"I am a man of peace; God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
—Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth.

A Prayer Of The Week

Dear Lord, help us to keep our hearts, lips and lives clean.

Amen.

Three Police Captains

A governor's committee under the direction of Attorney General Finan is investigating charges of mismanagement and inefficiency in the police department.

Policemen have been ordered to work six days a week instead of five to combat the so - called city crime wave.

The Legislature gets into the act with the introduction of a bill which would make assault upon a policeman a felony. Punishment for such an assault could draw a sentence up to 15 years.

Attempt to kill a policeman could draw the death sentence.

Special legislation for protection of police will not solve the problem. Attacks upon police followed sustained and ignored charges of police brutality in making arrests.

Testimony of police that they have entered 230 homes without a warrant is a startling confession of lawlessness and provocation.

Racial discrimination in the courts which has resulted in an all - white judiciary carries through to the police department which does not have a single colored captain or inspector.

St. Louis does it better. Just recently that city appointed its third captain of police. Nearby Washington, D.C., has one and soon will have another.

The white people of this city cannot take the most of policing and judging which lay in their own hands. No matter what unduly harsh sentences are put into the laws, jim crow law enforcement will not work.

Before every body goes off the deep end, we should adopt the obvious remedy.

Here is an example of what we mean:

After the battle of Bull Run in the Civil War, General Lee was expected to attack Baltimore.

White soldiers were sent throughout the city to pick up any able - bodied colored man and put him to work filling sandbags for fortification.

At that time the pastor of Bethel AME Church walked into the office of this city's military commander.

He said, "You are going about it the wrong way in arresting every colored person you see and taking him off for military service.

"You do not need to force us to do anything. Just tell me how many men you need to protect the city, and I will see that they come to your office as volunteers.

"We want to help clean up this city and do it gladly, but give us the responsibility and then get out of the way."

Job Report Requires Action

The survey of city employment requested by Mayor McKeldin has been turned in by the Baltimore Community Relations Commission.

Samuel T. Daniels, CRC director, and his staff, are to be complimented for this valuable work which pinpoints the cause for some of the financial and other problems of this city.

Stated briefly, the survey discloses that colored citizens, now close to 40 percent of the city population, are discriminated against when local government agencies hire and promote.

A detailed review of the situation appears elsewhere in this edition.

What it shows is that 9 of the city's 78 units employ 90 percent of the colored workers on the city payroll, most colored workers are in the lowest paying jobs and not one of the top 35 jobs with base salaries of at least $11,100 are held by a colored person.

In fact, out of 169 jobs with base salaries of $8,220, $8,640 and $9,084, not one is colored.

The survey did not report it but many of these fat salary jobs not only are reserved for white persons but for white persons who choose to live outside Baltimore City.

The thing least that can be said is that it is neither a good, healthy nor tolerable situation.

CRC has made some recommendations. Action is called for, not tomorrow or as soon as feasible, but now.

We think, the place for action to begin is with Mayor McKeldin whose appointments since his return to office, including those to his own staff, have set the type of example that would inspire other unit heads.

Baltimore now is looking for a man to run the recreation and parks department. Baltimore is looking for someone to run the poverty program.

Some where in the nation there are colored professionals capable and willing to handle these jobs. They can be sought out and hired as a beginning of getting the ball rolling.

Unless we can have bold and positive leadership, immediately, from the city's leader, not much can be expected from others.

Little Cardinal Number Two

Sixty years ago Cardinal Gibbons was regarded as the first citizen of Baltimore.

He opposed a bill to disfranchise colored voters and it was defeated. Typical of Little Cardinal No. 1 was the story of his welcome of Dr. B. M. Rhetta, one of Baltimore's first colored physicians.

Dr. Rhetta's father had worked with Cardinal Gibbons in the South. He said to his son, see the Cardinal when you get to Baltimore.

"You are Tom's son," said the Cardinal when young Rhetta called. "Come in, sit with me, I am just having dinner."

• • •

WE HAD wished a Red Hat would be conferred upon the late Archbishop Keough whose vision our race can be summarized by what happened on his first visit to a Catholic institution of higher learning. He whispered, "I see no dark faces here. Why?"

• • •

ARCHBISHOP SHEHAN followed Archbishop Keough — all five feet of him.

Two years ago Morgan State College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. It was the first time in the history of the college it had honored a leader of the Catholic faith—in fact the first time a Catholic had accepted honors from one of our colleges.

The citation read, in part: "Deeply conscious of the history which surrounds you, with all its forces converging upon your life and your work, blow have publicly pronounced vital truths in the area of human relations and by your hand instituted social action in the furtherance of charity and justice for all."

In August of 1964 The National Newspaper Association voted Archbishop Shehan its Russwurm Award "in recognition of his outstanding achievement in making possible a richer condition of Democratic principles."

Last week came word from Rome that his holiness has appointed Archbishop Shehan to receive the Red Hat on February 22.

He becomes our Little Cardinal Number Two, worthy to fill the place Cardinal Gibbons occupied in our respect and affection.

As the index of the new spirit in Rome and in the Catholic Church, we urge that among the 27 who will prostrate themselves before the altar to receive the cardinalate will be Paul Youngwa, Archbishop of Ouagadou Veu, Upper Volta, the second African bishop to be named a cardinal.

Winnie, The Conqueror

Winston Churchill, one-time Prime Minister of England, with Franklin Roosevelt and Stalin of Russia constituted the Big Three who led allied armed forces to victory over Germany and Japan in World War II.

At his death last week he had outlived his colleagues.

Hailed as the savior of England, he made some mistakes.

In 1895 he fought with Spanish forces in Cuba to delay its independence.

In 1898 he was a member of an expeditionary force to occupy Egypt and the Sudan.

He devoted his long career to the maintenance of an empire in which the little people of Asia and Africa were exploited for the benefit of Britain.

He uttered the famous words that ... *England in order to preside over the dismemberment of its realm.*

His people voted him out of office in 1945, but he returned to serve as Prime Minister from 1951 to 1953.

In his lifetime, India, Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ghana, the Westindies exploited for a century, won their independence.

The tiny island which had ruled the world for 300 years joined Spain, Holland, France, Austria, Greece and Rome which had their eras of rise and fall.

Five years before the first 300 years of the Christian era, the Romans conquered the British and taught them the comforts of central heating and hot public baths.

When the Romans' conquest ended, Chukehill remarked that Britain "spoke the next 1500 years in uncharted mists where dirt and cold clung to the most fortunate and highest in the land."

Then were the people he champion, and with his preoccupation with them he never seemed to resent that while his Englishmen were enjoying the benefits of civilization, the exploited in Africa and Asia had long been established great civilizations, which he should always respect and seek to preserve.

"If You Live Through That, Boy, We'll Think About Letting You Vote!"

Our Readers Say:

Teacher Speaks Out

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw Street.

Dear AFRO:

The president of the Baltimore Teachers' Union stated in his news message, that the Union resorted to picketing at the City Hall because more dignified methods of communications had "obviously" failed. This statement is basically untrue.

The Public School Teachers' Association has long been noted for its dignified and professional manner of negotiations. Representatives have appeared before all phases of city and state government. They go well prepared for any issue and have always been well received. Recent action indicates their success.

I cannot see us, as educators, resorting to the means long used by any Union.

Each organization has its merits and a teacher is free to join either or both. But who suffers when the Union decides to call a strike?

Our President of the United States has said that each child is to be educated to the best of his ability. If this is going to be realized, can a child be educated with a teacher out on strike? This can happen here, the same as it has happened in other metropolitan areas.

It is also hard to believe that a public official in high office would join in such demonstrations and I quote from the News release, "Then the Mayor and Councilman Leon Rubenstein each accepted a sign and briefly joined in the marching."

Let's keep all of the "isms" out of our educational system.

JEANETTE L. JOHNSON

Sense of Loss

Dear AFRO:

It was with a real sense of loss that we in the Maryland Tuberculosis Association learned of the death of Mrs. Cora White, a long time member of the Eastside Community Committee.

Mrs. White, through this organization, gave many, many hours of volunteer service to the work of our Association. Her example of untiring assistance typifies the many citizens of Maryland who give their time and talents in the fight against tuberculosis.

We at the Maryland Tuberculosis Association extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Sincerely,
FRANK T. JONES
Executive Director

Voters Need Wisdom

Dear AFRO:

Your Washington AFRO writer, Baker E. Morten, came up with a masterpiece when he wrote "Don't Be Half-Safe In Casting The Ballot" (AFRO, Jan. 23).

He will probably have to write it again four years from now and again eight years from now, unless we become more mature in the game of politics.

It is true, we have been voting with our hearts instead of our heads, but I thank God there are many students coming out of college today with the knowledge of how to use their heads.

Dr. G. James Fleming, the teacher of my Political Science class at Morgan State College gave us valuable instruction, plus the benefit of his wide experience and many reference books to read. The result is that we now know how to avoid the situation Mr. Morten described as "tying a voter up in knots."

AFRO Credo

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

Whether it has kept the faith with the human race;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums to provide jobs for everybody.

Whether it stops not at politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices, race prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., 1920

Pin-Point

Who Killed Auto Insurance Probe?

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

Early last year an ambitious investigation of suspected and proven hanky-panky in the Maryland auto insurance industry in general and Baltimore in particular was in full swing.

William T. S. Bricker, assistant state's attorney and two plainclothes detectives were working 12 to 16 hours a day.

The long hours were rewarding. At the height of the probe, Mr. Bricker and his two sleuths were gathering damaging evidence against companies, agencies, salesmen, agents, brokers, and behind-the-scene manipulators so rapidly a space shortage was created.

More than four file cabinets were bulging with evidence throwing a bad light on both those who operate the industry and those charged with regulating it.

While Mr. Bricker spent countless hours checking the bulging files which threatened to push him out of his office, Det. Sgt. John Connor and Det. Andrew Strenak had more than their hands full closing up "insurance his office, the policemen had more than their hands full closing up "insurance agencies" operated by people who didn't bother to go through the formality of getting a license.

Of all the evidence collected by the assistant prosecutor, none suggesting that state officials were fully aware of their responsibility to protect the public interest could be found.

Through his painstaking work Mr. Bricker discovered — and we knew all the time—that motorists were pouring millions of dollars into the business by way of down payments, carrying charges and interest fees only to learn when they became involved in an accident they were not covered.

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SUB-STANDARD — that's a nice word for shaky financial standing — insurance agencies were popping up in "depressed" areas of the city like firecrackers on the 4th of July.

Patronage was assured. By accident or design the standard — financially sound — companies made sure of that by taking the precaution of "screening out" what they called "high risk" areas.

This simply meant that motorists living in these areas are accident prone in the opinion of major insurance companies, which refused to issue them policies.

None bothered to explain, however, how so many motorists living in these areas have spotless records after 20 and 30 years of driving.

Nor did they attempt to justify their eagerness to insure hundreds of motorists who live beyond the screened-out area but drive their cars all day and much of the night in the designated "high risk" sections of the city.

The cost, it should be added, was no higher for them than for other motorists who live and work in the white noose called suburbia.

These irregularities were documented by Mr. Bricker and the stage was set for what promised to be a wholesale scandal with attendant prosecutions and lopping off of political heads.

Then something happened.

Suggestions, which were more accurately described at the time as threats of reprisals, began filtering into Mr. Bricker's office.

"Ease up," "go slow," or "lay off" altogether was the essence of these suggestions. At one point, the prosecutor, in interest of self preservation, turned to the U.S. Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd.

An investigator from the committee came to Baltimore and conferred with Mr. Bricker. As a matter of personal knowledge this went against the grain of some officials.

By sheer coincidence or strategy, Mr. Bricker's investigators began drawing criticism for "spending too much time on the probe" and not enough on routine police work.

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MEANTIME, National Motors went into bankruptcy and took thousands of motorists with them.

The assistant attorney general assigned to the Insurance Department, Commissioner Douglas Sears and deputy John Coppage, freely admitted they were aware of the company's financial troubles but took no action to correct it other than "giving them (company officials) a chance to pull out of it."

All the while State Sen. Verda F. Welcome was screaming from the doorstep about the way firms were allowed to operate. Sen. Frederick C. Malkus raised a fuss.

Earl Koger dropped a bomb, but retracted it.

Nothing came of this. Fact is, the investigation was quietly and mysteriously dropped, and motorists continued to get it in the neck from insurance companies.

This was a year ago.

At that time Mr. Bricker summed up the situation thusly:

"It's the biggest mess I've ever seen."

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THERE IS a reason for this one-year flash back.

In a Tuesday AFRO story:

"A U.S. Senate subcommittee investigation of the auto insurance industry in Maryland has been urged by Hyman A. Pressman, city comptroller.

"Mr. Pressman said he had been informed that such an investigation would be made by someone on the subcommittee's staff."

• • •

QUESTIONS:

Who stopped the first investigation?

Why was it stopped?

Who is protecting whom?

Why must hundreds of motorists be sacrificed for the protection of this person or persons?

• • •

ANSWERS are not now known — and at the moment, at least, the prospects are not bright.

At ...

1. The investigation was stopped.
2. Mr. Bricker didn't stop it.
3. The auto insurance industry in Maryland is still one holy mess.

What's next?

Baker's Dozen

Could This Be Another Conspiracy Against Us?

By BAKER E. MORTEN

What this town needs is a zoning regulation which will allow for the expansion and improvement of more colored businesses.

The existing regulation works a tremendous hardship toward that end.

In fact, many colored businesses which are financially able to expand, and thereby provide more jobs for District residents, find themselves handicapped by a zoning regulation enacted seven years ago.

The regulation, more commonly called the Lewis Plan of 1958, has zoned a substantial number of colored businesses into areas where expansion or improvement is forbidden by law.

FOR EXAMPLE, when the Lewis firm of Philadelphia was commissioned to study the zoning needs of the District and draft zoning lines for the city, it drew the line down the center of Ninth St., NW and decreed property on the east side of the street as suitable for business enterprises.

Property on the west side of the street was not zoned for business; merchants there were permitted to remain, but they could not expand or improve.

White real estate investors happen to own most of the east side property zoned for business use. Colored merchants, unable to improve their facilities under present zoning laws, may be found on the west side of the street.

If a merchant on the west side of the street wants to enlarge, he must appeal to the District's Board of Zoning Legislation.

But zoning regulations don't seem to be a handicap to white businessmen who have poured thousands of dollars into a committee called "Downtown Progress" to build, expand and improve the Central Business District (CBD).

The zoning board has readily granted relief to "Downtown Progress" while "uptown" progress is at a standstill.

IN ITS zest for building up the downtown business district, "Downtown Progress" failed to solve the parking problem for the hordes of suburban dwellers who work or operate businesses in the central city.

So now they're proposing to ask Congress for parking authority legislation, equipped with the powers of eminent domain, so property bordering the Central Business District can be taken from the owners to build garages.

Guess who many of the owners are? — Colored people.

In short, the white businessman is putting money into "Downtown Progress" to develop the CBD, while colored businesses are suffering terribly.

There is no "Uptown Progress" for the non-white businessman to develop his property, and in many instances he is hampered by the zoning regulation to boot.

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SO ONCE again the colored merchant is in a position where his real estate has, or is, depreciating to a point where white speculators can purchase it for peanuts, apply for rezoning and make a fortune from it.

The colored merchant handicapped by zoning legislation, can choose to sell his holdings at their best value, nor develop the property. "Could it be another conspiracy against us?

(ED. NOTE: Next week—"Zoning Regulations and the Homeowner.").

★OPINIONS AND COMMENTS★

About this and that

Mrs. Theresa Jiggetts Tate, who was buried on Wednesday was a longtime AFRO reader.

This columnist remembers she called frequently to say she enjoyed reading the AFRO twice a week. "I wouldn't miss an issue, she confided.

She liked reading about people, places and things, and looked forward to sending cards to those we mentioned who needed cheer and sunshine.

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Further indication of Mrs. Tate's concern for others: —

She held membership in the YW, NAACP, CORE, Episcopal Churchwomen, and Eastside Community Committee.

And, she loved to sing. Her musical interest was in the Martha Murphy Singers, Etude Choral Society, and Philharmonic Choir.

Remember the Tate family lived for years at 1606 E. Chase St. in East Baltimore?

Thinking of you cards to Mr. Tate (William), at 5117 Kenilworth Ave.

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Auto notes: AAA Automobile Club of Maryland advises its study of over 50,000 emergency road service calls in the state last year shows that about 1600 of those stranded simply ran out of gas.

Reason: Because of the long distances involved in freeway driving, many motorists underestimate the amount of gas needed to reach the next service station.

This is especially dangerous since stopping for any reason on a freeway creates a traffic hazard.

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Advice: If you happen to run out of gas, attach a handkerchief to the door handle or the radio antenna, lock your car, and wait inside for assistance.

Be sure your car is well off the highway on the shoulder.

Precaution: Fill up before starting a long trip, and begin looking for a refueling stop when the gauge shows one quarter of a tank remaining.

• • •

When Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Mickle Sr., observed their golden wedding anniversary last month, a reception at the Edmondson Ave. home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mickle (Della Mae), marked the event.

Present were numerous friends and relatives, including twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

For the occasion, Mrs. Mickle was elegant in green and gold brocade frock.

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She wore an orchid with gold ribbon. Mr. Mickle's boutonniere was white carnation, sprinkled with gold.

The Rev. A. C. Crumbley, minister of Mt. Pisgah CME Church, gave a moving testimonial prayer, prior to the buffet dinner.

Other Mickle children include Mrs. Josephine M. Boyle, an elementary school teacher of St. Albans, N.Y.; Lewis R. Mickle Jr., a contractor; Mrs. Della M. Dobson, elementary school teacher; Christopher Mickle, contractor; and Thomas B. Mickle, manager of Tom McAnn Shoe Store, all of Baltimore.

Son, Edward, is teacher at School 452.

Also here a son-in-law, Dr. E. Mayfield Boyle Jr., husband of daughter, Josephine.

They live in St. Albans, N.Y., where Dr. Boyle is with the Norwich Pharmaceutical Co., and Mrs. Boyle is a teacher. They have two girls.

Remember the late Dr. Boyle Sr., was a longtime Baltimore physician who had offices in the 500 block Pressman St.

Cuff note: Like other youngsters, Edward Brooks, Tubman Senior High Student Council president in Howard County, received a box of red roses along with his citation at the UM Flower of Youth Banquet. On Monday evening. But, he did not take his home. He sent them to a Morgan coed. Mrs. Howard Cornish delivered them with his compliments!

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Advice of the week: Tell your wife you love her. . . let her know you care. tell her every day. . .

This is substance of love advice

If YOU Ask ME

BY BETTYE M. MOSS

given St. James P.E. Church members Sunday by their pastor, Father Donald O. Wilson.

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Mention of St. James serves as reminder that members of this parish played host to members of Church of Redeemer parish.

Homes of members in the inner city were the scene of tea and chatter on Sunday afternoon—a sort of getting-to-know-you program.

Cuff note: Tickets for St. James' 'Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan,' at the Lyric on Feb. 18, are going fast. Make your reservations now!

People, places, things

New resident of our town is Cecil Ramsey, 1123 W. Mulberry St.

Forty-four and single, he hails from Baton Rouge, La., has been in our midst just a month.

Notice to Baptist ministers in the area: Mr. Ramsey is interested in affiliating with a church.

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Birthday Note: Belated candles, 76 of them, for Mrs. Inez Kenner, 2521 Arunah Ave. Hers was January 27.

Mrs. Kenner is active in Enon Baptist Church, where she serves as financial secretary of the Shiloh Benefit Club.

She also belongs to the Evergreen Protective Association, and the Harlem Tea Social Club.

Her daughter is Mrs. Doris Moore, an eighth grade English teacher at School No. 230.

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New faces met Saturday. Occasion was a 'soul cooking' gathering at the attractive Copley Rd. home of the Vernon Pennintons. (He's the eye doctor, and cook par excellence. Mrs. Pennington (Frances), is a teacher.)

There: Dr. and Mrs. Roland T. Smoot, Dr. and Mrs. Edward McDaniels and Dr. and Mrs. Archie Robinson.

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Calendar note: Interesting event on tap: the 21st Annual Luncheon Meeting of the Women's City-Wide Committee For Delinquency Prevention on Jan. 30th at 1 p.m.

This is a sub-committee of the Eastside Community Committee. Luncheon is set for the Eastside Community Committee Building, 1118 E. Monument St.

Cuff note: This luncheon meeting has been the forerunner of the Annual Blue Ribbon Tea for the past decade.

Send them sunshine

Get - well cards to Hopkins Hospital (Osler 2), for W. Douglas Johnson, the retired school exec. He entered on Monday evening.

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Say a prayer for Leonard U. (Duck) Gibson, retired Douglass High School head coach and athletic instructor.

He has been ailing since September when he had surgery. He is at home (907 N. Carrollton Ave.) at this writing, but is due to enter Hopkins Hospital.

Did you go to Douglass High? Then you remember Mr. Gibson's championship teams in football, baseball, basketball and track. (Remember?

Mr. Gibson will be 75 on this coming May 30. He retired from the schools four years ago.

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By the way, William (Mack), Payne, present Douglass High coach, is still hospitalized.

Cards to him at Montebello Hospital, where he is responding well to therapy.

Remember he suffered a stroke several months ago.

No visitors yet for Mrs. Bea Wright, the teacher, who had surgery at Sinai.

She will likely be at home (2001 Bryant Ave.) by the time you read this, but no visitors yet, please!

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Special hellos, please, to this grand lady in our town — the Rev. Mrs. Lillian Thompson, 936 Ridgeley St.

She has been ill since November. Thank goodness, she is now able to walk around her room, and thank goodness for friends who have kept her spirits up With messages and cards. (And, this her first illness in 30 years!)

Many know the Rev. Mrs. Thompson as the minister, for 27 years, of St. Ann's Spiritual Temple.

Others know of her public spirited work in the NAACP and other civic groups.

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Get - well cards to Lutheran Hospital (Room 215 East A), for Newton Curtis, 3810 Grantley Rd.

Many know him as the longtime doorman at Md. National Bank (Howard and Lexington Sts.), and the father of Mrs. Margaret C. Beaman, the teacher.

Mr. Curtis has been hospitalized for the past week—has had one operation, is due for another, so cheer him up.

Prayer of the week

"Grant us the will to fasion as we feel,
Grant us the strength to labour as we know,
Grant us the purpose, ribbed and edged with steel,
To strike the blow.
"Knowledge we ask not—knowledge Thou hast lent;
But Lord, the will — There lies our bitter need.
Give us to build above the deep intent
The deed, the deed."

★PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS★

More about people, things

Penie Bell Harper Sr., 80, who died Jan. 18 in Royston, Ga. was a retired principal and teacher in Georgia schools.

Cheer to his daughter, Mrs. Geneva Puryear, a teacher at Baltimore's School 180 Cherry Hill Junior High, and wife of Cortez Puryear, the associate director of the local Urban League's Community Services.

Mr. Harper was a member of the family that established the Flat Rock, Ga. community over 100 years ago.

Funeral services were held at the Flat Rock Methodist Church on Friday with burial in the adjoining cemetery of the church the family founded shortly after the Civil War.

Other survivors include his wife, Mrs. Pearl Harper; another daughter, Mrs. Gwinnedean H. Stokes, wife of the Rev. Charles Stokes, Augusta, Ga.; two sons, P. B. Harper Jr. and Hodges D. Harper, research developers of Baltimore.

There are also nine grandchildren, including Cortez Puryear Jr., a Morgan State College freshman.

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Birthday note: — January 30th is happy birthday time for Mrs. Margaret Armstrong, the teacher of 2027 N. Fulton Ave.

Same day cards to Mrs. Frank E. Walker, 1134 N. Fulton Ave., wife of the district manager of N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.

January 31 candles for Mrs. Franklin De Costa (Beauline), 2711 Elsinore Ave.

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Feb. 2 hellos for William K. Clarke, 530 Sanford Place.

Also to Mrs. Estelle A. Smith, 3611 Belle Ave. She's a member of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Sightseeing

King-Hoover Issue And Elder Michaux

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

There are certain institutions in America which one does not rush to attack, such as motherhood, togetherness, Saturday Night At The Movies, and in some situation Martin Luther King.

That is why it is a little difficult to understand why Elder Soloman Michaux—himself a member of the same minority group to which Dr. King belongs—finds it necessary to mount a campaign against Dr. King, with the announced aim of obtaining from him an apology to J. Edgar Hoover, the untouchable who heads the FBI.

What Elder Michaux hopes to accomplish by this strange campaign is known only to the elder, but even his most ardent supporter must realize that the community as a whole is not going to support anything that can be construed as a repudiation of the man who has been rightfully described as the spiritual leader of this latter day revolution.

Sometimes run deep about Dr. King and to attack him on such a flimsy basis as that used by Elder Michaux, is to invite criticism—as witness the letters received by this newspaper.

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THE IDEA of Dr. King apologizing to J. Edgar Hoover, after the latter called him a hoterious liar, is in itself preposterous. It represents a new departure in the "turn the other cheek" philosophy.

Dr. King is being asked to apologize to the man who insulted him, presumably on the basis that if Dr. King had not been such a prominent figure, then J. Edgar would never have insulted him, which is why Dr. King should apologize.

Such a line of reasoning devoid of any recognizable logic since it makes the person who has been sinned against the offending party, while the sinner is draped in a mantle of righteousness.

Carried a step further, this would have the would-be voters in Selma, Ala., apologizing to Sheriff Clark of

WITH SI Giocalo on the waterfront, Dallas County because they were in the way when he began shoving them, and the people of Mississippi apologizing to the burners of their churches because it required a little effort to set their buildings on fire.

FROM THE response of the Washington community, Elder Michaux's line of reasoning has been dismissed as illogical, and his demand that King apologize, rejected as unwarranted by the facts of the situation.

There has been so little support for Elder Michaux's suggestion, that some thought has to be given to why it was made at all. In taking the side of Hoover in the dispute, the religious leader must have realized from the very beginning that he was removing himself from the mainstream of thought in his own colored community.

Dr. King is not always right, just as no man is always right, but he has been right enough times to establish himself as one of the principal architects of the civil rights movement and its spiritual leader.

This should give anyone pause before attacking him.

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THERE ARE many ways to attract attention. A man can thrust his head into the mouth of a savage lion or he can attack Martin Luther King. Either of these two measures is dangerous and anyone who engages in such activity, has to accept the consequences of his act.

Elder Michaux gained attention and he also has to accept the consequences of his act, which has been a general repudiation of his view.

Why he became involved in the King-Hoover matter at all, is still not clear. He might have thought that he could clear the air between the two men, but he could not have selected a less productive method to bring about this end.

By criticizing King, he indicated a community as really big news.

division within the ranks of the colored leadership community, which could not help but delight the racists and the segregationists.

Nothing gives these two groups more satisfaction than signs of a rift among colored persons. As long as we can be kept at each other's throats, as long as we dispatch our energies in petty intercine warfare, these groups know they have little to fear.

Only when they are faced by a united front will they grudgingly give way. If they fear anything at all it is such unity. If they smile at all, it is because they find a perverse sense of pleasure in our airing or differences in front of them.

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FAR FROM establishing an area of understanding between the forces of Hoover and those of King, Elder Michaux made such an understanding even more difficult.

He placed the onus of guilt on King and cleared Hoover of responsibility. In such a situation, the guilt would rest not only on King, but on the people who have given him their trust and their support.

So what was being asked was an apology from a race of people, to an agency, which does a creditable job in tracking down bank robbers and for stealers, but doesn't do quite as well in the assuring of civil rights.

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STARTING FROM the proposition that, the FBI was right, Elder Michaux neglected the evidence that has been accumulated to illustrate King's contention that the agency has not been as zealous in the field of civil rights as it should have been, to reach the totally false conclusion that the FBI is above criticism.

The only thing that has come out of this is increased revenue for a daily newspaper that carried a full page paid ad for the minister, and a flood of publicity.

The newspaper, incidentally, that published the paid ad has probably the worse racial attitude of any newspaper in the city.

Elder Michaux has had his name projected as a result of his attack on King's achievement, as he always willing to seize upon any exhibition of differences within our

Elder Michaux has added nothing to the civil rights dialogue. He has merely confused the issue.

Political Notebook

Council Mess

By MAX JOHNSON

Now that the City Council has reconvened, ending a three-week holiday vacation—the silly season is again upon us.

This time, they got matters off to a flying start in this direction Monday evening—with a ridiculous hassle over Mayor McKeldin's proposed anti-poverty program.

It was another of those increasingly frequent Council instances — where bitter factional differences rose above sensible reasoning.

Witness, for example:

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COUNCILMAN SCHAEFER (5th D.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee handling the ordinance, had to move for a floor vote—to get the thing out of his committee on second reading.

He is a member of Council President D'Alesandro's faction — and those of the opposing Reed-Pollack-Hodges Council combine raised all sorts of delaying arguments.

Councilman Capian (5th D.) contended the city couldn't afford the program without a 40-cent tax increase—three years from now.

Councilman Gallagher (3rd D.), his factional colleague, got up to support his contention and argued the Council ought to look at the ordinance more closely—with more hearings.

He said he saw no reason for any haste—and there was more of the same from other members of their faction.

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FINALLY — COUNCILMAN Parks (4th D.) jumped quickly to his feet and half-shouted angrily, among other things:

"They're playing politics with poverty and the poor!"

It was quite noticeable he said "they're" rather than "we are" — so presumably he was leveling the charge at the Reed-Pollack-Hodges combine.

For Councilman Parks is a member of the D'Alesandro faction.

So—off in this tangent course goes the City Council again.

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THERE'S GOING to be more and more of such time-consuming, factional infighting as key matters arise — and nobody seems to see an end in sight.

Too, nobody involved seems to be looking in the direction of the damaging effects all of this is having on the Council's grave responsibilities to the city.

Continued actions politically motivated, rather than based on best possible sound reasoning, are sure to bring regrettable repercussions sooner or later

Back of the whole thing is the disputed seat of the 3rd District's late Councilman Arthur — still vacant after several months of wrangling.

When either of the opposing factions makes an attempt to fill it — there is always that 10-10 tie vote stalemate.

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THUS —THE 3rd District has remained without representation in the Legislature.

Mayor McKeldin is a resident of this district.

With this in mind—it's quite possible the mayor himself might project a solution to this Council mess.

He might accept the persistently rumored, high national post President Johnson reportedly is shaping for him.

Council President D'Alesandro would then automatically become mayor—to serve out his term through late 1967.

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THIS, OF course, would put the Democrats' Mr. D'Alesandro in much more control of the Council from the mayor's office—than the Republicans' Mr. McKeldin could ever hope to exert over that Democratic body.

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I hesitate to even venture a guess as to what extent Mr. D'Alesandro would then dicker with the Reed-Pollack-Hodges combine — but I'm sure he could be counted on for a few political crumbs.

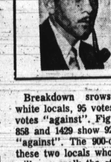
The point here, however, it is at least a solution—and one at the fingertips of President Johnson and Mayor McKeldin.

It is, to be sure, quite ridiculous that Baltimore would need an appointing act of President Johnson — to break up its City Council's silly factional hassling.

But—somebody has got to put a stop to this thing.

Maybe President Johnson wouldn't mind—seeing as how nobody else seems to know what to do.

It's a sorry, unfunny mess—that's getting still sorrier, more unfunny and messier all the while.



Labor-Business

Deeper Issue

By STERLING A. PAIGE

"I think it was a good contract. I hate to see the men stay out on the streets - could be another 2 weeks"

This statement from Bill Haile, international vice-president of the AFL-CIO International Longshoremen's Association, sums up what was turned down by Baltimore dockers in the Wednesday vote.

The rejected contract was essentially the same as that turned down by New Yorkers - then accepted after a second vote. Hard to understand is fact that, only a few week ago, Baltimore longshoremen were ready to sign and berated the N.Y. rejection.

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"UPSET IS believed to be caused by the action of one local that made demands in excess of concessions made by shippers in the N.Y. contract.

This local is said to have made an about-face despite warning from union exec, sent here by Thomas Gleason, international president, that the International could not back any demands in excess of what N.Y. port was getting.

An analysis of the vote leads me to believe there was no real expectation of local shippers meeting these demands - they were made only to cover up a deeper issue.

Handling much of the negotiations here was Bill Haile, international vee-pee and colored. The largest local in Baltimore, which also played

Breakdown srows, among the white locals, 95 votes "for" and 1234 votes "against". Figures from locals 858 and 1429 show 921 "for" and 137 "against". The 900-odd members of these two locals who failed to vote will now walk the streets with those who tried to put the contract across.

This column suggests the matter be looked into further - to find reasons why a contract vote is seemingly cast along racial lines.

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AN EIGHT-MONTH study on employment practices in city departments, made by the Baltimore Community Relations Commission, has been completed and published, and is now in the hands of Mayor McKeldin.

The in-depth study furnishes a revealing insight into the true picture of minority employment and opportunities. Incorporated into the report are recommendations from the Commission, as well as its findings.

Report shows that 58 percent of ... classified positions ... Which means that 2,514 city employees earn less than President Johnson's designated poverty figure of $3,000 or less.

Among white classified employees, only 12 per cent fall into this same low-wage category.

Again, from a total of 80 departments, bureaus, agencies, and administrative units, 25 (or almost one-third) employ no colored at all.

While revealing that some city departments have moved forward in implementing fair employment practices, the study notes a slow pace of improvement in some areas and absolutely no progress in others.

In analyzing the results, the Commission has proffered certain reasons to partially explain the situation, with recommendations for correcting certain failures.

It is with some of these reasons and recommendations that I concern myself. The issues of non-compliance and discrimination are better left to other channels.

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INCLUDED among these reasons are factors this column has for many months been pointing out: applicants for many good positions are very few—in some instances, even non-existent.

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Past discriminatory practices ... have served as potent deterrent to the colored citizen of Baltimore in his consideration of seeking career employment in the field of public service."

Another reason cited is the fact that, in taking qualifying examinations, colored citizens were often flunked without any reason based on the ability to do the job.

This column agrees that times past have not seen applicants of color dealt with fairly.

However, I again point out the wide gap that has developed between the fast-moving pace of civil rights and leadership and the slow - moving masses.

Certainly if a wrong-doing group can change its methods of procedures, despite years of practice, then the rights-seeking group must exercise the same ability to change procedures.

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THE EXCUSE must not be based on "what used to be." The simple truth must be seen in the old-timer's saying, "used to be ain't is."

Doors are for opening — and ENTERING Regardless of past practices, the time is NOW. We must TRY, TRY — APPLY, APPLY.

The Commission, to this end, recommends "a greater awareness must be exhibited by the colored community through its encouragement of its youngsters to properly equip themselves for involvement in the employment mainstream."

It further points out the need for schools and counsellors to encourage, train and support youth for the field of public service.

The need remains—better preparation and greater participation.

The gap must be closed — we must move forward. We, too, must recognize and accept — the new day.

Thought of the Week: People, like fat turkey gobblers, would strut less if they could see into the future.