POMERLEAU'S PRIVATE ARMY

Power gone haywire!

Also see news story column one

News Commentary by Madeline Murphy

A little more than 10 years ago, in the offices of the AFRO-AMERICAN newspapers, notable black officials and civic workers were gathered to complain to Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau about the police harassment and brutality of some officers in the case of a black woman, who was viciously attacked, without reason, by a police dog.

Commissioner Pomerleau was patient for just a little while. Then he stood up, pointed his finger around the room while stating in quiet measured tones, words to this affect, "I know all of you and

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Man, 76, found dead behind nursing home

The body of an elderly Glen Burnie nursing home resident, who had been missing for about a month, was found early Wednesday in a wooded area on nursing home property.

Jack Rayhart, an Anne Arundel County police spokesman, said Irwin Spurlock, 76, had been reported missing from the Plaza Manor Nursing Home, 7355 Furnance Branch Road E., on Oct. 16.

His body was found by two teenagers, who had been walking through the woods, on Nov. 11. They contacted nursing home officials and asked them about a "mannequin" in the woods, Rayhart said.

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WE ARE NOW IN OUR 90TH YEAR

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Baltimore women on the move

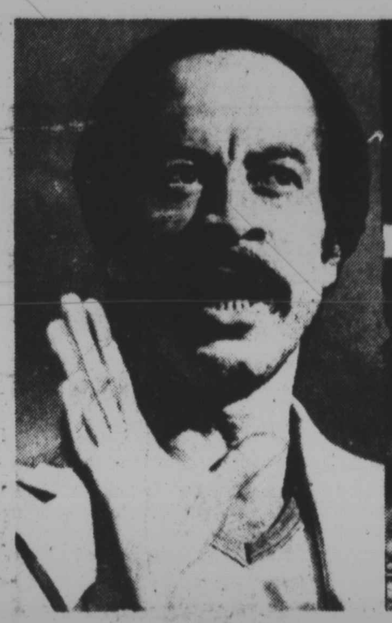
special supplement in this issue

'Criminals control our lives...!'

'Pushers, robbers' wrong models for our kids

'I see the elderly walk in fear...'

'My son was killed...'



AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

MORE THAN 300 citizens from all walks of life attended a meeting to fight crime Monday night at Christ Temple Church on Pennsylvania Avenue. Shown from left are Arthur Gross, who said, "Our children are not following any role models because our role models are dope dealers. Bob Shiver said he can see the elderly walking in fear and Mrs. Lottie Connors said, "My son was killed in Edmondson Village." Photo below shows citizens who jammed the church for the three hour meeting.

Citizens meet on crime

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Citizen outrage at increasing criminal activity and violence on the streets of Baltimore culminated Monday night in a mass meeting aimed at reducing crime.

The Rev. St. George Crosse, Republician political activist and prime mover in this community fight against crime, sounded the meeting's theme when he told the group, "The criminal controls our lives. He tells us when we can go out and when we can come in. Crime touches everyone of us.

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Mini-police plan panned

A swift and largely negative reaction apparently has caused a "temporary" delay of Mayor Schaefer's plans to use public money to establish a "mini" police force to be headed by former Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau.

But, Councilman Kweisi Mfume emphasized the word, "temporary." He told the AFRO the plan to form the mini force, a quasi-public corporation to replace private guards at city buildings, would "adversely affect the black economy" of Baltimore.

While much of the outcry generated by the announcement of Schaefer's plan at Monday's city council meeting has been negative, Del. Frank Conaway, in a prepared statement, favored Pomerleau's emergence from retirement to develop the mini force and called for the formation of an "auxiliary police program manned by community volunteers."

If established, the corporation would have as its consultant, Pomerleau, who retired in September.

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Wilson Park home owners not giving up

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Even though the City Council gave its stamp of approval to the mutual housing project in Wilson Park, opponents of the proposal say they're not giving up their fight.

Charles McDaniels, former president of the Wilson Park Improvement Association, stated that the group hopes it can persuade the mayor to veto the bill.

The group, which represents homeowners in one of the oldest black neighborhoods in the city, has been granted a request for a veto hearing.

The hearing is scheduled Monday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. Approval for the plan, which includes 152 units on 10 acres of land at ColdSpring Lane and The Alameda, came at the Nov. 9 council meeting.

The 16-1 vote with Norman Reeves voting against and Victorine Adams and Kweisi Mfume abstaining came as no surprise to the group, according to McDaniels. "We're aware how the councilpersons usually vote," said McDaniels. Earlier the council gave preliminary approval to the project.

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750 protest BG and E increase

By AFRO and wire sources

A new citizens' movement is afloat and it is growing fast-angry over Baltimore Gas & Electric's record proposed rate increases.

The Public Service Commission is not surprised by the large number of people attending hearings on a requested $199 million rate hike for BG&E, a member said Thursday.

"We had been told to expect a large crowd. We weren't necessarily surprised, but we were pleased with the large turnout," Wayne Hamilton said.

More than 750 people packed two public hearings at school auditoriums to express their opposition Tuesday and Wednesday to an increase the utility company said would add about $12 per month to the average bill.

Hamilton said Tuesday's hearing was one of the largest he has ever attended. Most hearings usually attract 10 to 50 people and commission members sometimes outnumber witnesses, he added.

More than 50 people spoke each night and their message was the same: Most cannot afford the hike.

Gloria De Barry, an unemployed mother of four, told the PSC her budget would not stretch far enough to absorb the increase.

"Last year, I had to seek help from three different organizations to pay my utility bills," she said. "There is no way I can handle this. Where is it (the money) going to come from?"

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Urban Services aide charges harassment

An Urban Services Agency employee, fired after 20 years on the job as a secretary, said charges cited in her termination were "false" and "vague" and that she suffered "harrassment" and abuse while on the job.

Louella Dingle told the AFRO she is waiting at home to learn the results of a Civil Service hearing appealing her Aug. 28 firing from her job as a USA secretary.

Even though she has seen the letter of termination and has heard the charges against her, Ms. Dingle said she still does not know why she was fired. During her 20 years with the city, her evaluations "have been excellent," she said.

"I have yet to hear why I was really dismissed. I heard words, but they don't make sense," she said.

Sharon Randall, a Classified Municipal Employee Association representative handling Ms. Dingle's case, told the AFRO Ms. Dingle was "terminated supposedly for walking off the job."

She said the USA technically fired Ms. Dingle for incompetency, inefficiency, negligence, insubordination and carelessness. Ms. Randall said the firing was based on two instances.

The first occurred April 6, 1981, when Ms. Dingle was supposed to have refused to report to her work assignment, for which she later received a written reprimand, Ms. Randall said. The second incident on Aug. 11 occurred when Ms. Dingle was accused of walking off the job.

Ms. Dingle told the AFRO in April, when she was transferred from her job as secretary for Lester Buster, head of USA's Neighborhood Services Program, she was not given adequate time to clean off her desk and tie up loose ends in the office.

She said she called her supervisors and also wrote them a memo advising them she would report to her new assignment after she first went in to her old office. Ms. Dingle said she reported to her new job at 10:30 a.m.

In August, Ms. Dingle said she became ill while working. But before she left the office, she said she told her supervisor, Dr. Doris Hall she was ill and filled out her time sheet indicating she was taking sick leave.

In a memo, dated Aug. 24, to Dr. Hall and others, Ms. Dingle said the accusations against her were "false" and "vague." She said she had been harrassed, the target of character assassination and abusive behavior.

Dr. Hall told the AFRO she did not have anything to do with Ms. Dingle's firing.

"I'm not the person who had anything to do with her termination," she said.

Lloyd Mitchner, a USA personnel official, could not be reached for comment at AFRO presstime.

The Dingle case has been a rallying point for CMEA members for several weeks now. The labor organization's recently has been citing USA for what CMEA calls unfair labor practices.

One more chance for Orchard St. Church

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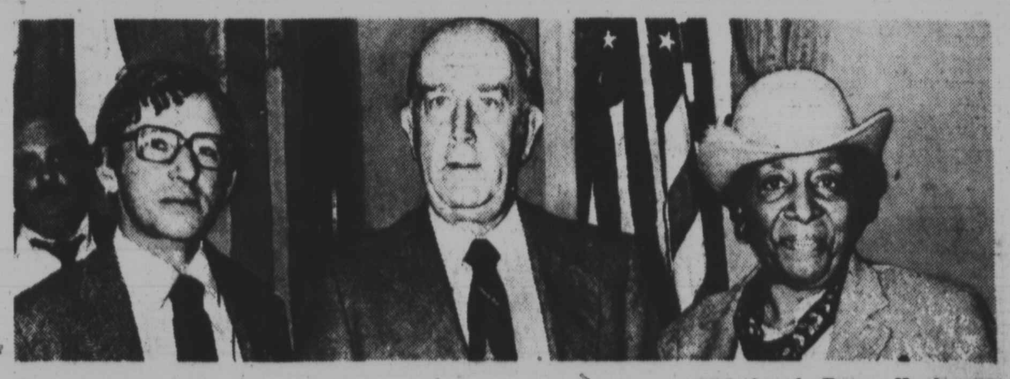

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

ORCHARD STREET CHURCH — The city has turned over Orchard Street Church to a committee that plans to move immediately toward renovation and establishment of a black history museum in the structure. Shown from left are housing commissioner M. J. Brodie, whose agency has been working with the Committee to Preserve Orchard Street Church, Mayor William Schaefer and Mrs. Marguerite J. Campbell, who assumed leadership of the committee a year ago.

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