—S. Africa divestment

(Continued from Page A1)

dinance as a member of City Council requiring the city public employee pension plan to withdraw from companies doing business with South Africa.

"What does suprise me is the fact that the court did not use this instance to take a swipe at local and state sanction laws, and in effect, delivered its own mandate upon the nation as the best way to deal with South Africa," said Mfume.

However, the congressman did feel that the decision did "serve its purpose."

The decison serves as vindication of the efforts of hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the greater Baltimore area who struggled so hard to make a difference."

The state has argued against review of the case.

CENSUS '90

Stand Right Up for Who You Are. Answer the Census.

—50,000

(Continued from Page A1)

who might be removed from the voter rolls.

Cheatham said, "As a practice we will meet with any group or individual interested in registering voters."

Mr. Cheatham along with Board of Election Supervisors Administrator, Ms. Barbara Jackson organized a November press conference to address the problem.

It was attended by Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and City School Superintendent, Dr. Richard Hunter and other elected and appointed city officials.

The press conference ended with Mayor Schmoke declaring the first Tuesday in each month as Voter Registration Day.

Two later meetings were held at the Board of Election Supervisors which were attended by representatives from the NAACP, Associated Black Charities, the Baltimore Urban League and several ministerial organizations.

These and other concerned groups who represent Blacks within the city attended the meeting to ensure that steps are taken by the Board of Elections Supervisors to locate the 50,000 people who may be purged from the voter rolls.

These groups are upset because they view the Baltimore's large minority population as the group that will be most affected by the purging of voter registration.

For many of the 50,000 voters who have not voted in the last five years this hiatus from the polls coincides with the time during the Rev. Jesse Jackson campaign in which record numbers of Blacks were registered.

But they only voted that one time and did not return to the polls in later elections because they did not see a candidate of their choice for election.

Barbara Jackson said, "We not only want to register voters but educate them also. We have always been strong advocates of voter education because we have found out that if we only register voters they often may vote in one election. It should be an ongoing process."

As a result of these meetings Rev. Marion C. Bascom and Ms. Donna Stanley were chosen to head a coalition formed to review the drop in city voters and work out steps to eliminate a further reduction in voter participation among inner city residents.

They also want to insure that those already registered to vote realize the importance of the franchise and that the city's potential voters sign-up to vote and participate in the upcoming Census registration

Rev. Bascom said, "It is important that people know that the coalition is not just a group of churches or politicians, but an effort of people from different backgrounds who live in the inner city. It is a group of various organizations people in coalition."

"Inner city residents cannot afford to let all that we struggled for in Selma, Montgomery and other places die. We are encouraging them to exercise their franchise."

—Don't run lottery!

(Continued from Page A1)

ly subjected to a aggravation and frustration by the police.

Rev. Wendall Christopher organized a Monday prayer vigil which was followed by an afternoon press conference. This Sunday the hierarchy of the A.M.E. Church will offer its support when Bishop H. Hartford Brookings and the Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church, Rev. Earl Brooks hold a special service at the Church.

The aggravation felt by many Ebenezer members as well as the inconvenience and financial burden placed upon the Church and its minister resulted in the Monday press conference in which Rev. Wendall Christopher refuted any allegations of wrongdoing on the part of the church or its members.

Members of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church rallied to the side of their Pastor, Rev. Wendall Christopher as he sat next to his attorney, Edward Smith at a Monday press conference refuting allegations of operating an illegal lottery within the South Baltimore church.

Rev. Christopher countered the accusations placed on his church by saying, "The media presented many inaccuracies concerning the situation. They just wanted to sell a lot of soap" (a reference to media advertisement sales).

Rev. Christopher said, "The media has told the public that Jerome Berry was an assistant pastor. We do not have an assistant pastor."

Edward Smith added, "Anyone wishing to look into the structure of the A.M.E. Church will find that they do not have assistant pastors."

Rev. Christopher said, "We do have an assistant to the pastor in the A.M.E. church but, Berry was not ours. He was just a church member and trustee responsible for cleaning the church and obtaining supplies for the soup kitchen that we run on Thursdays."

Rev. Christopher, along with the verbal support of his attorney, Edward Smith, categorically denied the fact that Rev. Christopher was charged as a result of the church raid or that the Reverend received any type of summons from the States Attorneys office.

Although Ebenezer A.M.E. Trustee, Jerome Berry has had four prior arrests surrounding his participation in illegal lottery activities which the Police investigated through telephone wiretaps, Rev. Christopher denounced the tactics of the police department who he said misinterpreted the telephone calls he made to the church secretary concerning the cash proceeds from the Sunday School.

Rev. Christopher said, "I might have to call my secretary 10 times within a 10 minute period because of so many interruptions. I would call her and them have to put the phone down and call her again and pick up where we left off. This might go on for several calls, but it was not part of any lottery operation."

Rev. Christopher was asked if he though he was being wrongly accused would he sue his accusers. He replied that the Bible said that vengeance is the Lord's but that does not mean that we (the Church) cannot seek retribution."

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—Education now!

(Continued from Page A1)

for the two projects."

In recent months, several school districts have been suffering an economic calamity with age old problems: scarce resources, and non - implemented curriculums to bring the level of education up to snuff with the wealthier counties in the state.

Demands on the state legislature will be tremendous to quickly correct the situation. The group wants the legislators to recognize that poorly educated children put the future of our state in jeopardy.

Just this week over 200 schools in Maryland have failed to meet the expected levels of improvement in their most recent results in standardized testing.

Educators and concerned parents alike are alarmed at the broad acceptance of poor standards being put on the back burner while other more profitable economic projects are pushed through.

"Education Now" is urging parents and all concerned citizens to become actively involved in the struggle to gain equal access for all students and have letters that can be sent to each state senator, delegate and to the governor to demand action be taken immediately.

Extremes in the state are staggering. During the 1987-88 school year, the state average cost per child was $4,650, while Montgomery county spent $6,110 per child.

Caroline County spent only $3,760. A difference of $2,350 per child or $70,500 per class of 30 students according to Education NOW studies.

It is this type of inequity that the organization is trying to eliminate.

Interested parties can contact the city school administration to find which schools will provide transportation the rally in Annapolis.

At 10 a.m. parties will park and assemble at the Naval Academy stadium lot, 10:30 will be the march to the State House. 11 a.m. to noon will be the rally at Lawyer's Square, State House.

Personal contacts with legislators will make a difference and parties should call ahead to make appointments with their legislators.

For further information contact NAACP, Baltimore branch at 366-3300 and to reserve space on busses from Baltimore city call 396-8571.

The goal is to have 50 bus loads of people from Baltimore and at least one bus from every county across the state.

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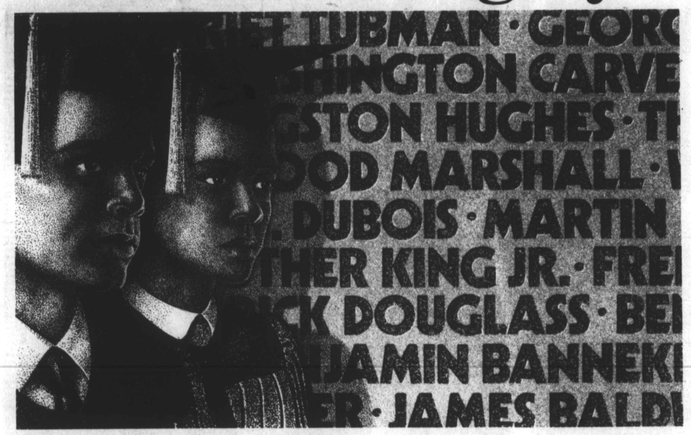

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Teachers Association fix-up school

The faculty of Pimlico Middle School recently inaugurated the school's newly painted cafeteria at a reception hosted by the Maryland State Teachers Association and the Baltimore City Teachers Association (BCTA).

The school faculty recognized the teachers association for their help in improving their students' school environment.

BCTA members have organized a fix-up effort in the school with paint, materials and labor donated by local businesses.

The once dreary cafeteria walls now sparkle in bright shades of blue thanks to the donation of 27 gallons of paint.

LEADERSHIP TEAM — Leading the effort to brighten Pimlico Middle School's cafeteria were Charles Ward, BCTA; Sandy Perlman, BCTA/MSTA; Pam McClelland, Chair, faculty Committee; Ronald D. Billy, Pimlico Merchant's Association; Jessola Jones, Principal and John Brown, BCTA President.

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—Black press summit

(Continued from Page A1)

South Africa and possible tactics to be considered in the President's most recent phase of the War on Drugs.

The President solicited the thoughts of the publishers on the recent situation in South Africa.

Most of the concerns articulated by the publishers in reference to South Africa concerned the withdrawal of sanctions from South Africa until further evidence of South Africa's commitment to eliminate the dreaded apartheid system.

The discussions also centered around the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions that deter Black economic development.

While the President defended his position of being against quota programs, he indicated a willingness to reverse several existing pieces of Federal legislation that effectively prevent moves to help the Black businesses they were intended to assist.

While the president did not support all of the stipulations in the Kennedy Civil Rights Bill of 1990 which was introduced to Congress on February 7, 1990, he made clear his willingness to introduce legislation that addressed some of the points suggested by visiting civil rights organizations who previously met with him.

The President was applauded for his State of the Union address in which he cited the increase of racial violence. The publishers views this as a signal to the nation that the increase in racial hatred should be addressed on a national level.

As the discussion evolved around the topic of the War on Drugs the publishers voiced their concern that the vast financial resources used to incarcerate drug offenders could and should be used to educate and address the underlying causes of drug abuse rather than be solely dedicated to incarceration.

Those attending the gathering suggested a program which stressed education against drug involvement and the rehabilitation of current drug users.

The publishers who met with the President included: John J. Oliver, Jr. of the *AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers;* Portia Scott, *Atlanta Daily World;* Bill Tatum, *N.Y. Amsterdam News;* William Garth, *Citizen Newspapers*-Chicago, Illinois;

Robert Bogle, *The Philadelphia Tribune;* Sam Logan, *Michigan Chronicle;* Thomas Watkins, *N.Y. Daily Challenge;* Jane E. Woods, *St. Louis Metro Sentinel;*

Joe Dixon, *Birmingham World;* Gerri Warren, *San Diego Voice and Viewpoint;* Levi Henry, *The Westside Gazette;* Cleretta Blackmon, *Mobile Beacon;* John Bustamante, *Call and Post;* Christopher Bennett, *Seattle Medium* and Rita Perry, *Jacksonville Advocate Free Press.*

The President had a special surprise for his publisher guests that reflected the casualness of the luncheon atmosphere.

The publishers were invited on an unprecedented tour of the upstairs private presidential office as well as the Lincoln Room in which the original Emancipation Proclamation is housed.

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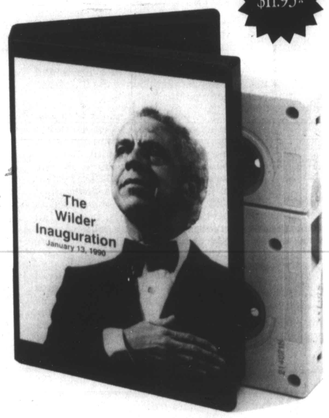

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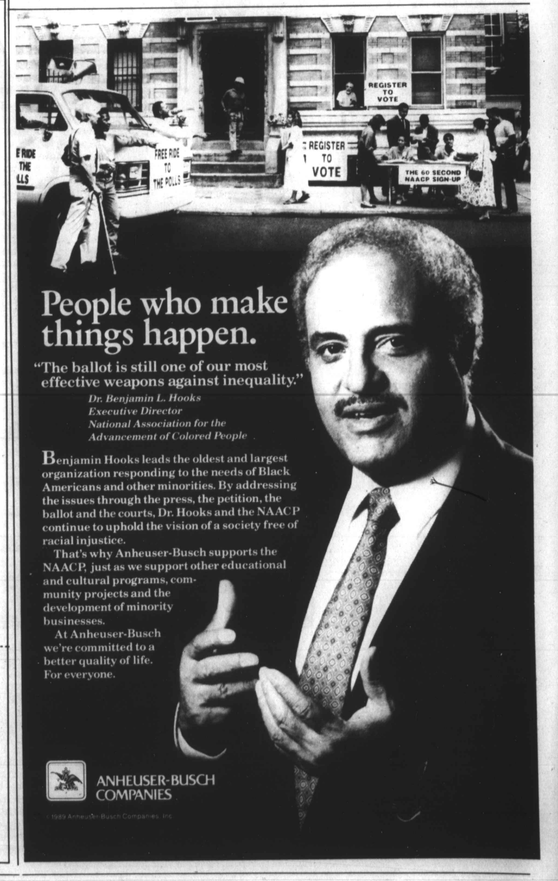

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