EDITORIAL COMMENT

Fight for Civil Rights Must Go On

With fitting ceremony, the District Commissioners received a replica of the Liberty Bell from the Secretary of the Treasury on Thursday. It was a perfect reproduction, even down to the well-known crack, but, like liberty in the nation's capital, it was a phony.

Fourteen young persons could not attend the ceremony because they were locked up for trying to get a meal in a restaurant a few blocks from the District Building where the great unveiling was held.

We thought last week we had scraped the bottom of the legalistic barrel when Judge Frank H. Myers came up with the odorous ruling that the civil rights laws of 1872-73 banning discrimination in restaurants had been repealed "by implication."

But apparently we "hadn't seen nothing yet" as Al Jolson would say. This week a group representing the Interracial Workshop attempted to be served in Sholl's restaurant and ended up arrested for disorderly conduct.

The disorder, it appears, was not due to any noise or overt acts they had committed but rather to the fact that some of the members of the group were colored.

So now we have it. It is disorderly to be black in Washington. But it did not stop there, and became even more ludicrous as the case progressed.

Since the charges of disorder could not be pressed in the absence of any actual disorder, they were altered and the "defendants" were accused of "illegal entry."

That means that it is illegal for a colored person to enter a public establishment which normally caters to white persons, in spite of the fact there are no segregation laws as such in the nation's capital unless we are to assume from Judge Myers's ruling that, since the Civil Rights Laws had been repealed, segregation laws were automatically in effect.

This line of reasoning leads to the conclusion that unless specific laws are enacted governing every activity of minorities, setting forth specifically what they can or cannot do, all of their rights under the Constitution are abrogated.

This is a sad state of affairs, and reveals to the world the hypocrisy of American democracy.

Aside from the legal aspects of the case, it remained for the manager of the restaurant to pull the prize quotation of the week in a statement to the AFRO when he said:

"I have served mixed groups in this restaurant, but these people looked like a bunch of Communists to me and I refused them."

Apparently it is not enough merely to be colored to be exposed to the abuses of segregation. Now we have degenerated to the place where operators of public establishments arrogate to themselves the right to penetrate people's minds and discriminate against whites because they associate with colored people.

Like other frightened souls, we had been concerned over the fate of humanity in the case our trigger happy militarists decided to drop atom bombs, annihilating humanity.

However, when we muse over the direction in which we apparently are going, we wonder whether it might not be a good idea to wipe out the present crop in one fell swoop so that the business could be started anew.

County Outlook Brighter

The long-sought appointment of foot patrolmen to the Turner Station area moved one step closer to reality last week with the announcement that three of the nine colored men who took the examination for the Baltimore County Police Force had passed.

Only one thing stands now between the dream and the reality, and that is their passing the physical tests. As things now stand, it seems reasonable that two, if not all three, will soon be bonafide members of the law enforcement agency of the county.

The success of these men represents a real victory for the Turner Station residents, whose constant pressure for colored officers resulted in the authorization of a mixed force by the County Commissioners back in December of 1948.

That action by the county fathers only paved the way. It remained for the Turner YMCA to qualify the men for the jobs, and it is to the Y officials and volunteer tutors that we feel special tribute is due for the remarkable job they did in preparing the nine men to take the rigid examination.

At present, the plan is to assign patrolmen to Turner Station only. It is our hope that the work thus far completed will be extended so that our fellow citizens in the county will have, not just token representation, but that the police force will be really mixed, with our men serving all over the area.

Concerted action by local citizens has borne fruit so far. Continuation of it, we are sure, will increase the yield.

Md. Vital Statistics Show Birth Decline

The outstanding feature of Maryland's vital statistics for the first quarter of 1950 is a record low infant mortality for this season. For the first time the infant death rate for the first three months of the year was less than 30 per 1,000 live births. The recorded rate of 29.5 represents a decline of 11.8 per cent over the corresponding rate of 32.8 for last year.

This decrease in the infant mortality is apparently not limited to any particular cause. Deaths of infants under one day of age decreased by 12.2 percent; of those 1-29 days of age by 11.3 per cent; and those one month or older by 11.9 per cent.

Infant deaths from most of the more important causes also showed gratifying declines. Infectious and respiratory diseases, prematurity, and congenital malformations caused fewer infant deaths during the first quarter of this year than during the corresponding quarter of last year. On the other hand, there were nine infant deaths caused by diarrhea and enteritis during the first three months of this year as compared with 6 last year.

State Death Rate Increases

The general death rate for the State, 11.8 per 1,000 population, while lower than that for the first quarter of any year prior to 1949, was somewhat higher than last year's low rate of 11.1 for the first quarter.

This increase in deaths attributed to diseases of the heart, cancer, nephritis, diabetes, and cerebral hemorrhage had a combined death rate of 792.3 per 100,000 population during the first three months of 1950 compared with 735.3 last year.

Another increase noted for this period was in the deaths from influenza and pneumonia which rose 31.6 per cent. Deaths from syphilis also increased slightly.

Deaths from tuberculosis, on the other hand, decreased from 49.1 to 43.8 per 1,000 population. Motor vehicle accident fatalities also decreased appreciably.

Birth Rates Decline

As mentioned in previous vital statistics reviews, the birth rate seems to have reversed its upward trend which started about 1940 and reached its peak in 1947. The birth rate, 23.2 per 1,000 population, observed during the first quarter of this year represents a decline from the comparable rates of 23.9 and 25.3 for the first quarter of 1949 and 1948, respectively.

Cases of communicable diseases in Maryland decreased markedly during the first quarter of 1950 when compared with the corresponding period of 1949. There were only 9,457 known cases of reportable diseases in the State during the first three months of the year, as compared with 22,488 cases last year.

A marked decrease in measles cases—from 13,736 to only 504 cases—was largely responsible for this year's lower total. There were also decreases in scarlet fever, chickenpox, German measles, tuberculosis, the pneumonias, typhoid fever and venereal diseases. Increases occurred, however, in whooping cough, mumps, diphtheria and influenza.

Wallace and Korea

The domestic political world was thrown into a dither when Henry Wallace, titular head of the Progressive Party, did an about-face and sided up with America on the Korean situation.

For years, the Progressives have contended that the so-called backward peoples should be given the right of self-determination, free from interference by either Western or Eastern imperialism.

In spite of high sounding phraseology about maintaining peace and keeping nations free, the initiates know that Korea should never have been divided and that the war is merely a test to determine whether Korea is to be dominated by America or by Russia. The Koreans themselves really don't count.

When the chips were down, Wallace sided up with America as was expected, because in spite of the attacks leveled against him by re-actionaries, Wallace was always a good American.

He has constantly proved his greatness when, in face of villification and the impugning of his intentions, he dared to stump for rapprochement with Russia and world peace while others howled for war.

Wallace knows, as most reasonable men know, that the first prerequisite of peace is to have a will for peace on all sides, and this desire cannot be created while everybody is talking war.

When the shooting started in Korea, Wallace realized as most of us did that the battle for peace had been lost. Evil days are upon us and there is little left for real Americans to do but close ranks and make the best of a bad situation which we through our arrogance and stupidity have helped create.

Why Not Big Brother at Home Too?

Speak Your Piece

Would Do Real Service

Dear AFRO—If a person dies and his funeral is advertised for a church, don't you think that the notice in the paper should indicate that there will be "no review at the church."

Too often, the minister will announce at the end of the service that there will be no review, disappointing many of those who have come to pay their respects.

A death notice indicating that there will be no review seems a better plan to me.

(Mrs.) VIOLA SCOTT

Blot on City's Name

Dear AFRO— It seems a shame to me that a woman should have to arm herself to protect her home, as Miss Beatrice Sessoms had to do after vandals attacked her Lauretta Ave. home on two different occasions.

All the terrorism by hoodlums can't overrule the fact that people are free to live wherever they choose. The city itself should see to it that such vandalism is halted at once and not leave such action to a woman.

(Mrs.) BLANCHE JONES

Scratch Pad

Secret Service in Mississippi
Six Months Can Be a Long Time
Females Coming On The Scene

By Mae Morris Medders

Wonder what's happened to the applications sent to the city Bar Association by several colored attorneys six months ago?

The city group of attorneys is all-white, you know. Last time heard from it, the Association was denying that it discriminated.

It claimed that it had no applications from colored attorneys to act upon. How many does it need, and just how long?

It'll be interesting to see what happens when the two colored women law graduates from the University of Maryland pass the bar examination.

The Monumental Bar Association (all colored men) hasn't been faced with the problem of women before.

The two Portias should apply to the Women's Bar Association, which never has been faced with the problem of COLORED women, before.

And while on the subject of wondering—what happened to the Governor's Commission on Problem's Affecting the Colored Population, or what ever its name is?

Why the Secrecy?

For a group set up to improve race relations and opportunities for colored citizens, it certainly can go into hiding.

Every time I run into one member, he insists that the Commission is doing a good job.

Where? How? When? Maybe the Governor knows. Evidently he appointed a secret service commission.

Speaking of secret service, latest FBI reports show there's one Communist in Mississippi. Must be a white man who joined the NAACP.

Birthdays This Week

Birthday greetings to the following Baltimoreans:

July 22—Miss Marilyn Tazmore, 1820 Druid Hill Ave.

JULY 23—Mrs. Jessie Merritt, 1038 Edmondson Ave.; George B. Morsby sr., 1741 Druid Hill Ave.; William Campbell, 325 N. Stricker St.

JULY 24—Mrs. Ernst Ullah, 1806 Madison Ave.; John Carter, 1006 Arlington Ave.

JULY 25 — Miss Vivian Lawson 1713 Harlem Ave.; Mrs. Catherine Greene, 1919 W. North Ave.

JULY 26—Miss Louise Bailey, 815 McKean Ave.; Miss Delia Vaughn, 1912 Madison Ave., Miss Ora Calson, 1619 W. Lafayette Ave.

JULY 27 — J. E. Stanley, 1022 E. Monument St.; Mrs. Carrie Dorsey, 1707 W. North Ave., 1709 W. North Ave.

Newsbeat

by Rufus Wells

For several months now, rumors have been circulating that certain (not all) Pennsylvania Avenue pawn shops are charging more than the legal rate of interest on loans.

The Baltimore NAACP received word of this and wrote a letter to the State's Attorney's office, requesting an investigation.

The State's Attorney replied saying his office would look into the matter and, if the evidence warranted, press charges against companies violating the law.

That was three months ago.

Now another rumor is circulating: That certain (not all) Avenue pawnshops are charging exorbitant rate fees for cashing payroll checks. It is reported that some pawnbrokers charge as much as ONE DOLLAR for the service.

Now, there is no law against charging a dollar for cashing a check. You can charge whatever your conscience will permit, or whatever the traffic will bear.

But a dollar is a terrific price to pay for the privilege of having your week's earnings converted to cash. And such a practice is unethical, to say the least.

The State's Attorney should smoke out the pawnbrokers who charge illegal rates and bring them to trial.

As for the excessive fees for cashing checks, the public can handle this by simply tranferring their business to other Avenue pawnbrokers — the ones who believe in giving the customer a square deal.

The Big Spiel

Lost in More Ways Than One
Hardly a Sporting Proposition
Yankee Dollah Okay—But . . .

By Biddy Wood

Out on the road, headed towards the Big City, there's a dirt oval with a plot of grass in the middle—cost more than lots of people can count.

Every night, ceptin' Sunday, people of all races gather at the dirt-grass extravaganza. Sportin' folks—lovers of "trots."

After hearing so much about the "trots" and this earthy Fort Knox—decided to take a little look-see, Tuesday night.

So-o-o, hustled into a buddy's car and joined the line going to—the trotting races.

Nearing the track, sure enough, it was a magnificant sight.

The tall light overlooking the oval, jutting into an azure blue sky; the groomed horses pulling gaily clad drivers sitting in small sulkies; the sportin' folks jamming the gates—eager to bet the Yankee dollah!

The buck-fifty admit fee was all right—30 cents less than the jockey races.

Didn't do any heavy betting at first; the boys say these trotters and pacers are temperamental cusses.

Loses Rosy Glow

Since the $2 per race bets weren't killing the pocket—was able to drink a few brews between the races, without griping about:

"Did you see that dog (race track terminology for horse) breakdown (race track terminology for any horse that loses)?" Was really a good time — everything was "como" (Biddy's terminology for fine).

Long about seven races and — brews later, decided to go to the comfort station.

It was then that the buck-fifty admission, the $2 bets and the 30 cent brews began to hurt. — There labeled on the door in big white letters were these words, "Gentlemen—Colored."

Whew-w-w — and that's not all. Right next door marked "Ladies—Colored." Then came a door marked "Gentlemen—White."

The door labeled "Ladies—White" was off to the side. At least it wasn't stuck between the men's "black" and "white" comfort stations.

The eighth race was coming up, couldn't see the horses—too darn (there's that accent again) mad about those dar . . . (caught it that time) signs.

Somebody had said that there was a 13-year-old pony in this race who was a "chicken dinner" (race track terminology for a sure winner).

Kerplunk—$20 on the nose — odds 11 to 1—get back the admission fee, the beer money, the previous bets — leave the segregated mess and never return.

The crowd was screaming, the 13-year-old trotter was pulling up to the leaders, at least $20 on his nose.

Around the first turn he dropped —dead? Don't know? Didn't stay to see. You take the "trots."

Oh, no. It's not done and forgotten. There's a little "bathroom signs" investigation afoot. Hope they don't give it to the Tydings Committee.

Housewives Hastening Food Rationing Again

By S. A. HAYNES

President Truman said at his press conference last week that food hoarding is foolish, that rationing would not be necessary, and that there is no prospect of any food shortage in this country at any time.

His statement was prompted by heavy purchases of sugar, coffee and other essential supplies by housewives throughout the nation in the last four weeks, in contemplation of a shortage of basic foods if the Korean War is prolonged or becomes World War III.

Hoarding of food will continue, despite the President's assurances, until the full might of American arms, military and technical manpower and material is deployed to turn the tide of battle in favor of the Southern Korean Republic sponsored by the United Nations and backed militarily by our Government.

Hoarding will increase in tempo also if Russia officially throws her military might into the Korean War on the side of the Communist invaders.

Prices Going Up

Demands upon storekeepers for coffee, sugar and other commodities automatically increase prices for the articles being stowed away. As the war spreads, other demands will be made to stockpile flour, corn meal, salt and pepper, canned goods, soap, cosmetics, nylons, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

The rise in price for one commodity forces up the prices on others. The oil tycoons have already notified automobile owners that it will now cost them more to travel, and the next increase will come on tires, auto parts, repairs and insurance.

Hoarding Breeds Vicious Circle

Hoarding encourages a vicious circle in gouging, so, look also for a run on drug stores for penicillin, quinine, aspirin, cod liver oil, vaseline, rubbing alcohol, iodine and mercurochrome.

Hoarding of food supplies during a war emergency leads to the resurgence of one of the greatest evils of our capitalistic democracy—profiteering—through which a large number of manufacturers, merchants, farmers, salesmen and commission agents soak rich and poor alike for all the traffic can bear.

Out of profiteering springs another deadly evil—the Black Market, the operators of which prey upon all classes, races and creeds reduced to helplessness by the impact of war.

Hastening Rationing

Fear-stricken housewives who are making runs on stores to make certain they are not caught short of food if the war engulfs the world, are hastening the very thing they fear— a revival of rationing, and increasing prices on commodities at a time when they are still above the pre-war level.

Unless this hoarding stops quickly, President Truman will be justified in ordering nation-wide rationing of basic foods and other supplies to make sure all citizens get a proportionate share.

It is well to remember that the rationing system during the World War II worked efficiently in the United States, so much so that few families lived on a standard that was not above or on par with that of other families in countries outside the war zones.

The present buying hysteria is unnecessary and the persons who will suffer most are the housewives who are straining their limited budget and using up their bank savings to fill up their homes, kitchens, attics, garages and farmhouses with food in preparation for a long war.

Meat and poultry dealers, dairies, bakeries, seafood vendors and fruit and produce concerns will not hesitate to raise prices, too, much longer.

The way American housewives are behaving because the Communist invaders in Korea are duplicating Hitler's march into Poland and Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, does not speak well for their patriotism or their confidence in their country's economic potentialities.

Coming State Election of Vital Importance

BY MARSE S. CALLAWAY

The 1950 State election campaign is on. The naming of a Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General and a full Legislature is now up to the people.

There will also be elected a Supreme Bench Judge, three members of the Orphans Court, and six court clerks and a sheriff.

It goes without saying that this election is vital to minority groups, in many ways more important than to the majority group, for as things stand now, we have no representative of our own.

The dominant Democratic ticket, even though thousands of our citizens support the candidates of that party, has never seen fit to nominate one of our group, unless something is done about it this year.

No Group Representation

The Republicans, especially in the 4th District, always select two or three more on this ticket; but the Democratic machine, although catering to and receiving support from us, always has succeeded in defeating our candidates.

We need a Governor who will recognize our needs. Not one who merely appoints a few persons to jobs, but a Governor who has our interests at heart and who will not take action which actually hurts us, for example, like pushing through the Legislature the Regional Education Compact.

Mr. Lane has joined in every Southern effort to degrade us, and so far as I know, has never made any effort to bring about equality in educational or other fields.

All candidates who are running for office will be discussed thoroughly after Aug. 1.

Hodge - Podge

By BOB MATTHEWS

Used to wonder, back in the dark ages when I was in school, just why we were forced to study history.

The answer was always, "We study history because everything moves in cycles and by charting the progress of the past, we can foresee probable future happenings."

Of course this meant absolutely nothing to me at the time. I had not yet become conscious of the fact that history does indeed "repeat itself."

If you have any doubts—just look around you.

New Look Was' New Long, Long Ago

Now take women's fashions for an example.

Grandma used to wear long sweeping gowns and wide floppy hats, so we developed the "new look."

In the roaring twenties, women wore sheath-like dresses and cloches—same style today.

Vaudeville has returned. Of course, now, it's called a variety show, but some of the jokes the comedians use could only have come from the pages of history.

Some Dances, Songs Plague Us Too

In the dance world, what's popular—that new dance "the Charleston."

Record companies have dredged the bottom of the pile looking for such new song hits as "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover." (New Song!)

Instead of the card games Old Maid and Fish—we have Canasta and Bridge.

Parlor games have completed a cycle, and one of the most popular today is "Pantomime Quiz."

Some Things Should Not Be Repeated

Don't breathe it to a soul—but it's the spitting image of charades.

Yep! History repeats itself all right.

But if it doesn't stop repeating these wars, there won't be any history to repeat.

Cela va sans dire. (French: Translation—Don't beat your brains out. What's gonna be, is gonna be.)

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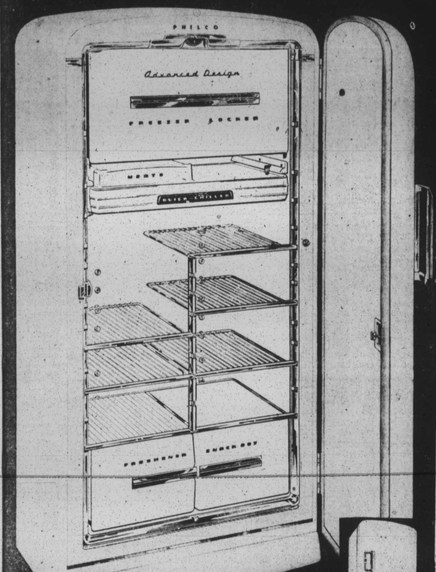

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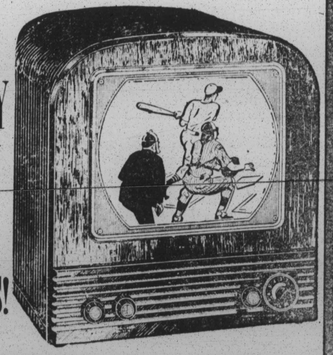

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