—Half-way houses

Continued from page 1

In his opinion, Sachs pointed out that four of the centers, Dismas House East and Dismas House West, Threshold, Inc., and the Prerelease Unit for Women, were all established before the passage of the 1976 Community Adult Rehabilitation Center (CARC), Act.

He added that, although the centers have operated under the rules of state Community Corrections Camps, they were in actuality CARCs, and, in some instances, have not been following CARC criteria in their admittance of residents as well as in their operating procedures.

One reason Sachs gave for the necessity of having the four centers standardize their operations in compliance with the CARC Act was that the Act did not provide for community approval of the centers. This approval was waived, according to Sachs, because one of the rules for the operation of the facilities was that only inmates judged "minimum risks."

As a result of Sachs' decision, some inmates at local CARCs may be forced to move to appropriate state facilities.

According to Julian Morgan, head of Threshold, Inc., several inmates have already been sent back.

"Only three people have been moved," he said, "and they have been sent to the Greenmount Avenue Prerelease Unit."

Father Joseph Weneroth, of the two Dismas House facilities, feels that Sach's ruling will go a long way towards clear up the legislative muddle he says has clouded the issue.

"Sachs' opinion is an attempt to clarify the situation," he said. "What Sachs is doing is taking the law as it is and interpreting it for 1980."

However, he said that Sachs' opinion did not include any real changes in the system, but that "they are just fooling around with technicalities."

He also refuted suggestions that Sachs' opinion was an indicator of a conservative groundswell of opposition to current correctional policies.

"It's not part of a conservative trend. Sachs' opinion gives more credence and credibility to what we have been doing for years'

—Gardenville teens

Continued from page 1

This reign of terror ended this week when city police arson investigators arrested four white youth who live in the Northeastern area.

Detective William Cysyk said three confessions had been obtained before the fourth person was arrested. The 16 and 17-year- olds have been released in the custody of their parents.

They are charged with attempted arson, possession of a molotov cocktail, malicious destruction and burning a cross on the property of Wise. Police report one of the boys lived near the Wise family.

Major Herbert F. Armstrong, director of police community relations, said the arrest followed months of intensive investigation by the criminal investigation division assisted by police community relations personnel. Police provided the Wise family with round the clock attention from Northeastern District for several days.

Wise, who was not available for a comment at AFRO press time, purchased his home last August. His $100 deductible homeowners insurance did not cover the cost of the windows that were broken.

He told the AFRO in November, the cross burning in front of his home was the fourth racially motivated incident since the middle of October 1979.

In November, Wise said three of his neighbors visited him and told him they were sorry he had been harassed and offered assistance. The Northeast Community Organization, NECO tried to enlist the support of neighborhood and religious leaders in the area to halt racist incidents.

—Reeves

Continued from page 1

O'Connor was unanimously chosen by the board on July 29.

The statement goes on to say the commissioners received a list of five names of eligible candidates and it was initially thought all five were white.

Reeves said he notified board members when he learned one applicant, Noel Hart, an instructor at the National Fire Academy and former chief of the Peoria, Ill. fire department, was black.

The statement from the commissioners said the new chief had to be made within 30 days of the submission of the list of candidates under Civil Service Commission rules and because they did not receive the information about Hart until July 28, they had insufficient time to interview him.

Reeves said he felt Ramsey showed "gross insensitivyty to blacks" for his failure to interview a black candidate.

'Churchwoman of the Year—1980'

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The votes are coming in the AFRO churchwoman of the year contest. Don't delay, mail your votes in today.

We will soon be listing the names of contestants entered thus far, This is your chance to win $500 in cash prizes, a gift for your church and other prizes. The AFRO churchwoman of the year will win gospel albums, dinner for two at a popular Baltimore restaurant, tickets to the Arena Playhouse, gift certificate from Sheridan Hats, gifts from Equitable Trust, Fidelity Trust, Maryland National Bank and other prizes.

1. The contest is open to any woman currently a member of any church regardless of denomination.

2. The AFRO will publish a voting coupon worth 100 votes in each edition,

3. Each subscription for both the Tuesday and Friday editions of the AFRO received by Oct. 3 from you or one of your supporters will be worth 1,000 votes.

4. Votes will be tabulated and posted in the AFRO starting Aug. 16.

5. Participants agree to the use of their names and photos for publicity purposes.

6. The AFRO - AMERICAN reserves all rights covering the contest and interpretation of all rules as final.

7. AFRO employees, their immediate families, distributors and agents are not eligible to participate.

8. The 12 contestants with the highest number of votes will be finalists.

PROMOTION — Robert Leroy Carter, 22, was recently promoted to sergeant. He has been in the Army three years and is now stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C. He is the son of Mrs. Patricia Elaine Murray Carter and Robert Carter. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Carter and Mrs. Jessie Belfield.

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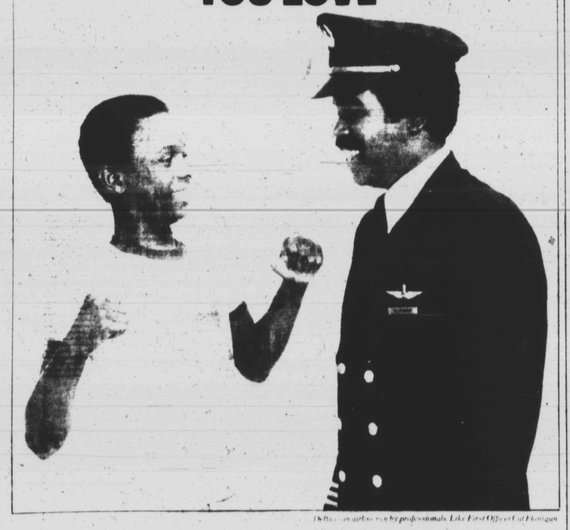

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Delegate slams Kamka's prison policies

By James M. Abrahams
AFRO Staff Writer

Although the battle scars from Gordon Kamka's most recent encounters with the state legislature have had four months to heal, two new thorns have loomed in recent weeks which may plunge the state head of public safety and corrections into renewed controversy.

Delegate Patrick McDonough, D-46, has recently announced plans to form a two-pronged lobbying and legislative group to press for more conservative prison policies, in direct contradiction of Kamka's "enlightened" prison policy.

Monday, State's Attorney Steven Sachs released an opinion which questioned the policies of the state's Community Adult Rehabilitation Centers, or CARCs. These facilities are an integral part of Kamka's prison policies.

According to McDonough, the time has come for a redirection of state prison policy.

"I am on the judiciary committee of the House of Delegates," he said. "Ninety percent of legislation affecting crime comes before my committee. It seems to me that a lot of proposals that will be helpful in crime prevention are not working or not getting passed."

McDonough also claimed that Kamka has failed to plan adequately for the future.

"The secretary is not committed to expanding the system with new bed space," he added. "It takes from three to four years for the planning and expansion of the prison system to be accomplished."

The delegate, who ran for mayor in the 1979 city elections, said that, by 1985, there will be a need for 1,500 new beds in the state prison system.

McDonough slammed the state's CARCs also. "I am opposed to CARCS as they are envisioned by Kamka," he told the AFRO. "In Minnesota, for example, since this is a state the secretary likes to refer to, they do not allow violent offenders into their CARCs regardless of the time remaining on their sentences."

McDonough says that he envisions the effort for tougher prison policies taking two routes. He says that a legislative caucus similar to the Black Caucus will be formed during the next general assembly, while a lobbying group consisting of "community organizations, senior citizens, prosecutors, policemen and correctional officers," will be organized throughout the state.

Secretary Kamka responded to the news of the proposed effort by stating that "the legislation should carry out its role, and I guess that Delegate McDonough feels that it is necessary to have a lobbying group put together. That is part of the legislative process. But the need for 1500 beds by 1985 is not going to be realized in terms of inmate intake."

He added that, when one considers the price of prison construction, it would not be advisable to build new prisons then find that there are not enough inmates to fill them.

Steve Minnich, press aide to Kamka, added that there are already several committees in the state legislative concerned with prison policy, and that his office has worked well with them in the past.

McDonough claimed that Kamka's policies would become a liability for Gov. Harry Hughes in 1982, but Minnich disagreed.

"I think," he said, "that not dealing with the unconstitutional nature of our prison system would be a greater liability."

Low interest mortgage $ may soon be available

The city housing department hopes to help 3,000 families buy homes in an effort to create stable neighborhoods, Deputy Housing Commissioner Mark Sissman said Tuesday.

The city will sell revenue bonds to raise $100 million for low-interest mortgage loans, he said. As planned, 30 per cent of the $100 million will be targeted for low and moderate-income tnenants who can afford downpayments of between $500 and $600.

The department hopes to offer mortages to city homebuyers at 10¼ percent interest, as compared with the current average rate on conventional mortgages of 11½ percent.

"The program has several goals," Sissman said. "In general, it is to help more people to become homeowners and to create stable neighborhoods by helping them to buy houses."

In addition to helping low-income and moderate-income tenants, the program is intended to help individuals renovate vacant buildings and to spur new development in the city.

The department will also try to lure residents of area suburbs into the city to help boost the tax base, Sissman said. The only hitch is that those people cannot have owned a home within the past year.

Sissman said the city hopes to sell the revenue bonds to provide the mortgage money in about two months.

"It will hopefully be late in the fall," he said. "It depends on the bond market."

Conspiracy charges against 'Gangster' Webster dropped

Prosecutors said they dropped charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine against two persons, one of them a convicted drug dealer, because of lack of eveidence.

Walter "Gangster" Webster, 50, and his alleged accomplice Norma Thompson, 28, had been accused of operating a multi-million dollar drug ring.

Attorneys for the two defendants said Monday the charges should be dropped because the prosecutors had waited too long to bring the pair to trial, violating the state's speedy trial rule.

Webster and Ms. Thompson were in prison for federal convictions on similar charges when the Baltimore prosecutors filed charges against them. Attorneys said the two have been awaiting trial for at least 158 days and the legal limit is 150 days.

But before Judge Joseph I. Pines could rule on the speedy trial issue, prosecutors said they were dropping the charges because of a lack of evidence.

Schmidt bakery to close

About 60 employees of the Schmidt Baking Co. will lose their jobs soon when the firm closes its baking plant at Lauren and Carey Sts.

The company, which 66 years ago opened as one of the area's largest and most modern baking facilities, has decided to shut the plant down for economic reasons, officials said.

"You could see it coming but it still comes as a shock," said Angela Hall, 30, who has worked for the company for eight years. She said the closing has left her uncertain of future plans.

Jack Hurtt, 61, an oven feeder for Schmidt's for 32 years, said the closing simply means an earlier retirement for him.

"I was going to wait awhile, take a vacation, visit my daughter and then retire," Hurtt said. "We'll just have to struggle a little harder."

Russell St. bridge to open

Motorists will be allowed to use the Russell Street Bridge beginning on Monday, although only two lanes of the damaged span will be open.

Officials said there will be one lane open in each direction. The bridge has been closed since July 21, when several support beams buckled and a section of roadway sank about a foot.

The entire bridge, one of the major entrances to the city from the south, will not be open for at least seven months. Officials estimate it will cost about $6 million to repair.

Caribbean, Indian festival set

The Caribbean Indian festival will be held at Hopkins Plaza Aug. 9 and 10, 9:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Entertainment will include a reggae band competition, poetry and traditional Caribbean foods.

Indian events will feature local talents, highlighted with a play performed by children of the, local Hare Krishna temple.

Booths and displays will offer varities of foods, sculpture, paintings and crafts drawn from the Caribbean and Indian cultures.

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