Del. Margaret Murphy honored at City Hall

Two hundred colleagues, friends, constituents, and other wellwishers came to City Hall last Sunday, to celebrate Delegate Margaret Murphy's election as Chairperson of the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly.

Delegate Murphy (D 41st) is the first woman ever to hold this high post.

Sponsored by the Boards of Directors of West Baltimore and Constant Care Community Health Centers. Del. Murphy was cited "for her skillful leadership, her unwavering commitment to her constituents, and her rare ability to understand all sides of a political issue."

Among the guests at the reception were Delegate Murphy's children, Lynn Press and Grant Murphy; her five sisters, Mrs. Lillian Dantley, Mrs. Elsie Lawson, Mrs. Pauline Pope, Mrs. Evelyn Ransom and Mrs. Thelma West.

Her nephew, Dr. Rodney Lawson; City Council President Mary Pat Clarke:

And City Council members, Lawrence Bell, Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro, Shiela Dixon, Vera Hall, Iris Reeves, Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, and Agnes Welch.

Also Sen. Larry Young and Del. Frank Boston, Tony Fulton, Hattie Harrison, Ruth Kirk, Annie Perkins, and Pete Rawlings.

A retired teacher from the Baltimore City Schools, Delegate Murphy was appointed to the House of Delegates to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, Delegate Arthur G. Murphy.

She has twice been elected to the House of Delegates in her own right.

A member of the House Environmental Matters Committee, quality health care is one of her primary concerns.

Delegate Margaret Murphy

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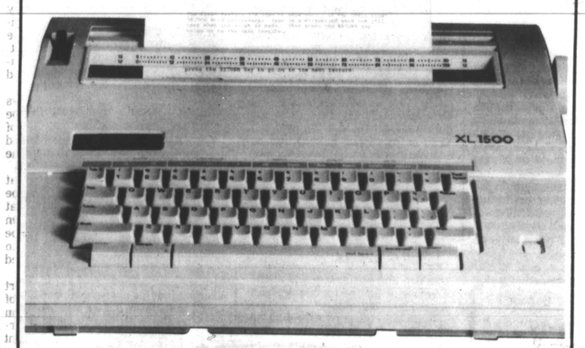

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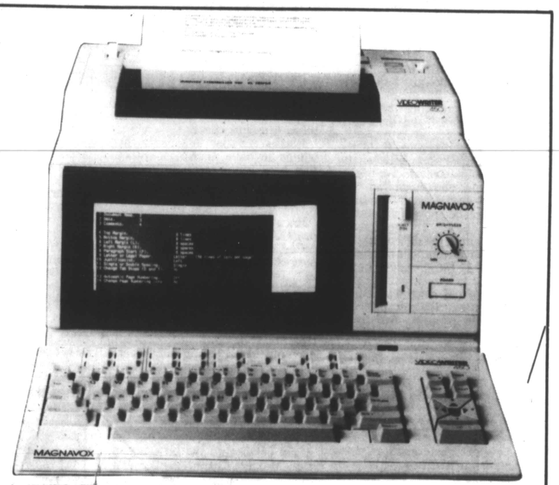

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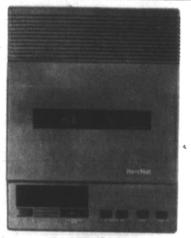

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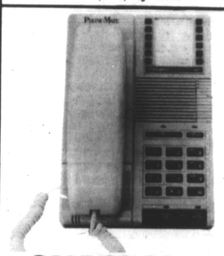

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The AFRO talks with:

Minister Louis Farrakhan

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Reporter
Exclusive to the
AFRO-American Newspapers

Minister Louis Farrakhan, the spiritual and temporal leader of The Lost Found Nation of Islam, was in Baltimore recently for a speaking engagement at the Palladium, after which he granted an exclusive interview to the AFRO.

Minister Farrakhan received the AFRO in a downtown hotel where he was surrounded by several loyal aides and confidants. The Minister's suites were connected to several adjoining rooms which were occupied by an entourage of over twenty Fruit of Islam bodyguards whose primary purpose was to ensure the Minister's safety and comfort.

Others traveling with the Minister included, A. Wali Muhammad; Editor of the Final Call Newspaper and confidant and executive aide to Minister Farrakhan, Dr. Abdul Muhammad; regional spokesman for the Nation of Islam (the region spans from Pennsylvania to South Carolina) and personal representative to the Minister.

Dr. Muhammad is a physician and surgeon who no longer practices medicine but devotes his energies full time to furthering the aims of the Nation of Islam, through his Ministerial leadership of the Washington, D.C., Mosque #2.

Brother Jamil Muhammad, Minister of Baltimore Mosque #6 met with the delegation to discuss the merits of usjng a particular strategy to spread the Minister's message. These leaders used the final hours before Minister Farrakhan's departure to organize an ad hoc group for developing ways to improve the administration of the many Mosques and satellite ministries adjunctive to the Nation of Islam.

Minister Farrakhan addresses a rally of supporters.

Minister Farrakhan visited Baltimore at the time the media "leaked" the fact that the Minister's name was among those of other influential black leaders invited to a New Orleans summit organized by Rev. Jesse Jackson for the purpose of formulating an agenda on black issues for submission to President Bush.

Some Jewish groups became enraged at the thought of Farrakhan representing any segment of the population and thus confronted Rev. Jackson who answered the media's replies by saying that he had no knowledge of Minister Farrakhan's invitation to the summit.

Minister Farrakhan feels "that it is not for me to consider who will or will not be invited to the summit. If a family holds a meeting to discuss family business and I am a part of that family then others outside of the family should not be able to influence who will be invited to the FAMILY meeting."

> *"It is a shame we cannot make decisions among ourselves without someone running to tell the master our plans."*

"It is a shame we cannot make decisions among ourselves without someone running to tell the master our plans. This is representative of the same slave mentality that keeps us held back; it shows that we are not a free people. No other racial group would have a family meeting and ask others outside of the family to validate the guest list."

"It is just the slave mentality thinking of some of us that makes us first consider, what will boss think?"

Minister Farrakhan thinks "that the time has come for blacks to no longer depend on the whites of this nation to do for us what we must do for ourselves."

> *"We must support our institutions . . ."*

"We must unite and pool our resources in order that we can accomplish our own goals. If we do not we will end up like the grasshopper who plays all summer long and at the first blast of winter poof!, no more grasshopper."

The Minister is adamant about sending a message to black people employing them "to become more aware of self and others as well," Farrakhan says. "We need to promote self love and a spirit of caring for one another."

"We must support our institutions, many have become so financially strapped that they can no longer be self sustaining. Institutions such as the black press are our only voice, often they must depend on the advertisements of other groups for their much needed income. They disclose to our folks the truth involved in "our" situations.

On the value of education the Minister says, "Proper education will prepare us for self mastery."

Minister Farrakhan often reminds his audience that the Christian religion is not adhering to the first commandment when it promotes the worshiping of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost) rather than the worshiping of one God, as do those who belong to the Islamic faith.

Farrakhan stresses "our need to understand that religion is a tool given to us to elevate us, it is not for our enslavement" adding "we also need to understand the oneness of God."

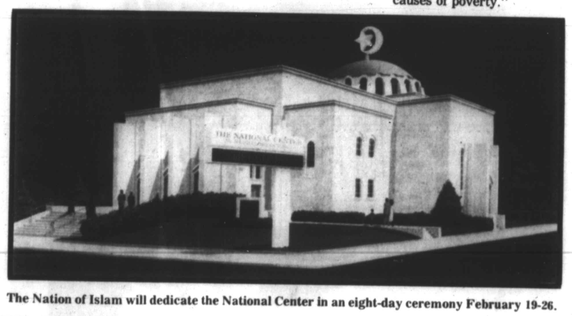
On February 19-26 Minister Farrakhan and The Nation of Islam will dedicate its newly repurchased Mosque as a National Center for all people during its Festival of Light. During the eight day celebration each day will be focused upon a separate group.

Minister Farrakhan says "The National Center will be dedicated to the regaining of the Center and purifying and restoring it to the one true God."

The Star and Crescent at the top of the Center will be lighted in the ceremony that will kick off the festival. On succeeding days there will be programs dedicated to women (with a day dedicated to them).

There will also be a concert performed by the Women of Kalabash, with a fashion show that Minister Farrakhan says "will highlight fashions that are not tempting or seducing."

Minister Farrakhan says, "On other days there will be a service for the poor and alms will be given to them in the form of baskets of food and educational programs aimed at eradicating the root causes of poverty."



The Nation of Islam will dedicate the National Center in an eight-day ceremony February 19-26.

"That Wednesday the National Center's school will be dedicated with a tour following. There will also be a discussion of the black agenda, highlighting the needs of black people and solutions to their problems. Thursday's activities will center on youth and several popular rap groups such as Public Enemy will perform in concert."

"Saturday Dianne Reeves will perform in concert and there will be a surprise guest appearance by an internationally known speaker. A Juma prayer service will also be conducted on that day."

Minister Farrakhan and The Nation of Islam welcomes visitors to the city of Chicago for these activities and hopes that the unity displayed by such a large turnout at Baltimore's Palladium will send a message to the public that we have begun to correct some of the problems found in the black community.