OUR CREED

We believe that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every man, regardless of race, color or creed, his human and equal rights. Noting no man, feeling no man, the Colored Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all are hurt so long as anyone is held back.

"We are Americans and, as Americans, we would speak to America."
—Frederick Douglass

FOUNDED IN 1892
By John H. Murphy Sr.—1840-1922
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A doomed atiempt

George Washington Williams is at it again.

This time, the well-known states - righter has filed a suit asking the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court to order the county board of education to maintain separate schools on the basis that state law requires such separation.

Mr. Williams, a lawyer and former Federal judge, knows better than this.

Surely he knows that the structure of the American judicial system does not permit a mere state court to overrule a decision arrived at unanimously by the highest court in the land.

He must have read the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954 and the Court's implementation order of May 31, 1955.

To refresh his memory — and the memory of anyone else who has any doubts — the historic decision of 1954 reads in part:

"We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

Then, in 1955, the Court followed up this statement of principle by saying:

"The opinions of that date (May 17, 1954) declaring the fundamental principle that racial discrimination in public education is unconstitutional, are incorporated herein by reference.

"ALL PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAW REQUIRING OR PERMITTING SUCH DISCRIMINATION MUST YIELD TO THIS PRINCIPLE."

This forthright pronouncement is clear even to the lay reader — it should be much clearer to a lawyer.

Mr. Williams has no legal right to ask for compliance with a state segregation law that no longer exists.

It is to be hoped that the parents whom Mr. Williams represents will examine this statement for themselves before they expend too much time, money and mental stress in prosecuting this matter which by its very nature is doomed from the start.

Good for everybody

Baltimore has now had an FEPC ordinance on its books for two months.

Mayor D'Alesandro is still deliberating the appointment of a commission.

New York has had an FEPC law on its books for ten years. Last week, it issued its semi-annual report.

During the first six months of 1956, the agency, known as SCAD, had received 332 complaints. All of 1955 only 398 charges of discrimination were called to its attention.

The breakdown for 1956 showed that 68 per cent of the complaints were against employers. Twenty-two per cent involved discrimination by labor unions and six per cent were charged denial of public accommodation.

Commissioner Charles C. Abrams of SCAD, also noted a shift in the basis of complaints.

The normal complaint load in previous years was based on discrimination because of race and color. Today, Mr. Abrams finds, the number of complaints based on discrimination because of national origin is substantially larger than that based on color.

In other words, Mayor D'Alesandro will find in Baltimore, as in New York, that this city's new FEPC ordinance is good, for everybody and not merely for colored citizens.

All of us are as interested as the mayor in getting the right commission which can make our new FEPC a workable tool against denial of equal job opportunity in Baltimore.

But it is important to get the commission installed in office, so that its vital work can begin without further delay.

Sgt. McKeon trial

Whether the nine - month sentence, bad - conduct discharge handed Marine Sgt. Matthew McKeon is too severe or not stiff enough, is a question which will probably be debated for sometime.

The merits of the sentence are to be reviewed by the Secretary of the Navy and a more lenient sentence is likely.

Whether McKeon serves the nine months and leaves the Corps, or is allowed to remain in service and gets a lesser term is immaterial, we think.

He is an innocent party to the harsh disciplinary methods which the Marine Corps has followed for 180 years.

And these training methods are to be questioned when a night swamp march such as McKeon engineered results in death for six trainees.

Also up for scrutiny is the Corps' methods of selecting men to supervise its training program.

The Court-Martial board ruled that McKeon showed poor judgment in leading the fatal march. In other words, he was just plain stupid.

The responsibility for putting an immature man of McKeon's temper, Not to be provoked by rude or uncivil language. If offense is of an aggravating nature, may arrest offender.

"CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN FIRING REVOLVERS TO AVOID INJURY TO INNOCENT AND AVOID FIRING UNNECESSARILY EVEN THOUGH THERE IS APPARENT JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION."

"Justified in using revolver to defend self from death or serious injury or to defend another person unlawfully attacked and to effect an arrest or prevent the escape of a FELON when other means are not sufficient."

"THERE COULD BE no more fitting tribute to the former commissioner of Baltimore City Police than for present-day officers to adopt the spirit and the letter of these rules that he issued in 1944.

At issue is something far more serious than whether they are called "policemen" or "cops"—at issue is the welfare and safety of the public as a whole.

So, law-enforcement officers, let your conduct be a living memorial to the service of Hamilton R. Atkinson, a good policeman.

Get those polio shots

A short while ago, it was announced that there was enough polio vaccine available for inoculations to be given to all children between the ages of one and 15 and also pregnant women.

This news was hailed by many parents — who immediately took their children to community health centers to receive their shots. However, there are too many children in the city who still have not been inoculated.

Parents of these unprotected children should bear in mind that so far this year, there have been only 16 cases of polio — and not one of the 16 victims had been inoculated.

The dread ravages of polio are well known today — the crippling of children and the loss of life have been a modern day plague. Now that an effective way to avoid this disease has been found, it is inconceivable that any parents would risk their children's precious lives by not giving them this free protection.

The schedule of inoculations follows: Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. — 1219 Druid Hill Ave., Union Baptist Church; 515 W. Fayette St., Western Health Center;

Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. — 1219 Druid Hill Ave.; 1 p.m. — University Hospital, Lombard and Greene Sts., call for appointment;

8:30 p.m. — 620 N. Caroline St., Eastern Health Center.

Produce that market

The "biggest pre-stressed concrete girders in the world" have arrived on the building site of the new Lafayette Market, with a great fanfare of publicity.

It is certainly hoped by all residents of the market area that the arrival of the girders is not merely an occasion to admire their huge size. They hope instead that it will mean the completion of the market building by September 15, the date called for in the initial schedule.

The Mondawmin Shopping Center, started a full month after the Lafayette project, bids fair to be completed by September 5. This is because the work has progressed steadily and without the months-long work stoppages that have hampered the Lafayette building operation.

The population area to be served by the new Lafayette Market is highly concentrated. On the basis of their need alone — not to mention the contract schedule — the Lafayette Market should be completed with (as the Supreme Court said in its school desegregation opinion) "all deliberate speed."

Not, 'Hello, Mack'

An AFRO reader asks this week whether taxicab companies instruct their drivers on how to address passengers.

He suggests that their 'hello, Mack' and 'hello, George,' are improper salutations.

We agree. So do the cab companies and the majority of riders and drivers we interviewed this week.

We like best the statement of a Yellow Cab supervisor who suggested that discourteous greetings mean fewer tips.

Perhaps that's the answer. 'Hello, Mack' and 'Hello George' might sound smart, but they are salutes which are not designed to win friends, influence people (passengers), and encourage tips.

City Desk Memo

By CHESTER M. HAMPTON

Right after this column last week pointed out some of the differences between a "policeman" and a "cop," the announcement was made that Hamilton R. Atkinson would soon retire as head of the Baltimore County police force.

Old timers on the City Desk spoke of Mr. Atkinson in glowing terms and recalled incidents which demonstrated his unique abilities.

"Now there was a good policeman," they said—obviously referring to my son Keith's observation that there was a difference.

So, using my son's simplified yardstick ("Police help you; Cops kill you"), I decided to see how Mr. Atkinson measured up.

A little research in the AFRO's perpetual file turned up a yellowed sheet of paper titled: "Rules Issued by Policemen." It was signed "by Atkinson" and dated Tuesday, May 23, 1944.

The first (is 'cardinal' the word?) rule was:

"ADVISE LOCAL police against use of harsh language, physical violence and the unnecessary use of firearms in making arrests."

The second: "Direct attention to regulations which point out that the officers' conduct should be 'quiet, civil and orderly' refraining from harsh, violent, coarse, profane or insolent language."

(Note that word 'insolent'—many cops now-a-days think that the tax-paying public is 'insolent' toward them when they disagree on an issue.)

Now the following rule, some 12 years after Mr. Atkinson issued it, is still not being enforced:

"SPECIFY THAT regulations shall be enforced impartially and without regard to race or color."

"Mr. Atkinson defined a policeman's duty as being: 'To preserve public peace, protect personal and property rights, detect and prevent crime, arrest offenders and guard the public health and enforce all laws and ordinances."

And here's another rule that seems to be directed specifically at the "cops" I spoke of in last week's column:

"Police who are maintaining civil conduct should do so with sufficient respect to perform their duty, but should not wilfully maltreat or use unnecessary violence against any person. Information should be given upon request with courtesy.

"(Do) not use force except for safe custody of prisoner and for overcoming resistance.

"Not justified to strike persons who interfere with performance of duty, although person may be arrested.

"NOT PRIVILEGED to use club on person who holds back but is not otherwise resisting.

"Should maintain control of temper. Not to be provoked by rude or uncivil language. If offense is of an aggravating nature, may arrest offender.

"CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN FIRING REVOLVERS TO AVOID INJURY TO INNOCENT AND AVOID FIRING UNNECESSARILY EVEN THOUGH THERE IS APPARENT JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION."

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So, law-enforcement officers, let your conduct be a living memorial to the service of Hamilton R. Atkinson, a good policeman.

Speak Your Piece

Contributors to this department must sign their names and addresses to their letters if they wish them published. The AFRO will withhold publication of names if requested to do so by the writer.

Clean Blockers

DEAR AFRO:

I think the Clean Block workers in the 500 block E. 23rd St. are to be commended for the work they are doing. Rain or shine, they are always out here working. They are doing a good job.

MRS. IRENE LADSEY

Park membership

DEAR AFRO:

In Patterson Park, we not only have one of the most beautiful natural parks in the country, but we also have one of the public park's most enjoyable pleasure clubs for adults.

It is a place to pass away the idle hours by playing cards and enjoying television.

All are welcome, membership is now open.

CHARLES WINSLOW

Landlady too prompt

Dear AFRO:

My mother went to the hospital last Wednesday; in the maternity ward, she gave birth to a premature baby boy. On Friday, the landlady where we live called the hospital and asked for her - she wanted to know if my mother had the week's rent.

This is a shame to motherhood. The landlady is a mother, too and I just hope she will have her fare in her hands to pay St. Peter at the gate since she is so prompt.

R. H. Jr., (eight years old)

Sympathy — but . . .

DEAR AFRO,

Although I feel genuine sympathy for the unfortunate white girl who has to go to jail under the 241-year law which makes it a penal offense for a white woman to bear a child by a colored man, I must confess that it is interesting to note that somebody can suffer from these unjust laws besides colored people.

It's just a pity that white people all over the country can not see that all laws which are unjust to colored people are also unjust to them.

I'd be most interested in knowing what white persons, (the girl, in this case) think about the race question when they find themselves on the losing end.

INTERESTED

Light sentence

Dear AFRO,

I was in the Army and I've seen guys get more time—on a charge of 'destroying government property' than Sgt. McKeon got for destroying six American citizens.

Ex-G.I.

No greater love

Dear AFRO,

When I read in your paper last week about the Washington pastor who drowned at a baptism while trying to save the life of a deaf man, I thought of that Bible verse:

"Greater love than this no one has, that one lay down his life for his friends."

It was particularly appropriate that it was a minister who demonstrated this principle. He is a modern hero.

CHURCH MEMBER

Stocking caps

Dear AFRO,

There are some things we wear in the privacy of our bedrooms or our bedrooms which we do not wear in the public streets.

What can we say to migrants from other places who come to live in Baltimore, and without thinking walk down the public street nonchalantly with a stocking on their heads?

We women have long abandoned the bandana handkerchiefs. How can we get rid of the stocking - capped boys who ought to have more respect for the good appearances of their neighborhoods?

MRS. C. L.

Editor's note: Will AFRO reader make some suggestions?

The Reporters Report To The People

Along the way

By STEVE DUNCAN

There's little doubt that Carl Sandburg, hoary haired folk singer, poet and Lincoln biographer, is aware of this bit of info I'm about to pass on to you.

It has to do with one of Mr. Sandburg's favorite subjects, Honest Abe Lincoln. And, for those of you who're thinking ahead of me, this item has nothing to do with the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Civil War or the Emancipation Proclamation.

This latest addition to the Lincoln saga was uncovered a couple of weeks ago among some historical documents found in an old safe in the Post Office Building.

Unlike the Emancipation Proclamation, this is legal document only freed one soul, a gentleman of color named Benjamin Brown.

* * *

THE PARDON, a two-page parchment written in flourishing Old English script, gives no background on Mr. Brown.

It simply points out that in 1860 he was convicted by the District Court of Maryland for manslaughter and sentenced to three years imprisonment. He also was fined $1 and the costs of prosecution.

Mr. Brown served the three years but was detained for non-payment of the fine and costs. According to the document, the subject was penniless and full enforcement of his sentence would have amounted to a life term.

Old Honest Abe was called upon to intercede. So, on Jan. 18, 1863, the president affixed his name to the paper, which said, in part:

"Now, therefore, be it known, that I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America... hereby granted unto him, the said Benjamin Brown, a full and unconstitutional pardon."

Mr. Brown, may his soul rest in peace, was grateful for this Executive Clemency although the document does not indicate this.

The world did not long remember Mr. Brown, but when 16 million Brothers celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1963, this man whose debt to society was paid, can also smile somewhere up there.

Noteworthy

By HERBERT MANGRUM

"What a show. But what's going on? That's what spectators around North Ave., and Aisquith St., were asking themselves Monday during a test of new fire apparatus device.

To the disgust of the dapper salesman from Chicago the electronic gadget left some city officials cold.

The instrument was supposed to pick up a beam sent out by an approaching emergency vehicle and change signal lights to green for the oncoming truck.

When placed in the fire chief's car the gadget performed as it should have.

When put aboard a fire truck it laid a dud.

* * *

THE TESTS were ordered because too many firemen lost their lives in collisions over the past few years.

Plans were afoot to place the instrument at 700 intersections at an estimated cost of $375,000.

Best of the week: The North Ave., matron who set fire to her apartment because she was mad at her husband.

* * *

THE LITTLE woman who complained to Magistrate Kogar that she was tired of her common - law mate getting up every morning to dance the mambo while she trotted off to work.

There's one thing about writing a column, a reporter can always get things off his chest. For example:

One of my many desires is to break every Elvis Presley record I can get my hot little hands on. How about you?

Yes, it's true

By GARFIELD HINTON

While returning from a cleaners on Fremont Ave. Saturday, I paused at the intersection of Arlington, Fremont and Pilson, on an island of questionable safety, waiting for a chance to cross.

Suddenly, as the cars whizzed by, I remembered that, this was, or nearly was, the spot where a man had been killed the previous week, by a swift moving vehicle.

I tried to figure out how the accident happened. The way those cars zoomed by, it didn't take much imagination.

A STRANGE man, noting my interest in the intersection, stared at me intently. I volunteered: "A man was killed here last week."

He looked at me, no less intently, and growled: "What's it to you?" I wondered if this gruff characters had even read John Donne's immortal lines:

Therefore, never send to know,
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

In other words here I was. Here this stranger was. We both could have been here a week earlier, and we both could have been killed. Horrible thought!

* * *

IMMEDIATELY behind this intersection is another intersection, scarcely less open. Riggs meets Fremont and Argyle. "What on earth were the city fathers thinking of in this section?" I wondered.

Later I checked with William T. Davis, chief investigator and traffic analyst for the Traffic Engineering Department. Mr. Davis assured me that the Traffic Engineering Department was aware of the heavy flow of traffic in that part of Fremont Ave. and that plans were being made to correct the situation.

So now, I can sleep, perhaps not like a baby, but at least peacefully with the hope that soon the pedestrian will be given a better break at that triple-way intersection.

Tidbits

By SHIRLEY KYLE

"The show must go on."

Behind this code of show business, many entertainers have made sacrifices in order to give the audience its money's worth.

Few of us ever stop to think of the courage and stamina it takes for a performer to do his job, even though he is under a great emotional strain.

Take, for instance, the case of John Page, lead tenor of the "Four Stylists" who are rounding out their nine-week engagement at the Comedy Club, this weekend.

John is the father of the three - week - old baby who smothered to death accidentally last Saturday while sleeping with his mother.

THE BABY'S funeral was held on Monday afternoon. At 11 o'clock, Monday night, John appeared on the Comedy Club stage with the singing group, because "there was no substitute and the show had to go on," he explained.

During the first part of the set, John remained in the background, merely lending his voice to the harmony. But the patrons, unaware of his emotional strain, insisted that he take the lead to sing "My Prayer."

Forcing a smile on his broad, handsome face, John stepped up to the microphone. Tears started from his eyes as he began "When the delight is gone . . ."

Only a few of us knew his face was wet from crying. The majority of the patrons, however, thought he was perspiring. As one person commented, "Gosh, look how he's sweating. Those lights must be real hot."

Perhaps, when they read the AFRO, the following day, they too, realized what John had gone through, hiding his sorrow to perform for the people.

That's show business for you. And John represents the kind of people who make many sacrifices to live up to the code "The Show Must Go On."

If You Ask Me

By B. M. Phillips

Good policeman retiring...

Hamilton R. Atkinson has notified the Board of County Commissioners that effective January 1, he will step down as chief of the Baltimore County police force.

Baltimoreans will remember Mr. Atkinson as wartime commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department. (1943-1949.) His term expired in May 1949.

Eighteen months later—February 1951—he accepted the county post.

His second retirement next January at the age of 66, will bring to an end 42-years of police service.

* * *

Like His father before him, Mr. Atkinson began as a rookie cop, and worked up through the ranks. He was the first career man to head the Baltimore force.

In June 1943, he was named to the AFRO Honor Roll for "an administration devoted to the best interest of all citizens."

Remember when Mr. Atkinson took over, there was shakeup in the force? And remember he put the city's three colored policemen in uniform?

Remember that they had been on the force since 1938 and Mr. Atkinson's predecessor (Robert F. Stanton) had steadfastly refused to put them in uniform?

And, remember that it was Mr. Atkinson who promptly appointed 15 other colored policemen, including a detective and three policewomen?

* * *

And, it Was during Mr. Atkinson's term as Baltimore police commissioner that policemen were first disciplined for using physical violence in making arrests.

When he left the Baltimore force, the AFRO said editorially: "Above all, Commissioner Atkinson has drawn no color line in his consideration of, and response to queries, suggestions, complaints and criticisms by the general public and the press."

Baltimore County residents say that Mr. Atkinson has made himself available to them in the same manner.

They point to the fact that the first county officers were named during his administration.

* * *

Unfortunately, sprawling Baltimore County has not made full use of its manpower, and there are fewer than six on the entire force.

This, however, they say, is not entirely the fault of the police chief, but rather the fault of the county commissioners.

"The powers-that-be are already announced that another Negro will be added to the force, when the city's three colored policemen in uniform?

Remember that Mr. Atkinson made the appointment of Robert L. Mason, a detective,