Baltimore Notebook

By MAX JOHNSON

Dr. Martin Luther King had his dream of the coming brotherhood of man—so permit me, please, to have mine here of things to come politically.

Visions are producers of realities—so I'm told.

And somehow as this year draws to a close—I envision many bright things for the city and state in 1964.

They are such happy visions—I'm almost inclined to feel an air of impatience for the new year to get under way.

I should like to share some of these visions with you.

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I FORSEE in the coming 1964:

Mayor McKeldin's omnibus civil rights ordinance will be passed by the City Council in February—in a form satisfactory to most folks.

Afterwards, matters will move so smoothly — many of the opposition will wonder what they were raising their of the opposition will wonder what they were raising their fuss about.

While looking toward the Mayor's office—I see a colored administrative assistant attached to that staff.

Mayor McKeldin will name such an aide, no just as a humanitarian act—but because he realizes this is necessary in this city where more than a third of his constituents are colored.

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I FORESEE a great awakening of registered voters—in the strengthening of existing political organizations, the formation of new ones.

There will be a high interest in city, state and national governmental affairs.

I envision the state's Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations rising to a new attention and competence under Parren Michell—its very excellent executive secretary.

And in this vein—that cloudy picture of Cambridge will brighten into a sunny new day.

The brotherhood of man must prevail—according to my visions.

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THE LEGISLATIVE redistricting plan for Baltimore, adopted by a majority of the city's General Assembly delegation, is seen passing without hitch—except for the opposition of one city senator.

Then—the City Council will shelve its adopted councilmanic redistricting proposal, in favor of the legisative plan.

I envision clearly a hot Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate nomination—with Louis Goldstein, George Mahoney and Joseph Tydings or David Hume.

Senator J. Glenn Beall, if he runs, has no problem in the Republican primary.

And if he runs, I envision his being reelected—whoever is his Democratic opponent.

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AGAIN, CITY Council-wise—I see the new Councilman Henry Parks bringing a more realistic and truer imagine of his race to members of that body and the observing public.

That the Council's President Thomas D'Alesandro will rise to new heights as a power to be reckoned with—is clearly seen.

And, somehow, while envisioning the coming 1964—I see Hyman Pressman, city comptroller, running harder than ever for the mayor's seat two years hence.

There rises the visibn of Miss Nancy Brown (D. Cecil) who is just about 22 or thereabouts, and young Clarence Mitchell (D. 4th D., Balto.) joining to give the young people a strong voice in General Assembly affairs.

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LOOKING FUTHER in to the coming year, there is the picture of Gov. Rockefeller winning the Republican presidential nomination—and President Johnson winning the election.

Visions quite often whirl around with no continuity of motion—and so it is in this case.

So returning here again comes another vision — this time not quite pleasant.

There is the disturbing picture of he Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency creating more misery for families in its rehabilitation areas.

But, there is seen a new awareness of this by the City Council—and is resulting efforts to stem his disturbing tide.

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THERE ARE some of the things I envision politically for the coming 1964.

They are not predictions—they are visions.

And like I said at the outset of this piece—visions are producers of realiies.

Happy New Year!

MORGAN COED Veronica T. Jones of New Jersey strikes a pretty picture, symbolic of the beauty of Christmas itself, as she sits by the Student Union Christmas tree. Miss Jones is a sociology major.

Job conference held at Morgan State College

Approximately 40 college officers spent two days here last week in "getting down to brass tacks" about problems facing colored graduates seeking employment opportunities during a Conference for Presidents and Placement Directors sponsored at Morgan State College.

Representatives from 17 predominantly colored colleges, including seven college presidents, joined with Urban League officials, RCA and Western Electric representatives and experts from other colleges in open discussions of the changing employment problems and the demands now being made on placement offices.

The conference was arranged under the leadership of J. Percy Bond, director of admissions and placement at Morgan State College, with assistance from Morgan placement counselor, Mrs. Virginia Randolph.

Keynote speaker at the conference was Furman L. Templeton, executive director of the Baltimore Urban League.

Other guest speakers were: Robert L. McDonald, director of placement, the University of Pennsylvania; Julius Thomas, industrial relations consultant, National Urban League; Don M. Cook, manager, College relations consultant, National America; John E. Twomey, superintendent, College Recruiting Western Electric.

Geraldine M. Wyatt, director of placement, University of Delaware; Fannie Y. Mitchell, director, Appointments Office, Duke University; Everett A. Teal, director of placement, Lehigh University; John G. Payne, assistant superintendent and coordinator of college recruiting, Western Electric; W. D. Gutman, Jr., director of placement, Temple University; M. D. Quinlan, public relations manager, Western Electric.

Witnesses in assembly

Norman E. Swift, circuit supervisor of the Baltimore and vicinity congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses, along with 1700 delegate, is attending a three-day assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses being held this week end at Gwynn Oak Park, Baltimore.

Mr. Swift and L. E. Reusch, district supervisor, will be featured speakers appearing daily on the program.

The program will begin 7 p.m. (today) Friday with a "Theocratic Ministry School," a school for training members for ministerial work.

Other features of the conference will include a baptism ceremony Saturday afternoon for newly dedicated ministers, and home Bible discussions with residents of Baltimore and vicinity.

Highlight of the program will be the public lecture "The Bible Triumphs in a Scientific World" by Mr. Reusch, Sunday afternoon, at 3. All sessions are free.

State anti-bias laws set record in 1963

NEW YORK —Nearly 70 per cent of the American people live in states prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation and 65 per cent are covered by stat fair employment laws, the American Jewish Congress reported today in its biennial summary of state civil rights legislation.

The survey also disclosed that more states adopted more antidiscrimination laws in 1763 than in any other previous year. Twenty - five states adopted a total of 45 bills and three constitutional provisions during the year, the report said.

In a statement accompanying the 25 - page report, Ephraim London, chairman of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Law and Social Action, declared:

"Much of the heat generated by opponents of proposed Federal civil rights legislation would be dissipated by a sober, objective study of the facts contained in this report.

"We may take, as an example the shrill charge that a law prohibiting discrimination in theatres, restaurants and other public places would overthrow cherished rights of private property. Surely property rights are still cherished in the 30 states and the District of Columbia where such laws have been adopted."

He said that 124,882,281 Americans — 67.6 per cent of colored and 89.7 per cent of the total number of American Jews.

the total population — live in states in which discrimination in places of public accommodation is prohibited. These, he said, include 42.6 per cent of U.S. Colored and 93.9 per cent of American Jews.

London added that "the elaborate arguments against Federal fair employment legislation are similarly punctured by the operation of no less than 25 state laws against job bias."

He said these laws apply to 115,759,778 Americans or 64.6 per cent of the total population. These include 39.7 percent of the total number of

Sewell appointed postmaster

Benedict Sewell, 51, a bachelor, is Maryland's newest postmaster. His station is located in Henryton State Hospital and he handles an average of 1,500 pieces of mail a day.

Mr. Sewell has been a postman since 1945, eight years after he had been admitted to Henryton for tuberculosis.

"I guess I will stay the whole 30 years," he said in a telephone interview, "right here at Henryton."

Mr. Sewell lives in a rented room on the hospital's grounds and, on occasion, visits his relatives in the city.

BECOMING postmaster of a station even as small as the one at Henryton was no easy task, especially for Mr. Sewell.

Orlando E. Corsa, the postmaster, died in February.

Mr. Sewell, who had been working as a clerk in the office since 1945, was not appointed officially as either acting postmaster or postmaster.

A white postman from Sykesville was brought to Hehryton in July, 1962, as acting postmaster. He remained until September.

Then Mr. Sewell was appointed acting postmaster.

IN THE meanwhile, Mr. Sewell attempted to get the vacated job. He took an examination for the job in July, 1962.

Suspecting that perhaps race had something to do with his inability to be rated for the position, Mr. Sewell appealed to postal union organizations and to political leaders.

One of those to whom he appealed for help, Congressman Clarence Long, was able to get Mr. Sewell considered for the position on a noncompetitive basis.

With the aid of the Congressman, a measure was introduced in congress to confirm the appointment by the President of the United States.

Senator Daniel B. Brewster reported to Mr. Sewell that the Senate confirmed his appointment on Dec. 19.

Mr. Sewell, who is probably the only colored postmaster in the state, was born in St. Mary's Co. and educated in Beachville.

He has two brothers, one of whom, Frank, is a postal worker in the city, and four sisters. Mr. Sewell works six days per week in his small post office.

Commenting on his promotion, Mr. Sewell said: "I feel great about it."

White cheats gas chamber, gets life

Robert Galloway White, who has spent the last three years of his life in the shadows of the gas chamber on Death Row, has reason to celebrate. His sentence has been cut to life.

Sentenced to death for the "Ten Pen" murder of Benjamin Ingber in 1960, White was granted a new trial by Supreme Court justices who held he was denied his constitutional rights when he was arraigned on the murder charge without the advice of legal counsel.

Following the second trial a Criminal Court jury, sitting under Judge Charles D. Harris, returned an unqualified verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree.

IN IMPOSING a life sentence, Judge Harris told White:

"I am one of the Supreme Bench judges who believes in capital punishment in proper cases and had considered the extreme penalty in view of the jury's verdict at the retrial."

The only thing that saved White from the gas chamber Judge Harris, added was the fact that James Wade, an accomplice who was sentence to life the same time White drew the death penalty, did not testify at the second trial.

Elimination of that testimony, Judge Harris told the slender defendant, removed the element that might have impelled him to impose the supreme sentence.

WHITE, WHO also faces an open murder charge in the death of Abraham Givner, publicly thanked his attorney, Fred E. Weisgal.

Mr. Weisgal, who has also won retrials and life sentences for two other men previously sentenced to die, was lauded by Judge Harris who said he did a "tremendous job" for his client.

CONTEST WINNER — To the left is Charles Harvey an 11th grade student at Edmondson High School, the area winner in the Maryland Delaware Press Association Teen-Age Writing Contest. The essay was on "How My Local Newspaper Makes a Difference in My Life." Mr. Harvey received a savings bonds and a certificate. In the center is Carroll Rankin, Edmondson principal. To the right is James D. Williams, assistant managing editor of the AFRO.

YWCA announces program of its winter activities

The Madison Avenue Branch of the YWCA will begin its winter program of activities for the family the second week in January with 69 classes, clubs and special features.

There will be a Senior Travelers Club for men and women over 60 years of age. It will meet at the branch, 1912 Madison Ave., on Tuesday, starting Jan. 12, at 12 noon to plan trips, see travel films, play table games, and bowl.

Improving Your English is a class designed to stress basic grammar, writing and speaking. It will begin Jan. 13 at 8 p.m. At the same time a course in practical public speaking will be offered.

A classical music club for discussion and appreciation of fine music is being formed to meet on Thursdays at 8 p.m. starting Jan. 9.

EVENING bridge classes will be held on Thursdays at 8 p.m. beginning Jan. 10.

On Tuesday evenings starting Feb. 4 from 7 to 8 p.m. there will be a course in millinery covering various techniques of designing and making hats from many materials.

Dressmaking will be offered on Monday evenings beginning Jan. 13 at 7 p.m., or Tuesday mornings beginning Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m. with individual instruction in use of patterns and sewing machines, cutting and fitting.

Cake decorating with demonstrations and individual practice will begin Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday evenings a course in charm and personality, stressing body control and beauty tips, will be held at 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 14. There will also be a class in modern dance open to beginners at 8 p.m. Ballroom dancing will be taught on Friday evenings at 8 p.m. starting Jan. 10.

Swimming classes and dips for women and children will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. beginning Jan. 11 at the Druid Hill YMCA pool. Registrations should be made in advance at the Madison Avenue YWCA.

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ADULT CLUBS open to new members in January include the coed Twixters Club for ages 18 to 21. This group meets for bowling, square dancing, folk dancing, tennis, swimming, parties and trips. Others are the Business and Professional Club and the YW-Wives.

Activities for children ages 4 to 12, to begin January 11, include pre-ballet, piano classes, remedial reading, and a pre-teen choir under the direction of Weldon J. Irvine.

The third week in January, ballet classes will begin in school No. 107, No. 121, No. 144, No. 67 and No. 61.

Play Day for boys and girls age 6 to 12 will meet at 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the Madison Avenue YWCA beginning Jan. 14 with bowling, arts and crafts and dancing.

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TEEN-AGE activities at the branch begin the week of Jan. 27 with ballet, ballroom dance class, piano lessons, sewing and cooking, Friday sports and games night, tutoring classes, remedial reading, and record hops.

Registrations may be made by calling the Madison Avenue Branch YWCA at NOrth 9-1881.

Story of a business

Mrs. Jeanette "Gingey" Katz, a corner grocery store-snack shop owner, says that her white neighbors are boycotting her out of business.

The reason: She is too friendly to colored people.

Four years ago, Mrs. Katz was a sales manager for a wholesale grocery company, a job which she had been pursuing off and on for eight years.

Believing that she could earn more money if she had her own business, she opened a combination sandwich shop-grocery store at 27 S. Fulton Ave.

She picked a racially divided neighborhood. To the south of the store live the whites and to the north live the colored people. Her store was located on the dividing line between the two communities.

BUSINESS BOOMED she says until a larger number of colored people began patronizing the store.

"My white customers wanted me to discourage colored people from coming into my store," she said. "They said, 'Let them buy what they want and make them get out.' But I told them that 'they' are people and I am going to treat them like any other persons.

"And besides, what difference does it make?"

What ever difference it made her white customers started drifting to other stores, Mrs. Katz says.

Now, instead of earning a profit, Mrs. Katz operates in the red.

"Do you know that only ten white people came into this store Saturday, a weekend?" she said. "It used to be crowded every day!"

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THE STORE is located in a marginal income area, an area where passions and attitudes are apt to be more violent and assertive.

Mrs. Katz wants to stay at her present location, but the boycott hurts.

With energy and characteristic aplomb, Mrs. Katz has set herself to meet the challenge.

THE THIRD $500 Life membership in the NAACP for the Jenkins family was purchased recently as Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president of Morgan State College, handed check to Roy Wilkins, center, executive secretary of the NAACP. Dr. Jenkins and his wife, right, already owned memberships and the last purchase was in honor of Dr. Jenkins' late father David Jenkins

Man, 43, dies of gunshot wounds

Alexander Thompson, 43, of the 2700 block Baker St., who was shot Dec. 7, in the rear of the 1600 block E. Monument St., died Tuesday in Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Police said Mr. Thompson was shot in the back while walking through an alley.

A warrant has been issued for a suspect man in connection with the shooting.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 1 p.m., from the George Kelson Funeral Home, 1348 N. Calhoun St.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of the Baker St. address.

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