

CITY DWELLER

SERVING CENTRAL AND NORTH BALTIMORE

VOL. 4, No. 9

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The Inside Pages

- Supreme Court Justice Pregnant
- Can the Ascot House be Saved?
- Jesse Jackson Shakes Students
- The ABA, Dead but a Growth Industry
- Calendar of events, art and theatre

Downtown Development Shows Mixed Reaction

BY KEY KIDDER

The recent announcement of a proposed \$210 million downtown revitalization program unveiled by the Greater Baltimore Committee has opened to mixed reviews.

The ambitious project, named Lexington Center by its planners, is scheduled to be completed within the decade. The timetable is contingent upon the private sector demonstrating a strong financial initiative. The burden of this third leg in Baltimore's inner city renewal, unlike its predecessors, the Inner Harbor and Charles Center, has fallen squarely upon private enterprise, which is expected to assume the majority—\$117 million or 57 per cent—of the responsibility for the mall and its office towers, housing, and parking for 4,000 cars and a

commit any funding until, as Schaefer said, he perceived a "momentum" from the business community.

"I think the city will have to go along somewhat in order to get the private money," Glazer said. "They'll have to spend like they did with Charles Center only not as extreme, perhaps."

But Glazer believed that the consumer support existed downtown to justify the expenditure. "You have a shopping core here. All you have to do is enhance it. Let's face it. Downtown today is old and unattractive. The large department stores will be back. But they're outmoded now. They use too much space for the money. Hochschild's could get by on half of its space."

Glazer and Kattow were also in accord on the issue of what the increased rents will do to the

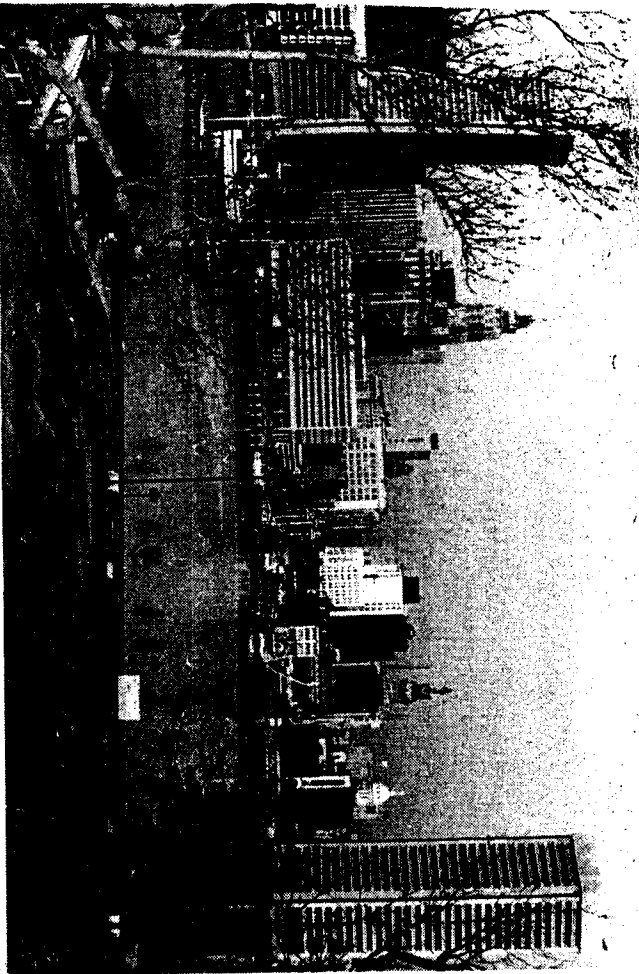


PHOTO BY DOUG HINTON

Public Service Jobs May Hold the Key

Although some local officials are concerned that the Carter economic package places too much emphasis on tax stimuli and not enough on direct job creation, PSE (Public Service Employment) will be an important part of Baltimore City's effort to put the jobless back to work.

According to Marion Pines, Director of the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources, Baltimore City currently has a PSE program for over 1,000 formerly unemployed residents. Federal funds for PSE come from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) passed by Congress in 1973. Mrs. Pines says that "as the Carter Administration pushes for 600,000 PSE jobs nationally, Baltimore could be at a level of 160 jobs. Obviously I would like to see a higher level of job creation. There are more than 28,000 unemployed persons in the city, and there are plenty of public services these individuals

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Since 1974, Public Service Employees have made valuable contributions to the quality of city life. Special Public Service Impact Teams have constructed curb ramps for the handicapped; staffed a new Literacy and Learning tutorial program; cleaned the inner harbor; brightened dozens of neighborhoods with colorful wall murals; helped elderly citizens repair and thereby retain their homes; replace worn or obsolete fire hydrants; boosted the staffs of such cultural institutions as the symphony, ballet, theatres, and museums; and helped to expand the services of more than 70 private, non-profit organizations.

PSE, however, is just one part of the manpower picture in Baltimore. New programs for 1977 are dealing with the employment barriers faced by the handicapped, the Native American Indian, and the ex-offender job-

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"Hopefully," said Ed McNeil, President of the Maryland Retail Merchants' Association, "we can take a plan similar to the one proposed, but if not, other phases could be implemented."

McNeil's caution in assessing the probable success of the plan as announced came not more than 5 days after it was initially released. McNeil was furthermore in on the ground floor of the deliberations, all indicating the enormity of the task before them.

"I am not ready," McNeil said, "to concede that the plan cannot be achieved."

Herman Katkow, Director of Mayor Schaefer's Advisory Committee on Small Business, while admitting that he was not versed in the intricacies of the plan, nevertheless had his doubts.

"It is a great big question mark in my mind whether the market exists that will be required to support the retail space that they are envisioning there. The fact of the matter is that Baltimore is overbuilt with retail business. There is more retail space in the entire region than the entire disposable consumer income can adequately support."

Katkow point to the demise of one of the Big Four downtown merchants—Hochschild's—and the tolling of the bell for a second-act Hutzler's—as indicative of a shrinking downtown economic base.

"I very seriously doubt," he said, "that the kind of private funding they are discussing will be forthcoming. It is axiomatic that retail money always seeks its highest rate of return."

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will be forced to relocate, a phenomenon that Boucher called "musical chairs."

"If in fact they are going to take out all of the small shops on Lexington," said Katkow, "it's unfair. It makes no sense to take a viable small business that maintains an employment base and a

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An Eye Witness Account of Kennedy's Last Hours

BY HARRISON EDWARD LIVINGSTONE

Representative Henry B. Gonzales (D-Texas) was in the motorcade with President John Fitzgerald Kennedy when the President was assassinated. He rushed to Parkland Hospital and sat with Mrs. Kennedy while her husband and his close friend died. After years of thought, Gonzales introduced resolutions in the House of Representatives to establish a committee to investigate the murder, and was subsequently named committee chairman.

Mr. Gonzalez and I talked for several hours recently. Here is his testimony. Although the newspapers have not mentioned it, the revelation of conspiracy in the major political murders in our nation in recent years will mark 1977 as a watershed year in our history. Our future, and the future of the democratic ideal, is intertwined with these conspiracies. It is a dangerous and critical time.

The public is being manipulated by "powerful, organized interests" as Gonzales said to the House Rules Committee on January 25th, "who do not want the truth to come out." To quote Judge Sweet from Pennsylvania, speaking of chief committee counsel Richard Sprague; "He will not have an easy time. There are powerful vested interests who want this thing hushed up."

The following is the conversation between Gonzales and myself:

"There was", said Gonzales, "some apprehension, but not of physical violence. I fully felt that somebody would try to embarrass John Kennedy in Dallas."

"Could you see the car at all? Could you see it slow down?" I asked.

"Oh, we were at a standstill by the time I heard the shots."

"Could you see the President's car stop?"

"Well, I saw it stop. Let me tell you something. Because I was with that President every inch of the way. I was in the parade in my home town. That's where we

going thirty miles an hour down Main Street in Dallas. I know because I leaned over and looked at the speedometer and said 'my God, this is fast for a parade.' "

"In Dallas?"

"In Dallas, Texas. We went down Main Street thirty miles an hour, my friend. I know what I'm telling you. And when we turned to the right, well, you have to slow down to make that turn from Main to..."

"Houston."

"Houston. Here's the depository. We came like this. They disappeared around here..."

"The girl, the child that was standing there, she told me that the car with the President came almost to a complete stop."

"Yea, that's true. Because I figured they had either come to a stop or had slowed almost to a standstill because we were practically at a standstill if not actually at a standstill. When the shots rang out I said 'my gosh, somebody must have shown

"I knew that was it (for JFK) and the tears just came down..."

something and the Secret Service men tried to stop him and fired. And that's the first thing I thought: Somebody had attempted something. Later on I told a reporter that I thought it was the first shot of World War Three."

"Here's the Altgens photo," I said. "Here's the door of your car opening, I think--"

"See that figure?" (in the doorway during the shooting) Cong. Gonzales said.

"That's Oswald," I said.

"This is the point, where your staff has to do the work. Because the individuals involved are still living. This is where we can preserve testimony. Look, look at this door over here. See that, isn't that almost open?" Mr. Gonzales was saying that witnesses can be found who will say anything, but we have the Warren Commission Photographs.

"They're open. They're open," I said.

told was here is still living."

"Lovely--" I said.

"That's right. There again, that's susceptible of follow-through. Modern photo-analysis and spectro-analysis, which was unknown when you had the Warren Commission, will also be helpful.

"I know someone who was in the White House that day and she said that they immediately felt that the CIA had done it."

"I would have never dreamed it then because in my mind I was as innocent as any American can be. There was no evidentiary fact. What facts did I have that would lead me to think that an FBI chief would violate the law himself? That he would cover up, that he would destroy documents? What evidence was there for me to believe the CIA was violating its charter even though I did have suspicions and raise questions in 1965--and I never got an answer, incidentally. But you know, I'm just a little guy. You can get

shoved around pretty easy in this place. But the question was not to the point where I felt that suddenly here is this tremendous engine or mechanism for which nobody knows how many billions of dollars they're spending and to what purpose. All of a sudden, I felt inwardly (of out of control Federal police and intelligence agencies) at the time, in 1963, that something happened that had dimensions I really didn't know."

"How exactly was the coffin taken out of the hospital? Did you see it happen?" I asked.

"I was standing right outside the room," Mr. Gonzales said.

"Was it taken by Secret Service men?"

"I was standing on this side, and when they opened the door, God, I'll tell you, you could see, I saw that figure....See, at that point nobody knew for sure who got hurt, who got killed, there were only rumors. I knew the

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"Alright, that's where I'm in. That's me. And in that doorway, now let me tell you, the individual that the Warren Commission was

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ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE continued from page 1

Morning, America," and on CBS Morning News, keeping his Committee in the public eye. He has also been conducting a vigorous campaign in the House to explain his Committee's quest.

Many misleading newspaper reports were printed (documented in past City Dweller articles) charging that this investigation would violate the civil rights of witnesses and others through secret tape recordings, hidden transmitters and voice stress evaluators. These unfounded charges nearly destroyed the investigation.

The Committee has never secretly taped anyone nor did it intend to. Furthermore, it never considered the use of voice stress evaluations without the consent of the witness. The false story about this originated in an article that appeared in The Los Angeles Times on December 15. A close reading of the complete transcript of all that was said during that interview between the Bureau Chief of the L.A. Times and Richard Sprague, Chief Counsel for the Committee, reveals that Sprague at no time proposed committing any of the civil rights violations noted above. This article was an example of how pure speculation can be turned into "fact" by an irresponsible journalist.

This authorization is probably the real reason for the recent powerful attacks against the Committee by David Burnham of The New York Times and by George Lardner of The Washington Post. Both of these reporters may have information they would rather not reveal. Burnham was

the reporter whom Karen Silkwood was going to see minutes before she died; she was uncovering alleged unsafe conditions at the Kent-McGee nuclear plant in Oklahoma. Lardner admits to having been with David Ferrie-- Jim Garrison's key witness in his New Orleans-based Kennedy assassination conspiracy case--the night Ferrie died. Lardner was with him until 4 a.m. and Garrison found Ferrie dead at 9 a.m. After Ferrie's death, Garrison's case fell apart; it could be argued that is investigation was largely discredited by the Eastern establishment press.

There have been an extraordinary number of "coincidental" deaths in the assassination case-- Dorothy Kilgallen, Life Magazine's Gary Underhill, the CBS news reporter killed in the same plane crash with Dorothy Hunt, Jim Koethe, the newsman who met with Jack Ruby in Ruby's apartment on November 24, 1963, and many others. None of these news sources, who had met alone with Ruby or Oswald after the crimes, ever had a chance to reveal what they knew.

Nicholas Von Hoffman's article on Nixon's fall from grace in the current Penthouse clearly reveals how media executives and businessmen combined to destroy Nixon, and why. This kind of conspiracy between media executives and the Establishment could also have existed during the first Kennedy assassination investigation. Now the same thing is happening again. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

BALTIMORE EMPLOYMENT continued from page 1

seekers. Manpower Services for the Handicapped, for example, gives participants viable opportunities for employment within the public sector. For the handicapped jobseeker, this track record of productive employment can lead to rewarding, full-time work.

Job training is another important element of local manpower strategy. A Culinary Arts, Hotel-Motel Management program hopes to capitalize on Baltimore's

they need to put disadvantaged and unemployed jobseekers into On-the-Job Training programs funded by CETA.

With the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act up for renewal, we can anticipate strong support from Congress and President Carter for a simple one year extension of this important legislation. It is readily apparent that Mr. Carter and the new Secretary of Labor, Ray Marshall, look to

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With the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act up for renewal, we can anticipate strong support from Congress and President Carter for a simple one year extension of this important legislation. It is readily apparent that Mr. Carter and the new Secretary of Labor, Ray Marshall, look to CETA as the ideal way for local elected officials to make an impact on their own unique employment and training needs.

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