Reports that Esskay is moving to Va. 'are out of proportion'

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Reports that Esskay may sever its 125-year ties with Baltimore and move to Virginia are "blown out of proportion" according to union and company officials.

But Mayor William Schaefer is taking the reports seriously, and is looking for ways to help the company remain in Baltimore.

"The mayor's instruction is clear. Go all out to retain Esskay in Baltimore," Mark Neaman, the city's coordinator of physical development said Saturday.

Bernard Berkowitz, director of the Baltimore Economic Development Corp., said he will meet with Esskay board Chairman William Hupfeld to discuss ways the city could help the long-time meat-packing company remain here.

City officials are concerned because the move could cost Baltimore as many as 800 jobs as well as lost tax revenues.

Esskay officials said the firm merely has initiated a feasibility study to examine its options — which include renovating its aging plant in the 3800 block of E. Baltimore Street, building a new facility in Baltimore or moving elsewhere. Because the study has not been completed Esskay officials are not even in the process of chosing among the possibilities, they said.

Union and city officials agree labor costs are a great concern to Esskay but expressed doubt that a move to Virginia or to another right-to-work state would result in a savings.

"One of the things they're looking for is cheaper labor costs. That's what they've looked for before. But I don't think they will find much cheaper labor in Virginia," Schaefer said Wednesday.

Schaefer said the city has been participating in Esskay financing packages using federal, state and city funds to develop and retain jobs, producing industries here, and said the same may be possible for Esskay.

"I don't know what they need yet," Schaefer said, adding "I'm not pessimistic. I think they can stay. I hope they can stay in Baltimore." He said if Esskay decides to leave the city he would prefer that the company remain in the greater Baltimore area, keeping the firm's 800 jobs nearby.

Joseph Kerhart, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27, agreed talk of a move is premature.

"It's been blown all out of proportion," Kerhart said Monday. "We've talked to the company as late as this afternoon and all they are doing is looking at their options," Kerhart said.

Esskay has fallen on hard times recently, posting deficits in three of the last four years, including a $25,000 loss in 1983. A 13-day strike in September, during which the union won back concessions made in 1981, cost Esskay $1 million, company officials said. The company showed a profit in 1983, its only profitable year since 1979.

Hupfeld reportedly was considering a move, possibly to Virginia, back in 1981. It ended its hog-killing operation here in November, eliminating 140 jobs.

Berkowitz said the city may package various sources of aid, including Industrial Revenue Bonds, Urban Action Development Grants, Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment funds and city Trustee loans to help the company renovate or replace its aging plant, much of which dates to the 1920s and 1930s.

—Our history

Continued from page 1

in one country where black human beings live. The black historian, Joel A. Rogers, emphasized that we must not be misled by the white man who has already "bleached" history and is trying the utmost to "bleach" the land and the environment seems to be the white man's new goal. Life is beautiful. We are blessed to be living. We must live not to be the reverse and be evil. We must live and live to be — Live to be the best human being that we can be beautiful black human beings.

The black scholar and teacher, Chancellor Williams, explained in his book, The Destruction of Black Civilization, that Western man has successfully erased; blotted out; whited out; and stolen black history and black accomplishments.

(Please read George G.M. James's book entitled Stolen Legacy).

After thorough research, Williams stated that the Greeks and Rom ans took much of African religion and culture for their own. Historian Williams also said that ancient Egypt was an evolution from more ancient Ethiopia although the Western historians and scholars have done all in their power to make Egypt "Caucasian" from its inception.

White scholars even try to say Egypt is not in Africa but in the Middle East. Western man is very serious about "his story" in his continued quest for world dominance.

In the late 1960's and in the early 1970's, young black people demanded to be taught more about their culture and heritage. Black people, we must seriously study if we are to learn more about ourselves and apply that knowledge to the present and for our future. When we are not ignorant but knowledgeable, and informed of what we have done and have not done on this planet, we can better do what has to new and will have to be done. When we are studying our black history, we are communicating with our ancestors, and are becoming stronger and healthier as a people. The fruit must relate to its roots. We must never forget that if there were no roots, there would be no fruit — US!

Our history is and must always be studied, read, talked about, understood, and truthfully recorded. Where are our historians, orators, writers, scholars, spiritual leaders, trailblazers, pathfinders, waymakers, and truthsayers. We are all of these people and positive forces living now and yet to be. We are black and beautiful human beings.

Three named to Wyman Park board

Wyman Park Health System Board of Trustees, at its recent annual meeting, elected three black members to its 23-member board.

Elected were Shirley B. Cooke, Alma Thompson Bell, and Dr. Michael R. Owens. Ms. Cooke, she is deputy director of the Alcoholism Control Administration of the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, was elected to a three-year term, beginning immediately and ending on December 31, 1986. Ms. Cooke received the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Morgan State University.

Ms. Bell, a community relations representative of the Baltimore City Community Relations Commission, was elected also to a three-year term, beginning immediately and ending on December 1, 1986. She received the B.A. degree from Morgan State University.

Dr. Michael Owens, chief of community medicine, was elected as a voting member for a term to coincide with his term as president of the Wyman Park Health System Medical Staff.

Beaten to death with lead pipe

"It was about ten and two men came to the house to pick up Cookie."

"He's killing her . . . he's killing her . . . leave her alone." As neighbors watched in horror a man identified as Tyrone Fowlkes allegedly pulled an iron pipe out of one of the sidewalk flower pots and beat Lorona Adams to death.

Neighbors on the street last night described Lorona Adams . . . called "Cookie" by all her friends as "ladylike," sweet and kind with a lot of problems. She told them that she was pregnant and had six children.

In trying to solve her problems, she was trying to get a job and Wednesday night was on her way to study for a test so that she could go on a job interview on Thursday.

She was married according to neighbors and had "two lovely" Catholic children who are living with her former husband and his wife in North Carolina.

Cole was living with her and the others were farmed out to aunts and mother who lives in Cambridge.

Cookie told friends that her boyfriend Tyrone R. Fowkies was very jealous and she was afraid of him. In June, she took him to court and asked the judge to get him to leave her alone.

Friends also say that Cookie knew that he was a spoiled young man and told friends that he had been in trouble before.

The judge told her, according to witnesses in the June court case that Tyrone was already on probation for beating two other women and if "he comes near you he will get seven years."

Another witness on Lakeview Avenue said that Cookie started going out again with him after the trial but tried to break off from him. He was quoted as saying "if he couldn't have her, nobody else will."

REWARD

In addition to the up to $2000.00 being offered by Maryland Association for Bank Security (M.A.B.S.), Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan is offering an additional $1000.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the armed robbery of its Reisterstown Road Plaza Office on Saturday evening, January 21, 1984.

Information can be furnished confidentially to the FBI, 265-8080 or the Baltimore City Police Department 396-2636.

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(Registered U.S. Patent Office)
Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Circulation audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC)
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. Phone (301) 332-5300.
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Thanks to you, and all of the wonderful beauticians who participated, we raised over $6,500.00 for Sickle Cell Anemia Research (280 curls during an 8 hour period). Special thanks to North Avenue Beauty Supply, and their staff, the volunteers of the Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia Inc., the Westside Skill Center for their fine facilities and their student volunteers, the Baltimore Studio of Hair Design, Carver Vocational High School, Mergenthaler Vocational School, and to all their student volunteers. Thanks also to the Southwestern Police District, Mary Melvis Delicatessen, Scheff's Delicatessen, Berron's Delicatessen, Church's Fried Chicken, Roy Roger's Family Restaurant, Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, Big B Food Warehouse and Pete's Carry Out for all the fabulous refreshments

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Wayne Zudkin, Baltimore Beauty and Doc Dave of North Avenue receiving appreciation plaque from Barbara Smith of Lustrasilk Corp.

Congratulations to Barbara Smith for winning the hat of Paris award for first place and to Carmen Chambers, Beauty and Lillie Dabney for second and Duane Harrison for third.

Thanks again to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to make the Lustrasilk Curl-A-Thon a success. We only wish that more of you could have been able to get "the real curl" for this real cause.

Lustrasilk curl-a-thon
CURL-A-THON IS SPONSORED BY THE LUSTRASILK CORPORATION

—How to handle

Continued from page 1

"It would be best if you had some proof that it is in a garage," Hilliard says, and recommends sending along some proof that the vehicle is awaiting parts or service or whatever it is that prevents the scheduled emissions test.

If you plan to be out of the country, vacationing or hospitalized when your inspection date rolls around, Hilliard says that anyone can take your car in for inspection. If you are unable to get someone to take your car in for you, Hilliard suggests that you call the VEIP information line (760-0400) and arrange a postponement.

Because of the one-month delay of the inception of testing, the VEIP does not have the complete year-long distribution schedule available (which would indicate what month each vehicle owner in the state is scheduled for testing), but Hilliard offers some advice concerning how owners can approximate when their testing month will be.

"The scheduling is done by your vehicle identification number at the end of your registration serial number. If the last two numbers are low, chances are you will test to be first half of the year. If the last two numbers are 61 or higher, you're probably scheduled for the second half of the year."

Although the VEIP has barely begun, it is already become embroiled in controversy. Nine bills to repeal, delay or modify the program have been introduced in the Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee in Annapolis.

Last week Carroll County officials pressed for and were granted a temporary exemption from the new program, and the state has already filed an appeal of the ruling.

State officials warn that the state's failure to comply with anti-pollution efforts may result in the state's loss of more than $100 million annually in highway funds and about $1 million annually in Clean Air Grant Funds.

Carroll County Del. V. Lanny Harchenburn dismissed the threat of a funding cutoff.

"I doubt seriously that it will ever come to pass. The federal government has threatened Maryland for years to cut off funds for failure to comply with certain federal highway comply with certain federal highway happened."

Beginning Feb. 1 most cars in the state must be tested once a year for pollutant exhaust emissions.

Vehicle owners will be notified by mail and told what month to bring their cars to a state testing center for inspection.

The relatively simple, two-minute test costs owners a cash-only fee of nine dollars and is performed in the Baltimore City area on Reese St. at 28th St. and Exeter Hall Ave. between Greenmount Ave. and Loch Raven Blvd. City residents may, however, use any of the other six testing centers in Maryland.

All vehicles made since 1972 inclusive must be inspected. Car models manufactured prior to 1972 are exempt. Any car failing its first emissions test will be retested without an additional nine dollar fee.

VEIP officials say that the first day turnout was heavy at all the state centers. At the Baltimore City center, manager John Bryant said cars were processed at the rate of about 60 vehicles per half hour with a failure rate of about two percent.

—Residency bill

Continued from page 1

said Wednesday. "I think a couple of years at least."

Councilman Michael Mitchell (D, 4th) said the bill would allow Baltimore political factions unwilling to see a black elected invite a candidate from outside the city, such as Baltimore County Executive Donald Hutchinson, to run for mayor, leapfrogging local black candidates.

Mitchell and others are particularly concerned because Schaefer may run for governor in 1986, opening the way for the first change of Baltimore mayors since 1971.

If Schaefer resigns, City Council President Clarence Du Burns would automatically become mayor. Although Burns has said he would like to see Schaefer win the governorship — and see himself as mayor of Baltimore — many City Hall observers doubt that the 66 year-old Burns would run in 1987.

They do not want to see the chance to elect a black mayor hindered by a change in the residency requirement.

"Mike is right on a number of points," said Nathaniel McFadden (D, 2nd), referring to the bill. "I smell a rat somewhere."

But councilman Frank Gallagher (D, 3rd), who co-sponsored the bill, pointed out that the present 10-year residency requirement was ruled unconstitutional by a 1979 court decision.

Citing the 1979 decision, Ambrose Hartman, an attorney with the City Solicitor's office, said to create a residency requirement longer than the one called for in the bill would risk seeing it overturned.

"We've analyzed other cases and think that six months is about all we could get away with," Hartman said Thursday.

"It was a good chance to make a speech, but Mike knows the law as well as we do," Gallagher said, referring to an impossibled challenge to the bill which Mitchell made before the Jan. 23 council meeting.

Because too many politicians will be chasing too few elective seats, state politics is expected to be a free-for-all in the 1986 gubernatorial contest approaches. City politicians fear that some of them, including Hutchinson or former Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Pascal, may be encouraged to run for mayor if Schaefer is not around.

The Mayor and Hutchinson have developed a particularly close political relationship, adding to the apprehensions of those who do not want to see an outside challenge.

—New phone

Continued from page 1

service option, a customer would have to be a user of the 65 call message rate service or the economy service.

If a customer is under the 65 message rate option, local measured service would allow him to pay by the minute for each call after the 65 call limit had been reached.

A customer under the economy service option would pay simply 3.4 cents for the first minute and 1.3 cents for each additional minute which totals an approximate 8.6 cents for five minutes, slightly cheaper than the nine cents a call option.

"This service is obviously for people who do not talk a lot on their phone," said C&P spokesman Carl Smith.

"So often people think we are trying to make something over on them when we are really looking out for their best interest. We just want to give them a chance to save money."

Meanwhile members of the Maryland General Assembly have aimed laws at the Public Service Commission in an attempt to prohibit the Commission from allowing the local measured option service to be operable.

"If (measured time) will start out as an option, then the flat rate will go up so high that it (measured time) will be the only affordable service," said Baltimore County Delegate Paula Hollinger.

The adoption of measured time billing would especially hurt the elderly, according to the Delegate.

In general, the acceptance of the entire phone system change has been overwhelming, according to C&P spokesman Frank Just.

Just said calls were being placed to the right offices and much of the earlier congestion had ceased.

—Engineering school

Continued from page 1

none the committee until the auditor comes around.

Sen. Frank J. Komenda also expressed support/sympathy for the out-going president. He feels that Billingsley and the board suffered because of a lack of support at the school's mid - management level.

The new leadership and the board have to look deeper into management. The report indicates greater problems."

Komenda also says he is reluctant to vote for more funds unless there are some assurances from the board that they will be more attentive to management.

Although he is not for all the proposed cuts, his largest concern is the significant administrative salary increases proposed which would be "rewarding management," but the senator says he has no problem with capital or faculty increases.

Senator Julian L. Lapides agrees, recognizing Dr. Billingsley as an outstanding scholar, but adds that the university needs a "topnotch administrator, someone of a national stature to restore the school to prominence."

Sen. Lapides also questions the need for the requested raises in administrative salaries.

"I think Dr. billingsley was a scapegoat, but more than just the president is to blame," he says. Other administrators may be responsible for the school's recently publicized problems and should not therefore be "rewarded" with pay raises.

Sen. Lapides emphasized that program areas should not be cut by the legislative budget analyst, and that he is in full support of Morgan's proposed budget.

Cool reception for minority inclusion bill

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Although the Mayor and the City Council President have reacted coolly to minority business affirmative action legislation introduced in council Monday, Michael Mitchell (D, 4th) and others are optimistic the measure will become law.

The bill is designed to encourage greater access to city contracts of more than $10,000 by requiring the city to set annual minority inclusion target levels, to establish a full-fledged compliance office within the city's law department to enforce the inclusion levels and to help minority firms identify and bid on city contracts.

The bill also establishes penalties for firms who fail to live up to conditions spelled out in the law. Violating firms could be fined a portion of the value of an awarded contract, or could be barred from bidding on future contracts.

Currently a mayoral fiat requires firms bidding on city awarded contracts to make good faith efforts to subcontract 15-25 percent of contracts worth more than $25,000 to minority firms.

Mayor William Schaefer said the law is unnecessary because the city already has the 15-25 percent minority inclusion guideline.

When asked if the legislation is needed at a Wednesday morning press briefing Schaefer said "No. We're doing it anyway."

"One of the largest sections of Judge Brown's office is minority compliance," Schaefer said, referring to the city's law department.

Supporters of the Mitchell legislation say the mayoral fiat can be withdrawn at any time, and say a law would be a more secure arrangement.

Schaefer administration officials have objected to the expansion of the guideline or to making it law in the past, saying to do so would cut down on the flexibility the board needs to make the best deal for the city. For example, the Board of Estimates awarded a contract for the construction of a garage adjacent to the Howard Johnson Hotel downtown without going through normal proceedings.

The non-competitive award was justified because the administration wanted the work done quickly and the contractor was already working at the Howard Johnson site.

The city routinely awards contracts which exceed the capacity of minority businesses, even at the 15 percent subcontracting level, city officials said.

A law requiring the award of a fixed percentage of city contracts to minorities could force the city to choose between risking non-compliance lawsuits or deferring awards when qualified minority firms are not available to do the work.

Supporters of the legislation appeared confident that, perhaps with some alterations and compromise, enough votes can be found to assure its passage.

"By the time we clean the thing up with some deletions and additions I think we can get it through," said Nathaniel McFadden.

Other councilpersons hedged a bit, saying they needed more time to familiarize themselves with its details.

"I told Mike I would wait until the hearing on that," said Frank Gallagher (D, 3rd). "It's too early to tell. We have to hear from the purchasing department and some other people."

State investigates G & M Oil Co. spills

Officials at the Maryland Water Resources Administration are conducting a routine investigation into the transporting and handling procedures of the G&M Oil Company.

Located in West Baltimore, in the 1500 block of N. Warwick Ave., the 21-year-old company was recently involved in a major explosion incident in the 2500 block of Quantico Ave.

A total of 18 homes were damaged in the blast which was precipitated when a company truck suffered engine trouble unleashing a river of flammable heating oil along the Northwest community.

According to information obtained from the state agency, G&M has been cited for five spillage accidents since the new year.

Mrs. Evelyn Eader Stein, the agencies public affairs officer, states that "The administration is officially investigating the spills that have occured since the first of the year."

While the Water Resources Administration has not determined the actual cause of the five accidents, Ms. Stein did state that "They are under an Oil Operations Permit, and are required to take certain measures and precautions."

By the law it is the responsibility of individuals involved in the spill to submit a report of the incident to the agency.

In cases where home heating spills happen and the fire department is called in to handle the clean-up, they must notify the Water Resources Department.

The city's fire department did just that in one of G&M's five oil accidents that occurred only a few days after the Quantico Ave. fire, says Captain Patrick Fynn, a department spokesperson.

"Several days after that occurrence, one of their trucks spilled quite a bit of oil in the 5700 block of Greenspring Ave. It's not unusual for any oil trucks to have a spillage. Sometimes its driver error or overfilling the tanks," he said.

James Hearn, Director of the Water Administration's Resource Protection Program, also agrees that it's a normal situation for oil trucks to leak fuel.

He indicated that whether a company has one or two or seven spills in a year's time, it is standard procedure to investigate the incidents.

Commenting on the alleged spillage along Greenspring Ave., G&M's vice-president, Daniel Henson remarked that "The Truck had mechanical problems. It was on a hill and it sat there for over an hour and the oil shifted.

"It went into the overflow value as it should have and came out through the vent. We have no more problems than any other company. We run our full service shop shops 18 hours a day staffed with five mechanics," Henson said.

He also said that he was not aware of there being five spill and stated that he had no knowledge of what the Department of Water Resources was talking about.

"When they advise us of the specific incidents they are talking about, I'll be happy to comment," he said.

In addition to this year's alleged spills, the agency reports that G&M Oil was involved in seven incidents last year. All of the spills involved Number Two Home leakage range from a minimum of three gallons to a total of 1,000 gallons of heating oil.

City's energy program

Urban Services Agency, which operates the Baltimore City-Maryland Energy Assistance Program, is now accepting appointments on a walk in basis at most of its centers.

Dr. Lenwood M. Ivey, executive director, reports that six of its 33 intake centers have a backlog of appointments. As a result, these appointments are being rescheduled at the other centers. The affected centers are 1873 N. Gay St.; 2201 Bank St.; 1801 N. Rosedale; 2700 Rayner Ave.; and 3319 W. Belvedere Ave.

Persons who already have appointments, but have long waiting periods, may cancel their appointments and go to another center, says Urban Services Energy Chief Edward A. Dupree. Brochures listing all the locations are available at all centers. Once a resident has applied for energy assistance, the average processing period takes 14 days. Under the state guidelines, the processing must be completed within a 30 day period.

Since the program opened Nov. 14, 20,787 applications have been received as of Dec. 23. During this same period last year, Urban Services had received 20,686 applications. Dupree says he expects approximately 40,000 households will benefit from the $12 million federally funded program.

The energy program is designed to help low income households by paying a portion of their heating bills. It is no an emergency program. However, persons who are experiencing severe health and life threatening problems will get expedited application processing. A one time grant is issued to qualified applicants. The maximum benefit is $300. Grants are based on family income, number of persons in the household and type of fuel used. The program will end March 31. For more information, call the energy hotline number, 396-5555.

Md. sues U.S. over welfare regulation

Several months ago the State Department of Human Resources became the first state in the country to sue the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, seeking a ruling on the federal agency's controversial "Lump sum" welfare rule.

The state filed the suit in federal court in Baltimore questioning the validity of HHS's regulation which requires a fixed period of ineligibility if an AFDC recipient receives a "lump sum" of money.

DHR Secretary Ruth Massinga claims the HHS rule violates Social Security Act Provisions governing AFDC which restrict application of the rule of recipients with earned income. However, the HHS rule applies to all recipients whether or not they have earned income.

The state has been threatened with litigation by AFDC recipients and has been denied permission by HHS to change the policy to comply with Social Security Act provisions.

Most recently, AFDC recipients filed suit in federal court against Maryland and HHS on Jan. 25 to challenge the state's adherence to federal "lump sum" policy.

The state, however, had already judged the federal policy to be illegal and, therefore, had filed suit against HHS in October, 1983, to have the matter resolved by the federal court.

According to Assistant Attorney General Nancy B. Shuger, by filing suit, Maryland joins 24 other states who have been sued. The suit is also one of several ongoing efforts by DHR to clarify sweeping policy changes in assistance programs enacted by Congress since 1981.

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