

Have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:
"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1862
by John H. Murphy Sr.,
1840-1922. Published every
Tuesday and Saturday by
the AFRO-AMERICAN
Co., of Baltimore City Inc.



May we let our light so
shine that it will illuminate
that which is good, and
beautiful and magnify our
Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY
(1880-1967)
Editor-Publisher
(1922-1967)

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Du Burns moves up as City Council veep

That unanimous vote Monday which made Second District City Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns vice president of the 19-member body was significant in many ways.

For the first time in history, a black politician holds the Number Two post in the City Council.

Thus the 57-year-old East Baltimore Democrat, who preaches organization politics, becomes an important figure in the shaping of administration measures. Normally he would be floor leader for legislation sponsored by the mayor.

That role plus his chairmanship of one of the City Council's three major committees, Urban Affairs, should give Burns new political wallop and bring him additional public attention.

An ambitious man who attributes his success to having applied himself as a politician, Burns is expected to run in 1979 for the City Council presidency.

If he begins running for that post early, it means he will not take on Rep. Parren J. Mitchell for the Seventh District congressional seat—an office he has threatened to seek in the past.

Past differences in the City Council, based on race, liberal or

conservative views and section of the city from which the councilmen were elected, were forgotten Monday when Burns was approved unanimously.

This should bode well for black appointive and elective gains in the months ahead but the determining factor likely is to be how much unity can be retained as political leaders get down to the business of shaping election tickets.

Du Burns already has said he hopes to impress upon young blacks the opportunities that could await them if they apply themselves.

The AFRO believes the real test of what they will be able to learn from Councilman Burns will be derived from the role he is able to play in working to achieve and maintain enough cooperation among black and white progressive politicians to bring about still more dramatic representative sharing of leadership posts in Baltimore City.

His past successes encourage us to believe that if Du applies himself to that role, both Baltimore's black students and non-students will be inspired and helped by his deserved new opportunity to render service to his community.

Caucus gets hard-nosed

The Legislative Black Caucus finally has begun to show it not only isn't kidding about being opposed to the restoration of the death penalty in Maryland but intends to fight hard against it.

The Caucus, headed by Senator Robert Douglass, is now making itself felt in an impressive manner in the House of Delegates.

Earlier, a member of the Caucus, Senator Clarence Mitchell III, in a one-man filibuster against the death penalty, fired the first big shot for the opposition.

Since his attack there has been no doubt that a fight was in store for those anxious to resume state murders in Maryland under the mistaken belief such a step will deter criminals. Executions have not eradicated nor probably deterred crime anywhere in the world.

The death penalty legislation before the General Assembly is one of those issues on which there can be no compromise. It is not one on

which a legislator should be encouraged to vote yes in payment for some past or future political favor.

Black lawmakers certainly cannot barter on this life-and-death question.

There simply are no persuasive arguments in favor of the death penalty.

Something that does not work but at the same time discriminates against black and other poor citizens cannot be justified.

Every day the House delays final action on death penalty legislation, the better the chances to kill it later in the Senate.

Although many don't agree, we think even the short delay resulting from Senator Mitchell's filibuster will prove to have been important.

The Black Caucus is flexing its muscles on an important issue about which there admittedly is considerable honest disagreement. But the Caucus is on the right side and should stick to its guns no matter the cost.

'Poor' Dale Anderson

Once hard-nosed Dale Anderson, former Baltimore County executive, has filed a bankruptcy petition in U.S. District Court, indicating he is now a poor ex-convict.

Back when he was riding high as the man who boasted of not wanting poor people in the mostly white suburban county, it's doubtful he ever dreamed his own financial status some day might mean—if judged by the standards he politicized—he could be considered a not-too-desirable citizen.

Back then, Dale Anderson prided himself on being hard-working, honest, tax-paying, law-abiding, middle-class citizen.

That was before he was jailed for extortion, conspiracy and tax evasion.

He now claims debts of \$289,617, including a \$100,000 debt to Joel Kline, a convicted stock broker.

Oddly, this former top county official who placed so much stock in good, decent taxpaying citizens, claims he owes most of his debts to the federal and state tax collectors.

Anderson denies he owes the taxes for the year 1969 through 1972, but the Internal Revenue Service and the state comptroller each seeks \$63,617.18 from him.

We don't think Dale Anderson is poor like some of the people he once didn't want in Baltimore County. But when he looks back on his record and some of the positions he voiced about people who truly were poor, it would not be surprising if he felt himself poorer than he financially is.

Pollack was fighter

James H. (Jack) Pollack's death ended a long political career which, from his supporters' view, and that of many unbiased observers, was as successful as that of any of the nation's major political "bosses."

His supporters included many black Baltimoreans. He helped some; used others.

Even those of us who could not support him as a political leader, learned much about the game of politics from him.

Some of his political tactics, such as the same-name candidate game or the late-night, election-night trick games, were a part among the positive

things he taught by example.

What Pollack did effectively was to organize and deliver votes to candidates who would remember his constituents once they were in office. He was loyal to those who delivered and he fought former friends at the polls when he decided they were letting him or his constituents down.

And Pollack always fought to win.

His death Tuesday morning at age 78 ended a political career not likely ever to be matched in Baltimore.

And do you swear to be my man?



Now and then Violence like bacon and eggs in U.S.

Looking back on the Hanafi Muslim siege in the District of Columbia, one thing must not be ignored: Violence and terrorism are as American as bacon and eggs. It is not new; it was not invented yesterday or last week.

Violence is also not limited to any one place, or to any one people, or to any one racial, religious or nationality group.

Saying the foregoing, is not to excuse anyone who indulges in crime, or to forget that terrorists wreak their hatred on whomsoever they will, regardless of their victims' race, creed or color.

For instance, in the Washington 3-building attack, the first person shot, and the first person killed, were black. The black Hanafi Muslims did not hold their fire because their first victims would be "brothers."

Violence, terrorism, hate, they know no restraints.

Down the years, tribe has sought to extinguish tribe; Kentucky mountaineers have waged war against other Kentucky mountaineers; frontiersmen have hanged other frontiersmen; labor "goons" and labor groups have murdered other labor "goons" and other labor groups.

Respectable Americans — pillows of the church and society —

were the mainstays of the slave trade; the "best people" of America joined in, or condoned, thousands of lynchings; law enforcement officers have brutalized those who had no power to fight back.

We Americans have also resorted to respectable violence, called war, whenever it was to our advantage to do so: War against the Indians, war against Spain in the Caribbean basin, war against Great Britain; "police action" against Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Without being moralistic, what we are saying is that we, as a people, as a nation or as factions, have never been above using violence.

All this is one explanation for the terrorism in the District of Columbia. There is another explanation.

Weaker groups in America have learned that the larger society seldom listens to them unless they disrupt the system. They have learned that they can deliver more and obtain more, faster, than the respectable, "reasonable" leaders who sit around large executive tables.

They have borrowed from the predominant society and found that guns and bombs speak louder than pleas and petitions—at least in the short run.

A little about a lot Du Burns is far from a Kunta Kinte

The fact that the City Council unanimously elected Councilman Clarence H. (Du) Burns, D-2nd, vice president of the City Council Monday night, brings full circle the era of the late Tom Smith, when the then Gov. Albert C. Ritchie dubbed him leader of the black community.

For although congratulations would be in order for the first such black dignitary, the fact that in Du's words, even though he is black, and there are 14 whites and 5 blacks in City Council... "means the white people saw me the same way as the blacks," one must be warned of Grecks bearing gifts.

For the white members of City Council are still as conservative, as racist as they ever were.

And if it is true as he is quoted saying, that he likes the way Schaefer's got the city moving, we blacks had better look for the kind of pragmatic leadership, if you can call it that, from Du that we've had all along.

Fewer blacks as heads of agencies and a near lily white City Hall;

Continued absentee leadership as whites trek daily from the county to be paid city tax money, in city jobs; and

A rogue elephant police department that still brutalizes blacks without checks or balances.

With the recent victory in Richmond of a majority City Council and an elected black mayor, many whites are haunted by what has happened in Gary with Mayor Richard Hatcher, with Kenneth Gibson in Newark, Carl Stokes in Cleveland, Coleman Young in Detroit.

(Tom Bradley of Los Angeles is deliberately omitted, since he, as a big city mayor, was not elected by a majority black electorate).

Whites, well aware that blacks represent the majority population in Baltimore City and are nearing a majority of registered voters are now determined to pick our black leader in the person of Du Burns, a black man with the "right" point of view, who would conserve their power over the city of Baltimore.

Thus his election as vice president of City Council of

Baltimore City is the white folks' first step in their effort to program the black population to accept Du Burns as the acceptable black mayor of Baltimore, if they reluctantly have to do so.

On the other hand, and more cynically, they can use Du, overblown for the mayoralty, to thwart the ambitions of a black mayoral candidate truly picked by the total black community.

Because in all he says and does, in how he votes, one can rightly say that Du Burns, though elected to a position of some power and influence by black people, has deserted the cause of the people who elected him.

Du probably never believed in the power of black people in the first instance. Kunta Kinte he's not.

To choose as his first major effort the healing of the relationship between Mayor Schaefer and Wally Oriinsky merely compounds his misplaced priorities. It would seem more likely that he should use this position to tighten the loose knit relationship of the minority black members of the City Council so that blacks would benefit more directly from his being there.

Being a conduit for the mayor to the City Council to push the

Washington report

Tax rebate checks to go for rising cost of fuel

By Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.)

A few weeks ago in this column I asked readers to write me and answer the question: "What would you do with your tax rebate?" This question was raised in anticipation of congressional action on President Carter's proposed plan which would allow each taxpayer to receive a rebate check of \$50, in addition to \$50 extra for each dependent.

The results are in and it appears, at least in Maryland, that any possible tax rebate stands a good chance of being burned up by skyrocketing fuel cost. Usage of the tax rebate to offset this past winter's costs of home heating lead the list of those things respondents said would be done with monies received.

For example, one reader replied: "We won't save it. Depending on the spiraling cost of oil and the

weather ahead, we'll pay the heating bill..."

Another reader pointed out: "I am on a fixed income, which is not very much. If I would receive a \$50 rebate check, I would spend it on...fuel oil to try and keep warm."

Still another respondent said: "Under the Carter tax rebate plan of \$50, my family would be entitled to \$150. My fuel oil monthly payment was raised from \$37 to \$60, not to speak of gas and electric bill increases. You can see that I would use it to pay bills."

Perhaps not surprisingly, the next most mentioned possible use of the tax rebate, almost equaling that of fuel bills, was for food costs.

Placing third and fourth, respectively, were educational expenses and clothing needs, which certainly go hand in hand. In fact, the quickly approaching graduation season may well stand to be a prime benefactor of rebate checks, should they be approved and received in time. As one lady explained: "I would pay my son's graduation fee and for my daughter's high school ring. I also have two daughters in Morgan State University and I would finish paying for tuition and books. My husband is disabled and I am the only one working now. But, it is so important that we as a black people try to push our children to get the best education that they possibly can."

Only one respondent, a lady on a salary of \$8,000 per year with no dependents, indicated that the \$50 check would be saved or put aside for a future emergency.

by g. james fleming

Very few blacks believe in violence as a way of life. They know, or remember, too well what violence has meant to them: lynchings and police brutality, for instance, not to mention more subtle terrorism.

Several blacks were very verbal to this column in being condemnatory of the terrorism in Washington. Most said that the terrorists "ought to be dealt with as criminals."

Some were much more harsh in their reaction.

Blacks, the majority of them, are coming to see that muggers, terrorists, kidnapers and killers do not bypass "the brother" when they are on their death-dealing rampages.

Other blacks are asking, "Why, why, why?" One friend of this column called to ask: "Why do we have to imitate the worst of what white people do?"

One caller said, "We hope that those Black Muslims know that those who live by the sword will die by the sword."

Whatever the final outcome of the invasion of the B'nai B'rith headquarters, the District Building and the Islamic Center, one thing must not be forgotten: We are historically a violent nation. Violence, to us, is as American as bacon and eggs for breakfast.

On March 8, the House of Representatives approved a tax rebate plan. The only significant change made by the House is that the rebate would be phased down for those with adjusted gross incomes between \$25,000 and \$30,000 and completely phased out for all those making in excess of \$30,000.

The Senate immediately held hearings on legislation, H. R. 3477, the Tax Reduction and Simplification Act of 1977, and may complete final actions by the time this column goes to print.

It looks, therefore, that all those with incomes under \$30,000 stand an excellent chance of getting a tax rebate this year. Whether or not this rebate will serve its purpose of stimulating our economy remains to be seen.

Frankly, I have many doubts. The rebate program could well be as one senator allegedly suspects, "like climbing to the top of the Washington Monument, throwing off bushels of \$50 bills, and hoping for a good wind."

Obviously the checks will not be used to get ahead. They will be used by so many people to try and catch up with run-away rises in the cost of living—the cost of surviving.

Somehow we must develop a more comprehensive and constructive method of addressing our economic ills. The positive features of a rebate program notwithstanding, I am still convinced that the answer lies in providing jobs.

My sincere appreciation is extended to all those readers who took the time to share their views with me on the rebate program.

by madeline m. murphy

mayor's programs in the council, with a little ingenuity could become a two-way proposition wit. the right kind of unified black leadership.

And let us not forget the congressional race in the 7th District next year.

Du Burns could possibly be used by the white power structure to try to unseat Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Nothing rankles the Establishment—the white press included—more than to have an independent liberal congressman, especially when he keeps turning the other cheek, without the graft, without vindictiveness, to propose legislation that benefits the whole city, as Parren Mitchell does.

There's an old saying: "To the sufficient intellect, nothing is trivial."

Let us be warned that the Establishment never gives up its power willingly, nor without a struggle.

We must, therefore, prepare ourselves wisely and well for the struggle, to break the full circle of controlled, managed black politicians and a self-imposed plantation syndrome.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Fort Worthington Center, 2710 East Hoffman St., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

SULA, by Toni Morrison. Sula kept a town alive through tensions she created.

MERIDIAN, by Alice Walker. Story of the political metamorphosis of a black woman.

JAY J. ARMES, INVESTIGATOR, by Jay J. Armes. Private eye tales from the best private eye in the business.

BLACK FOLKTALES, by Julius Lester. A compilation of tales from Africa and black America.

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

DECEMBER 24, 1920

(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892.)

Milk intolerance

Almost half of the world's peoples, including an estimated 40 per cent to 70 per cent of black Americans, suffer digestive distress of one sort or another if they drink milk or eat cheese, ice cream or any dairy product.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology nutritionist Paul Newberne, it is impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the number of persons who suffer from lactose intolerance — the failure of the digestive system to produce enough lactase, the enzyme that digests lactose, "milk sugar."

What is known is that those persons suffering from the condition, many of whom live on protein deficient diets, are deprived

of one of the best, cheapest, forms of natural protein.

Newberne has just completed a study at MIT that may make it possible, perhaps in the next few months, for persons suffering from lactose intolerance to drink milk.

"... There is now a reasonable economical supply of lactase and it will be possible to provide it to people who need it, so it can be added to milk, in the near future," said Newberne.

Those particularly affected by lactose intolerance include western Africans, Indo-China, Malaysians, Japanese and Chinese.

It is very rare for a person to see a dairy dish on a Chinese menu which may list more than 100 dishes.