Dr. Vaughn and powerful cabinet head historic Baptist organization

THE CABINET (L to R)—Rev. Leo Wagner, assistant Sunday School Expositor; Rev. Christopher Hill, Assistant News Commentator; Rev. William Calhoun, News Commentator; Rev. Mrs. Lydia Starks, assistant secretary; Rev. Roy Johnson, Financial Secretary; Rev. Charles Peaker, Recording Secretary; Rev. James Wise, second vice president; Rev. J. Woodard Kelly, 1st vice president and Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn, president of the Baptist Ministers Conference and Vicinity. All photos by Glenn Byron.

National, state, city VIPS among 1,000 at swearing-in

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity marked its 76th year Monday, Jan. 2 with the installation of the newly elected president and officers in impressive ceremonies.

The organization established in 1908 is considered the strongest and most influential in this section of the nation. The new president, Dr. Alfred C.D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church in East Baltimore, was elected to the post for the second time. He first served from 1974 to 1976 and becomes the first ever elected twice.

The new officers, the Vaughn cabinet, includes 10 distinguished ministers, Dr. J. Woodard Kelly, and Dr. James Wise, vice presidents; Rev. Charles Peaker, recording secretary; Rev. Lydia M. Starks, assistant secretary; Dr. Roy B. Johnson, financial secretary; Dr. E. W. Williams, treasurer; Dr. William C. Calhoun, news commentator; Rev. Christopher Hill, assistant news commentator; Rev. Harold Dobson, Sunday School expositor and Rev. Leo Wagner, assistant Sunday School expositor. POSITOR.

A throng of nearly 1,000 persons including some 400 interdenominational clergymen greeted the incoming officers with thunderous applause arousing welcome, seldom seen, came from leaders in the community and churches of many other denominations. Representatives of national, state and city elected offices added their congratulations in speeches which lasted from the 12 noon opening until nearly dark.

A gala banquet held in church's lower auditorium saw the tables filled, emptied and filled again as the guests enjoyed a post-Yule dinner "from soup to nuts." At the head table were Dr. Vaughn, his family including his sister, mother, wife and children, the new officers and VIP guests.

The highlight of the occasion came as the scores of speakers rejoiced at the renewed strength of Baptist Ministers Conference and its incoming leadership in the total community. In the past, the body meeting every Monday at Enon Baptist Church had gained the reputation of being a strong voice in Civil Rights.

The clergymen with a total membership of 200 Baptist ministers and their congregations led in every crisis whether social or political.

Noteworthy were the administrations of:

Dr. W. B. Thompson — Jan., 1960 — Dec., 1961
Dr. R. M. Williams — Jan., 1962 — Dec., 1963
Dr. George A. Crawley — Jan., 1964 — Dec., 1965
Dr. James A. Everett — Jan., 1971 — Dec., 1972
Dr. C. C. Alexander — Jan., 1973 — May, 1974
Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn — June, 1974 — Dec., 1976
Dr. William Rivers — Jan., 1977 — Dec., 1978
Dr. Vernon Dobson — Jan., 1979 — Dec., 1980
Dr. Leroy Fitts — Jan., 1981 — Oct., 1981
Dr. William E. Johnson — Oct., 1981 — Dec., 1983

Of primary note was the presence of the leaders of the other strong ministerial conferences which embrace nearly one million membership in Maryland and vicinity congregations:

Dr. George A. Crawley, president, the historic Hampton (VA.) Ministers conference, an interracial conference known as the largest and oldest of its kind in the world; Dr. Darneal Johnson, president, Progressive Baptist State Convention of Maryland; Dr. Lorenzo Graves Jr., president, United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland: Dr. Douglas Miles, president, Inter - denominational Ministerial Alliance; Dr. Harley Wilson, president, Maryland State Convention.

A star-studded group of some 40 clergymen bringing greetings included Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church, who gave the charge to the incoming officers; Dr. Harold Dobson, Union Baptist; Dr. Vernon Dobson, a past president of the organization; Dr. Walter S. Thomas, Dr. John Bryant, Dr. William Rivers, Dr. M. J. Brackett; Dr. Arthur Jones, Dr. Theodore Jackson, Dr. Edmond D. Meade, Dr. Sidney Daniels.

Elected officials on the program included Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, Senator Nathan Irby, City Councilmen Michael Mitchell and Jacqueline McLean, State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke, Judge Michael Waring Lee, Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman, former Judge William H. Murphy Jr. and others.

Samuel J. Redd Jr., represented the Redd Funeral Home and Eric March, the March Funeral Home. Dr. Elizabeth M. Oliver represented John J. Oliver Jr., chairman of the AFRO board and noted that the founder of the 92-year old newspaper, John H. Murphy Sr., had covered the Baptist Ministers Conference meetings and activities in early years beginning in 1908.

The Conference's first president was Dr. C. R. Waller who was accompanied in its organization by Dr. R. C. Woods, president of Clayton Williams Academy and secretary of the Virginia Seminary, Lynchburg, VA.

Historic highlights included the presentation of the 1908 original minutes of the organization of the Conference and meeting by Dr. Vaughn, and notation of a letter from Dr. John J. Oliver Sr., retired AFRO president now living in Indianapolis, IND.

Noted with regret was the absence of one of the group's strongest members, Dr. W. H. Thompson who died Jan. 1, 1984 the day before he was scheduled to appear on the Jan. 2 inauguration program. Dr. Thompson served as president from January, 1960 through December, 1961. His last rites, Thursday, Jan. 5, 1984, was marked by the presence of officials and members of the Baptist Ministers Conference.

As a matter of record of the historic installation, absent for unavoidable reasons were Dr. James L. Moore, pastor of Dr. Vaughn's first church membership, Sharon Baptist; Dr. Clarence Poole of Ebenezer Baptist and Dr. James A. Everett, pastor of Turner Station's New Shiloh Baptist and State Senator Troy Bralley, the Conference's only member who is not a clergyman.

OVER 400 CLERGYMEN of all denominations were among the crowds of persons in the reception line to greet the incoming officers. The line extended around the vast church main auditorium and into the church

FORMER JUDGE William H. Murphy Sr., chairman of President Hospital Board; Dr. Vernon Dobson, Union Baptist pastor; Dr. Vaughn, former Judge William H. Murphy Jr., attorney, member of Grace Memorial Baptist; Dr. Emmett Burns, NAACP state chairman; City Councilwoman Jacqueline McLean; State Attorney Kurt Schmoke. Judge Michael Lee, Dr. C. C. Alexander, inauguration chairman and presiding officer; Dr. James Lightfoot, associate pastor who represented Sharon Baptist's Dr. James L. Moore.

CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL, one of the guest speakers, looks on as Dr. Harley Wilson, pastor of Israel Baptist Church and president of the Maryland Baptist Convention, presents the community's purse to a smiling Dr. Vaughn.

CITY COUNCILMAN Michael Bowen Mitchell, Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman, Dr. Willard Clayton, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church; Dr. Lorenzo Graves, president, United Missionary Convention of Maryland, are flanked by Annie Nathan Bright.

CHURCH MEMBER JUDGE WILLIAM H. MURPHY JR. adds gifts to the collection as he and Dr. Vaughn share a jolly moment.

GRAND FINALE was the huge banquet in the Grace Memorial Tower auditorium.

5 priorities

Dr. Vaughn opened his administration as president with the pronouncement of five priorities for the organization to begin with the first meeting set for Monday Jan. 9, 1984 at 12 noon at Enon Baptist Church:

1. As to political endorsements which so many candidates have sought in the past, the Conference will only consider for endorsement "after each one's track record has been scrutinized by the body."

2. Conference resources will be pooled to see that no citizen goes hungry, homeless nor cold.

3. Full strength will go to the rescue of Provident Hospital with a full "blood transfusion." Provident can not be lost by the black community.

4. A committee will be established to look at the Conference agenda. Each church will be required to look after its own needy. No "games" are to be run on the Conference.

5. A Crisis Fund Committee will serve as the "Watch Dog" of its AFFAIRS.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Conference.

The inaugural session was officially opened and closed by the new president, Dr. Vaughn. Dr. C.C. Alexander presided. Dr. Sidney Daniels gave the inaugural prayer. Dr. Harold Carter, the Charge and Dr. William C Calhoun, the Roll Call. Dr Vaughn was presented by Dr. Walter S. Thomas.

AMONG SOLOISTS (INSET) were Dr. Vaughn's daughters, Lynnette and Cassandra. Shown in the Mass TV Choir directed by Robert Daniels. Everett with David Wynn, accompanist.

Bullet ending a first for Shue

Washington Bullet Coach Gene Shue said he has never been involved in a game with a more dramatic ending.

Shue, who recently appeared in his 2000th NBA game, was referring to Bullet Rookie Jeff Malone's three-point shot with one second left Tuesday which gave the Bullets a 103 - 102 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

"That was definitely our most exciting finish since I've been with the Bullets," Shue said. "We haven't had that kind of luck before. I can only remember those three-point shots going against us."

Malone's shot was the Bullet's second three-point goal in the game's final eight seconds. Trailing 102 - 97, Washington guard Ricky Sobers netted the three-pointer from 26 feet. After Piston John Long missed two free throws, Washington's Jeff Ruland took the rebound and passed to Darren Dave, who threw a half - court pass toward Malone.

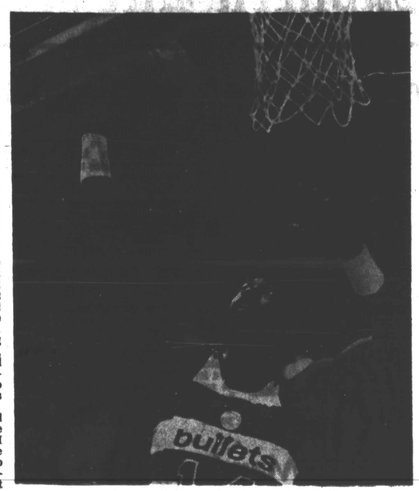
"Darren's pass was kind of long. I had to turn on the burners," Malone said. "I knew I was behind the three-point line. I wanted to get the pass and take a two-point shot or pass, but didn't have the time. I just threw it up."

Malone's shot eased over the backboard as he was falling out of bounds to the right of the basket.

"We had a great view of the shot from the bench," Shue said. "And as soon as he heaved it up, it looked good if it would only clear the backboard."

For the Pistons, who saw a three - game winning streak, snapped, it was the 17th game lost in the last 18 games against the Bullets at Capital Centre.

Detroit Coach Chuck Daly said afterward, "I think we did a lot of things right, but we have also had a lot of bad luck lately. I am getting tired of losing like this. That was the third time this year we've lost on a last second shot."

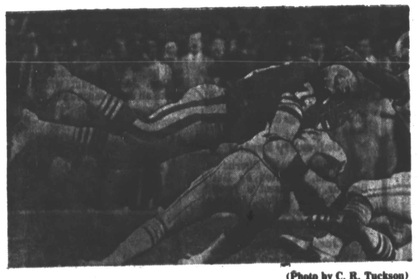


RICKY SOBERS, lays one in for the Bullets

READY FOR THE San Francisco 49ers are not only the uniforms Redskins but the Redskinettes in their new Rugby

Photo by C. R. Tuckson

FACING NEW TEST this weekend is Darrell Green, the Redskins' defensive back who played great game against the Los Angles Rams last Sunday. Green was jubilant here in the final seconds of the 51-7 triumph over the Rams but he is sure to be severely tested again Sunday afternoon when the defending Super Bowl champs face off against the San Francisco 49ers in RFK Stadium.—UPI



(Photo by C. R. Tuckson)

AN INTIMIDATOR who will be attempting to help San Francisco work some magic against the Redskins Sunday in RFK Stadium is rugged Fred Dean (74), caught in action last week as he sacked Lions' quarterback Gary Danielson with less than two minutes left in game as the 49ers remained alive with a 24-23 win.—UPI.

Oilers hire coach in bid to get Moon

HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers have hired the Los Angeles Express' Hugh Campbell as their head coach in a move believed calculated to help them obtain free agent quarterback Warren Moon.

An Oilers' spokesman said Campbell has resigned after one season as head coach of the Express, a United States Football League team.

Oilers' general manager Ladd Herzeg announced the hiring Tuesday through a spokesman and left word he and Campbell were off to scout the East-West Shrine Game.

Campbell, a former player and coach at Washington State, was the head coach of the Canadian Football League Edmonton Eskimos, and Moon was his quarterback when the Eskimos won an unprecedented five straight Grey Cup championships from 1978 to 1982.

Moon was in Houston recently talking to Herzeg. At that time Moon said he would look more favorably on the Oilers if Campbell was their coach.

Moon is negotiating with several other NFL, CFL and USFL teams.

The 49ers plan deception

The San Francisco 49ers are concentrating on the powers of magic this week.

With a little deception here, a few tricks there and a lot of luck all around, the 49ers hope they can fool the Washington Redskins long enough to pull off a feat to amaze millions—a 49ers' victory in the NFC championship game Sunday at 12:30 in RFK Stadium.

"If we can't run we're going to have a long afternoon," admits quarterback coach Paul Hackett.

But the Redkins have one of the best run defenses in the league. Further, the 49er front line is outsized by the Washington defensive wall, which includes 300 - pound Dave Butz.

What may be the 49ers solution to this dilemma: deception. Plays designed to fool the defense are a main tactic in San Francisco's offensive book.

"We used our share of those types of plays," said guard John Ayers. "It's more of an acting job than a blocking job."

However, said coach Bill Walsh in a statement any good magician would agree with, "It is not all trickery."

"You have to get the job done physically somehow" in order for deception play to work, noted Walsh.

"These two teams haven't been together in a while and the last time we played, it was pretty lopsided in their favor," said Washington coach Joe Gibbs.

"It's one of those winner-take-all challenges," he continued. "Both teams have veteran quarterbacks who have been on Super Bowl winners. They're mobile and they'll make plays by getting out of trouble. it will be one interesting game."

San Francisco won the Super Bowl in 1982 while Washington won last year.

The Seattle Seahawks face the Los Angeles Raiders at Los Angeles at 4 p.m. EST for the AFC championship game. Winners of the two championships will play in Super Bowl XVIII Jan. 22 in Tampa, Fla.

Seattle defeated the Raiders twice during the season — 38 - 36 Oct. 16 in the Kingdome and 34-21 two weeks later in Los Angeles.

But Seahawks' coach Chuck Knox is not counting on previous wins to propel his team to victory.

"I don't think what has happened in the two previous games is going to have any bearing," he said. "It's every football game is different. What matters is who does what on Sunday."

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Noah makes move

PARIS — French tennis star Vannick Noah left Paris Sunday to try and find relative anonymity in the United States after complaining he nearly cracked under media pressure in France.

Noah, the French Open winner, said a month ago he had contemplated suicide because of the day to day problems of fame since winning a grand slam tournament in Paris in June.

The flamboyant Cameroon - born player has been more relaxed recently but has stuck by his decision to play the international tennis circuit with New York as his base.

Noah, 23, an idol to millions of French youngsters, promised he would be back to play in the 1984 French Open and a tournament in Monte Carlo.

Basketball

College Schedule

Saturday (Men)
Hampton at UDC
Morgan at Radford (VA) tourney
Coppin St. at Va. Union
Chicago St. at Howard
Va. State at Ashland (NC) tourney
Kan. City at Ashland (NC) tourney
N.C. Central at Shaw
St. Paul's at Radford (Va) tourney
St. Aug. at Norfolk St.

(Women)
N.C. Central at Shaw
Md., E. Shore at Norfolk St.
St. Aug. at J.C. Smith

Sunday (Women)
Hampton at Bowie St.