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HALL OF RECORDS

Ledger

Eighth Term Starts With Shared Spotlight

Spotlights, surprises and smiles were all part of the festivities last month as Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein was sworn in for a record setting eighth consecutive term.

He was eager to take the oath but also clearly anxious to share the spotlight with co-workers.

A Pat On the Back letter commending Janet Griffin of the Income Tax Division's Collections Section caught the comptroller's eye, and he wanted to share it with those in attendance in the ornate House of Delegates Chamber of Maryland's historic State House.

Comptroller Goldstein asked Janet to participate in the ceremony, representing her co-workers and the "entire outstanding workforce of the Comptroller's Office."

Amid the bright lights, TV cameras, microphones and reporters, Janet took a bow for everyone.

Although a bit reluctant at first, Janet agreed to participate for one big reason. "I was happy to represent my co-workers," she explained.

Janet was all smiles as Comptroller Goldstein explained to Governor Schaefer and the crowd that Janet's "Pat On the Back" letter was just one of a large stack of such letters on his desk.

The comptroller then mentioned receiving a letter from Governor Schaefer, who said he was very impressed with the comptroller's Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Goldstein brought the house down with laughter when he quipped, "I

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"I even spent the night in Annapolis because I didn't want anything to prevent my taking the oath of office today," Comptroller Goldstein explained. The original ceremony data in January was cancelled due to snow.

Approval Expected For New Data Building

Our dream of a new data processing building is coming more clearly into focus.

The General Assembly is expected to approve the \$9.5 million project during the current session, as part of the capital budget.

If all goes well, the groundbreaking ceremonies will be scheduled this summer. The new building will stand where the "F" parking lot is currently located.

Construction will take about 20 months, and be finished in the spring of 1989.

The Department of General Services and the Annapolis Historic Preservation Society approved the new building's design some time ago. The delay resulted from legislative budget concerns.

The new 34,000 square foot building is the future home of the Annapolis Data

Center and Central Payroll Bureau. It will be physically joined to the Income Tax Building and look identical.

The three floor plan layout shows that key people and services will be more accessible. There will also be conference rooms and space to expand the computer facilities.

Those on the graveyard shift know it's tough to find a place to eat lunch at four in the morning. "They'll be glad to know that the plan includes vending machines, tables and chairs," said Data Processing Division Director Phil Martin.

Once occupied, the new building will also create more space in the Income Tax Building and the Treasury Building.

Comptroller Goldstein's been working for a separate facility for the Annapolis Data Center for a long time.

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Extra

A major portion of this edition of *Ledger* is devoted to important issues at hand as Comptroller Goldstein begins his record setting eighth consecutive term.

Many will increase in significance in the months ahead and some will prove great challenges, but the future is bright because of the experience, knowledge and wisdom we gain each day.

We Will Lead The Way

I'm very proud of the national recognition we have received over the years in the field of fiscal achievement.

Maryland has earned its well deserved reputation as a leader and innovator in financial management.

That was the message I made clear to Governor Schaefer and his new administration in remarks at my swearing-in ceremony February 2.

I say "we" because the credit belongs to each and every employee in the State Comptroller's Office.

I proudly pointed out to our new governor many of the accomplishments which led to our national recognition as a leader in fiscal operations.

We've been winning the Super Bowl, the World Series and the America's Cup of fiscal competition with stunning regularity.

Split Holidays Bring Splitting Headaches

In recent years, state employees, legislators, various interest groups and Maryland citizens have debated the "split holidays" issue.

You know, the ones that state, local and federal governments celebrate on different days.

The calendar for state employees currently shows three split holidays: Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Columbus Day and the most confusing one - Memorial Day.

Once again this year, the Maryland General Assembly is considering several kinds of "split holiday" legislation.

One bill would require all state holidays to conform with federal observances, while another would just affect Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is the traditional start of summer. It's also a holiday for businesses and private industry so when it occurs as a split holiday, it causes lots of confusion.

To compensate, many of us take leave on the date observed by the federal government and private industry.

Over the past year, we counted employees in the Comptroller's Office who used annual, personal or compensatory leave for the federal observance of Memorial Day 1986 and Dr. Martin Luther King Day this year. (By chance, Columbus Day observances fell on the same day last year.)

For Memorial Day, about 21% of us used leave while just over 7% took off on Martin Luther King Day.

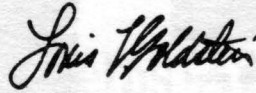
When representatives from other states and nations imitate you, it is truly the sincerest form of flattery.

I was proud to tell our new governor that in the Comptroller's Office:

Excellence is a habit,
Efficiency - a standard,
Enthusiasm - a byword.

I will never lose sight of the fact that it is your dedication that makes it all possible.

As we move forward to preserve, protect and enhance Maryland's fiscal integrity and add lustre to an already bright name, I'm proud to be taking on these new challenges with each of you on board.



Although Memorial Day best illustrates the confusion created by split holiday observances, each instance can provide hardships and headaches for many families who must juggle child care arrangements and other personal plans.

It also confuses folks using services provided by federal, state or local governments.

So, if the General Assembly approves the Memorial Day bill and the governor signs it, the state observance of Memorial Day will conform with the federal holiday, beginning in 1988.

And for many, the split holiday confusion of Memorial Day, at least, will end.



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Sales Tax: How It All Began

The year was 1947, and Maryland needed money to pay for increasing government services and projects that had been delayed by World War II.

Governor William Preston Lane proposed raising the needed revenue by imposing a 2% retail sales tax. His suggestion was so unpopular that both the Senate majority and minority leaders refused to have anything to do with the proposed legislation.

"Governor Lane sent for the youngest member of the Senate and asked for help in getting this bill off the ground," recalled Comptroller Goldstein.

"I accepted that challenge and became the floor leader for Governor Lane's proposed state sales tax."

The comptroller recalled his role in the birth of the sales tax during remarks at his swearing-in ceremony, noting that he sold the idea to his Calvert County constituents by showing what services the revenue could pay for.

The bill was introduced on March 3, 1947, and was approved a hectic 26 days later.

Walter E. Kennedy was appointed chief of the new Retail Sales Tax Division in April and began the monumental tasks of assembling a staff, writing regulations and educating the public.

On July 1, 1947, only 3 months after the legislation was passed, Marylanders began paying "Pennies for Lane."

The Retail Sales Tax Division is celebrating 40 years of collecting and counting those pennies with a Bull Roast and Dance at Martin's West in Baltimore on Friday, June 5, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Tickets are \$23 per person and include an open bar. The event is open to all employees of the Comptroller's Office and their families and friends.

For more details or to order tickets, contact Joe Cousler at 225-1576.

Look for more fascinating facts about the history of the Maryland Sales Tax in the next few months.

Data Building

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He even took the opportunity to push approval of the project at his swearing-in ceremony last month when he noted that our data centers support 3,000 terminals statewide.

They are essential to keeping state government operating at peak efficiency 24 hours a day, 365 days a year he explained.

In addition, the comptroller pointed out that Central Payroll also needs more elbow room. They have added the Department of Transportation and the University of Maryland payrolls to their processing responsibilities in recent years.