vacancies in professional or managerial positions and with maintaining an employee evaluation practice which suppressed the promotional opportunities of black employees.

The EEOC specifically cites IBM facilities in Baltimore, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Hagerstown, Md.

The agency said its investigation showed black professionals with IBM were "locked in at certain levels in the firm's grade structure."

"White professionals, in relation to their black co-workers, earned higher wages and received promotions faster," the EEOC announcement alleged.

The court action grew out of an EEOC charge filed by a male professional who resigned after making several allegations to management about racial discrimination. The EEOC said the employee accused IBM of employment discrimination against all black managers and professionals.

EEOC said its records showed the employee sought a branch manager position but was hampered because of no employee evaluations covering a two-year period. The record further showed, the EEOC said, that he was assigned a special evaluator and received a reduced appraisal.

The court action, however, seeks redress for all black professionals at IBM, stating that lower employee evaluations and the relative scarcity of blacks in middle and upper management positions provide strong inference of race discrimination.

IBM has 20 days to answer the charges.

Police chiefs want end to parole

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association is urging corrections officials to stop granting paroles for most inmates in state prisons.

The association has asked the governor's commission on law enforcement to recommend an end to paroles for repeat offenders.

"We're seeing career criminals commit the same crimes," association president Harry J. Polis said Friday. "We may have to do away with parole and probation as we now know it in Maryland."

Polis noted 13.4 percent of all those arrested in Baltimore are on parole.

"We need to move to a determined sentence," said Baltimore police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau.

He said judges who now imposes a 25-year sentence in hopes the convict will serve five years before being paroled should impose a sentence that will be served to the end.

The police chiefs' association also recommended expanding the public defender's office and eliminating the backlog of state inmates in local jails.

Provident begins 'Tel-Med' program

Provident Hospital, Inc. will kick off Baltimore's first free public health information system, "Tel-Med" on Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m. during ceremonies in the hospital's main lobby.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer will place the first call for the new information system.

"Tel-Med" currently operates in more than 260 locations throughout the country and makes it possible for anyone with access to a telephone to receive information on health related topics.

There are nearly 300 tapes in the Provident library which have all been reviewed and approved by a team of physicians at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and Provident Hospital.

The program will provide a needed service to not only the economically disadvantaged but also the handicapped, senior citizens and others who wish to become knowledgeable about their health.

"Tel-Med" tapes are one to five minutes long and are easy to understand. To receive a tape, call 728-2900.

1,500 march on D.C. to protest proposed school $ cuts

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Staff Writer

More than 1,500 teachers, administrators, Parent Advisory Council members, paraprofessionals, parents and other school personnel from all parts of the nation gathered in Washington, D.C. Tuesday, June 3, to protest the slashing of $59 million earmarked for "Follow-Through Programs" in public schools from the national budget.

"Follow Through" is a federally-funded program which enables schools who use it to give pupils from kindergarten through grade three a quality education.

"Follow Through" schools have smaller classes which reduce the pupil-teacher ratio, one in which the child gets more individualized attention; there are more para-professionals available to assist with reinforcing skills learned, more audio-visual equipment, books, and learning kits which enable pupils to get really in-depth knowledge of skills taught, and money for educational trips to enhance learning.

Follow Through is an enriching program and where it is utilized pupils get a continous 'Head start' follow-up.

That is why the large crowd thronged the Rayburn Building for a Sponsors-Sites-States-Community Advisory Network (SCAN) Meeting, during which leaders mapped strategy for the rally and to hold press conference — to fight for Follow Through.

The later moved on to the Capitol steps to listen to Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey and Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York, who expressed sympathy to the cause.

Rep. Chisholm spoke of the removal of Follow Through funds from the budget as "balancing the budget on the back of our children—the poor and the minorities.

"You must not give up — we must get to those in power."

Mrs. Chisholm, long an advocate of all programs for children and one who has been affiliated with many children's programs, further stated: "We must do everything in our power to keep the Follow Through program."

She concluded: "The only important thing we have at this time is our children. We're going to see that our tax-paying dollars rebound to the benefit of our children."

Th remarks by both Williams and Mrs. Chisholm drew cheers at various points from the massive crowd.

Leaving the Capitol steps, the group, waving banners that read "Fund Follow Through" and other messages of support for the program, walked to the White House, led by police secort where 22 were scheduled to meet with presidential advisors to discuss Follow Through.

Participating in the protest of the proposed slashing of the funds were 80 concerned educators, parents and other interested parties from Baltimore, led by Mrs. Elaine Nolan, head of the Follow Through program in Baltimore's three participating schools — Schools No. 2, 102 and 250.

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BG and E to lay new pipes

Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. is finding twice the number of leaks in its natural gas mains that it did 10 years ago, according to documents filed with the federal government.

In addition, there were almost three times as many leaks found in the smaller pipes serving residential areas during the same period, statistics released by the federal department of transportation indicate.

But BG&E officials said the reason more leaks are being found is better technology and not faulty pipes.

"We are using more sophisticated equipment and getting more accurate readings. And there is a higher level of competence of the people operating the equipment," said George England, a BG&E gas distribution manager.

Federal figures indicate the utility fixed 4.1 leaks in every 10 miles of gas main in 1970 when there were 3,800 miles of main. Last year, there were 8.1 leaks in every 10 miles of main.

The system had increased to 4,100 miles last year, officials said.

In 1970, BG&E reported five leaks per thousand services — the smaller pipes that bring as from mains to buildings. Last year, that figure increased to 15 leaks per thousand.

Another reason to explain the increased repairs is one the utility doesn't like to bring up. BG&E is replacing the copper pipes on 45,000 house services following an agreement with the Public Service Commission. The commission found that leaky copper pipes were the cause of several deaths from explosions and trapped gas.

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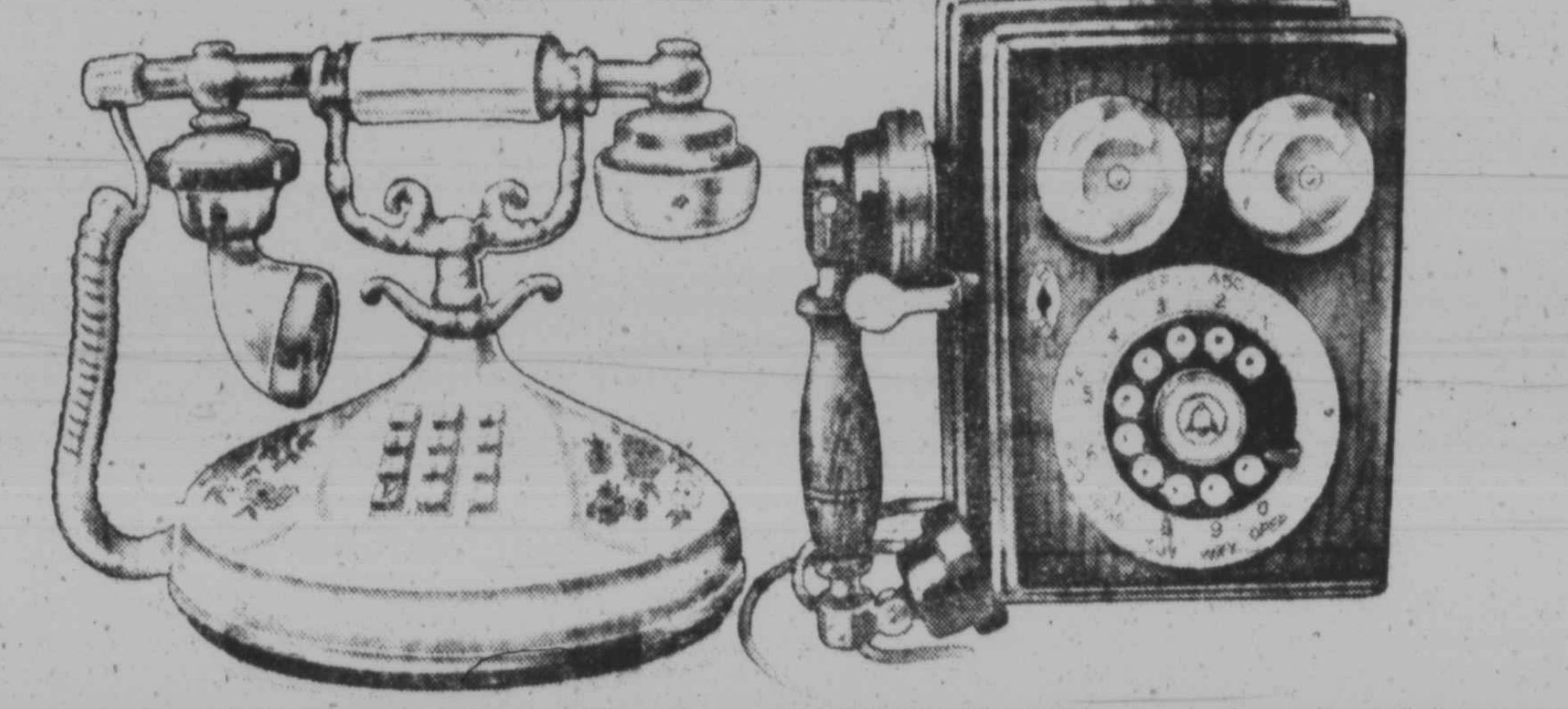

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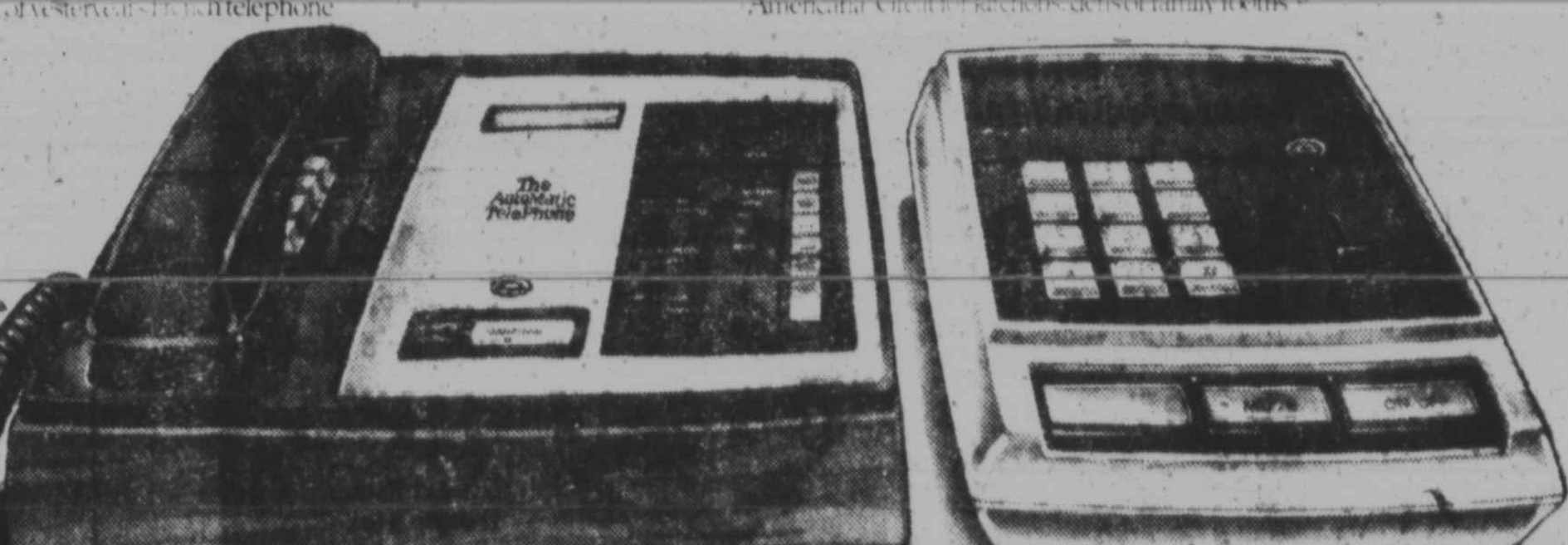

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