'Get tough' crime bills could wreak havoc if passed

If several bills, requiring mandatory sentences for certain crimes, are approved by state legislators, the president of a union representing some of the state's correctional officers asked, "where are we going to put all these people" in the already overcrowded prison system.

Del. Robert Douglass, (d-45th), the sponsor of two such bills, told the AFRO, the bills will have a deterrent effect on "career criminals." He admitted, however, the "short term" effect of the bills would result in more people being sent to Maryland state prisons.

Ed Davis, president of Local 1678 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said the prisons are overcrowded by 150 percent.

"We need to take a very serious look" at some of the proposed bills, he said. If just three of the bills are passed, requiring mandatory sentencing becomes law, each bill will "add more than 10 percent" to the current prison population of about 9,200 inmates.

He also said the bills would take away "judge's discretionary powers, something Del. Hattie Harrison, (D-45th) agreed with.

Del. Harrison told the AFRO she is opposed to mandatory sentencing "taking away something from the judges."

"They (judges) are capable of doing what they have to do," she said. But, she will have to study the bills before making any determinations.

Recently, Thomas W. Schmidt, state corrections secretary, went before a state Senate committee to testify about the effect of the proposed legislation.

If passed, Schmidt is reported as saying more money and prisons will be needed by the state to accomodate the influx of inmates. Four new prisons currently are planned to help eliminate existing overcrowding.

"It's not going to do any good to pass these laws and not put any new beds in. There are only so many beds, without additional beds, it would force the system to go back where it was, forcing inmates through the system too quickly," he said.

More than 100 bills, dealing with crime and punishment alone, have been or will be introduced during this session of the General Assembly. As sponsor of two of the measures, Douglass said his bills will eventually will have their desired effect.

"I think there will be a short term impact on the number of people housed in jail," he said, but the legislation is designed to "let criminals know we're getting tough."

Douglass said his bills are targeted at repeat offenders, "the people who are career criminals. We have to get them off the streets."

Hypothermia: claims elderly

By Anne B. Lane

"I've got my love to keep me warm," crooned a songster some years ago. But for the elderly who may remember when that ditty was popular, love alone is scant protection against the cold.

One of the most serious dangers of winter weather for older people is accidental hypothermia—a drop in deep body temperature that can be fatal if it is not recognized and treated promptly.

Hypothermia in the elderly is not just the result of extreme cold. Even mildly cool temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit (15.5 to 18.3 degrees Celsius) can bring on this condition.

Those who are suffering from diseases of the veins and arteries or who are taking certain drugs such as chlorpromazine and other phenothiazines, are particularly prone to hypothermia.

Tricyclic antidepressants, benzodiazepines, reserpine and morphine in therapeutic doses and other drugs taken in excess or combined with alcohol also can depress the body's temperature controls, setting the stage for hypothermia.

Accidental hypothermia may be confused with a stroke, diabetic coma, or heart condition, but there are clues to the correct diagnosis of this chilling condition.

The victim's face may be bloated and the skin color pale. There may be trembling on one side of the body or in one arm or leg.

Shivering and pallor, usually associated with the body's normal response to cold, are strikingly absent.

Other signs of accidental hypothermia include: irregular and slowed heartbeat, low blood pressure, slurred speech, and shallow, very slow breathing.

Victims feel cold to the touch and may appear to be in an acute stage of confusion. At low body temperatures, the victim will probably be unconscious.

A person whose body temperaature has dropped below 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32.2 degrees Celsius) is a medical emergency and should be treated in a hospital.

Rewarming the hypothermia victim must be done slowly, no more than one degree an hour.

Elderly people, especially those over 75, can protect themselves against accidental hypothermia by keeping their rooms at 70 degrees Fahrenheit; avoiding prolonged exposure to cold, wearing adequate clothing, including sweaters, robes, a cap or hat, and thick socks, and having enough blankets for their bed.

They should try not to be alone for very long and should ask someone to look in once or twice a day, particularly during very cold weather.

Those taking medicine to treat anxiety, depression, nervousness or nausea should check with their doctor to find out if the drug is a phenothiazine.

If you have any questions regarding hypothermia, call the Food and Drug Administration at 962-3731 or write to U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 900 Madison Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21201.

Former president, wife receive award

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn will receive the annual Distinguished Service Awards from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The awards, which are given for the Carter's outstanding contribution in Christian social ethics, including their private and public support for strong families, will be given during the CLC annual seminar in Atlanta, Ga., March 22-24.

The Carters, strong Southern Baptists, will be present to receive the awards and will make a response.

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—Plenty of work ahead

(Continued from Page 4)

legislation is unnecessary and should be defeated!

Title I - Elementary and Secondary Education Act Funding: Title I funds are used to aid the scholastic development of disadvantaged students. These funds are among the hardest hit as budget cutters have already proceeded to whittle away approximately thirty percent of its fiscal year 1982 monies.

If Title I funds are slashed below the $3.4 billion funding level, more than 650,000 poor and disadvantaged students throughout this country will be without special assistance in such areas as reading.

Additionally, more than 100,000 teacher aids stand to lose their jobs if the funds drop below this level.

It is important you keep letters coming to all House and Senate Members, urging funding for Title I ESEA monies not fall below the current level of $3.4billions!

Other priorities for the current Congressional session include:

Natural Gas Prices: As you know, the Administration is seeking the decontrol of natural gas prices as quickly as possible. It is expected the President may send legislation to that effect for Congress to consider.

Many fear such speedy actions will basically result in higher prices for consumers, and windfall profits for the large oil companies. We must oppose decontrol; however, we must also be ready to demand a very strong windfall profit tax if, indeed, the speed up of natural gas price decontrol becomes a reality.

Departmental Dismantling: The Administration has vowed to abolish the Departments of Energy, as well as Education. While the Congress is not expected to accept this proposal with open arms, it still is important we monitor this closely.

These Departments have been vital to the protection of blacks, minorities, and women, who attempt to participate in the areas of Energy and Education.

Their complete abolishment could mean the total destruction of any federal commitment to ensuring all citizens are provided a chance to take advantage of opportunities in these areas.

While all of the aforementioned items will be on the legislative agenda, the domestic economy will continue to dominate much of our time.

In the face of senseless budget cuts which were herded through Congress the last session, we have been asked to trim yet more monies from very vulnerable human services programs.

Accordingly, Congressional Committees will be reviewing such programs as: Legal Services for the poor; Student Loans; Head Start; Aid to Families with Dependent Children; Food Stamps; and Low Income Energy Assistance.

It should be kept in mind, However, many of these programs will be transferred to the states, if the Administration has its way, and these entities will be forced to administer them within very stringent funding limits.

The agenda is formidable; our jobs will get tougher. So let us keep reminding ourselves that we are a strong positive people, and we will survive!

McCormick chairman to speak at U of M

Harry K. Wells, board chairman and chief executive officer of McCormick & Co., Inc. will speak on "New Initiatives for the Work Environment" in the third of a six-lecture series sponsored by the University of Maryland.

The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 in the university's Center of Adult Education located at Adelphi Road and University Boulevard in College Park.

The series, entitled "The Future of Private Enterprise: Initiatives for the Eighties," is free and open to the public.

It is made possible by a $25,000 grant from the Dr. Scholl Foundation and the Association of Private Enterprise Education.

Maryland is among 10 institutions selected nationwide to host one of the foundation's forums on private enterprise.

Maryland's series focuses on three key questions: What is the future of private enterprise? What can it offer as a major source of economic development and social progress in the years ahead? How can our colleges and universities contribute to the economic well-being of our nation?

Wells in 1941 joined McCormick & Co., the world's largest flavorings, seasonings, spices and specialty food products firm.

He has been a corporate director of the company since 1965. He was elected vice president in 1968, elected president in 1969 and has served in his current two positions since 1977.

Active in the Baltimore community, Wells is chairman of the Maryland State Board for Higher Education and serves as a director of several institutions, including Maryland National Bank and Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.

Theater project offers part-time youth jobs

Beginning March 1, the Voices Company of the Baltimore Theatre Project, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will hire young people aged 15-21 from Baltimore's I.B.G.W.U. and Steelworkers' Union families for part-time jobs in research and the production of "Sons and Daughters, Sisters and Brothers," a play about union families in Baltimore.

The jobs will continue through the summer of 1982.

The project is designed to provide active participation by a group of youth from union families and backgrounds in researching the history of organized labor in Baltimore.

This research will be the foundation of a theatre piece to be performed in union halls, libraries and community centers throughout the city. It will be geared for youthful audience, but will have interest for the entire family.

Learned job skills will include professional training in oral history research, traditional historical research, social history theatre production and how to lead discussions, plus research and production of a play about three generations of workers' organizing in Baltimore.

The Voices is a professional company whose production about Baltimore's neighborhood history based on the actual words and stories of real people living and working in the city has toured the country and recently been adapted for a television special for PBS TV entitled "The Great American Neighborhood Roadshow," to be released nationwide this spring.

For further information contact Barry Meiners or Helen Szablya, 539-3091 or write to Theatre Project, 45 W. Fresion St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Low-interest homes available on Westside

A West Baltimore developer is setting up a waiting list of potential home buyers for eight percent interest mortgage loans in the expectation of receiving an additional allocation of FHA 235 loans in mid-February.

Fairfax Properties, an affiliate of Fairfax Savings and Loan, has sold 41 of its 53 rehabilitated townhouses at Franklintowne-by-the-Park in Rosemont, including 16 under the low-interest loans announced last month.

The low-interest loans are available to families with incomes of $16,000 and $25,000. NO down payment is needed, but families will need approximately $1,900 in total cash for settlement costs at time of closing.

Monthly payments for the three bedroom homes for families buying under the low-interest loan program will be only $372.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development will reassess unobligated FHA-235 funds Feb. 19 and redistribute loans not committed in other areas of the country.

Fairfax Properties has applied for additional funds under the HUD redistribution policy.

The sales office at Franklintowne-by-the-Park at 3203 Westmont Ave. is open daily from noon to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 945-4600.

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