Minister warns drug pushers 'I have just begun to fight!'

By Darryl Elwood Owens
AFRO Staff Writer

ATLANTA, GA — Efforts to elicit support for a drug eradication plan linking the community to local and federal governments began last Wednesday as the city's "robed crusader"--the Rev. Richard C. Dalton— "broke bread" with Atlanta politicos at a city tenants meeting.

The meeting, attended by Fulton County Commissioner Michael Lomax (who is running for mayor), SCLC representatives, Louise Gray of the City Tenants Assoc., Willie Fussle of the Southside High School community activists and embattled residents, was a skull session for drug prevention ideas.

Dalton, a Presbyterian minister who formerly pastored Garden Memorial Church in Washington, D.C. and organizer of the movement, unveiled his step-by-step outline linking the grassroots level to government, which was developed and implemented in the District by concerned clergymen and residents.

He compared Atlanta's increasing drug problem to D.C.'s, to which over 60 percent of the 364 homicides recorded this year can be attributed.

"It's really strange," he said "the same issues we were discussing in D.C. are now being discussed here."

Dalton said it was "significant" Lomax and the other politicians made appearances because they "are getting ready to work on next year's budget."

But, he cautioned "right now I'm not certain to what extent this is politically motivated."

Some of the issues raised at the meeting included increasing patrols in drug-riddled Bankhead Courts, a 500-unit public housing project, and increasing the amount of money allocated the police force to increase manpower for increasing foot patrols in Atlanta's troubled neighborhoods.

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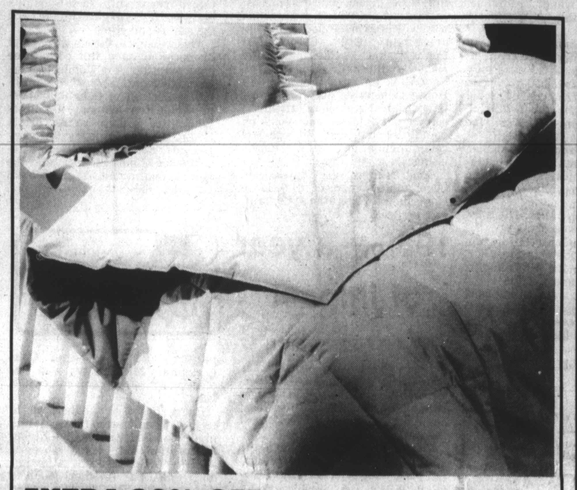

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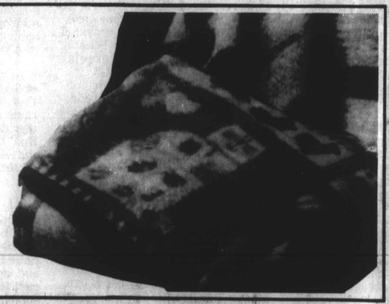

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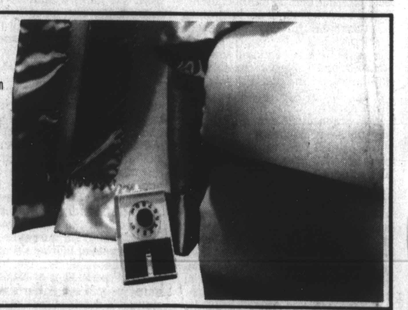
Also save 25% on entire stock of electric blankets. (D.207) Reg. 39.99 to 199.99, SALE 29.98 to 149.99
Limited to stock on hand. Ask your salesperson about warranty information.



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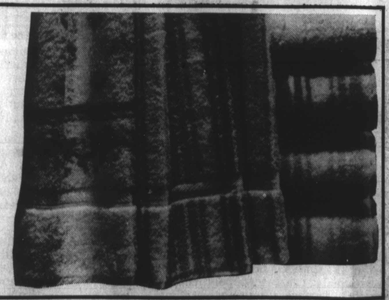
Bath sheet	$20.	9.99	8.98

*Intermediate markdowns have been taken.



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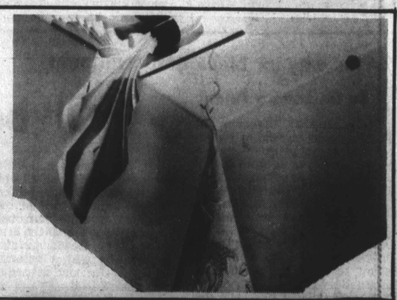
A different selection at each store.



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Baltimore's homeless: 2,000 and growing

HOMELESS MAN ON A PARK BENCH—Pushing his worldly possessions in a shopping cart around downtown Baltimore, this man stops for a nap against the backdrop of a prosperous looking city.

Each night more than 2,000 people in Baltimore have to lay their heads on street corners, park grounds and benches, because they have no homes.

They are not bad people. They are average citizens, who have been hit with hard luck and financial woes.

They are young, old and middle-aged.

Most spend their days and nights on the streets trying desperately to survive.

It is incredulous a country with all its wealth and power can not provide housing to its people who are in dire need.

As winters cold strongly approaches, the vulnerable mothers and their children will gather in temporary shelters. After their time has exceeded their welcome they will again return to the dark and vile streets.

Men repeat this revolving door process as well.

All are susceptible to crime, illness and hopelessness.

This problem plaques Baltimore and virtually every major city in America. In New York City, the homeless have virtually claimed the underground subway system as their mean, unhospitable home. In Dallas, homeless men can be seen eating out of trash containers. In Los Angeles, the homeless huddle across grates in the sidewalk seeking warmth.

This is the first of a three-part series on the homeless. AFRO photographer P. A. Greene has visually illustrated the situation.

Next week, AFRO staffer Helen Cook explores in more detail who the homeless are and who helps them.

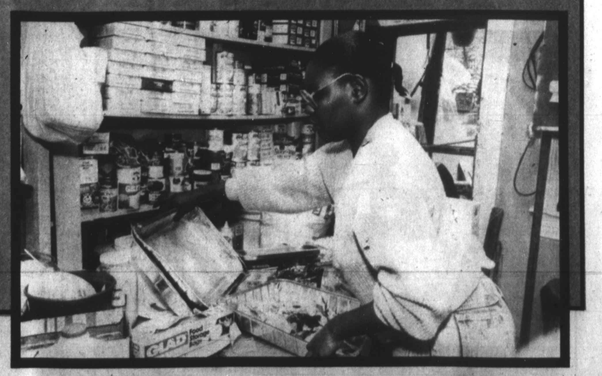
The third and final part of this series falls to staffer Alisa Samuels who will address solutions—what is being done to correct this serious problem.

GUS—without places such as Our Daily Bread, men like Gus would go hungry more often than they already do.

TEMPORARY HAVEN—Dante Ford, 7, plays with his 5-year-old sister Shamika Stokes as Aundra Stokes, 3, looks on. the children and their mother, Vernita Day, are a homeless family who has found temporary shelter with Bea Gaddy.

JIMMY—a homeless man who regularly haunts Baltimore's infamous "Block."

RESIDENTS of Fells Point say the man pictured here is a permanent fixture of their neighborhood.



WILLING WORKER—24-year-old Vernita Day works with Bea Gaddy and others at Ms. Gaddy's Collington Street outreach center. Ms. Gaddy has worked with the homeless and needy for several years.