—Lena Lee

Continued from page 1

Her leave of absence was to take effect immediately.

Del. Conaway, reached in his northwest insurance office for comment, was surprised at the letter, saying that protocol should have dictated that he, as chairman, receive the letter first notifying him of Mrs. Lee's intentions and of her complaints.

But, he said, "the door swings both ways, and if she wants to return, she can."

Conaway said that the caucus had been particularly supportive of Del. Lee in recent times because of her failing health.

"Her health is failing...that may be a reason why she finds it necessary to take a leave at this time," he said.

"I've tried to be supportive of her, but this session has been so hectic that I could not carry her."

"It's unfortunate," he continued, "that Mrs. Lee has reached the twilight of her life, when she finds it difficult to accept new young leadership."

"I would hope that when I get to be that age, I won't think that young ideas won't work."

Del. Lena K. Lee

A particularly stinging allegation made in the letter was that Conaway had won the recent chairmanship despite strong efforts to oust him.

"We had the votes," the letter read, "to change the chairmanship until the morning of the election."

"Pete Rawlings, an avowed candidate, held a meeting with Mr. Conaway, after when he walked into the caucus meeting, withdrew his candidacy, and walked out..."

But Conaway contends that the morning meeting had nothing to do with the election and that the only reason Rawlings decided not to run was that he knew he could not win.

Del. Rawlings, who also represents the 40th district, concurred with Conaway. Saying that he does in fact have strong feelings against the current chairmanship, he withdrew from the race because he had been advised by "those concerned with my political future" that he did not have the votes he needed to win.

"The only reason you run," he said, "is to win, and I knew by that morning that Mr. Conaway had the chairmanship, 8-7.

Rawlings said that he could understand how Mrs. Lee could have misconstrued the meeting, but emphasized that it was in no way connected with any deals and that the election process had been honest.

Rawlings also said that, in light of the developments surrounding the elections, he thought it would be better to withdraw than to become a decisive factor" in the caucus.

Conaway hotly denied that he had made any threats of "taking care" of other caucus members, as charged by Mrs. Lee, and emphasized again that it was her failing health and not his chairmanship that was the impetus behind her actions.

"I am just sorry that anything like this has to come up," he said. "but the ideas of the 50's are not workable in 1981, and some of the senior members of the caucus are not ready for change."

Mrs. Lee was not available for further comment at AFRO presstime.

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—Atlanta FBI

Continued from page 1

Twibell's statements, in a question and answer session afer his speech to the Macon Lion's Club, fanned the fires anew.

He said "some of those kids were killed by their parents" and posed a hypothetical situation in which a child of a broken home proved an aggravation to his parent's love affair.

He also accused the special police task force that is handling the murders—and which includes 30 FBI agents—of failing to share information with the Atlanta FBI office.

"We were reading more in the newspaper than we were getting from the task force," he said.

His crowning statement, however, was that "no great crime is sweeping Atlanta. The same amount of children who are missing this year have been missing every year since 1978."

The string of 23 unsolved murders of black children—with two more missing and believed dead—began July 20, 1979, According to police statistics obtained earlier this year, in 1978 only one black child was murdered in Atlanta and that case was solved.

The FBI in Washington refused to say what, if anything, it would do about Twibell's comments, but was obviously concerned over their effect.

"I really can't say anything about Twibell," said chief FBI spokesman Roger Young. "I am in no way trying to offer any kind of blanket to the comments that were made. Instead, what I am trying to do is help in any way to get our team back together."

"If there were differences I would hope that whatever differences there are can be settled immediately. We are simply not having a problem with a working relationship with Atlanta authorities...I really hate to see these diversionary things occur. I am sure that is true also on the part of Atlanta officials."

That was an understatement. The normally impassive Brown, at a regular morning news conference, was visibly angry.

"We do not know who killed the children," he said. "I know that today none of the cases are solved. Today we do not have sufficient evidence to indict anyone."

Brown said if anyone who worked for him ever "gives out information that jeopardizes our investigation, I will publicly denounce him and fire him and see to it that he never gets another job in law enforcement"—apparently an implied suggestion to Webster.

Actually, sources close to the investigation say police have long suspected family members in several of the killings, but insist there is not enough evidence to prosecute.

Twibell, however, revived the theory that the political aspects of the murders were so overwhelming that Atlanta officials were reluctant to prosecute cases not involving a mass murderer who the FBI believes is responsible for 12 to 16 of the slayings.

The only development this week in the actual investigation was a report by Atlanta police that said they were in contact with Fort Lauderdale, Fla., authorities about a man stopped for questioning because he "looked a little bit like a composite" drawing of a man seen with the latest victim before the youth dropped from sight.

Fort Lauderdale Police Sgt. Frank Shuler said the man, identified as William Henry Johnson, Jr., 38, was a transient with no known hometown. He was stopped Tuesday because of his resemblance to the drawing circulated by Atlanta police.

Youth receives journalism award

Milton D.C. Kent, a 17-year-old senior from Calvert County, has been awarded the second annual Sunpapers Minority Scholarship in Journalism.

The scholarship at the University of Maryland in College Park provides full tuition and board for four years to a Maryland high school graduate who is planning to pursue a career in journalism.

The recipient is required to major or minor in journalism at the university and to serve as a paid intern at the Sunpapers during the summer vacations. Upon graduation, it is hoped that these recipients will join the Sunpapers staff on a fulltime basis.

Kent, son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Kent of Sunderland, Md., competed with 43 other seniors in Maryland secondary schools who applied for the scholarship. Runner-up was Sarah Daniels of Seat Pleasant, Md.

Michelle Singletary, a graduate of Western High School in Baltimore, is attending the University of Maryland on the first annual scholarship.

Applications for next year's scholarship will be accepted next fall.

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NEW MAYOR — John T. Chambers, the loan black member of the City Council, is the state's first black mayor but his stay will only be until June.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

High pressured Annapolis mayorship not a luxury seat

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

John T. Chambers considers himself "just an ordinary businessman." But to others he holds a more significant role.

Chambers, a 13-year veteran of the Annapolis City Council, was sworn in April 13 as the state capital's first black mayor.

He was chosen as the consensus choice among his eldermen last weekend to serve as acting mayor, following the suicide attempt of Gustav J. Akerland. Akerland, who remained in critical condition with gun shots to the head until he died, Wednesday afternoon.

Akerland, apparently despondent over trying to resolve the problems of the city's budget and $1.4 million deficit, had been chosen to replace Mayor John Apostol, who quit before his term expired to take a job in Florida.

With the resignation of Apostol and suicide of Akerland, speculation was beginning to spread that the rigors of the Annapolis mayor's post could be too much to handle.

But Chambers, who plans to retire June 1, doesn't feel that way. "There are some difficulties and it's a matter of making some hard decisions but I think Akerland saw himself as a failure to his constituents and could not face that.

"And with Apostol, he knew he could not run for office again and he got a job offer to good to refuse. He had his family to look out for."

Chambers represents Ward three in the Parole section of Annapolis and for the last two terms has been the lone black member of the council.

He says he been flooded with calls urging him to run for mayor. But Chambers wants to retire to private life in June.

"I've been deluged with calls to run but I made a decision before all this to get our of public life and that's what I'm going to do."

Chambers is optimistic that his 13 year experience will help him "get over the difficulties."

Summer job outlook bleak for city teens

By Deborah R. Feaster
AFRO Student Intern

This year, the city's economically disadvantaged youth may have difficuly in finding summer jobs.

Steven Kayser, spokesman for the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources, said there will be fewer summer jobs available this year than last, when the federal government provided $6.7 million through the Department of Labor to secure local summer jobs. An additional $670,000 in special funds was provided by the Department of Labor and $25,000 was provided by the Zerox Corporation. This total of $7,395,000 allowed 16,850 young people to be employed in local summer job program,such as the Title IV CETA Year Round Programs.

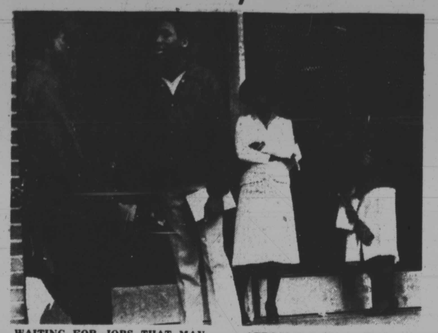
This year, $6,856,384 is available for local summer jobs. But only 10,500 people will be able to be hired. Kaiser says there are different reasons for this. The increase in the minimum wage, from $3.10 to $3.35 will eliminate about 700 job slots, each job slot being consequently more expensive. The tightening of CETA resources will cost about 2,100 job slots. And the discontinuing of the Youth Works Programs, which will be phased out in September, will result in 3,000 fewer jobs.

Kayser also said the president's call for an end to public Service employment programs has a detrimental effect on the summer jobs programs.

This year, cuts are being called for in the Title VI and II-D job employment programs. Title VI, whichis designed to help those who may be experiencing difficulties due to changes in the ecomomy, will be reduced in funds by 32 percent The II-D program, which involves training of those who lack marketable skills, will be reduced in funds by 39 percent next year, said Kayser, the public service employment program will be phased out entirely.

By June 5, said Kayser, all 3,000 workers in the public service employment program will be unemployed. But they have been provided with workshops and job search opportunities with the help of their employers and two private organizations, the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Metropolitan Private Industry Council. The Private Industry Council's agency, Starters, has also been helping in securing jobs.

The applications and referrals for the 10,500 jobs were distributed through various schools, counselors, recreation centers and community groups in March. Applicants will be chosen on the basis of those who are between the ages of 14 and 21, whose family incomes are less than or equal to 70 percent of the lower living standard. Kayser said that due to the smaller number of available jobs, it can be assumed no more applications can be accommodated.



WAITING FOR JOBS THAT MAY NEVER BE — These young people showed up at Cherry Hill Job corps center recently to sign up for jobs, but

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

according to officials of city's youth corps, there may be no jobs to be had, due to state and federal budget cuts.

Candy at its mouth watering best is waiting for you at The BonBon Tree Harborplace
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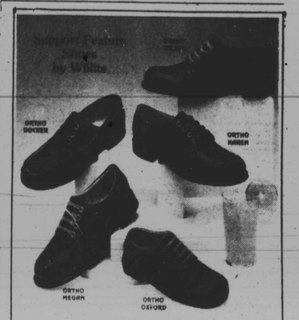

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Prison guards demand change in system

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Maryland's prison guards are up in arms over what they feel is the state administration's failure to adequately protect them.

According to Ed Davis, president of local 1678 of the American Federation of State, Federal and Municpal Employees, the priorities of the prison system during the Kamka - Goodlander administration had shifted in favor of state prisoners.

"The fundamental issue that we're going back to is one of protecting the public first...number two is protecting the employees, (at state prisons)," he said.

Davis had been among those calling for the resignation or firing of former Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Gordon Kamka and state prisons head Edwin Goodlander. His union has met with acting public safety head Thomas Schmidt, and Dais "I beleive that Schmidt has come a long way...he's made significant progress. He has already announced that a change in personnell is imminent.

Hew Hughes press offcier Lou Panos recently states that one reason for the poor implementation of Hughes' prison philosophy was the lack of support from prison workers, including guards and administrative staff.

Several black legislators, including Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-40 and Del. Wendell Phillips, D-38, have expressed the same complaint.

Davis laughed when the charges were repeated, and said that "maybe if they ever took the time to sit down with the union and the officers themselves, maybe they could find out what is going on..."

The union has developed a ten-point "Crisis Resolution Plan" which they say must be implemented to protect them and improve hthe state of the prsion system.

The plan includes the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency in the prison system; 12-hour shifts for prison guards; the reclassification of pre-release inmates; state police assistance; a revision of inmate policy; and a review of equipment at the state facilities.

So far, acting secretary Schmidt has acted on one accommodation of the guards. A re-drafting of inmate rules is currently underway.

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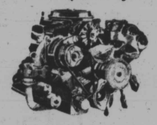
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