Readers Say

1 plus headline

Dear AFRO: Just a line to say I thought the Tuesday AFRO headline, "1 plus 1, plus 1, plus 1 equals 4" was very clever indeed. I meant to write you a couple of weeks ago when you had another interesting headline, "Otis regrets."—
MRS. JULIA FLEMING

Very clever

Dear AFRO: That one plus headline was very clever.—
J. C. SMITH

Now, that's it

Dear AFRO: I know people usually write a newspaper when they don't like things, so I decided to write and say I liked the head line one plus one plus one plus etc. in today's paper. I also enjoyed the stories about the quads. Now that's the kind of story I like to see in my AFRO.

Are there any other quadruplets in Baltimore or Maryland?
—WM. Y. SLATER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Not that we know of.)

On Newspaper Week

Dear AFRO:
We at The Children's Hospital wish, upon the 1959 observance of National Newspaper Week, October 11-21, to send to you folks at the papers our very best regards and sincerest appreciation for the many, many favors you have done for us throughout the last year.

Your courtesy and generosity in helping us to tell the public about our unique hospital and its more than 50 years of service to the boys and girls of this area is of great value in making possible continuance and growth of our services.
THOMAS A. LARKIN

Noteworthy

By HERBERT MANGRUM

There's art to and in everything. Whether you realize it or not, there's even art in the way a hobo manipulates a handout.

In order to stay ahead of the pack, no doubt it's necessary for the progressive hobo to come up with a gimmick, but the guy who topped at my sleeve at Lexington St. near City Hall Plaza Tuesday noon must have been aiming for the moon.

I happened to be walking along with Magistrate Josiah Henry when the man approached me with a smile.

Why he stopped me and let the good judge fly the coop I'll never know, but fool that I am I stopped to listen to the poor man's tale of woe.

His story didn't sound bad from the beginning. He simply asked for directions to Red Cross headquarters.

When I told him their office was located more than 15 blocks away the distance didn't seem to bother him at all.

* * *

THE MAN went on to explain that he had just arrived in town, was looking for a job with the railroad, and wanted to get in touch with a friend, a patrolman in the Eastern district known as "Charlie Johnson."

WHEN I suggested that he drop by police headquarters and ask personnel about "Officer Johnson," the guy begged off and said, "no, but I would appreciate it if you would do me one little favor."

Now when a bum asks a tax paying citizen for a favor you ordinary would expect him to ask for maybe a dime for a cup of coffee or a few pennies for car fare to get across town, but this guy was no ordinary knight of the open road. He had both nerve and talent.

He had the nerve to ask for money to make a long distance telephone call to Columbia, S.C. to get "Officer Johnson's" home address. The cost for three minutes would have been $1.50.

The event marked the first time in life that I ever walked away from an individual without comment.

Our quads, triplets

Within the past weeks, Baltimore has twice been treated to that rare phenomenon known as multiple births.

On October 3, at Provident Hospital, Dr. George Pendleton delivered triplets, two girls and a boy, to 19-year-old Mrs. Alverta Watkins and her 25-year-old husband, Earl. Their first children. Chances of triplets being born are once in 10,433 births.

At Johns Hopkins Hospital on October 10, Dr. Frank Leake presided at the even rarer birth of quadruplets, one boy and three girls, for Mrs. Lorraine Graves, 30, and her husband, George Graves, 35. The quads make twelve children for the Graveses, who live in Annapolis.

And, so far as can be determined, the three girls and boy, born six weeks ahead of time, are the only living quadruplets in the state. Quadruple births are so rare, they occur only about once in every million confinements.

Parents who find rearing one, two or three children an expensive proposition, will sympathize with the Watkins and Graves families. Three and four mouths to feed can be a burden.

But knowing Baltimoreans as we do, we feel safe in predicting that generous residents will rally to support these families.

After all, it isn't every day that we have triplets and quadruplets.

The Watkins trio and the Graves quads are our newest celebrities, and we're glad to welcome them.

And, we wish for them a long and eventful life...

CORE needs your help

The quiet, dedicated and non-violent, but determined crusaders of the Committee on Racial Equality for years have walked picket lines, staged sit-ins, written letters and held conferences with but a single purpose in mind.

And that is to make real the professed American ideal of equality of all citizens.

This has been done in Baltimore, with considerable success, without a single appeal to the public for funds with which to carry on their silent crusade.

* * *

IT WAS CORE which convinced a local drug chain that the world would not come to an end if all persons were served at its lunch counters.

It was CORE which persuaded downtown dime stores of the efficacy of removing racial bars in their cafeterias and with quiet persistence convinced a number of theatre owners that no catastrophe would result if admission color bars were lowered.

For five straight years, members of CORE on United Nations Day have established picket lines before the entrance of Gwynn Oak Park, publicly pointing out how ironic it was to hold such a celebration in a place which clings to an antiquated "white only" admission policy.

But this year, four of the pickets were able to slip inside the amusement park.

Set upon and beaten by a red-faced mob, while county policemen looked the other way, they were arrested on trespassing and disorderly conduct charges.

* * *

THEY ARE scheduled to face trial on these charges at the Baltimore County courthouse in Towson, probably the latter part of the month.

But CORE has no money.

The organization is sorely in need of funds with which to defend its members whose only crime was trying to make democracy live.

We think these defendants and the organization to which they belong merit the community's support. For they were waging the good fight not just for themselves or just for CORE; their crusade is to make Baltimore a better place for all citizens, white and colored alike.

* * *

THEIR FIGHT is really your fight.

The AFRO is urging its readers to give generously to this worthy cause. You will actually be helping yourselves.

Make all checks payable to CORE and mail them to Solomon Baylor, chairman, 1519 Pennsylvania Ave. All contributions will be acknowledged and gratefully received.

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED IN 1892
By John H. Murphy Sr.—1840-1922
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Publishing Co., Inc.

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

The Health Dept. report

The Baltimore City Health Department has just published its 1958 annual report.

Its contents are so important citizens will have to read it and give it as much attention as they do their trade and professional journals.

First, we learn the population of Baltimore consists of 681,000 white persons and 301,000 colored.

Every third person in Baltimore is colored.

To keep these people in good health and alive as long as possible is the job of the health department.

* * *

THE DEATH RATE for colored and white Baltimoreans for the past five years is as follows:

In 1953, deaths per 1,000 population for white persons was 11.2, while for colored it was 11.0.

In 1954, both stood at 10.6 per cent.

In 1955, the colored rate was 10.6 while the white was 11.4 per cent.

In 1956, colored deaths were 10.8 per cent, while the white was 11.7.

In 1957, the colored rate was 11.0 per cent and the white 12.0 per cent.

In 1958, the colored death rate was 11.2 and the white 11.8 per cent.

Since 1935, the Baltimore Health Department has reduced the death rate among colored people from 18 persons per thousand population to its present 11.2 per thousand.

This could not have been possible without an efficient and effective health department.

Since 1935 the white death rate has remained the same.

* * *

THE COLORED birth rate has increased from 19.2 to 36.8 per thousand since 1935. During the same period the white birth rate has gone up from 13.8 to 19.6 per cent.

Last year in Baltimore 11,084 colored children were born and 3,377 persons died. The excess of births over deaths was 7,707.

A total of 381 colored babies in 1958 died in the first 28 days of their lives and 114 more before they became a year old.

In 1935, out of 10,000 colored mothers, 91 died in child birth. In 1958, this figure was reduced to 11.

The biggest killers among Baltimore's colored population are heart disease, cancer, diseases of infancy and childhood, diseases of the nervous system, accidents, influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis.

The report further shows that about 90 per cent of all Baltimore children are now being born in hospitals.

A total of 32,000 school children last year had their teeth inspected by the health department during the year.

* * *

IF THIS year corresponds to 1958, a total of 47 persons will be bitten by rats and six by mice Persons bitten by rats varied in age from three weeks to 75 years old. Twenty-nine bites were of children under the age 12 and 11 of children under one.

Health Department personnel visited 480 persons affected by tuberculosis during 1958.

The department last year cost the taxpayers $12 million in round figures.

Health centers, located in various sections of the city, provide examinations and suggested treatments for those who need them.

Presently, the new Druid Hill Health Center is under construction at Pennsylvania and North Aves.

If any department of the city is doing a superior job it is the Health Department.

If Mayor Grady's administration talks about curtailing expenses, citizens should see to it that the cuts are not made there.

Good suggestion

The brothers of Kappa Sigma fraternity at the University of California killed one of their pledgees last month by forcing him to swallow an oil-soaked slice of raw liver.

The youngster gagged on the sandwich-sized chunk of meat and choked to death before he could receive medical attention.

Other fraternities have been known to compel their initiates to swallow raw oysters, ice cubes, "worms" (cooked, but unseasoned spaghetti) and a concoction of vinegar and red pepper, known in some quarters as fraternity punch.

Brandings and beatings and other more brutal forms of hazing have been banned at many colleges and by many Greek letter organizations. And none too soon either.

Womanpower came up with a good idea this week.

It suggested that if these fraternities and sororities wanted to submit their candidates to a real test they would require them to go out by themselves and take ten persons down to the Supervisors of Elections office to be registered.

The ability to register ten persons he or she didn't know would seem to us to be a greater value as a test of a prospective Greek letter brother or sister than the ability to swallow raw oysters or liver without gagging.

THE AFRO'S CREDO

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

Whether it has kept the 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 outdoor injustice, vice propaganda or compromise;

JOHN SHIPPY, Sr., 1950

Sightseeing

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

As Time Magazine put it so well—"It just had to happen sooner or later."

Sooner or later someone just had to upset one of the syrupy, jerky TV shows that depends on manufactured pathos and crocodile tears to win a place in the hearts of the public.

The program in question was that little gem of sticky sentiment, guaranteed to turn a strong man's stomach into a mass of quivering Jello—"This Is Your Life."

The gentlemen who gave this ripe slice of Americana its comeuppance was veteran journalist Lowell Thomas, who treated the show with the whole hearted contempt it so richly deserves.

The program is based on the theory that people love to see the private lives of other people aired over the coaxial cable and to that end the producer digs up old friends of the person to be honored and dredges up bits of information from the past.

The guest of the evening is lured to the theatre on a false pretense and there he is informed by the master of ceremonies with all the fanfare suitable for the announcement of a great scientific discovery that: "This Is Your Life."

* * *

THAT'S THE signal for the tears to start flowing and as the minutes tick by the sentiment gets deeper and deeper until the TV cameras are just about swamped.

The honoree is taken back through the years through all his troubles and sorrows and the story is told how he struggled through to eventual success and happiness.

So when they had Lowell Thomas on the show, he really let them have it right between the eyes by not being a bit surprised that he was being honored and by subjecting his friends and the master of ceremonies to a barrage of bitting remarks which summed up said one thing — this is a pretty stupid program.

It does this heart good to see someone act like a live human being on a program of this nature.

* * *

I'VE ALWAYS believed in realism and if they left things to me, which they won't, I could really give them a show that while it might not last too long, would certainly be real.

I'd call it something original such as "Misery Loves Company" or "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

The program would start off normally enough with the announcer saying: "The man whose life story we will tell tonight is Jonathan Q. Pettibone who made his fortune when he found out where the yellow went."

Jonathan, who is seated in the audience, doesn't want to come up on the stage but the announcer sends two husky stagehands to persuade him — and they do. Once they have the victim safely on the stage, the show gets under way.

* * *

ANNOUNCER—It was a little shanty in Shanty Town and the time was Dec. 9, 1909. Suddenly, the silence is broken by a loud cry. Do you remember what the cry was?

JONATHAN — The old man had lowered the boom on the old lady again!

ANNOUNCER—No, that was the first sound you made in the world. This was the day you were born.

JONATHAN — Ah shucks, I thought something important had happened.

ANNOUNCER — Now we move ahead through the years until 1924 when you graduated from high school with high honors.

JONATHAN — With honors nothing. They expelled me when they caught me smoking in the gymnasium.

ANNOUNCER—People don't get expelled just for smoking.

JONATHAN —For marijuana they do.

* * *

THAT SETS the tone for the entire program, which as I promised you is pretty realistic. Jonathan tells how he lied and cheated to get to the top and how now he hates everybody, even the announcer.

The show ends when two FBI men, who have been looking for Jonathan for back taxes for 20 years, recognize him on TV and rush to the station to arrest him.

But I am afraid that this is another program that will never see the light of day — I GUESS I was born 50 years too soon.

Note to children

Dear AFRO:
As a parent and a person with much concern about our youth, I feel obligated to write this letter. I have taken notice of the children leaving high school—and what I see is a very sickening sight.

These kids leave school and immediately they start using vile language and don't seem to mind who can hear them.

They also run into their pockets and purses for cigarettes. It is disgusting enough to see these young boys smoking at such an early age, but to see these teen - age girls with a cigarette in one hand and books in the other, is really heartbreaking.

I don't know where the blame lies for such action as this, but this is one thing I do know; all of this reflects on first the home these kids come from, where in most cases the parents are unaware of what their children are doing.

Secondly, it reflects on the school, where the teachers try their utmost to teach them properly. It reflects on the church, where I know they are taught better.

Finally the children themselves should feel ashamed of themselves to show such action.
HERMAN J. EASTER

If You Ask Me

By B. M. PHILLIPS

People, places and things . .

AFRO newstipsters are on the ball.

A week ago, a reader advised that quads were expected at Johns Hopkins.

On Saturday, at 9 a.m., a tipster let us know they would arrive that day.

Sure enough, the first baby arrived at 1:17 p.m. and a tip came at 1:27 p.m. Tipsters were on the ball minutes after the other three arrived at 1:32, 1:49 and 1:52 p.m.!!

* * *

By the by Mrs. Lorraine Simms Graves, mother of the quads, is a native Marylander. She has many relatives here and in her native Anne Arundel County.

Her oldest aunt is Mrs. Sallie Lively Myers, a graduate practical nurse who lives here on Eutaw Pl., and was the first relative to visit.

Another aunt, Edna, is married to the Rev. James Johnson, pastor of Cecil Memorial Methodist Church, Parole, Md.

* * *

Bashful is the word for 34-year - old Dr. Frank Leake, the Hopkins Hospital obstetrician who delivered the quartet.

The hospital's excellent public relations department headed by Dick Thompson and Bill Miller did a bang - up job of supplying facts and arranging interviews and photos, but they could not get Dr. Leake in front of the camera. Latest word is that his department said nix.

Dr. Leake is a native of Sandusky, Ohio, he is a resident physician at Hopkins, and has two small children of his own.

* * *

Lovely, lovely, lovely was the all - day session those Baltimore members of Jack and Jill of America Inc. hosted Sunday at the Sheraton - Belvedere Hotel.

Occasion was the first Eastern Regional Conference of the group and attracted 145 mothers (and some fathers, too) from D.C., N.J., Pa., Mass., N.Y., Conn., and of course, Md.

Delegates registered on Saturday evening at the Me-De-So Club, where there was also a get - acquainted party, but bright and early Sunday (at 9 a.m.) a majority of them were in the hotel's Blue Room to participate in morning devotions (led by the Rev. Daniel Ridout), and to get down to business.

And, of course, their business is discussing problems they face as parents of youngsters under 21 and learning ways to improve group activities and keep the family close together.

* * *

There were workshops, committee reports right through the 12:30 luncheon in the hotel's Red Room, and the business didn't halt until 7 p.m. when there were cocktails and a buffet dinner in the Red Room.

The Rivers Chambers Trio was there to provide music ere the out - of - towners departed at about 10 p.m.

The entire conference was well organized and executed thanks to Blanche Hughes, conference chairman; Vernice Wynn, Eastern Regional director; and Ruth Lighston, Balt. more chapter president; and the members who worked with them.

* * *

Gamest person at the conference, because he was the lone male at the workshop meeting where he was a consultant: John Henderson, executive secretary of the Druid Hill YMCA.

Gifts to all delegates: handsome engraved ash trays.

Nice: The large number of fathers who turned out to support the mommies who have such an important program for their children.

Spied in the lobby of the Sheraton on Sunday evening: Baltimore's new Mayor J. Harold Grady. He was bound for a consular party on another floor.

* * *

AMONG THE busy 200 delegates at the Md. Women's Clubs quarterly session held in the State Assembly Chambers in Annapolis a week back were Mrs. Catherine Hogan and Mrs. Catherine Royston.

* * *

Anent the NAACP Life Membership Tea: Here's hoping pretty Dorothea Towles, the fabulously gowned model who came from N.Y. to host the affair; and Mal Goode, the speaker, who came from Pittsburgh, were not too disappointed at the turnout (fewer than 100).

There were a number of affairs in town and in many churches it was woman's day.

Lovely Dorothea Merchant (she's the former Dorothea Butler, a Baltimore girl), planned the affair without taking this into consideration. She's been away from us for a spell and she'd forgotten that in her town nothing supplants woman's day activities on Sunday.

But, even though there was not a large crowd for the tea, Baltimore stands high in the number of life memberships.

Our city boasts 65 fully paid life members and 71 other partial lifetimers.

* * *

Just last week — the Unity Christian Community Church pastored by the Rev. Levi Miller Sr.) started its third life membership, and that's an achievement when you consider one membership is $500.

And, orchids to the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Butler, recent new life members — both have been members.

And this week added to the paid - in - full for life membership the Rev. Frank Brown, pastor of Christian Memorial Church, North and Payson.

He and two members of the church walked into the NAACP office Tuesday and plunked down five $100 bills to pay the life membership in full!! Orchids to them!

By the way, as an indication of the increased support of the NAACP: Circulation of The Crisis, its national publication, has increased to 80,000 copies a month.

Able editor of the Crisis is James W. Ivy.

MRS. HOGAN MRS. ROYSTON

More people and things . . .

More talent news: Baltimore's Edward R. Gaines is now a Marine Private first class.

Release from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C., reports that he was "meritoriously promoted" to that grade recently.

Pfc. Gaines is the son of Mrs. Sarah C. Gaines of 1726 N. Smallwood St. He enlisted in the Marines in July, a month after he was graduated from Douglass High.

* * *

An estimated 250 parents were out Tuesday evening for the first PTA meeting of the year at Roosevelt Elementary School No. 18.

This was a get - acquainted affair which featured a film on distinguishing child differences, and introduction of (but no parent conferences) teachers.

Dr. Emerson Julian, the physician, and Mrs. Sanders Russell (Dafie, wife of the eye doc) were among parents who donned getups to form a cheering team and sing ('we are all working together for PTA of School 18').

Others in the presentation, Mrs. Helen Solomon, Mrs. Betty Newman, Bill Schmidt and Ed Tamres.

* * *

By the way, the Pigskin Club of Washington holds its 195b benefit and ladies' night Oct. 30 (10 p.m. - 2 a.m.) at the Sheraton Park Hotel in D.C.

Over 1,100 Pigskinners have subscribed and Lawrence Copley, the power behind the club, says another 500 from all over the Eastern Seaboard are expected. It will be a black tie affair with a name band and a star - studded midnight show.

Among the groups to benefit from this year's affair is the PTA of the Roosevelt Elementary School No. 18 here in Baltimore.

There will also be money set aside to provide six $150 college scholarships for worthy high school graduates, and funds for the Bakers Dozen, Southeast Washington Community Hospital Fund and the Washington Urban League.

* * *

Happy, happy birthday cards in the mail by October 18 to Dr. Albert O. Reid, the veteran dentist.

He will be 80 years old on this Friday. His address: 1118 E. 43rd St.

DR. REID PFC. GAINES

And, congratulations to Father William Frank Christian, St. Katherine Episcopal Church, Pressman and Division Sts.

He makes the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this week.

There will be a silver jubilee mass at the church on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:30 a.m. A breakfast will follow in the undercroft of the church.

* * *

October 17 birthday candles for Mrs. Vashti Jude, the school marm, 2207 Whittier Ave. October 21, remember Charles M. Blake, the postal worker, 2418 McCulloh St.

Birthday cards by Oct. 19 to Mrs. Emma H. Brown, 500 Dolphin St.

October 21st cards to Mrs. J. Howard Payne (Marie), wife of the attorney. Her address: 1534 McCulloh St.

October 23rd greetings to Mrs. Laurie Parker, 2315 Biggs Ave.

October 25th birthday cards for Police Sgt. Dennis Mello, 1718 N. Broadway.

Mrs. Beatrice Wright, 2001 Bryant Ave., and Mrs. Gwen Hillen, 901 Warwick Ave., both celebrate birthdays — on Oct. 26.

Oct. 26, birthday hellos to Dr. M. L. Barksdale, 536 N. Carey

* * *

Wedding anniversary cards to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morton, 2466 Druid Hill Ave. It is their 24th on Oct. 18.

And, their daughter, Faye Monica, also marks her ninth birthday on that date.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Waters (Ruperta), have an anniversary on Oct. 23. Their address: 1815 Bentalou St.

STEELWORKERS:

This is the Companies' 15¢ Offer!

Your Union Turned it Down

In response to President Eisenhower's urgent request for an immediate non-inflationary settlement through the voluntary processes of free collective bargaining, the Steel Companies have done two things:

First, they have made a specific, 15-cents-an-hour package offer providing for increased wages and benefits over the period of a two-year agreement.

Second, they have scaled down to an irreducible minimum their requests for improvements in contract language, adhering only to those changes that would clearly operate in the long-range interests of the steelworkers themselves.

Details of the Offer

Specifically, the Companies offered to improve the pension, insurance, and supplemental unemployment benefit programs in the first year of a two-year agreement, and to increase wage rates at the beginning of the second year by amounts ranging from 6 cents for the lowest job class to 12 cents for the highest job class — the total package to increase the Companies' employment costs by 15 cents per man-hour worked, or about 2 percent per year of total employment costs which, before the strike, amounted to $3.70 per hour.

As a part of this offer to increase wages and benefits, the Companies called upon the Union to join in working out mutually satisfactory amendments to the prior basic labor agreements in four general areas. The purpose of these amendments would be:

1. To continue payment of the 17-cents-per-hour cost-of-living adjustment which was in effect at the expiration of the prior labor agreements; but to eliminate provisions for future changes either up or down.

2. To enable management to take reasonable steps to eliminate waste and to improve efficiency; but to protect and preserve the right of employees to resort to grievance and arbitration procedure under which management would be required to justify fully the reasonableness of its actions.

3. To permit flexibility in the scheduling of work to conform reasonably with the requirements of the business.

4. To deter wildcat strikes by permitting the discharge of any employee engaging in such action and by clarifying the responsibility of local unions in respect to wildcat strikes occurring within their jurisdiction.

Companies' Offer Flexible

In the bargaining sessions, the Companies pointed out that the offer of a two-year 15-cents-an-hour package of improved benefits and wages was purposely stated in terms which would provide maximum flexibility in arriving at the distribution of this sum as between wages and benefits, so as to give the greatest possible satisfaction to the employees. It was also pointed out that the Companies were entirely willing to consider alternate benefits should the immediate effect of improved insurance benefits upon take-home pay present problems that would preclude the arrival at a settlement of the strike.

They also pointed out that this offer to increase employment costs by 2 percent per year represents the maximum that can be undertaken at this time without resulting in an inflationary increase in production costs.

Union Demands More Inflation

The Union leaders on the other hand persist in their demands for highly inflationary wage and benefit increases; and proposed a settlement that would call for employment cost increases that could amount to 60 or more cents per hour over a three-year period. The difference between the 20 or more cents an hour increased cost per year of the Union's proposal and the 7½ cent annual increased cost of the Companies' offer would be sheer inflation and must be recognized as such.

Any such increase in steelmaking costs would further injure the competitive position of the American steel industry in markets both at home and abroad, and would endanger the job security of American steelworkers. Similarly any failure on the part of the Union to join in writing an agreement which will provide reasonably for the more efficient operation of the mills can only work to the disadvantage of the members of the Union and of the American people as a whole.

Union Leaders Prolong Deadlock

The Union's rejection of the Companies' offer—coming as it does on the heels of President Eisenhower's appeal for a voluntary, non-inflationary settlement, clearly reveals the Union leadership's responsibility for the continuing deadlock.

Throughout the negotiations the Union leaders have insisted upon an inflationary, something-for-nothing settlement. They have offered nothing whatever in exchange for the increased wages and benefits they seek. They have resisted every effort to provide for increased efficiency of operations through improvement in the language of the former contracts. They have insisted that their members shall continue, year after year, to take more out of the business than they put into the business.

The Companies, on the other hand, have — from the outset of the negotiations — had one consistent objective: To obtain a settlement that would not result in an increase in their production costs over the term of the new agreement. That is the only kind of settlement that would not have serious inflationary consequences.

It is the only kind of settlement that would help preserve for the steelworkers, and for every American, the value of their earnings, savings and pensions; and would enable the Companies to compete more effectively with foreign steel and other competing materials, thus increasing output and employment.

It is the only kind of settlement that would serve the best interests of the entire nation.

The Steel Companies' Position

To sum up the situation as it stands today, therefore, the Companies want to make their position crystal clear:

They did not—and do not—want a shutdown of their operations.

They do not want their employees to lose wages and employment because of a continued shutdown.

They have not sought Government intervention in any form; but instead have exhausted every effort to secure a voluntary settlement that would be in the best interest of all.

They are not trying to undermine or destroy the Union.

They do not seek to take away the basic rights of any employee.

They are not asking for the arbitrary right to change local work practices without employee recourse to grievance procedure and arbitration.

They do want to make a reasonable settlement and to live with the Union and its members in peace and harmony.

But they are not willing to buy peace at the price of making agreements which will continue to promote inflation and which will prevent them from taking reasonable steps to improve the efficiency of their businesses.

So long as the Union insists on wage and benefit increases of inflationary proportions, and refuses to deal reasonably with the problems arising out of some of the contract provisions, no agreement will be possible.

One wonders when, if ever, the Union leaders will recognize that the customers, the stockholders and the public generally, as well as the steelworkers, are entitled to fair treatment.

THE STEEL COMPANIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

375 Lexington Avenue • New York 17, New York

Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation • Armco Steel Corporation • Bethlehem Steel Company • The Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation • Great Lakes Steel Corporation • Inland Steel Company • Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation • Kaiser Steel Corporation • Republic Steel Corporation • United States Steel Corporation • Wheeling Steel Corporation • The Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company