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See FRIDAY PLUS in this issue

Boy, 13, charged in robbery-murder of Douglass High 10th grader

See Crime Dispatch, page 3

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WE ARE NOW IN OUR 91ST YEAR

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Mayor explains his absence on swearing-in day

Where was Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer Monday, Jan. 3, when Kurt Schmoke and Saundra E. Banks were being sworn into office?

City business in Dickerson, near Hagerstown - a sludge program - kept him busy for most of the day, he told the AFRO.

The committment to go to Dickerson to see about the federal project had been made sometime earlier and it was "impossible" to get out of it," he said.

"After all, I'm just one person. I can't be all places at one time," Schaefer said, adding he certainly would rather have been at the swearing - in ceremonies of the new State's Attorney and the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Those who did attend witnessed a who's who of local, state and Congressional officials among the crowd of more than 2,000 persons who overflowed the War Memorial Building on Fayette St.

The Honorable J. Harold Grady, chief of the Circuit Court of Baltimore presided.

On the platform with Schmoke and Mrs. Banks were Gov. Harry Hughes, judges from the Court of Appeals and the District Court, legislators from the General Assembly, City Council, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell and Police Commissioner Frank J. Battaglia.

While many city officials attended the more than 90-minute program, the Mayor did not send an official representative, according to Judith Kriener, a spokeswoman for the Mayor's office.

Schaefer told the AFRO Wednesday that he does not want it implied that his absence was a snub of Schmoke and Mrs. Banks for his non-appearance. He said he has the "best feelings" for them.

AFRO Photo by P. A. Green

LARRY GIBSON tells why he decided to represent Sen. Clarence Mitchell III at a Thursday afternoon press conference. Seated next to Gibson is Michael B. Mitchell, the senator's brother and co - counsel.

Charges against Mitchell blasted as unjustified

Larry Gibson, the attorney for Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, who faces charges that he inadequately supervised the activities of a salesman who represented Mitchell's real estate firm, said the case is an uncomplicated one and the charges are "unjustified."

Gibson, who also is a law professor at the University of Maryland, said he volunteered his services to the Senator at no charge after he read newspaper accounts of the matter and reviewed the case documents.

"This doesn't sound right," Gibson said referring to the information he had reviewed.

He made his announcement to enter the case at a Thursday afternoon press conference. Seated next to him was City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell, the Senator's brother, who will act as co-counsel in the case.

State prosecutors are accusing the Senator of failing to directly watch over the activities of a salesman, Robert A. Martin, who allegedly misappropriated deposits of several homebuyers.

Gibson said about 10 or 11 consumers are involved.

Prosecutors also are accusing Mitchell of not acting quickly enough to correct Martin's activities. Martin allegedly secured deposits from customers, failed to present contracts to the sellers and did not return deposits, which ranged from $300 to more than $2,000.

Gibson refuted the charges saying that as an independent contractor and not an employee, there was no way for Senator Mitchell to supervise Martin's activities.

Martin, who worked as an independent contractor for Mitchell Properties in five years, was required to turn in contracts and deposits as soon as he received them.

Until this happened, the company had no knowledge that any such transactions occurred, Gibson said. The fundamentals of the case won't change he said.

"Clarence Mitchell had no way of knowing what Martin did."

Gibson questioned the timing of the charges coming to light. An investigation into the matter has been completed and a hearing before the Real Estate Commission began in December and has been continued until Feb. 1.

Gibson would not speculate on

Continued on Page 2

Larry Gibson agrees to defend state senator

Black oil firm submits lowest bid, but loses on $18 million contract

The Jackson Oil Company recently was low bidder on a $18 million contract offered by the Council of Governments (COG) a regional agency comprised of the jurisdiction of Montgomery, Fairfax, Prince Georges County and Washington, D. C.

Although, the black owned Baltimore based oil firm submitted the lowest bid, Will Jackson, president of the 20-year-old black oil company, said his firm was notified Dec. 1, 1982 that its bid would not be considered because of alteration made in the bid.

Jackson told the AFRO the prompt payment discount that was offered by Jackson Oil represented a one percent discount for payment in 20 days or a $180,000 savings over one year to COG.

Jackson said normally the government tries to support the lowest bidder but the firm was not considered because his company attempted to clarify the eligibility of prompt payment discount, which was ambiguous as written in the bid solicitation.

According to Jackson, the contract was awarded to Steuart Petroleum. Jackson said Steuart Petroleum is not offering a prompt payment discount. Their terms of payment are net 20 days while Jackson is allowing the counties to have 10 additional days to pay their gasoline bills, offering net 30 days.

Jackson said he requested a hearing to protest the contract decision. Bob Kendell, of Montgomery County presided at the Dec. 29 hearing.

Jackson stated that Richard Radke, salesman for his firm, explained to COG that if Montgomery County disallowed the one percent, Jackson Oil's price would still be the lowest because the Steuart bid was based on a net 20 day payment from the counties compared to Jackson Oil's net 30 days.

Despite all these incentives his firm offered according to Jackson, COG selected a higher bid and conferred the contract on a non minority oil firm.

Woman attorney elected Monumental Bar prexy

Mary Bernadine Myles, 33, a Federal attorney, is the first woman elected president of the Monumental Bar Association (MBA), this city's long-time organization of black lawyers.

Ms. Myles, at an election meeting Thursday night (Jan. 6), finally achieved victory after she and rival candidate David Mitchell had deadlocked in voting on two recent elections.

The final tally in this third runoff was 39 to 37 in her favor.

The president-elect of the Monumental Bar Association succeeds former president Elijah Cummings who was elected to the House of Delegates to represent the 4th District in the November 1982 general election.

Ms. Myles stated that she is determined to continue the work begun by Cummings during his term in office.

The president-elect is a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School and received her bachelor of arts

Continued on Page 2

Lydell wants to play again.
(See Sports section, page 7)

Mrs. Pinderhughes '1st' school board meeting

In her new post as interim superintendent of the Baltimore City Public Schools, Alice G. Pinderhughes participated in the first school board meeting held Thursday night since her appointment as the school system's top administrator.

A veteran teacher and administrator, Mrs. Pinderhughes told the AFRO she had attended many such meetings in the past and was prepared to get on with the business of running the city's schools.

Before a crowd of about 130 parents, students, teachers and concerned citizens at Coldstream Park Elementary School, the board moved through old business agenda items such as reports from the budget and finance committee to new business agenda items.

First on the list was a report by Dunbar High School principal Elzee Gladden on the progress at Dunbar. Gladden told the AFRO he had been given five charges to improve the school at the end of the 1981-82 school year by then superintendent Dr. John L. Crew.

Summarizing briefly a three page report, Gladden told the board that the school had moved to implement three of its five charges.

Charge one addressed emphasis

Continued on Page 2

AFRO Photo by P. A. Green

IT'S OFFICIAL — Alice G. Pinderhughes participates in the first school board meeting since she was named interim superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools several weeks ago.

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