r. The following feature was compiled by AFRO reporter Alisa Samuels and intern

DeWayne Wickham, host producer of "Urban Scene." "I think that the biggest news

was one of political transition. Washington in Chicago, the

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Beverly Burke

# oldck teens

Whitney Houston and her lover, and many other prophesies are

those of the Rev. Hazel Cassell. Further, her predictions for economic, and social progress and failures of black people

repeatedly that (foreign) missils would come on American soil, and I believe that it has happened," said

frustration with family and love



Rev. Hazel Cassell

jor cities crumbling, almost as if some bomb or something has been dropped in the city." The psychic says that the US-

Sov iet treaty that signed by is not worth the paper used to pring it. According to Cassell, the Soviet Union cannot be trused and it will not uphold its obligation in meeting the ultimate reduction of medium range missiles. She maintains because of its free press, which is committed to gathering and disseminating national news to the free and non-free world.

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# Quirk in law lets Mitchell stay in Senate

By Alisa Samuels AFRO Staff Writer

Ambiguity of the true definition of the conviction of an elected official as it appears in Article XV, Section 2, of the Maryland Constitution, may be prolonging the political life of convicted Sen. Michael B. Mitchell.

According to the law, "Any elected official of the State,... who during his term of office is convicted of or enters a plea of nolo contendere to any crime which is a felony...and involves moral turpitude for which the penalty may be incarceration in any penal institution shall be suspended from office by operation of law...

Last month, Mitchell, 42, and his brother Clarence 47, were convicted of accepting \$50,000 to block a congressional probe into Wedtech Corp., a New York defense contractor.

The senator, who represents the 39th legislative district, was also found guilty of wire fraud to recoup a portion of the money to a private consultant who worked for Wedtech.

Despite the conviction, Mitchell has not given up his seat. Lt. Gov. Melvin A. Steinberg, president of the state Senate in 1974, when the bill was passed, said the purpose of the bill was to suspend an official from office after he was sentenced.

Conviction is the "end of the first step," Steinberg said. "You have to be indicted, tried and con victed - sentenced."

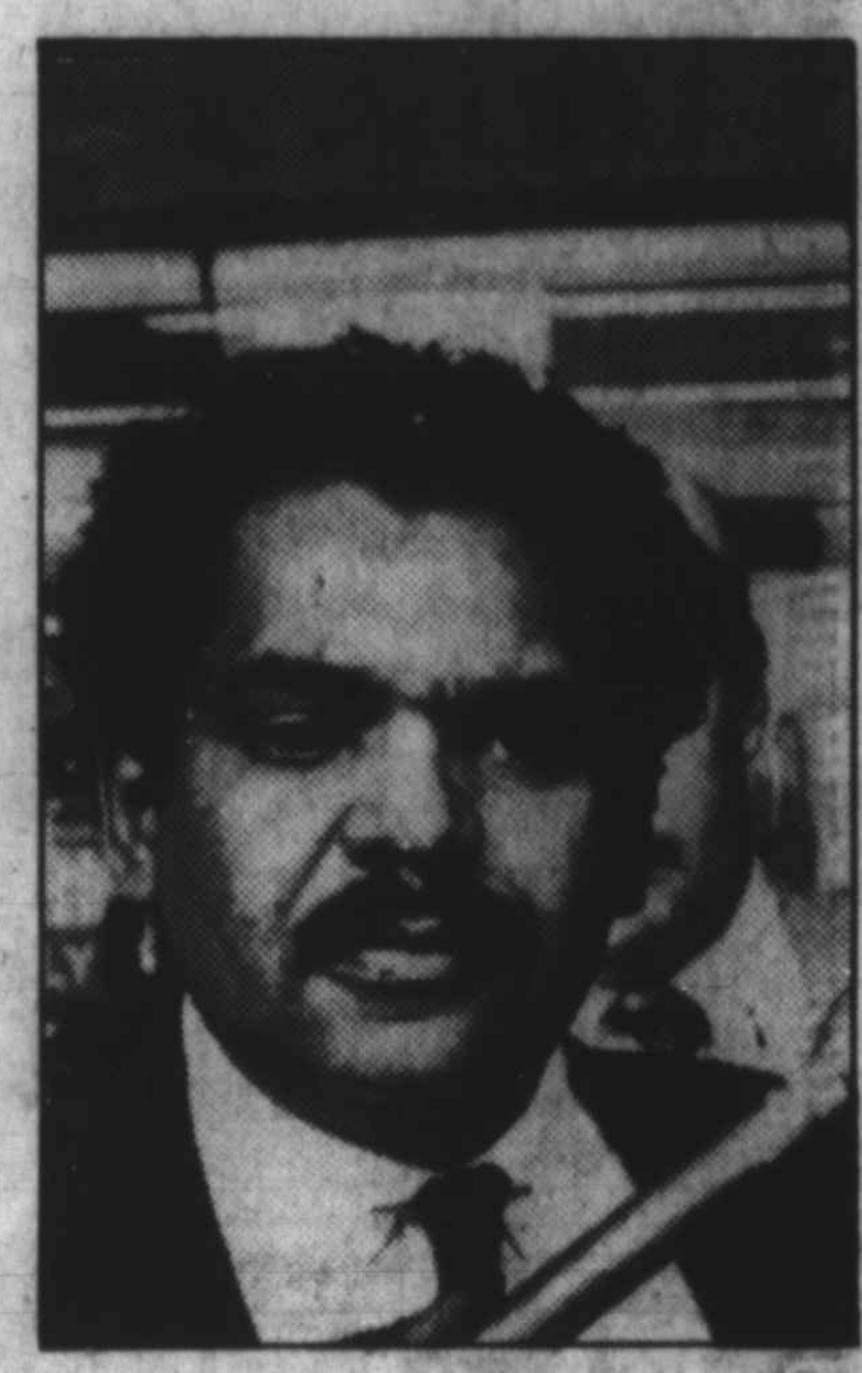
In 1977, the Attorney General's Office issued an advisory on the interpretation of conviction as it reads in Article XV, Section 2.

In the advisory, the attorney general opted to interpret conviction according to state law, instead of federal law.

"Conviction" meant guilt rather than judgment or sentencing, in interpreting the Federal Firearms Act, the Attorney General concluded.

But "...it is our opinion that the word 'conviction' in Article XV. Section 3, means the judgment of conviction which occurs upon sentencing," attorney general Francis B. Burch wrote.

The bill was written and enacted to prevent convicted officials, including former Gov. Marvin Mandel, former, Del. George J. Santoni and other of-



Michael Mitchell

ficials who were found guilty of corruption in the 1970's, to remain in office.

The advisory pointed out that most Maryland Courts tended to interpret conviction as "judgment or sentence," rather than as "verdict or guilty".

Conviction "means judgment of conviction upon sentence,' said Robert A. Zarnoch, assistant attorney general.

"He (the official) can stay in office, until a judge sentences him," Zarnoch said.

Because of this interpretation, Sen. Mitchell is able to serve two weeks in the next General Assembly, before he is sentenced on Jan. 29.

In the past, officials were able to remain in office for an unlimited amount of time, Steinberg said.

"A person could stay in office three or four years after being convicted," he said. "It was an embarrassing situation. We needed a separate remedy."

The remedy was a clearer definition on conviction. After sentencing, the official is removed from office. But after the verdict, the official is able to appeal the decision, and stay in office.

Mitchell, too, plans to appeal his conviction. He could not be reached for im-

mediate comment.

Mitchell could be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

### 'Ax Rosie' dies in prison

By Maxine L. Wallace AFRO Staff Writer

A memorial service was held for Mrs. Martha Ann Rose, better known as Ax Rosie, on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup, MD.

Rose, a notorious ax murderess died at the age of 89 in her room at the prison Saturday, Dec. 26 at 1 a.m. She held the distinction of having served longer in prison than any other female in the state

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Martha Ann Rose

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## Mrs. Pauline Hines dies short of 102nd birthday

Mrs. Pauline Valentine Armstead Hines was eulogized on Wednesday at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Glen Burnie, where she was a lifetime member.

Mrs. Hines, matriarch of an old Maryland family, died Dec. 27. She would have been 102 on Jan.

daughter, Mrs. Mabel Young, recalled: "My mother was selfless all her life. She always thought of doing for other people. She always told us, do what you can to make the world-

a better place. She believed in working, and she inspired all of us to work hard and achieve." A granddaughter, Ms. Linda Grant, added: "Granny was never idle . . . She was always

Born in Baltimore on Jan. 3, 1886, she was the daughter of Howard and Margaret Valentine. She was educated in the Baltimore city public and parochial schools. Her first husband, was William Armstead.

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Mrs. Pauline Hines