—MBDA grant

Continued from page 1

He cited figures that indicated that CEBO had packaged over 700 new businesses and secured loans in excess of $40 million since having the loan.

But in an interview with the AFRO this week, Daniels emphasized that CEBO's efforts were not entirely segregated to helping new businesses get started, but were, in fact, devoted to the selfsame principles of helping existing minority businesses stay alive amd remain competitive.

He said that the CEBO proposal submitted this year to the Department of Commerce identified 149 businesses that met the criteria set forth by the federal government.

Commercial Credit's proposal, according to Nassif and Bonnell, identified 100 such businesses, and will assist them over the next year.

A key point of difference, however, in what has been the case up to now and what is to be from now on is that CEBO helped, almost exclusively, black businessmen get started and to stay afloat.

According to the wording of the current proposal to be honored, "minority" businesses, which will include, more broadly, all so-called minority ethnic and sexual groups, will be assisted.

In a prepared statement sent to the AFRO, Commercial Credit quoted a study made by the federal government over a five-year period that said in that time frame, "the total number of minority businesses increased only 24 percent" nationally.

The low growth rate, which would have seemed to indicate a low performance record by CEBO and other similar organizations was hotly refuted by Daniels, who pointed out that the figure represented total minority involvement in the business world, as opposed to black involvement, with which CEBO has been most actively involved.

"When the black growth rate, which is substantially higher, is incorporated into the total minority growth rate, the black rate goes down," he said in acknowledging both the figure and the study from the which the figure was quoted.

"There has been some distortion in the figures," he said.

Just how the transference of the MBDA contract from CEBO to Commercial Credit, which has offices throughout the country, will ultimately affect the overall growth and potential rates for black businesses here was not immediately known. Nor was it known what percentage of "minority" businesses to be aided this year by Commercial Credit will be black.

Nassif and Bonnell, from Commercial Credit, stressed, however, that the emphasis on work done for the minority businesses would be on job creation and growth rather than new businesses being started

"I think what the federal government has said this year," said Bonnell, "is that they don't know if it has been helpful or harmful to help new businesses get started and get into debt."

He said the securing of loans for many businesses only helped them to fail because they did not have the expertise to succeed once the business was started.

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—Swisher

Continued from page 1

"We are not saying that if the men were tried in the city they would not receive the death penalty," said Cummings, "but it seems that Swisher has recommended that the trial be moved elsewhere to insure that that penalty be given."

Smith accused Swisher of trying to "placate his right-wing buddies," and said that it was necessary for someone to stand up for the defendants.

"We don't condone what they did," he said, "but they are entitled to a fair trial and to be judged by their peers."

Smith admitted that he did not know if the amicus curiae brief would be granted by the courts, but said that "we have to try."

"In any event, Swisher will be more careful before he pulls something like this again," Smith said.

In a prepared statement, the lawyers said that "Swisher... has by his silence stated that black citizens cannot be trusted to weigh the evidence and return a fair verdict according to the facts in these murder cases."

"He demeans," the statement continued, "the very electorate he represents, although he was certainly not the choice of the majority of our community ..."

The statement concluded by saying that the Monumental City Bar Association "... would join the defendant's counsel in their appeal of Judge Dorf's decision removing (the trial) to Illyswhite Garret County."

—Promotions

Continued from page 1

Police department officials denied that there was any attempt to circumvent Judge Kaufman's ruling against discriminatory testing, and said that the city Civil Service Commission is to blame for the resultant furor.

"On Friday, (of last week), after business hours, we the Civil Service Commission sent over a certified sargeant's list," said police department spokesman Dennis Hill. "On Monday, he got with the mayor, and got permission to make the promotions." Hill said that the two days preceding Wednesday were spent notifying the officers of their impending promotions and giving them the required physicals.

"At 11 a.m. Wednesday morning, we received a call that Vanguard was getting an injunction, (to stop the promotion ceremonies)," he added.

He pointed out that the Civil Service test used to determine which men would be promoted was a new one prompted by the earlier lawsuit, and that the police department was only following the directions of the Civil Service Commission in okaying the promotions.

According to Hill, 15 new sargeant's positions were opened up, and six more were created as those sargeants were promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Two additional officers were promoted to the rank of captain.

Two of the new lieutenants were black, while two of the sargeants and two of the novice sargeants are black.

Since 1975, the NASA Space Flight Center has reached or exceeded NASA 8 - A goals topping out NASA's all - time high for any Center at $16 million in 1978.

—City schools

Continued from page 1

Although more state aid is given to poor districts, the suit contended the state's equalization efforts were inadequate and violated Maryland constitutional guarantees for a "thorough and efficient system of free public schools."

School superintendent John L. Crew said, "This decision comes at a time when we're really feeling the pinch of the city's budget.

Obviously, I'd like to have the money for september. I could reduce the class size and saturate them with resources."

The suit charged that the wealthier jurisdictions including Montgomery County voluntarily joined the state, as a defendant in the case, were able to pay higher teacher salaries, enabling them to procure instructors with more training and experience.

The suit said the result of unequal financing was evident in scores on a Maryland reading test, with students from Baltimore and the three rural counties falling the test at a rate three times that of students in wealthy Montgomery County.

Partially in response to lawsuit, the General Assembly in both 1980 and 1981 passed bills authorizing additional aid for education for certain "targeted" jurisdictions including Baltimore.

Goal set for college fund

PHILADELPHIA — The United Negro College Fund's local fund-raising campaign was launched May 11 in Philadelphia with an $600,000 goal.

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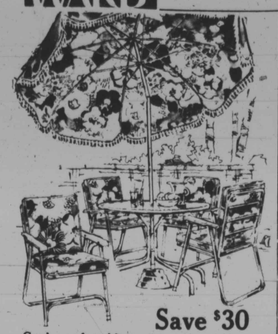

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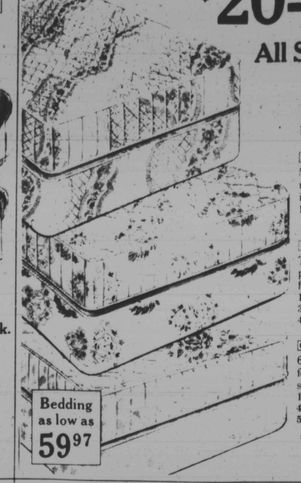

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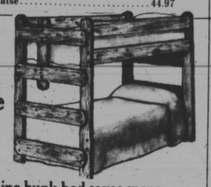

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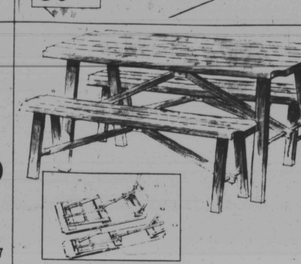

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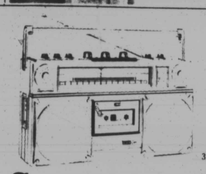

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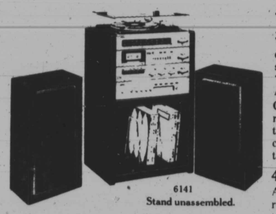

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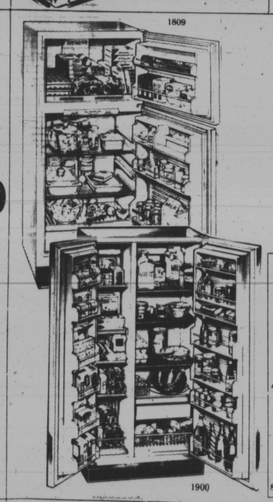

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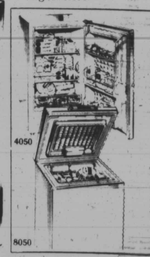

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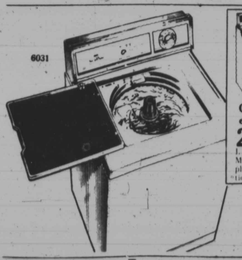

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