1-21-99 MARYLAND POLITICS

Offers Advice to General Assembly and Salt to Take It With

Son Gains Father's Goal

Where his father had tried and failed before him, **Rudolph C. Cane** traveled to Annapolis last week to be sworn in as a delegate, becoming the first African American in the House from the Eastern Shore.

A Democrat from Wicomico County, Cane said he wants to be a role model for young blacks and will work hard to represent his constituents in Dorchester and Wicomico counties.

That's just what his father would have tried to do, given the chance. Back in 1944, **H. Webster Cane Sr.** ran for the House of Delegates and even won the primary. But he lost in the general election, which family members suspect had less to do with voters not wanting him and more to do with racism.

"During that time, they had a system of buying votes and they bought the votes," said the younger Cane, 64, as he took a break from his first meeting of the Environmental Matters Committee.

Such scheming dashed his father's chances, but the times changed—albeit slowly—and the son finally got his chance.

He served on the Wicomico County Commission from 1990 to 1994 and was a member of the county Board of Zoning Appeals for a decade before that. He worked for the Maryland Highway Administration for 31 years until retiring in 1984. He then served as administrator of housing community development at Shore Up!, a nonprofit organization that helps poor families with housing.

It took half of a decade to happen, but Cane said his election marks the growing influence of African Americans on the Eastern Shore, a place not always known for its racial tolerance in the past.

"I see it as a great sign," he said. "I hope it's just a beginning."

New Faces at U-Md.

Faces are changing on the University of Maryland's Board of Regents.

Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D) last week appointed U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) to the 17-member board, which governs the 11-campus system. Also appointed were Baltimore church leader Leronia A. Josey and Bethesda lawyer William T. Wood.

"The addition of these three outstanding individuals to an already excellent Board of Regents will be of tremendous benefit in our ongoing effort to build one of the world's truly great public institutions of higher learning," Glendening said. The governor is making a push to improve higher education after

some years of neglect. His latest budget proposal includes a \$102 million increase for higher education, with much of the money earmarked for the University of Maryland.

Hoyer has served in Congress since 1981 and before that was president of Maryland's Senate. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland.

Josey is the chief operating officer and church counsel for Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a 12,000-member congregation in Baltimore. A former state assistant attorney general, she received a master's degree in social work from Maryland.

Wood practices law in Montgomery County. A former assistant county prosecutor, he received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Maryland.

Also on the education front,
Glendening last week appointed Jo Ann T.
Bell and Marilyn D. Maultsby to the state
Board of Education. Bell, of Bowie, is a
former member of the Prince George's
County Council and Board of Education.
Maultsby, of Baltimore, is executive
director of the Maryland Health Care
Foundation, a nonprofit organization that
helps uninsured and underinsured people
get access to health insurance.