January begins '81 with important events

Del. Frank Conaway heads Legislative Caucus as General Assembly sessions begin Jan. 14

DEL. FRANK M. CONAWAY

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

The Maryland General Assembly which opens its 1981 term on Wednesday Jan. 14 ranks as the most important event due to the lact that the members of the Senate and House of Delegates are gathered in Annapolis to make the laws for all the citizens of the state.

The distinguished body of 188 persons (47 senators and 141 members of the House of Delegates) is the oldest legislative group in the United States.

Established on Feb. 5, 1777 the Maryland Legislature met for the first time under a Declaration of Rights and Constitution which had been adopted the previous November.

There are six black senators, the largest number of any of the United States, and 14 delegates. The total of 20 black legislators is surpassed only by the state of Georgia which has 21 black legislators.

Del. Frank Melvin Conaway, age 48, is head of the Legislative Black Caucus which has 19 members:

38TH DISTRICT — Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III, Dels. Larry Young and Lena Lee.

40TH DISTRICT — Sen. Verda Welcome, Dels. Conaway, Brailey and Rawlings.

41ST DISTRICT — Sen. Clarence Blount, Dels. Margaret Murphy, Weldell Phillips and Walter Dean.

43TH DISTRICT — Sen. Robert Douglass, Dels. John Douglass, Hattie Harrison and Joseph Chester.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY — Sen. Arris T. Allen.

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY — Sen. Tommie Broadwater, Dels. Nathaniel Exum and Sylvanius Wood.

Former chairmen of the Black Caucus were Sen. Robert Douglass, Del. Arthur Murphy (deceased), former Del. Lloyal Randolph and Arthur King, Prince Georges County.

Del. Conaway was installed as head of the Black Caucus in July, 1980. He was elected in April, 1980 by 12 of the 18 persons present.

Conaway was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1970 and served until 1975. From 1975 to 1979 he was an insurance lobbyist and then re-elected to the House in 1979.

The regular 1981 session of the General Assembly opens at 10 a.m. Jan. 14. Del. Conaway will call the Black Caucus to order at 9 a.m. for the first 1981 session. All meetings will be at the State House in Annapolis.

Highlight of the Black Caucus 1981 agenda is the push for more business development for minorities.

Other concerns include trying for more state aid for Baltimore City and higher welfare payments which are still at the low 1971 level.

The Caucus will also push for placing of minorities on all state boards and commissions and check on the promotional practices of each state agency.

Del. Conaway says there will be a fight "tooth and nail" to see that Circuit Court judges remain elected by the voters and not appointed as proposed.

Del. Conaway states, "They always change the rules when we get our share of officials and that's what we have to keep an eye out for."

Del. Conaway is also vice-chairman of the Baltimore City Delegation with Del. Dennis McCoy, chairman.

A resident of Baltimore, Del. Conaway is a veteran insurance man, president of Conaway and Associates Insurance Brokers and Ashburton Insurance Co. Ltd. His wife heads their Ashburton Travel Agency.

Conaway is also president of the Association of Black Insurance Agents and Brokers of Maryland and member of the Metro Democrats of which Abner Lee is president. Conaway is chairman of the executive board.

He is a member of the board of trustees of Giles Memorial Community Christian Church and the NAACP, the Prince Hall Masons and the Monumental Lodge IBPOE of W. Baltimore.

A native of Baltimore he attended PS 112, Booker T. Jr. High School 130. A Douglass High 450 graduate he finished Morgan State University and has been in insurance businness since 1964.

He and his wife Mary W. Conaway have been married five years. A concert singer Mrs. Conaway is a special education teacher at School 177 and a doctoral candidate in clinical psycholgology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Their children are Frank Jr., a Howard University student; Monica and Belinda.

ASSEMBLY FACTS

Every Senator or Delgate must be a citizen of the state and a resident of it for at least one year preceding the date of his election; and for six months he must have resided in his Legislative District.

A Senator must be at least 25 years of age at the time of his election, and a Delegate at least 21.

No member of Congress or any person holding a civil or military office under the United States Government nor any clergyman or minister is eleigible for election to the General Assembly (III, 9, 10, 11).

The term of each senator and delegate shall be for four years from the date of his election.

The Governor is required to appoint to any vacancy that occurs in either House through death, resignation, or disqualification, a person whose name is submitted to him in writting by the State Central Committee of the Legislative District which the person holding the vacated seat represented and of the party to which he belonged.

The person so appointed must be affiliated with that party.

All persons so appointed serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

Each House elects its own officers, is judge of the qualificiations and election of its own members, and establishes rules for the conduct of its business.

The General Assembly meets annually. Sessions begin the second Wednesday in January and are for a period not longer than 90 days.

The General Assembly may extend its sessions beyond 90 days, but not to exceed an additional 30 days by resolution concurred in by three-fifths vote of the membership in each House.

The Governor may call special sessions at any time he deems it necessary but no single special session may last longer than 30 days.

The General Assembly must pass at each regular session a budget bill which contains the budget for the State government for the next fiscal year. Upon the passage of the bill by both Houses, it becomes law without further action.

HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Jan. 15.

Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12.

Washington's Birthday, Third Monday in Feb.

Maryland Day, March 25.

Good Friday.

Memorial Day, May 30.

Independence Day, July 4.

Labor Day, First Monday in September.

Defenders Day, Sept. 12.

Columbus Day, Oct. 12.

Election Day.

Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Thanksgiving Day, Fourth Thursday in Nov.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

DEL. TROY BRAILEY

DEL. LENA K. LEE

DEL. MARGARET MURPHY

DEL. NATHANIEL EXUM

DEL. HATTIE HARRISON

SCHOOL CHILDREN VISITORS who come to see Del. Conaway receive a hearty welcome. The red carpet complete with lunch is designed for early days of the General Assembly.

DEL. JOSEPH CHESTER

DEL. JOHN DOUGLASS

DEL. IKE DIXON

DEL. SYLVANIUS WOOD

DEL. LARRY YOUNG

DEL. WENDELL PHILLIPS

DEL. WALTER DEAN

DEL. PETE RAWLINGS

MARYLAND'S SIX SENATORS — (L to R) Senators Clarence M. Mitchell III, Arris T. Allen, Robert Douglass, Verda Welcome, Tommie Broadwater and Clarence Blount.

Showell-Tyson wedding Jan. 31 has five bishops officiating

MISS BETTY JANE SHOWELL
wedding date told

The ceremonies joining Miss Betty Jane Showell and Bishop James Edison Tyson in matrimony are set for Jan. 31 at her father's church, First Apostolic Church, 27 S. Caroline St.

The pastor, Bishop Winfield Showell, will give his daughter in marriage and officiate along with Bishop Smallwood Williams of Washington, Bishop Monroe Saunders of Baltimore and Bishop Charles Watkins of Cleveland.

The occasion which promises to crown the religious and social season, will witness a bridal party of more than 30 persons, members of the families of both bride - to - be and the bridegroom.

Bishop Tyson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleophus Tyson of Youngstown, Ohio. The founder and pastor of the Christ Church Apostolic, Indianapolis, Ind. He is also the diocesan of the 8th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.

Miss Showell, daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Winfield Showell, is director of Implementation at the Maryland State Department of Education and is completing doctoral requirements at the University of Chicago.

INAUGURATION JAN. 5

Largest clergy group elects Dr. Leroy Fitts

Dr. Leroy Fitts, pastor of First Baptist Church, 525 N. Caroline St., has been elected president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and succeeds Dr. Vernon Dobson whose term had expired.

The group of over 80 clergymen represents 60,000 local Baptist members and is the largest of any ministers' groups in the state. Established March 30, 1901, the conference has met every Monday at 12 noon at Enon Baptist Church for 79 years.

The inauguration of the new president is set for Jan. 5, 12 noon at Dr. Fitts' church with an invitational dinner following.

Also installed will be new officers, Rev. William E. Johnson and Rev. James Ball, vice presidents; Rev. Walter Brunson, secretary; Rev. E. W. Williams, treasurer; Dr. Harold Dobson, Sunday School commentator; Rev. Minnie Robinson, assistant; Rev. William Calhoun, news commentator; Rev. Dockery Thompson, assistant; Rev. Vincent Thompson, corresponding secretary and Rev. James Fuller, assistant.

Dr. Fitts and his wife Johnnie have two sons and two daughters, Timothy, Dietrich, Angelique and Leticia.

An AB graduate of Shaw University, Dr. Fitts has earned master of divinity and doctor of divinity degrees from Southeastern Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. and Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Va. respectively.

Author of "Lott Carey, First Black Missionary to Africa," Dr. Fitts is editor of the Lott Carey Herald, instructor of Bible and Theology at the Maryland Baptist School of Religion and pastor of historic First Baptist Church since 1972.

DR. LEROY FITTS

9,000 due to attend Behold the Woman fete

A total of 9,000 persons is expected to attend the Jan. 16-18 sessions of the Behold The Woman conference sponsored by the women of Bethel AME Church.

The event at the Convention Center features Saundra Dunson Frank, Atlanta actress and a number of speakers from around the world with 1,500 due to be at the opening Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Harambee; 3,000 at the University and banquet Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.; 2,500 at the banquet Jan. 17 and 500 at prayer breakfast. The worship services will see some 3,000 persons Jan. 18.

The Prayer Breakfast Jan. 18, 7:45 a.m. is $15 and the Testimonial Dinner, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. at $25 each.

For information call 728-2557.

SANDRA DUNSON-FRANKS

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