—Workfare

(Continued from Page 1)

Provisions of the bill made it mandatory that welfare recipients work off their grants. The recipients would be placed in public, non-profit making sector jobs or in the private, profit-making sector.

However, from the start black legislators, such as Delegates Troy Brailey and Walter Dean, questioned that with Maryland's high unemployment rate and cutbacks and layoffs in some state agencies as well as in the private sector; where would these jobs come from.

Sen. Murphy echoed that concern. She also said similar bills have been implemented in other states, but those bills have "proven not to be a success."

"How are you going to take them off of welfare and give them jobs that don't exist," she asked. "No black in their right mind would have voted for it."

Bob Cheeks, the BWRO executive director, told the Afro he was "happy that the Senate Finance Committee showed the courage to kill that piece of legislation."

Cheeks said his group and others, including the NAACP, the AFL-CIO, testified before the senate committee Monday.

"We were opposed to the whole concept of workfare that forced a person in need of work to work for their check," he said.

Calling the bill "punitive," Cheeks also said it did not provide for the education and training needed for the recipients to become competitive in the job market and it did not protect employed and union people from being exploited.

—WEBB

(Continued from Page 1)

more personnel and possibly expand the station's gospel programming.

Being allowed to operate longer hours, the station now signs on at 6 a.m. and depending upon the time of the year, signs off at dusk, will make WEBB ... more "economically sound."

"A strong signal can attract more people. More people can attract more advertisers," Ms. Brunson said. The FCC has stipulated that WEBB's signal can be 5,000 watts.

Longer operating hours also will allow the station to provide special programming, such as coverage of community meetings.

But one thing which could halt the station's ambitious plans, but which Ms. Brunson said will not be difficult to implement, is the approval of the zoning ordinance by the city council.

Councilman Norman Reeves told the AFRO he is the primary sponsor of the amendment to grant approval for the radio tower's construction.

Reeves said he has not spoken with his fellow councilmembers lately about the amendment, but said he was enthused about the prospects of WEBB operating longer hours.

"I think it's a tremendous opportunity for Baltimore. The station has not functioned at full capacity for a number of years, but WEBB has become a station that is really involved in the city," Reeves said.

"I support it (the amendment) because Brunson has been a tremendous advantage to the city."

Ms. Brunson said she has received support from several community groups to build the tower, but the AFRO has learned the tower is to be located in a "controversial" spot and may run into opposition.

Reeves said the amendment may run into opposition, but it should not amount to much.

"There may be a neighborhood organization that may oppose it," he said. "But by and large most of the organizations in the area are supportive (of it)."

—Teddy

(Continued from Page 1)

tertainer, who has kept a very low profile since the accident, received minor bruises in the accident and was treated and released from a Germantown hospital.

News sources have reported the manager of the Forest Lounge, the club where Watson performs, said Watson was not on the list of persons permitted to visit Pendergrass at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

John Shaffone, of the Forest Lounge, was reported as saying he believes Pendergrass and Watson are "just friends," but that they also may have been dating.

Pendergrass underwent surgery to stablize his condition. He now is on a regular diet and is reported to be in good spirits.

However, the accident that left the popular Philadelphia-based singer paralyzed also apparently has renewed that city's police department's interest in the suspicious murder of Pendergrass' former manager, Taaz Waters Lang.

Det. Edward Hughes, the officer handling the case, said although there has been no new evidence received in the case, it has been kept open should a new lead in the search for the killer of the former model and vice president of Teddy Bear Productions develops.

Waters was gunned down in front of her Mt. Airy home on April 14, 1977.

Taxpayers can extend their filing deadlines

Taxpayers who need extra time to file their federal tax return an automatic two-month extension, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The application for an extension beyond the April 15 deadline is filed on Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return." The IRS stresses that this is an extension of time to file, not an extension of time for payment of taxes due. The taxpayer must compute the tax expected to be owed for 1981 and send that amount with the Form 4868 to avoid interest and late payment penalties.

Only those taxpayers planning to use the 1040 long form are eligible for the automatic extension, the IRS says.

U.S. citizens outside the U.S. or Puerto Rico on the date of their tax deadlines can receive an automatic two-month extension of the filing deadline without filing Form 4868. Taxpayers who qualify for this type of extension must attach a statement to their tax return when they file, explaining that they were outside the U.S. or Puerto Rico on the filing deadline. Interest will be charged on any unpaid tax from the due date to the date the tax is paid.

Taxpayers who expect to file Form 2555, "Deduction from, or Exclusion of, Income Earned Abroad," can obtain and extension of time until 30 days after the end of their qualifying period. From 2350, "Application For Extension of Time to File U.S. Income Tax Return," should be used. If moving expenses are involved, extra time can be obtained by following the special insturction Form 2350.

The IRS also advises that taxpayers filing their 1981 federal income tax returns and claiming a refund should wait at least 10 weeks to contact the Internal Revenue Service about a delayed refund, the IRS says.

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Patuxent gets inmate influx

State prison officials, trying to contain Maryland's swollen inmate population, April 7 ordered inmates transferred to Patuxent Institution and converted Brock Bridge Correctional facility to a medium security prison.

Thomas Schmidt, secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional services said he did not want to resort to the changes at either institution. But he added the influx of 250 inmates 150 more than expected into the state's overcrowded penal facilities in March "put our backs to the wall" on cell space.

Maryland prisons currently hold 9,800 inmates in space built for 7,166.

Schmidt said 120 inmates would be transferred from various prisons to Patuxent by the end of April to ease other cramped facilities. Patuxent is Maryland's only facility for emotionally disturbed criminals.

The prisoners will be housed with other inmates in cells but for one in Patuxent's diagnostic evaluation building. The 80 inmates living there now will be moved to another dorm and double celled with 60 others. The transfer marks the first time inmates have been double celled at Patuxent.

Brock Bridge officials have transferred 128 minimum security inmates to the nearby Jessup pre-release unit and moved in medium security inmates from other facilities.

Schmidt said the Brock Bridge conversion gives corrections inmates to the nearby Jessup prerelease unit and moved in medium security inmates from other facilities.

Schmidt said the Brock Bridge conversion gives corrections officials more medium security space and permits them to fill prerelease beds that have been vacant since stricter security and classification rules were instituted last spring.

Schmidt conceded "any time you have open space housing there is more of a potential for them (prisoners) to do damage to each other."

Prelease inmates eventually will be moved from Jessup to local prerelease centers in Baltimore, Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore to fill 152 vacant beds. Then more Brock Bridge inmates will move to the Jessup release unit and more medium security inmates will move into Brock Bridge.

Supervisors at Brock Bridge and Patuxent asked Schmidt for more guards to help them handle overcrowding and higher risk prisoners. But Schmidt said he denied the Brock Bridge request for lack of funds and added he has not decided if he would increase Patuxent's guard force.

Brock Bridge Warden Paul Davis asked for 21 more guards. Norma Gluckstern, Patuxent's director, requested more guards and overtime to cope with the population increase.—UPI

Coalition rallys against BG&E

The Citizen-Labor Energy Coalition sponsored a rally outside the Baltimore Gas and Electric building, Tuesday, April 6, to urge BG&E to increase its contribution to the Baltimore Fuel Fund and to mark the date BG&E sends out 74,000 shut-off notices.

The Baltimore Fuel Fund is a charitable effort to help pay the winter fuel bills of BG&E customers eligible for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. MEAP is part of the Federal energy assistance program to aid citizens in paying utility bills.

Under the watchful gaze of two policemen, the crowd jostled in the bitter 30-mile-per-hour winds and taped an RSVP invitation to the glass doors, inviting Board Chairman Bernard Trueschler and the BG&E Board to meet with them April 23. On that date, the BG&E stockholders will meet and vote on a resolution before them to increase their contribution.

CLEC charges BG&E could pay much more than they do and they are trying to use their influence and votes as stockholders to make BG&E get the point.

BG&E pays $200,000 into the fund, claims CLEC, but they say that amount is less than Trueschler's annual salary and only one-fifth what is spent on lobbying and political contributions.

With the new Reagan cuts in social programs, the federal energy assistance program has been cut by 25 percent. CLEC organizer Ann Feldman insists, "we're just picking up on Reagan's policy of looking to private enterprise" to pick up where Uncle Sam leaves off.

CLEC wants BG&E to increase its contribution to the Baltimore Fuel Fund to $500,000. They accuse BG&E of getting a $99 million rate increase to give higher dividends to stockholders, but leaving their fuel fund contribution at the same level.

BG&E Media Relations Representative, John Metzger, said the money BG&E pays into the Baltimore Fuel Fund is a charitable contribution on behalf of stockholders, who also contribute to other charities.

"It is a little unfair to criticize a charitable act for charity," Metzger told the AFRO at presstime. "They are attempting to tell us to up our contribution," he continued. However, "we were not required to do this, it was our attempt to help these people get their bills paid," Metzger said.

As far a Metzger and BG&E are concerned, CLEC is "certainly not" in a position to force BG&E to do anything.

New York man convicted of rape

A New York man found guilty by a Baltimore criminal Court jury of kidnapping, robbery, rape and other related offenses could receive up to two life sentences plus 70 years in jail, a prosecutor says.

Sam Jones, 24, was found guilty April 6 of kidnapping, robbery, rape and other related offenses in last summer's abduction of an Essex woman from a rock concert.

Prosecutor Gary Shenker said Jones is slated to be sentenced May 14 by Judge Peter D. Ward.

A 22-year-old Essex woman was attending a Judas Priest rock concert in Baltimore last July 19

Minority businesses receive federal assistance grants

The Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is awarding $1.5 million in financial assistance to minority owned businesses under its Export Development Consultant Program.

The program is designed to increase opportunities for minority owned businesses to get into international exporting.

MBDA currently is seeking applications for 15 cooperative agreements each totaling $100,000.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 15.

The MBDA program will be coordinated with the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration.

Export development consultants will provide assistance to minority owned firms to develop export marketing plans and identify potential markets. The consultants will provide technical assistance, such as short-term financing and shipping information, necessary to complete international transactions.

According to MBDA National Director Victor Rivera, the progr

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According to MBDA National Director Victor Rivera, the program's minority emphasis "is designed to play a significant role in the administration's overall program to reduce the $28 billion trade deficit suffered by the U.S. in 1981."

"We see the minority business community as an important partner in helping to bring down the deficit," he continued.

Rivera said minority owned firms have been hindered by inadequate marketing information, inexperience and insufficient financing when pursuing international trade opportunities.

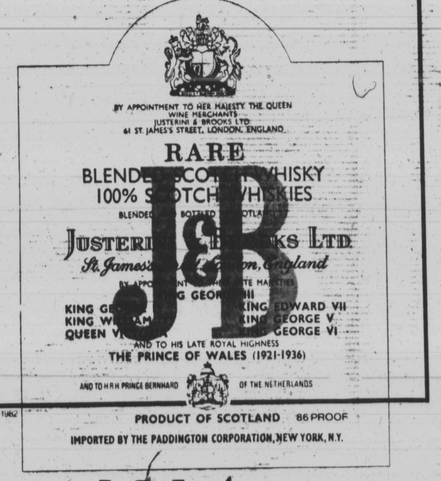
The Commerce Department agency has identified more than 250 existing minority owned export businesses and more than 1,500 minority firms indicating a strong interest in entering the international trade area.

But, the program is not being applauded by all of the minority business community.

According to Dan Henson, Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Committee's Minority Business Development Committee, there are "less than 12 black manufacturing companies in Baltimore producing products. You must produce a product (and) you must first demonstrate to the Commerce Department that you can sale it domestically; now then, there are less than six black companies in Baltimore wh ich can do that."

Although Baltimore is an export center, Henson said "we're setting up programs to enhance exportation when we're not producing anything. We're (blacks) consumers right now."

Above the cheers of frenzied fans, comes a whisper.



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