Rent hearings

(Continued from Page 1)

[illegible] with bring on our own talent by not supporting this bill," he warned city council members, "every dragon gives birth to the St. George that finally slays him."

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, D-7, was the initial speaker for the rent control proponents.

"We shouldn't put people in desperate situations," said the congressman, as he described families forced to choose between heating and eating. "It does not matter well if the people vote for this bill, then are denied by the court. As representatives of the people you have a mandate to respond to the people, and no choice but to pass this bill."

Henry Koellein Jr., head of the local council of the AFL-CIO, pointed out that his 175,000 member union supported rent control during last year's municipal elections, and are now committed to bill no. 283.

"Elected officials at all levels must act in whatever way open to them to stop the increases which are destroying our communities, and with them, our security."

Koelein echoed Rep. Mitchell's statement that the democratic process may have suffered a serious blow as a result of the ruling against the rent control ordinance by Supreme Bench Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan. Leatrice Curtis of the Baltimore City Tenant's Association, which she says has over 3,000 member families, testified that her organization had monitored rent increases throughout the city since the Nov. 79 elections, and found that a 36.3 average in added rents had occurred.

She decried the fact that, without city government intervention, the only response the landlords gave unhappy tenants was "If you don't like it get out."

Joel Freidman, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, quoted statistics from several national studies which he said contended landlord's contentions that rent control would damage the [illegible] housing [illegible]. New Jersey, [illegible] and Boston studies which he said showed that housing starts actually increased in several of these cities following implementation of rent control laws. Freidman pointed out that other factors, such as the condition of respective neighborhoods, housing prices, and the economic situation and not rent control, were the determinants in the availability of rental property in these cities.

Current area renters [illegible] by more than [illegible] experts to give council members [illegible] of the story.

[illegible] an elderly [illegible] who had recently received a rent increase of $135 (her previous rent was $207).

As her audience gasped in disbelief at her tale, Mrs. [illegible] said that she had been living in her apartment for the past 20 years, and that this was the largest single increase she had ever received.

"The landlords have their foot on our necks, and we have to fight to get relief," she stated in conclusion.

The increase was levelled by Maryland Management, Inc.

A second elderly lady, Leola Brooks of the Welfare Rights Organization's People's Campaign for Rent Control told she and her co-workers toured most of Baltimore during the summer of 1979 to get signatures needed to place the rent control referendum on the ballot.

"We saw people living in conditions I wouldn't have believed existed in civilized countries," she said. "We're not here asking for anything. She pointed to a black garland she wore on her right breast, and said that the ribbon was symbolic of what 'one judge took from the voters.." She closed her speech by urging the council not to offer any compromise legislation.

"To promote illusion is not politically healthy," she said ominously.

Perhaps the most blatant warning issued those legislators assembled was that offered by Annie Chambers of the Welfare Rights Organization.

"I'm here to give you all a part of how the people feel," she said loudly. "If you don't do it, (vote for bill no. 283), we will do it, (vote against you), in 1983!"

"We will be sitting in your seats in 1983," she stated emphatically.

Following Mrs. Chambers, opponents of the bill received the floor.

Due to an earlier arrangement, two representatives of the anti-rent control forces were given that side's 30 minutes.

Eugene Smith who said he spoke for an unnamed coalition of landlords, spoke first.

He said that his organization represents about 15000 units in the city.

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If you ask me...

By Bettye Moss

The Kennards wed 70 years!!

Baltimoreans were engaged in a number of activities this past Sunday - Oct. 12 — but for us one of the most inspiring was the 70th wedding anniversary celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Kennard.

They observed it at the N. Caroline St. home of their niece and nephew, Calvin and Yvonne Lightfoot. Also presented at the dinner was a sister-in-law, Mrs. Eva Howard.

Longtime residents of East Baltimore, the Kennards were high school sweethearts. She is the former Mary Howard. Her parents were Annie Simpson Howard and Clarence G. Howard (he was an interior decorator.)

Mr. Kennard's parents were Dr. George W. Kennard, veteran East Baltimore medic, and Katherine Taylor Kennard.

The Kennards were married Oct. 9, 1910, at the Madison St. Presbyterian church by the Rev. L. Z. Johnson. (At that time, the church was on E. Madison St., is now on Madison Ave. in west Baltimore).

Mr. Kennard was employed as a shipping clerk for nearly half a century until his retirement.

Today, he and his wife enjoy reading "all kinds of newspapers, magazines and the Bible." They have been active members of Waters AME Church for nearly 50 years.

Although she wanted children, they were not fortunate, Mrs. Kennard says, but adds she has no regrets.

Their formula for a happy marriage? Mrs. Kennard, who is 82, says of her husband, who is 84, "you marry the man you love and love him all your life. You don't need a half dozen husbands like some people do today."

Blessings on the Kennards on their 70th wedding anniversary. Address your hellos to them at 1415 N. Bond St.

People and things

It's a girl for the Samuel B. Littles. Yolanda Monique weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz., at 7:11 p.m. on Oct. 13, at Sinai Hospital. She's their first.

Mother is the former Jaqueline Wimberly, director of social work at Belair Convalescence. Dad is the administrator for Baltimore city Mayor Schaefer's Youth Employment Program.

Yolanda is the first grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wimberly (Betsy), of Philadelphia and the fifth grand for Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Foote Sr. (Emma), of Baltimore.

Great-grands are Mrs. Nola B. Wall, Rockingham, N.C., and Mrs. Helen Foote, Baltimore.

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It was like old home week on Tuesday at the annual fall luncheon of the Retired Teachers' Association of Baltimore City.

Event at La Fontaine Bleu, featured talk by Gregory Halpin, of the Baltimore City Port Authority.

All over the place, people were greeting each other and complimenting themselves on "looking so good after all these years."

Sam Acree is president. Abdella Campbell is immediate past president. Other active officers include Mary Frazier, secretary; and Alice Rusk, who edits the association news letter.

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A happy occasion was observed on Sunday at Mt. Zion Methodist Church. There, children, grandchildren and friends joined to mark the 75th birthday of Mrs. Beatrice C. McArthur.

She is the retired financial secretary of the church and one who is noted as a good neighbor and friend to many.

In her active years, she was a supervisor in the Baltimore city schools' cafeteria division.

Mt. Zion pastor, Rev. Zacarius Cardoso hailed the honoree for her dedicated service. There was glorious music by the senior choir.

The honoree's son, Robert, grandchildren and other relatives and friends helped make it a memorable occasion for an deserving person.

Donald G. Murray

When the Thurgood Marshall Law Library at the University of Maryland was dedicated in downtown Baltimore on Thursday, Donald Gaines Murray and his wife, Rosa Walker Murray, were seated in the VIP section.

Donald Gaines Murray is the brilliant young black Baltimore youth who grew up in west Baltimore and went away to Amherst where he finished with honor.

When he wanted to study law, the University of Maryland denied him admission. Thurgood Marshall, then an NAACP Lawyer, represented him and sued UM. The Supreme Court of the U.S., where Mr. Marshall is now an associate justice, admitted Mr. Murray to the law school.

That was in 1936. Donald Gaines Murray enrolled, (and if you think it was rough integrating public schools in the Sixties you should have been around then and seen the hell he went through in law school).

Nevertheless, he stuck it out and finished with distinction, went on to practice law in his hometown. He has been retired now for a couple of years.

Who is Donald Gaines Murray? He's a guy who had the courage to be the plaintiff in an historic case.

He came from good stock — a pioneer family which has made its mark in the Baltimore community.

His parents were the late Cecelia Gaines Murray and George Murray, who resides in Baltimore still. His sister is Marjorie Murray Prout, the retired teacher.

His grandparents were AME Bishop and Mrs. A. L. Gaines (Minnie Plant). Remember for years, the family resided on McCulloh St?

And to prove that many people in Baltimore are related ... the Gaines name is a part of still another family.

Gaines Lansey, president of Ideal Savings and Loan, is a cousin of Donald Murray. His mother was Josephine Gaines Lansey. His father was Teackle Wallis Lansey, (Remember he ran Druid Laundry.)

The Teackle Lanseys had ten children, 5 of whom survive — Gaines, John Edward 3rd, Josephine, Lincoln and Alfred.

More relatives: Donald Murray's wife, the former Rosa Walker, also a brilliant student was valedictorian in our high school class. She is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Walker. He was pastor of Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church when we were growing up.

More on Thurgood

More on Thurgood: The planners of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library dedication ceremony knew in advance that Thurgood himself would not attend.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell sent a whale of a tribute which was read by City Solicitor Benjamin Brown, Law Dean Michael Kelly, [illegible]

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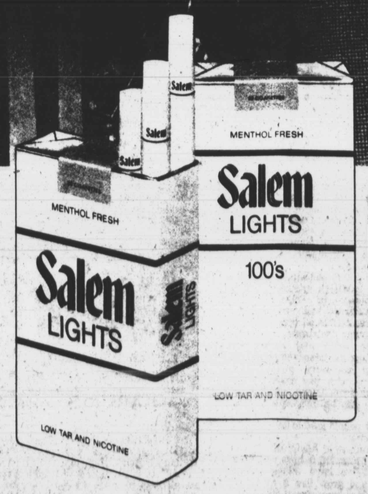

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