Mfume amendment aids minority banks

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Yvonne F. Lansey

In an effort to strengthen minority owned banks, Congressman Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) has succeeded in introducing four amendments to the savings and loan bail-out plan currently in the House Banking Committee of which Mfume is a member.

The amendments, co-sponsored by banking committee member, Rep. Esteban Torres (D CA-34) were unanimously adopted by the committee and attached to the bail-out plan formally known as the Financial Institutions Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989.

"These institutions are designed to strengthen and preserve minority owned financial institutions," Mfume said.

"These institutions have well served their communities which have traditionally had little access to other sources of capital. (They) ... have worked for years to keep inner cities and low income communities from falling under the weight of urban blight, flight and redlining," Mfume added.

The amendments would spur growth in minority financial institutions by giving them first consideration in purchasing or forming alliances with, other banks and allow them to keep their minority status when merging with a non-minority controlled bank.

Yvonne Lansey, Vice President of minority owned Ideal Savings and Loan on Druid Hill Avenue says the amendments are definitely welcome.

"In the past a minority owned bank would be excluded from the bidding process in the sale of another institution," Lansey said. "If Ideal applied to take over another bank it wouldn't even be considered, but they would consider Baltimore Federal."

In addition the amendments would establish an outreach program to increase access to contracts by minority financial institutions, accountants and legal service providers and other methods designed to increase the use of minority and women owned banks and low-income credit unions by federal agencies.

"I think they are good amendments," Lansey said. I think it will help minority owned banks to get into the mainstream."

Vital records set to move

The Division of Vital Records of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is moving from the Herbert R. O'Connor building, 201 W. Preston Street to the department's new facility, Metro Executive Plaza, at 4201 Patterson Avenue, across from the Reisterstown Road Plaza.

The office will be closed from Thursday April 13, 1989 to Wednesday April 19, 1989 while the move is taking place.

During the move, all requests for copies of birth, death and marriage records must be made by mail to The Division of Vital Records, P.O. Box 13146, Baltimore, Maryland 21203. For additional information call 225-5988.

The new office will open on April 20. The hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

—Caucus happy with results

(Continued from Page A1)

promote an employee because he smoked off-the-job, would have allowed smokers to go directly to court, bypassing the Human Relations Commission. The piece of legislation was defeated 24-23 April 6 in the Senate.

"I'm glad it did not pass," said Sen. Troy Brailey.

On another matter, with the support of the black caucus, the Baltimore Urban League was able to obtain almost $2 million from the state to renovate the historic Orchard Street Church for its new headquarters.

The church was part of the Underground Railroad, which many slaves traveled to escape slavery.

In other slavery-related doings, the General Assembly approved a piece of legislation sponsored by Del. Rawlings that calls for a national commemorative monument to recognize the millions of African-American lives lost during the passage from Africa to the United States into slavery.

The resolution now goes to Congress for approval.

Anderson said the caucus was able to make strides on two of its major concerns this session: education and minority employment.

The caucus helped Morgan State University gain the recent $5 million loan for its dormitory repairs after Damon W. Freeman and other students complained that the on-campus residences were unsafe and unhealthy.

Sen. Clarence W. Blount and Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, last month voted by their peers as two of the top effective state legislators, had worked with Freeman to secure the much-needed loan.

And because of the black caucus' leadership, black-operated and other small minority businesses can soon participate in a $2 million franchise-purchase program designed to assist capable minorities to acquire franchises.

Anderson said the caucus convinced Gov. William D. Schaefer to be sensitive to the poor and minorities in his budget.

"Without the input of the caucus, the governor may not have been sensitive to poor people and blacks," said Anderson.

At the same time, the caucus supported Gov. Schaefer's drug-kingpin and stringent drunk-driving bills.

The state approved $17 million in funds to help low-income pregnant women, senior nutrition programs and job training programs for welfare recipients under the Maryland Alliance for the Poor.

"I was glad the governor gave almost $18 million for various poverty programs under the Maryland Alliance for the Poor," Rawlings said, who is a MAP member.

The Maryland Museum of African Art received $50,000 and St. Frances Charles Hall High School, one of the oldest black Catholic schools in the nation, received state moneys to build a gymnasium.

—Wade petition

(Continued from Page A1)

closure," said Dr. Dorothy S. Ingram, a member of the Dunbar Alumni Association. "We think that Bob Wade and his family are undergoing undue stress and strain in not knowing if he will be retained as head basketball coach at the University of Maryland. It is our aim; therefore, to get as much support for Wade as humanly possible, so that the situation can be cleared and he can go about the business of building a winning team."

The Save Bob Wade Committee, the Dunbar Alumni Association and other organizations have joined forces to highlight the problems of Wade, brought forth by the AFRO three weeks ago. They hope to gather 100,000 signatures in a petition drive, within a ten-day period, to show their undisguised loyalty and support for a coach who is said to want only the best for his athletes.

"We should do this in a (well way)," said Ingram, "because we have sat back too long and watched Wade be raked over the coals. We are asking the full community, Baltimore City and the State of Maryland, to take up the fight by signing our petition."

Although there was no comment from Wade or his office, Wade and his family did appear at the rally that was held for him last Thursday by the Black Faculty and Staff Association at College Park.

With much of the irritation directed at athletic director Lew perkins for putting unfair pressure on Wade, many think that the "old double standard" is being worked against Wade.

"We are confronted with a predicament that must be dealt with fairly," said Waters. "We don't want to think of this as a black/white issue. All that we are saying is that Wade should be given the same opportunities that others in his position have been given."

Petitions will be placed at convenient locations throughout the city. They can also be completed by returning the petition found on page C4 of this week's paper to the AFRO at 628 N. Eutaw Street during business hours.

—Lead poisoning

(Continued from Page A1)

sidered precariously high. When Tiffany was admitted to Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital in February, her lead level was 48.

To reduce the level of lead in her body, Tiffany had to undergo a series of very painful treatments, most of which consisted of several shots a day.

Eventually, Tiffany's lead level fell below the danger zone and it's currently around 17 or 18.

However, Tiffany cannot return to her mother and siblings until the lead is abated from their residence on Druid Hill Avenue or the Department of Housing finds the family a place to live.

This is the scenario that faces Christine Boyd and her three children, even though Christine applied for public housing in December of 1982.

Christine Boyd is an extremely articulate and polite young woman. She has not been accused by anyone in the Department of Housing or anywhere else, of misusing the system in any way.

She has gone through all the proper channels necessary to receive Section Eight housing.

When she has inquired about her case situation, Christine claims that she has been on the receiving end of verbal abuse on several occassions, by certain individuals at the Department of Housing.

"I'm not just sitting back waiting for people to do things for me," states Christine. Ernestine Uncles, the Social Services Liaison at the Mayor's office, agrees.

"Christine Boyd's case is very legitimate. She has struggled to maintain a home for herself and her children. Unfortunately the place she tried to live in is unsafe," explains Uncles.

"Out of approximately 90,000 Section Eight cases, about 44,000 are active applicants. There simply is never enough housing to go around," says Uncles.

While Christine Boyd waits for the Department of Housing to come through, she and her children wait for the landlord of their apartment, McClean Watson, who is with McNeil and Associates to abate the lead in their home.

According to Christine, Watson is willing to correct the unsafe situation. However, this can only happen once the house has been vacated. So, for Christine it's a "catch-22" situation.

Every day that they wait, they are exposed to dangerous levels of lead. Every day that they wait is another day that Tiffany is separated from her mother, her brother and her sister.

"I want to go to sleep with my daughter. I want to wake up with my daughter. Everyday that she's away is critical," says Christine Boyd.

THE PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE

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Legislative Wrap-Up

Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings (D-39) and Delegate Margaret Murphy (D-41)

Senator Troy Brailey (D-39)

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore City fared well during the 90-day General Assembly, acquiring over $10 million to fund local programs, including educational and law enforcement, said the chairman of the city's delegation.

Del. Margaret H. Murphy, voted chairman of the Baltimore City Delegation earlier this year, Monday said this session was a "productive and unconfrontational one," particularly for Baltimore.

State legislators agreed to award $2.5 million in aid for the Baltimore Police Department, $1.5 million each for the city's foot patrol and narcotics enforcement programs, to help curb the crime rate in Baltimore.

Murphy, D-41, said although the delegation was able to acquire important initiatives, it had to compromise on various programs that benefitted the city and working to obtain funds for the police department was a good example.

"I won't go into detail," said Murphy.

"People have to realize nothing is very easy or cut and dry. Some things require compromising," Murphy said.

Educationally, the city was able to get $1.38 million for pre-kindergarten education, $1.436 million for special education, $700,000 for school drop-out prevention and $970,000 for the Community College of Baltimore.

The dollars for educational improvements, were welcomed by Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, who has deemed Baltimore as "the city that reads".

"This session (brought) an unexpected funding of the community college," said Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, "but that was something we welcomed, although we hoped to get $1.3 million."

Both the mayor and the delegation were displeased that the state did not approve the APEX bill. The legislation, if passed,would have increased funding for Baltimore City Public Schools to $8 million.

The governor also did not approve of a $2.5 million initiative that would have paid for new textbooks for inner city students. Many of the city school's texts are obsolete and few.

"This year the money was just not there," said Murphy regretfully.

In the past, state legislators have complained that Baltimore City always has "its hand out," begging for money from the General Assembly.

But Mayor Schmoke said Baltimore's request-for-dollars is not a "grab bag issue". He said the issues important to Baltimore, usually have an impact upon the rest of the state.

The city also received $130,000 for library aid and $30,000 for fire and ambulance rescue.

The mayor said the libraries and the fire and recreation departments would not be cut.

Del. Murphy said the delegation would meet with Schmoke during the break to discuss its 1990 agenda.

(Continued on Page A8)

Sen. Clarence Blount (D-41)

Delegate Frank Boston (D-41), left, and Delegate Clarence "Tiger" Davis (D-45)

African American Summit will have GOP presence

Despite earlier reports of the withdrawal of several Republicans from this month's African American Summit in New Orleans April 21-23, Dr. Gloria Toote, a member of the steering committee, who has served in the administrations of every Republican president since Richard Nixon, said she believes a GOP presence is crucial to the summit and that she will attend.

Several black Republicans had announced that they would not attend when they learned that Louis Farrakhan, Angela Davis and Stokeley Carmichael were also invited.

But still expected to attend are Republicans such as Ophelia DeVore, an NNPA publisher; Al Moran, assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Reagan administration; Michael Jones of Illinois.

Fred Brown, executive director of the National Black Republican Council wrote the Rev. Jesse Jackson, one of the Summit's organizers that "I must regretfully report to you that neither I nor any other Republican whom I have recommended for involvement, can participate in the Summit any further."

However, Toote said," The Summit must have a loud Republican vocal presence. It must have input from all Black Americans. We must think goals, think our people... not politics. There are critical problems facing Black Americans and we must address them."

Hundreds of persons have already registered to attend the Summit where an African American Agenda for the next four years will be developed "which transcends party and partisan consideration". Richard G. Hatcher, general chairman and former mayor of Indiana said.

Fourteen areas of urgent concern will be addressed ranging from economic empowerment to the preservation of the African American family.

Honorary chairs include Dr. Dorothy Height, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, The Rev. Jesse Jackson, John Jacob, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Joseph Lowery and the Rev. Leon Sullivan.

Also expected to participate on the program are Maxine Waters, C. DeLores Tucker, Randall Robinson, Charles Diggs, Patricia Thomas, president of NNPA an organization of black newspapers and Washington AFRO publisher Frances Murphy.

Churches, organizations, and social clubs can still register their delegates by calling 202-347-3986 for information. The Hyatt Hotel in New Orleans will be the Summit Headquarters.

Baltimore leads in fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office reports that the number of fire deaths rose slightly during 1988. According to State Fire Marshal Rocco J. Gabriele, fire deaths increased by approximately three percent last year as compared with 1987.

In 1988, 129 deaths were recorded across the State, as compared with 126 in 1987. Of the 129 fire fatalities, Baltimore City recorded 59. Prince George's County 18, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties 9 each.

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