"The Governor . . . has just . . . given your son a reprieve . . . he won't die in the Gas Chamber . . . sentence is commuted to life . . ."

THESE WERE THE WORDS Mrs. Bessie Braxton McCloud was hearing when AFRO photog took these photos. Mrs. Braxton first learned that Governor McKeldin had commuted death term of son, Alvin Braxton, 17, on visit to AFRO office on Monday. He was due to die in Gas Chamber today (Friday.) With Mrs. McCloud here is one of her daughters, Mrs. Mildred Thomas. Mrs. McCloud's first comments were—"I thank him (Gov. McKeldin) from the depths of my heart . . . Bless his heart . . . . May God bless him all his days . . . . ."

Writers plead for Braxton reprieve

Before his executive order Monday granting clemency to Alvin H. (Butch) Braxton — his 14th since taking office—Governor McKeldin received a great number of appeals from interested persons asking that the 18-year-old youth's life be spared.

Many AFRO readers sent letters to this newspaper setting forth their ideas concerning the Braxton case.

Some of the letters sent to this office appear below:

* * *

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore branch NAACP and the Maryland State Conference of Branches thanks the AFRO - AMERICAN for bringing to the attention of all the case of young (Alvin) Braxton. Thanks to our Governor for his act of mercy.

(Mrs.) LILLIAN M. JACKSON

* * *

Dear AFRO:

I have kept up with the Braxton story and I believe the youth is telling the truth about the crime. He made a mistake and it is to be corrected, but not by death.

A MOTHER

* * *

Dear AFRO:

I happened to have been confined with Alvin Braxton while his trial was in progress.

I know when a crime is committed justice must be done.

I met Braxton as a total stranger and I doubt if he remembers me at all. But I think back when I was his age I became one of Baltimore's first Eagle Scouts and was about to graduate from high school and enter college.

What I am trying to say is with all this help and encouragement, I still became involved in a crime.

I know he should be punished but putting this youth to death would only serve to put hatred in the hearts of many teenage youngsters who are lost, and do not care whether they themselves live or die.

I can understand how the officer's (Patrolman John Phelan's) parents feel . . .

I think if Braxton was confined for life it would always be a reminder to the youth of Maryland. But, if he dies everyone will have forgotten in less than a year — except Mrs. Braxton and the people involved — and then Braxton wouldn't need any prayers but many of us would!

For, if we are God - fearing people, there will always be the doubt as to whether we were right or wrong.

A READER

—Braxton back in

(Continued from Page 1)

of Mrs. McCloud's final visits with her son before his execution became a more joyous occasion following the commutation.

"It feels like we stepped out of the darkness into the light," explained Mrs. Thomas.

* * *

AT THE time of his arrest after he and three others — including an older brother, Albert — unsuccessfully attempted to hold up a North Ave. liquor store, young Braxton weighed approximately 235 pounds.

His mother said that since his incarceration, however, he has "lost a lot of weight."

His mother also recalled that young Braxton had on a white inmates uniform.

When queried as to her son's reaction to the commutation, Mrs. McCloud said, He thanked everybody who worked and prayed in his behalf."

* * *

TUESDAY WAS also the first time Braxton and his brother, Albert, 23, had seen each other since both were sentenced last Jan. 31.

Mrs. McCloud said her son, Albert, "couldn't believe it" when he first heard that Governor McKeldin had commuted the sentence of his younger brother.

Albert was sentenced to a

VISITING HOUR—Mrs. Bessie Braxton McCloud, second from right, mother of Alvin Braxton, visits the youth along with her two daughters and grandson a few hours after Governor McKeldin commuted Braxton's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Met safe burglers get 20-year terms

"It's perfectly clear that they must go to the Penitentiary.

"And it's perfectly clear also that they are professional burglars, and that these were daring burglaries. . .

"So, the court has to impose punishment commensurate with the crimes."

Judge Anselm Sodaro in Criminal Court Monday afternoon told this to John Richard Hunter, 32, 800 block W. Fayette St., and Archie Phillip Shaw Jr., 29, 500 block McMechen St., in sentincing them to 20 years each for a series of five burglaries.

The court was told the pair stole safes from the Met Theatre, a florist shop in the 800 block N. Calvert St., and also burglarized a garage in the 500 block W. Redwood St. and an office in the unit block of S. Howard St.

Shaw was on parole from a six-year sentence given him in 1953 and Hunter was described as a fugitive from North Carolina.

Holiday burglaries send 2 to jail

Two men, who pleaded guilty in Criminal Court Monday to burglaries on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, were given House of Correction sentences by Judge Reuben Oppenheimer.

Roy Lee Via, 33, of the 1000 block N. Broadway, was given a two-year term for breaking in a facory office in the 3900 block E. Baltimore St. on Christmas Day.

Williams Adams, 39, of the 1700 block Eutaw St., drew a nine-month sentence for breaking a store window in the 1600 block W. Mulberry St. on January 1.

Assistant State's Attorneys Thomas C. Nugent and Julius A. Romano revealed that Mr. Via, a former employee of the Baltimore St. factory, was arrested shortly after he had broken in the place.

Mr. Adams, they said, stole ten caps of assorted foods from the grocery store window, and was arrested later at his home.

Mr. Via offered no defense. Mr. Adams, according to the State's Attorneys, said he stole the canned food because he was hungry.

ARMED FORCES PRO

NEW YORK — Now adits

Cook jailed in N.Y 'insurance killing'

By LOUIS E. LOMAX

NEW YORK — A 33-year-old cook has been arrested and charged with the Sept. 13 "double indemnity" slaying of his ex-roommate, New York police disclosed Tuesday night.

Officers identified the man as Charles Glinton, arrested in connection with the slaying of Jose Rivera. The case prompted one of the biggest crime hunts in New York's history.

The case began last September when the body of Rivera, 30, was found on the sidewalk beneath his fifth-floor room in the Hotel Marie Antoinette. Police theorized that Rivera had "jumped or fell" to his death.

* * *

SEVERAL DAYS later William Flemming, 25, a hotel employee who had been in jail on assault charges at the time of Rivera's death, told police that Glinton had offered him $5,000 to assist in the murder of Rivera. Flemming said he refused the offer.

Police said a check disclosed that Rivera had been insured under a false name in two double indemnity policies totaling $14,000. The body was also "identified" under the fake name, they said.

Harlem sources identified "Rocky" as Lester Pierce, 21, of Columbus, Ohio.

Under questioning, police said Rocky admitted he was in the room at the time Rivera plunged to his death. He said that Glinton had gotten Rivera drunk, but would not say that Glinton pushed Rivera out of the window.

Police said Glinton met Rivera a year before the murder and persuaded him to become his roommate. Glinton then allegedly persuaded Rivera to "change his name" to Howard Glinton.

Officers stated that Glinton then took out the two policies totaling $14,000 in the name of Howard Glinton and after Rivera's death, identified the body as that of his brother and arranged for burial in Staten Island. Fleming's "tip" set off the investigation, according to police, and the insurance companies refused payment.

You need not be without a watch any longer!

ORCHIDS BECOME A LADY— Miss Marian Anderson smiles as she is pinned by Mrs. Lillian Parrott with three orchids from the Fellowship organization. Her turban was of multicolored striped silk, her coat black diamond mink.

A SMILING BALTIMORE COUSIN, (left) Mrs. Clifton Sherrard, rides the escalator at the PRR station with Miss Marian Anderson and Mrs. Lillian Parrott. They met Miss Anderson at the station along with reception committee. The corsage is composed of three orchids, a gift of the Baltimore Fellowship.

Adah K. Jenkins' MOMENTS MUSICAL

EVENT OF THE MONTH: Baltimore audiences have applauded Marian Anderson many times, though she has appeared in concert here, but there has never been such an ovation as was given this great artist and "citizen of the world" as was accorded her Monday evening at the Lyric.

With a capacity house, including hundreds of children and youth, they seemed to take her to their hearts, cheering not only her achievements as a singer, but the heights she has reached as a woman.

When one recalls, as did many in the audience, her first appearance here as a young woman with "the golden voice," there is even deeper appreciation of her development as a truly creative musician.

* * *

THERE WAS at this concert a depth and insight in her interpretations that made them truly an outpouring of her heart.

This is far more than vocal artistry, which Miss Anderson always had at her command and can only grow as the singer herself grows and develops creatively.

Baltimore Fellowship, which sponsored the concert, at a reception at Fellowship House.

Later she was also honored at a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hollander, Sr.

Among the out-of-town visitors were Miss Ruth Fagley and a party from the Philadelphia Fellowship House and Miss Joan Orienstein, director of Washington Fellowship House and members of her executive board.

* * *

AT THE monthly recital by students of the Music Department of Morgan State College the program concluded with showing of a film of the college Marching Band, directed by Dr. Hayes Sleeper in its recent appearance at Yankee Stadium.

Jamisetta Holliman, piano major at Oberlin College, was presented in a recital recently at Christ Methodist Church, under the auspices of the Committee of Student Work, Women's Society of Christian Service and the Senior Choir of the church.

Her program consisted of solid musical fare, beginning with the "three B's": Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. There was a "Partita" (dance suite), Sonata in C minor and Intermezzo in E major.

She also played one of the famous Chopin Ballades (F major) and Debussy's "Images," No. 1. As she continues her study it will be gratifying to hear Miss Holliman's interpretation of modern and contemporary works.

Miss Holliman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Holliman, both active in musical circles.

She is a graduate of Dunbar High School and well known for her community contributions as soloist and accompanist.

* * *

THE BALTIMORE Boys Choir, under the guidance of William H. Meredith Birchett, its founder and director, gave one of the most delightful concerts of the recent holiday season at the Baltimore Stadium.

The Senior Choir of Grace Presbyterian Church presented Saint-Saens' "Christmas Oratorio" at Grace Presbyterian Church under the direction of Prof. Herman Schwarz, minister of music and organist.

Soloists were Lucy Holt Jones and Dalie Russell, sopranos; Charlotte Mebane, contralto; Richard Blackwell, tenor; and Moore Carson, baritone.

The Children's Choir, led by Edna Dutcher, participated in the opening worship service, led by Rev. Robert T. Newbold, pastor. Professor Schwarz played the "Pastorale" from his composition "Organ Suite No. 3 and the choir sang for its closing number his a cappella arrangement of "Silent Night."

CALENDAR: Jan. 19th at 3 p.m. in auditorium of Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Streets, the Annual Youth Talent Program, sponsored by the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP.

There will be three categories —voice, piano and oratory. Participants will be students from Carver, Douglass, Dunbar and Harvey Johnson High

Words To Live By

By ROBERT T. NEWBOLD Jr.

The calendar reminds us that we have been ushered into a new year. Recent scientific events indicate we are witnessing the advent of a new age. With it come paramount needs. What are they?

W. need sober men. It has become too risky to have individuals in responsible positions who are drunk with power of their own importance.

he past price of such folly has been written in blood and tears. They tell us the cost in the future could be complete annihilation.

* * *

CANDOR FORCES us to recognize and acknowledge that all of the drunk persons on the contemporary scene are not Reds — some pledge allegiance to the red, white, and blue.

It makes no difference, however, to which political ideology they subscribe, the fact remains that they can catapult us into a struggle in which the end will result in destruction.

We also need godly men — those whose primary concerns are to discover and do God's will. Th time is upon us when we need to allow party labels to take second place to divine mandates.

Community, national and international leaders should be willing to consult God more often than they confer with their advisors.

* * *

MOREOVER, religious persons should be concerned about nominating and electing such persons to offices of leadership.

The problems of maintaining p ace during the space age will be legion. And their solutions will be dependent to a large extent upon the efforts of dedicated, unselfish, God-guided men.

As we come nearer the time for elections, with an awareness of basic issues, these are two important needs religious men and women must keep in mind.

NEW illustrious commander in chief of Hiram Consistory No. 2, A.A.S.F. Masons, Prince Hall Affiliation, is Ronald C. Reid, above. He was elected recently to succeed Dr. Furman L. Templeton.

Hackett's $310,350 tops field

A Baltimore insurance agent topped all others in sales of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance organization during 1957, the company's annual report revealed last week.

Rufus Hackett of 1530 N. Monroe St., who is assigned to the East Baltimore district of the company, sold a total of $310,350 of paid policies for ordinary insurance last year, John Berry, manager of the district said.

This entitles him to membership for the second consecutive year in the "Quarter Million Dollar Round Table Club," sponsored by the National Insurance Association.

* * *

AN AGENT must sell more than $250,000 worth of business during a year's period to qualify.

Mr. Hackett, who is active in church and YMCA affairs, has set his sights on a half million dollar goal in 1959, Mr. Berry said.

With the company since 1934, Mr. Hackett, a Morgan graduate, is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Says AMEs $600,000 In 'Red'

Bishops' plea for million dollars rejected by budget unit

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

CHICAGO — The budget committee of the AME Church on Tuesday turned down a request of nine bishops for $1,000,000.

The request was made to the committee during a meeting at Coppin Church here.

It was contained in a four-page document, read by Bishop George W. Baber, presiding bishop of the First Episcopal District, who also disclosed that the AME Church "as a result of the budget planning, "we find ourselves confronted with a static church so far as expansion and development are concerned."

They added: "The need of new churches is a pressing and crying need. The amount allocated in the budget is too limited for the church extension.

* * *

"NOT ONLY ARE WE face to face with the need of expansion, but also the constant and urgent demands to maintain properties we now have. But we are jeopardized due to members from four national conferences.

Although members of the **budget committee** refused the million dollar request, they indicated that the matter should be referred to the General Conference due to meet in May, 1960.

They stated that the bishop's request was "too serious" a matter to be decided outside the General Conference.

They added that if the emergency was of such magnitude, a **special session of the General Conference should be called.**

In the St. Louis meeting of the Bishop's Council, they voted against a special session of the General Conference.

Marian Anderson