Bill to aid uninsured women is defeated

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

A bill introduced in the General Assembly designed to reduce breast cancer deaths in Maryland was narrowly defeated in committee.

"It lost by one vote. It got 12 favorables and 7 unfavorables," said the bill's sponsor-Del. Frank D. Boston, Jr., D-41. "It needed 13 to pass."

If approved, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would have provided low-dose mammography screening to uninsured women 40 and older at least once or twice a year to detect lumps and masses, preventing the spread of cancer throughout their bodies.

It would have taken effect July 1.

Boston said Del. Jerry Perry (D-25), who would have cast the winning vote, was attending another committee meeting and was counted absent from voting in the Environmental Matters Committee.

Sandy Esslinger, director of public education and information for the American Cancer Society-Baltimore, said one out of 10 women will develop breast cancer at one time in her life.

Two years ago, 41,300 people died from breast cancer in the United States-41,000 women and 300 men.

And 3,600 blacks died from breast cancer in 1983.

Boston said he would prefile the bill that also offers copayments to women who can not afford to totally pay for mammograms, early for next year. Mammograms average $200.

—Ivey, Edwards

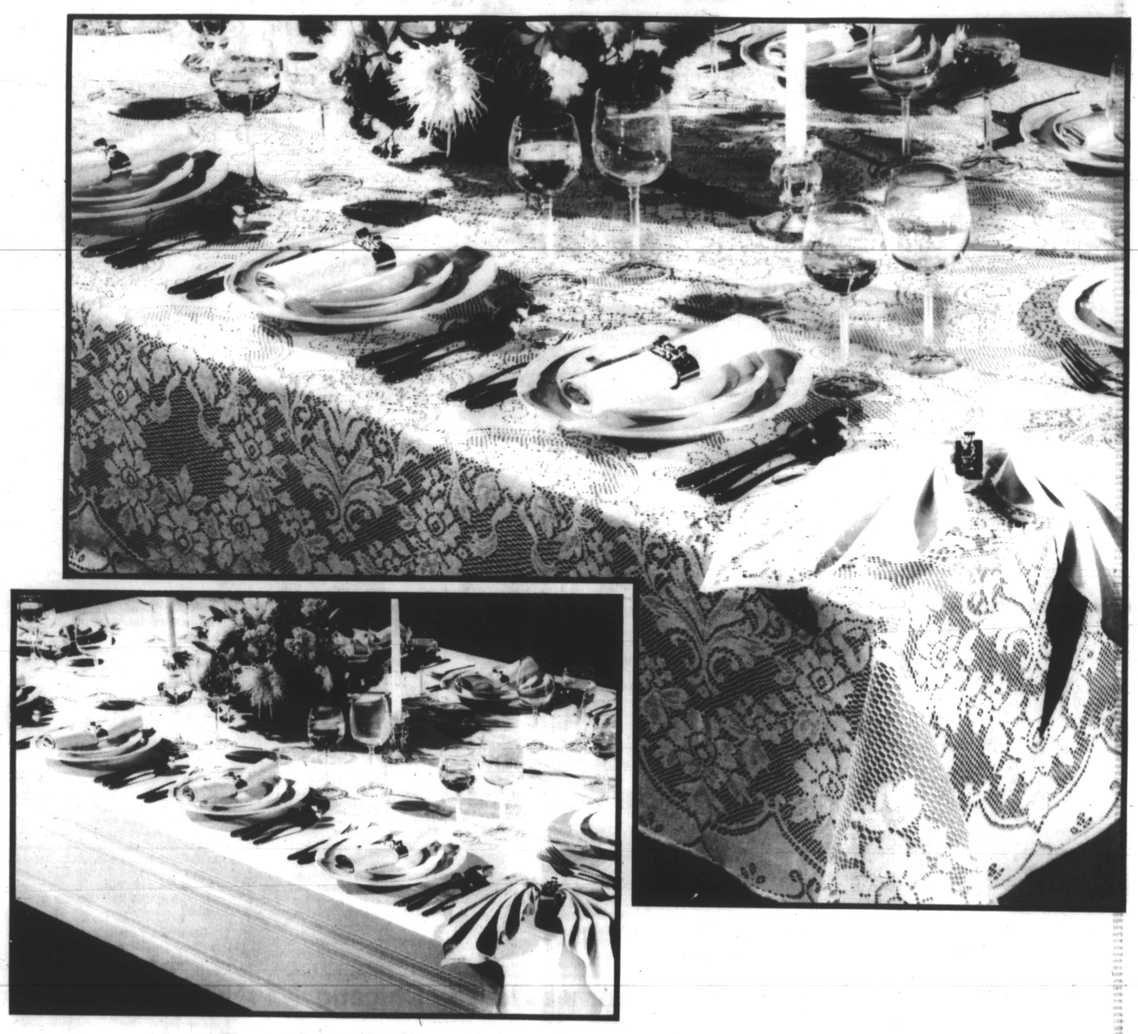
(Continued from Page A2)

from her 'general, Ivey'. Should she bear the brunt of his mistakes?'' McLean queried.

Insiders within the agency speak anonymously about Edwards being "the agency's driving force, and about the underhanded tactics that she employed.'' One of those sources told the AFRO "Lyn often couldn't be found unless you saw him in a fancy area restaurant where he often set up his shop.

"Elva not only knew about the improper employment practices but she directed those activities and condoned them. She had her own group of enforcers within the agency. Those in her click were treated well and often profited from their association with the 'in crowd '.

The Urban Services Agency operates on a budget of $36 million.



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METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle 4B
■ Kids Talk 6B

Saturday, March 25, 1989

Baltimore's Racial Violence up by 50 percent

Part II of a two-part series.

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

In pre Civil War America, slaves fleeing the physical and mental abuses inflicted upon them by white slave masters often looked to the borders of Maryland and the Mason Dixon Line within it as a safe haven. Now, more than 220 years later, reaching the Mason Dixon Line does not assure escape from racial bigotry and violent acts.

Sadly, Maryland also has kept pace with the nation's rising tide of bigotry and hatred, and the atmosphere within Maryland's largest metropolis, Baltimore, is where most of the racial tension is concentrated.

A brief review of two of Baltimore's racially motivated incidents shows that the injustices suffered by several ethnic and religious groups have not abated.

According to news reports, Edward Dower and Thaddeus Colbert, entered a bar on Franklintown Road, March 5 and were subjected to racial epithets and insults, hurled at them by Robert White, an ex-grand kaliff of the Maryland Ku Klux Klan.

An argument ensued which led to a fight. White reportedly fled to his truck, retrieved a shotgun and shot Edward Dower. Dower was treated and released at an area hospital.

Inside of the truck owned by White, the Police found mounds of KKK literature.

In 1981 White was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison for conspiring to blow up a synagogue located in the 6600 block of Liberty Road. White was found guilty of malicious destruction of property, conspiracy and possession of explosives without a license.

At the time of the incident on Franklintown Road, White was on parole for this offense.

This incident is not an isolated case. The racially motivated abuses suffered by the Bey family is another example of Maryland's racial climate.

" . . . When a comparison is made between the statistics we have compiled for racially motivated violence in 1987 and 1988 (which are the most recent figures available) we see that Maryland's incidence of racially motivated violence has risen substantially."

One year ago the Bey family was forced to move from their home in the Hampden area of the city when they were attacked by young men throwing rocks through their window and verbally assaulting the family's members.

The Beys are members of a Moorish American religious group. Both the clothing worn by the Moorish Americans and the fact that the Beys are black made them stand out in a neighborhood that is predominately populated by whites.

What actions can those wishing to find justice against racially motivated violence and abuse take?

The Baltimore Community Relations Commission is entrusted to devise and carry out a educational and action program to prevent prejudice and discrimination in the City of Baltimore.

John Ferron is the Director of the Community Relations Commission. The offices are located at One Calvert Plaza, 201 East Baltimore Street.

The Commission enforces the City's Anti-Discrimination laws, implementing programs to address acts of intimidation, and violence based on race ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Ferron says, "When a comparison is made between the statistics we have compiled for racially motivated violence in 1987 and 1988 (which are the most recent figures available) we see that Maryland's incidence of racially motivated violence has risen substantially."

(As the chart accompanying this article indicates, Maryland's racial incidents have risen over 50%).

To assist the Commission in its enforcement of the City's Anti-Discrimination laws, the VICTIMS OF INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE (VIVA) was formed.

The educational program is designed to primarily focus on the prevention of prejudice, but may be used as a tool for restoring order to a community that has been the subject of racial violence.

The crisis intervention component of the program provides direct service to victims of bias-related acts of violence and intimidation.

" . . . We want the public to be aware of our agency and the fact that we are there to help. . ."

Crisis intervention staff personnel contact victims and assess the immediate needs of the individual. In extreme situations someone might be assigned to stay with the victim to provide security and someone to talk with.

The staff also talks to neighbors, community leaders and others in efforts to gain a clear picture of what has happened and how the conflict may be resolved.

Once the data is obtained the staff discusses what approaches can be taken, and how. Once decided the proper agencies are contacted and efforts are coordinated to ensure that there is no duplication of services.

After the plan has been implemented, a follow-up is taken by contacting the victim to offer a supportive ear and to make sure of their safety and comfort.

The staff member also makes sure that the needs of the victim are met and assists in making those resources available to meet those needs by making the proper referrals.

Bias related incidents are filed separately and are used to compile statistics on the state of race relations in Baltimore City.

Those perpetrators referred by criminal justice agencies to perform community service work are required to enroll in prejudice reduction training; a component of BCRC's Intergroup Relations Training Program.

John Ferron says, "We want the public to be aware of our agency and the fact that we are there to help. If you know of someone who has been a victim of harassment, vandalism, verbal or physical assault or abuse due to their religious or sexual persuasion contact VIVA, and a representative will respond immediately."

The VIVA number is 396-3151.

***RRE INCIDENTS**
BALTIMORE CITY NUMERICAL BREAKDOWN
FOR THE YEAR 1988

By Police Districts:	Number of Incidents
Northwestern	3
Northern	44
Northeastern	8
Eastern	3
Southeastern	29
Central	20
Western	3
Southwestern	13
Southern	31
TOTAL	154

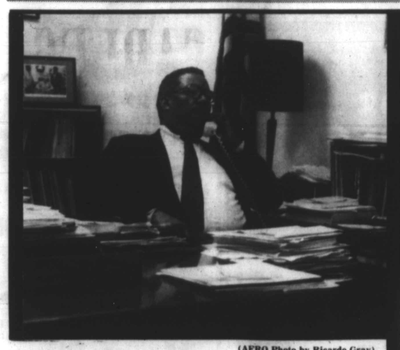
FACT SHEET
STATISTICAL DATA
***(RRE INCIDENTS)**

Data from major cities that maintain RRE statistical information

New York City	1987: 463	1988: 532
Boston, Massachusetts	1987: —	1988: 150
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1987: 175	1988: 173
Richmond, Virginia	1987: 25	1988: 10
Toledo, Ohio	1987: 149	1988: —
Baltimore, Maryland	1987: 97	1988: 154

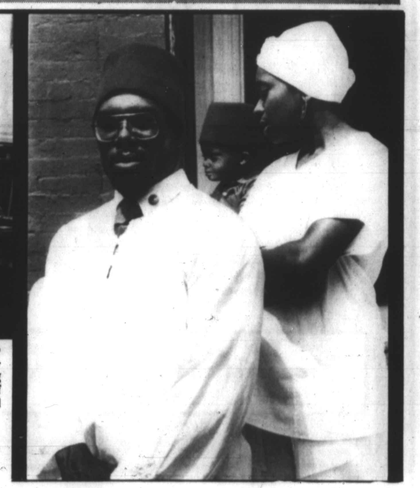
***Racial, Religious, Ethnic Crimes**

NOTE: The data covers the period of January 1, 1988 through November 30, 1988. The number of incidents reported may not accurately reflect the total number of incidents that occurred. One of the factors that influences the accuracy of the reporting systems of the various cities is the longevity of the program.



(AFRO Photo by Ricardo Gray)

JOHN FERRON is the director of the Community Relations Commission, the agency entrusted with enforcing Baltimore City laws against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin ancestry, age, sexual orientation, and physical or mental disability.



LAST YEAR the Bey family was forced to move from their Hampden Home after a brutal racially motivated attack on the family.