WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

EXCLUSIVE!

Postmaster Gen. Day talks with AFRO about jobs

By CHUCK STONE

WASHINGTON

Into each public official's life some political rain must fall.

Cuba sprinkled a few worried moments into President Kennedy's and Georgia NAACP President Wesley W. Law was a fair amount of precipitation for Postmaster General Day.

However, the medicating sunshine of time eventually dries up the rain and normalcy soon becomes a way of life once more.

Postmaster General J. Edward Day was the picture of political health when the Washington AFRO chatted with him this week in an exclusive interview.

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GESTURING OCCASIONALLY with his hands—an occupational disease of the "new frontier"—the handsome 47 year-old cabinet officer touched on every topic from automation, personnel efficiency, and the Post Office deficit to civil rights, and job equality.

"The Post Office is 175 years old," Mr. Day started out, "It's had all that time to equalize job opportunities and hasn't.

"This is why we've taken some specific steps in the form of appointments of colored persons to top jobs."

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We immediately asked whether he believed that integration could best be achieved by taking such positive steps in contradistinction to another philosophy which felt that the barriers should be removed and no artificial measures be taken.

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"I'D SAY we've got some catching up to be done and should do it," he stated firmly.

This "catching up" has been accomplished with remarkable speed in just 10 months.

Thirteen top-level appointments of colored persons have been made and there is every reason to believe that more are coming.

The thirteen are: CHRISTOPHER C. SCOTT, Deputy Assistant Postmaster General, Bureau of Transportation, GS-18 (and that's $18,500); HENRY N. McGEE, regional personnel manager for Chicago region, PFS-16 (about a GS-14); A. S. WAUNDLERS, assistant general superintendent of mails in Detroit, PFS-14 (GS-12); MISS NANCY L. AVERY, acting postmaster in Pacoima, Calif.; HERBERT T. WADDY, assistant postmaster of Washington, D.C., PFS-16; HENRY T. DIXON, employment relations officer, bureau of personnel in Washington, D.C.; WILLIAM F. OWEN, superintendent of Vehicle Operations in Memphis, Tenn.; THEODORE JACKSON, station superintendent in Memphis; ARNETT N. WILLIS, assistant station superintendent in Memphis; ERSKINE W. LYTLE, assistant station superintendent in Nashville, Tenn.; HARRY A. CHAMBERS, dispatcher of Vehicle Service in Memphis; HERBERT W. ROBINSON, same job as Mr. Chambers; and HERMAN T. ANDERSON, route examiner, Mobile, Ala.

The Postmaster General went on to discuss some of the problems in running an operation of 580,000 employees with an annual budget of $4,500,000,000.

"The Post Office is primarily an operation conducted by human beings. Yet, I was floored when I arrived here to bind a bulletin from the previous administration saying that mail handling would be done by machines.

"I think the bulletin was symptomatic of an attitude which has changed entirely. I'm in favor of machinery and efficiency, but I only want to put in machinery where it can be used efficiently."

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Will machines one day replace all mail handlers? We asked. Is automation a problem the Post Office must one day face?

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"By no means will machines completely replace humans," replied Mr. Day. "Somebody has to run the machines."

A note of pride crept into the postal official's voice. "We're a department of people who are interested in serving people, knowing their customers, and taking great pride in this fact," he said.

"Automation is a misnomer," he continued. Automation merely assists. Take the Providence, Rhode Island post office which was ballyhooed as an all-automatic postal operation.

"It wasn't automated at all. First of all, there were more people working there than before. Every letter has to be looked at by somebody.

"Number 2, the enormous work peak load comes during the 3 or 4 hours at night and much of the machinery is idle during the rest of the time.

"Number 3, in any manufacturing operation, a certain amount of destruction has to be tolerated. But not in the Post Office. The Providence automatic operation tore a lot of mail and Providence became the subject of ridicule as the newspapers published pictures of torn postcards and letters."

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How does our postal system compare with other systems in the world? we asked.

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"Two - thirds of all mail handled in the world is handled by our system. New York City, for example, handles more mail than the entire British system."

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"What has been your toughest problem since taking office," we inquired.

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MR. DAY leaned forward and responded quickly to this question as if it were an issue that weighed heavily on his mind. "I'd say it's getting the public to understand that the Post Office deficit is due to the rates set by Congress and not to inefficiency on our part.

"It's an impression I've tried hard to dispel," he declared.

"The 4 cents rate for first-class postage is as much out of date as the 5 cents phone call. Increases in first-class, second-class, and third-class rates would help wipe out this deficit."

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Returning to the whole area of civil rights and job equality, we asked the Postmaster General whether he was encountering much resistance in his job equality program.

"It hasn't been entirely popular," he said with a smile. "But we're moving ahead. In the case of Waddy's appointment as assistant postmaster, protests were made to me on the basis of seniority, but he was qualified and I felt we should move ahead.

"Henry Dixon's job, for example, is significant. He's right in the middle of the burean having to do with policies which affect discrimination. He's more an employment specialist than a troubleshooter."

In retrospect, how would you view the Law case? we asked.

"There is only one comment I'd like to make on that. People have speculated that there was pressure on me from the White House. It was solely my decision."

Are you saying that there was no pressure on you from any sources in the Law case? we asked.

A slight smile curved the edges of his lips. "There was a great deal of Congressional activity." Both of us laughed.

The Postmaster General continued on before the next question could be asked. "I'd like to say that right after my appointment, one of the first groups I met with was a group of about 30 colored people in Los Angeles. Chris Scott was a member of that group. They were very helpful in pointing out to me some of the problems in the Post Office.

"Moreover, in the same area, we have insisted that there be no discrimination in employment in the construction of Post Office buildings. We've also insisted that both political and racial considerations be removed in making appointments," said the cabinet official.

The hectic pace doesn't appear to worry the Postmaster General. "My wife is generous and we enjoy going out and meeting people," he said.

For relaxation? "We do things together as a family. We'd do a lot of sightseeing on week-ends, my 12 year-old boy James Edward Jr. and 15 year-old girl Molly. I have another 18 - year-old daughter Geraldine who is at Smith College."

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You play touch football? A big grin spread across his face. "No, I don't," he replied.

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Mr. Day whose once-blonde hair is a salt-and-pepper gray graduated from Harvard Law school in the top honor group in 1935.

He practiced law with the firm in which Adlai Stevenson was a partner. After 4 years in the Navy during World War II, where he won a Navy Commendation Ribbon, he returned to the same law firm. When Adlai Stevenson was elected governor of Illinois, Mr. Day was appointed Insurance Commissioner of Illinois.

He subsequently became senior office of the Prudential Life Insurance Co. and eventually its vice-president in charge of 13 western states, operating out of Los Angeles.

While in Los Angeles, he served on over 30 boards and commissions, was a California delegate to the 1960 Democratic National Committee and had pledged himself to President Kennedy prior to selection for the delegation.

His political baptism took place years ago. The efficient and likable Postmaster General has now dedicated himself to just one thing: running a good post office.

"The guy is a hard worker and he's sincere as hell," said one associate. "He's what we've needed around here for a long time."

A top colored postal official put it this way: "He's made more appointments in 10 months than all of the previous postmaster generals in the past 50 years. And we think a guy like him deserves a chance to do an outstanding job."

TO HELP OTHERS have a happier Thanksgiving the 23 members of the Edmondson Teenagers and the members of the Edmondson Busy Bees collected this table of food to distribute. Seated at left are Lucille Redden, president of the Teenagers, and Anthony Payne, president of the Busy Bees. Their advisors are Mrs. Gladys Handy, 2259 Edmondson Ave.; Mrs. Ora Mae Johnson, 2511 Edmondson Ave., Mrs. Elizabeth Barnes and Mrs. Marie McCoy. The organizations were formed in September after the youngsters in the area participated in the AFRO's annual Clean Block Campaign.

Orloff L. Scott

Funeral services for Orloff L. Scott, 50, 3218 Carlisle Ave were held Tuesday at the Earl Gilmore Funral Home in the 1800 block W. North Ave. Burial was in Baltimore National Cemetery.

Mr. Scott suffered a heart attack at his home on Thanksgiving Day and was pronounced dead on arrival at Provident Hospital.

A native of Baltimore, Mr. Scott was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elijah scott.

He was a World War Two veteran and earned battles stars in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. At the time of his death he was employed at the Fort Howard VA Hospital.

He is survived by two brothers, Frank and John B. Scott, and three sisters, Mrs. Agnes Wicks, Miss Viola Scott and Mrs. Alverta Nelson.

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UN debate set at Johns Hopkins

The United Nation's Youth of Maryland will hold the first in a series of debates on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Johns Hopkins University's Levering Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. Subject of the debate will be "Resolved: The UN is the only force capable of restoring order in the Congo."

Taking the negative will be Samuel Okello - Onyango, a Morgan College student from Kenya. On the affirmative will be Miss Martha Kopelman, International Relations major at Coucher College. Miss Edith Russo, an International Relations major at Notre Dame will serve as moderator.

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WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

COMING EVENTS

DEC. 2

"The Invitation of Life" will be held at Carey Baptist Church, 1402 N. Carey St., at 6 p.m.

The Sermonettes Social Club sponsors a variety supper at 2723 Seamon Ave. in Cherry Hill, 6 p.m. until 11.

DEC. 3

A fashion show and tea featuring the Diana Kane models at 4 p.m. in the St. Francis Xavier Auditorium, Caroline and Eager Sts., to benefit the St. Frances Academy senior class' yearbook fund.

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Leroy O. Dorsey, bass and instructor of music at Howard University, will do a recital at the Knox Presbyterian Church, 5 p.m.

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The Rev. Earl Davis of Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church speaks for the Evangelist Department of the Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Ave., and Lanvale St. 3 p.m.

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The first anniversary of Ethel Williams Flower Circle with special guest, The Amanda Specials, at Mt. Cavary Holy Temple, 2116 Edmondson Ave., 8 p.m.

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The Catonsville Civic League, Inc. presents Miss Myrtle Mack, Soprano in a recital at Grace AME Church, Catonsville at 4 p.m.

First anniversary of Erhel Williams Flower Circle at Mt. Calvary Holy Temple, 2116 Edmondson Ave., 8 p.m.

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8 p.m. the Senior Choir No. 2 of Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church, Saratoga St. and Fremont Ave., sponsors an appreciation program honoring Willis B. Jefferson, pianist. Mrs. Rachel White is president; Mrs. Betsy Williams, secretary.

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A family celebration of Christmas and Hanukkah at Fellowship House, 3200 N. Hilton St., 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Highlight of the celebration will be a program by parents and children depicting an old-fashioned family celebration of the two versions of the holiday, complete with appropriate decorations. Miss Ruth Fegley, executive director of Fellowship House, will preside.

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The C. and G. Spiritual Singers will appear at Orchard Street Methodist Church, Orchard St. near Druid Hill Ave., 3 p.m. Presented by The Steward Board, Donald Cary, director; Mrs. Sidna Gaskins, business manager; the Rev. V. T. Key, pastor.

DEC. 3

Delta Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Sigma Sorority observes Founder's Day, 11 a.m. at Pa. Ave. AME Zion Church ... and ... afterwards luncheon at Hotel Stafford.

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The First Anniversary of Ethel Williams Flower Circle. Special guests: The Amanda Specials on Sun. 8 p.m. at Mt. Cavary Holy Ave.

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Dr. Scott Nearing, author-teacher, speaks at the Baltimore Ethical Society, 3800 Gwynn Oak Ave. at 11 a.m.

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Eight p.m. The Good Samaritan Chorus of Washington will appear at First Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Fulton Ave. and Winchester Sts.

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Minister Isaiah Karriem, back from a trip into the deep South speaks at Mosque No. 6, 514 Wilson St.

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Bishop Edgar A. Love will be dedication speaker for the Communion Altar at South Baltimore Memorial Methodist Church, 1115 W. Saratoga St. at 11 a.m.

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The Rev. Ernie George minister of the Methodist churches in Royal and Bellevue, Md., will be Eastern Shore Day speaker at Mt. Calvary Star Baptist Church, 1725 N. Milton Ave. 3:30 p.m.

DEC. 5

The Baltimore Civic Orchestra's "Second Annual Pop Concert" sponsored by Life Chapter, American Medical Center at Denver at Pimlico Junior High School, featuring Hansonia Caldwell, pianist.

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Former Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin will address more than 400 YMCA Business Administrators at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, at the fellowship banquet of the 1961 YMCA Business Administration Conference.

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At 8 p.m. Mosque No. 6 brings to Baltimore a religious play, "Organ," 514 Wilson St.

DEC. 6

James B. Donnelly, shelter specialist of the Regional Office of Civil Defense Department of Defense, will speak on construction of community shelters at the School, Alter St. and Bedford Ave. at 8:30 p.m.

DEC. 7 - 8

A "Youth Revival," sponsored by the Matrons of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, at the St. Paul Baptist Church.

DEC. 8

The Community Men's Chorus of Emmanuel Community Christian Church, Carrollton Ave. and Lanvale St. in a recital at 8:30 p.m.

A family skating party sponsored by the Druid Hill YMCA Mothers' Club at the Colesium 8 to 11 p.m.

DEC. 9

Baltimore branch of National Alliance of Postal Employees will feature Fats Domino at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

DEC. 9

A dinner and musical featuring the Baltimore Echoes will be held 5:30 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, Mulberry and Dennison Sts. Proceeds will go to the Pastor's Aid. Mrs. Florence Rogers is sponsor and the Rev. Preston E. Jonnson, pastor.

DEC. 10

The First Unitarian Church Charles and Franklin Sts., Baltimore City, will present its quartet in concert at 4 p.m.

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"Mistake Into Miracle" is presented by Fellowship, Inc in the Carl Murphy Auditorium at Morgan State College, 3:30 p.m. Play is based on life of George Washington Carver.

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The 12th anniversary of the Adult Fellowship of John Wesley Methodist Church, Lafayette Ave. and Bloomingdale Rd., will feature a presentation of Christmas in other lands, and worship by candlelight.

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A play, "Mistake In Miracle," depicting the "four critical years of George Washington Carver," will be staged at the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Building, Morgan State College, at 3:30 p.m. It will be directed by Prof. A. Clifton Lamb, director of dramatics at Morgan, and proceeds will go to the building fund of Fellowship House.

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A musical given by The Junior Choir of Orchard Street Methodist Church, 510 Orchard St. at 5 p.m. Miss Flora B. Dixon, directress; the Rev. V. T. Key, pastor.

DEC. 10

The Adult Fellowship of John Wesley Methodist Church will hold its 17th anniversary services at the church at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

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The Ladies' Ways and Mean Committee of the Northwestern United Protective Association presents the Town Choir in a Christmas concert at Providence Baptist Church, Edmondson and Fremont Aves. at 3:30 p.m.

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Musical appreciation program in honor of the Rev. Amanda Williams at 8 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Holy Temple, 2116 Edmondson Ave.

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Three p.m. Elder C. Green, radio minister and pastor of Christian Community Fellowship of God with his radio chorus and congregation, will worship with Gillis Memorial Church, Calhoun and Mulberry Sts., Rev. Theodore C. Jackson host pastor.

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The Northwestern Protective Association presents the Town Choir in a Christmas Concert a 4 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, Edmondson and Fremont Aves. George L. Russell Sr. is president of the Association.

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Combined choirs of St. James Methodist Church, North