Baltimore Afro-American

"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.

Prayer Of The Week

We ask Thee not for knowledge of what will come, but for a simpler and more fearless confidence in Thee, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUNE 11, 1966

Violence And Meredith

Violence is so ingrained in the folkways and mores of the South, so intertwined with its history, that when James Meredith was shot on his walk through Mississippi, there was a sense of shock, a sense of despair, but very little surprise.

This was not because of any lack of concern for Meredith, but because the soil of the South has been stained so often with the blood of civil rights adherents, that anyone who supports such views places his life on the line.

Murder, in the name of protecting white supremacy, has been condoned time after time by the juries of the South, thus laying the groundwork for further acts of violence, such as the one committed against Meredith.

Knowing that acts of violence perpetrated against civil rights figures will go unpunished, and in many instances will actually be applauded, evil men are encouraged to more and bloodier deeds.

With this type of atmosphere existing, with the very limited protection offered Meredith by the Justice Department, and the indifference of local authorities for his safety, Meredith was a marked man.

The protection the Justice Department did provide, if it can be called that, was insufficient. Surrounded by U. S. Marshals and FBI agents, Meredith might still have been shot, but the fact remains that if the Justice Department had done what it should have done, the chances of violence would have been tremendously reduced.

Attorney General Katzenbach had a clear obligation to take every step possible to assure Meredith's safety. He failed to live up to this obligation.

Meredith could have been killed. We are grateful that he was not.

His shooting has stirred the indignation of the world.

The drive to bring about passage of the newest civil rights bill, including a section to protect civil rights workers, has picked up in pace. People from all across the country have rushed to the South to continue Meredith's walk.

Once again the conscience of the nation has been touched. It is a pity, however, that it takes a tragedy to persuade Americans that evil still exists in this country, and no man can be free, until all men are free to work, live and die in peace and safety.

Local law enforcement agencies have shown their inability, and their unwillingness, to act to end violence against persons involved in the civil rights field.

It is, therefore, the clear duty of the Federal Government to insure the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their color, national origin or religion.

Unless this happens, the South never will be safe for men of peace.

To Graduates of '66

Almost 8,000 seniors are graduating from the city's high schools this week and next week — many firmly set on the future course they will take in life, many others hesitant and uncertain.

Whatever they plan to do, they have taken their first big step towards gaining a fair place in American society, and particularly in the economy.

• • •

THEY HAVE an advantage that many of their parents did not have, and that many of their less persevering or less fortunate classmates who dropped out along the way will not have.

However, a high school diploma—or even a college degree, for that matter — endows its possessor with no automatic assurance that he will get the right job at the right salary in the best of all possible worlds. Far from it. The graduates of the classes of '66 throughout the world will find that for them the fight has just begun.

This will be a fight not only for personal advancement, but for righting the myriad of ills which plague our society and our civilization.

• • •

AS SEN. Robert Kennedy has been telling students on his speaking tour of South Africa, the great unifying factor he has found in today's youth is the concern about social evils and injustices.

With this thought in mind, next week's grads should regard their diplomas not only as a deserved award and a passport to a decent life, but also as a responsibility.

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HAVING RECEIVED from society education and training, they should think about returning the favor, giving back to society some of the fruits of what it has given them.

Society invests in youth by giving it education. If that investment is not returned, then society will go bankrupt.

Maturity Needed

In the newest crisis to hit the city in recent weeks — teachers' pay increase controversy—it is to be hoped that the central and most important issue, the children, will not be overlooked.

We are the first to agree that city teachers have earned and are deserving of a salary increase.

We further agree that city officials —in wake of the 'Money Crisis' — will not have an easy time finding necessary funds.

We believe, too, that if close scrutiny is given to some agencies now enjoying lucrative budgets but producing minimum results, necessary funds for the increases can be found.

• • •

MEANTIME, it is hoped that bitter accusations, counter accusations, personality clashes, and other irrelevant asides will not be allowed to cloud the fact that only a mature, responsible, and mutually sincere approach to the problem will bring desired results.

It is mandatory then — lest the city's children are made the chief victims—that officials and teachers alike join hands and search for an equitable solution.

Promising Committees

One of the heartening aspects of Mayor McKeldin's multiple committees charged with eliminating the causes which prompted the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to make Baltimore its "Target City" is the high degree of representation of the membership.

While there is a great difference of opinions among members as to how best the numerous and complicated problems can be solved, this fact alone assures against the possibility of a maze of unanimously-agreed - to - meaningless proposed solutions.

For the first time in a great while it appears that Mr. McKeldin has brought together persons willing and able to vigorously address themselves to the issues and act on them, rather than revel in personal glorification and social niceties.

As pin - pointed by CORE the city is plagued with many serious problems and nothing less than vigorous leadership on the part of the team of citizens and officials will remedies be found.

Mayor McKeldin has shown the way. The ball has been passed to community leaders.

How they carry it will be of more than passing interest.

Our Battling Birds

The Baltimore Colts, because of their habit of consistently engaging in cliff - hanging heroics game after game, have become known as the 'Cardiac Colts.'

Put another way, it has become a calculated risk for a faint - hearted dyed - in - the - wool Colt fan to follow his football heroes.

Though the very nature of baseball does not lend itself to such pulsating excitement, our Orioles have been losing no time in earning some kind reputation of their own.

• • •

WHILE THEY have leap - frogged to the front of the pack in the American League, Our Battling Birds are developing an unusual capacity to inflict agonizing anxiety on Bird Watchers throughout the Land of Pleasant Living.

Our Birds have apparently lost all goodness for nine - inning games. With them, 12, 13, and 14 - inning games have become rule rather than exceptions.

First impression is to ask what difference does it make as long as we win.

The answer would be obvious were it not for the fact that the season is not yet half over and the long, hot haul is still ahead of us.

• • •

WHILE THE feeling that the American League pennant will fly over Memorial Stadium this year is deeply rooted in Birdland it is proper and fitting that we sound a warning.

We have no doubts that the 33rd St. firm of Robinson, Robinson and Co., is equal to the task of handling the opposition.

There is the possibility however, our Birds will not be able to shun the pitfalls of fatigue, heat, and fierce competition down the stretch.

We are hoping, therefore, that this rage of extra - inning games is short - lived.

One Trigger Could Spark Trouble

NEWS ITEM: While the Federal Government, civil rights groups and others across the nation work to make progress and curb violence in the "Long Hot Summer," Mississippi sniper shoots down James Meredith as he walked along highway.

Our Readers Say: New Ground Rules

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signatures will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St.

DEAR AFRO:

In response to William J. Levitt, president of Levitt and Sons:

I agree with him that it is high time we recognize what is taking place and write a new set of ground rules in housing."

A federal law should be passed to abolish segregation in housing.

It isn't always true that we don't buy because we don't have the strength.

In most cases it is because when we go house - shopping for a new house we are greeted as if we were from outer space and then told that the owners do not have open occupancy.

Some of the new building developments I have had this experience with include:

Kimberly West, Rockdale, Mayfield and Kent. All of these developments are off Liberty Road.

It is the people who believe in segregation could and would step into our shoes, then they could see and know how it feels to be rejected or lied to about what is rightfully our American heritage.

This would have a change of heart at least the area of housing.

I, this America, a land of the free and a home of the brave?

How can I explain to my little son why his father can't buy a particular new house we like and want, simply because we are colored?

J. T. S.

Our Young Friends Write

DEAR AFRO:

We really enjoyed our visit to your building. Thank you for letting us come. Our guides were very kind and they gave us valuable information about the making of a newspaper.

Thanks also for the literature you gave us.

YOUR FRIENDS
Grade 4, Room 13

New Trooper

DEAR AFRO:

Congratulations to Maryland and thanks to you for letting us know of the appointment of the colored state highway patrolman.

I feel that his picture did warrant "page one" recognition, however.

How about a story on his family?

THOMAS C. JONES, M.D.

ED. NOTE: Coming up!

Alabama Voting

Dear AFRO:

You have learned by now that a colored sheriff and two county officials were nominated in the run-off campaign held last Tuesday in Macon County.

We regret that Atty. Fred D. Gray failed of nomination by 461 votes in a total of over 15,000 cast from Macon, Bullock and Barbour counties. One reason or failure to elect Gray was due to many hundreds of registered colored voters being too apathetic or too lazy to get to the polls to vote.

During the election day we served as a poll watcher in a voting booth far out in "little Texas," rural area where the whites outnumbered colored citizens by 2 to 1.

We had a chance (being allowed only one) to accompany an illiterate colored person into the polling booth to show him how to cast his ballot. He had been given a sample ballot marked by his boss which ballot was against every colored candidate.

This seems to be a practice in some rural areas although the mass of colored voters voted for the qualified colored candidates. It will take a lot of mass roots education to reach and influence the illiterate colored voters, but it will happen in the near future.

Sitting alone with all - white poll officials and noting the red-necks - many illiterate - entering the polling place and probably Klan members, it is easy to see how colored citizens have been brain-washed or intimidated in years passed.

Macon county elections have been needed inspiration to colored citizens in Alabama and this influence will mean in future elections.

E. B. HENDERSON,
Tuskegee, Ala.

From D. C. to Miss.

Dear AFRO:

Within a few days, the White House Conference 'To Fulfill These Rights" moved from the discussion site of a plush Washington hotel to the action site of a dangerous Mississippi highway.

There were tensions and disagreement of course, even in the comparatively cool atmosphere of Washington. James Meredith, Martin Luther King, and Floyd McKissick were inside the hotel. Dick Gregory and Stokeley Carmichael were elsewhere expressing their disdain at the sincerity and the effectiveness of the Conference.

But a few days later on hot, muddy, perilous roads of Mississippi, there was no doubt about their unity of purpose and dedication to the issue of 'Fulfilling These Rights.'

(Mrs.) AILEEN DENNISON

Long Overdue Fight

Dear AFRO:

The long overdue fight for home rule has at last been fired from the launching pad of militancy. As a black resident of Washington, D.C., I am pleased to see a concentrated and determined effort for home rule in Washington, D.C.

For too long the citizens of D.C. have been without self government only because the majority of its citizens are black. One of the biggest problems in Washington is the lack of any constructive and productive leadership coming from the so called middle class black man, as always the middle class colored man is living in a dream world of fantasy and the masses are still suffering.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee under the leadership of Marion Barry is the only civil rights organization to really try a different approach to gain home rule.

Since the majority of white merchants in Washington are supported by the black population, it is only right that they should be boycotted for not endorsing home rule verbally and financially, these same white merchants who oppose home rule are almost entirely supported by colored citizens, they would not survive in their businesses if it was not for the tremendous amount of money that colored people spend in Washington, D.C., these store owners would perish, so if black hands can give them black money, then they can help support home rule in Washington, D.C. so black people living in Washington can help govern themselves.

REGINALD H. BOOKER

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 community it serves.

Whether it has an 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.

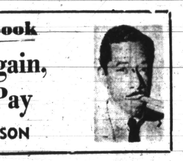
Whether it stops not of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices even prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., 1928

Political Notebook

Mahoney Again, Teachers Pay

By MAX JOHNSON



While waiting for the field of candidates for all sorts of office nominations in the Sept. 13 primary to crowd to the usual voter confusion stage — two recent items in the news are worthy of a second look.

1. George P. Mahoney bids again for the Democratic nomination for governor.

2. The teacher - City Council pay-raise hassle reaches the point of threats.

• • •

LET'S TAKE them in order.

Mr. Mahoney — in his latest try for governor — just might have gotten off with a defeating wrong mouth.

He opened his campaign with the announcement he is against open housing legislation — and quite specifically against provisions of President Johnson's bill now pending before Congress.

Mr. Mahoney has been the best man but never the groom — in a series of past campaigns.

His stand against open housing could very well be a major factor in putting him back again in the also-ran column — when primary votes are tallied.

• • •

MR. MAHONEY with his anti-open housing stand isn't going to get the support of colored voters here — or elsewhere in the state. He will need these votes to survive the primary.

Mr. Mahoney with his stand against open housing isn't going to get too many votes of the liberal, fair - minded white citizens.

The reasons are not complex.

First, many, many white citizens have been in the forefront in urging open housing — and thus just can't support a candidate who campaigns against this just human right.

• • •

THEN AGAIN — Open housing is a hot potato, growing hotter by the moment in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Citizens of both races now know — or should by recent near riots — that it is the one colored community necessity that can blow the lid off whatever serenity there is here.

Thinking white voters aren't likely to heap coals on this smoldering fire — with support of Mr. Mahoney and his anti - open housing campaign.

Sure — Mr. Mahoney's stand is sure to bring him the votes of the KKK, the John Birchers, the Maryland Petition Committee, the Wallace - supporters and other segregationists groups.

Maybe this is the way he wants it.

But if he can put together enough of these votes to win the Democratic gubernatorial nomination — we will all know Maryland is in trouble.

• • •

NOW — LET'S look briefly at that teachers pay - raise hassle.

The teachers have been staging demonstrations for weeks, making all sorts of public utterances through their organizations for raises in pay and now they are threatening the City Council and the city with sanctions.

Here are some facts they ought to have been told long before now.

When the Board of Estimates turned the city's proposed budget over to the Council — it contained dim prospects, indeed, for the demanded teachers pay raise.

Mayor McKeldin — who was careful to point out that he had put the raises in the budget — told me flatly he didn't think they would get them.

• • •

COUNCIL PRESIDENT D'Alesandro — who has been careful not to say so in too many places — has told me the same thing.

Tommy put it this way:

"We just don't have the money. Even with an earnings tax and a rise in the property tax, the loss from Baltimore County's earnings tax (people there who work in Baltimore) is making us look for another source of revenue."

And at the moment — it is only somebody's conjecture that an earnings tax and a substantial raise in the property tax can both be pushed through this Council.

• • •

THERE ARE more irate property owners here because of high taxes —than irate teachers because of desired pay raises.

Teachers may get some sort of resolution through the Council — for resolutions are not binding.

But if I were a teacher—I wouldn't at this point go out and buy something in anticipation of the demanded pay raises becoming a reality.

All City Hall signs — at least a majority of them — point against these raises at this time.

Dr. Jackson cited for rights crusades

Fourth District Councilman Walter T. Dixon introduced and saw the adoption of a resolution citing Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, head of the Baltimore NAACP, as having "stood at the forefront of all civil rights movements in Baltimore."

The resolution followed the recent banquet honoring Dr. Jackson at a testimonial commemorating her 77th birthday held at the Sharp Street Methodist Church.

"Many of the prominent citizens of our community attended Dr. Jackson's birthday party and expressed to her their appreciation on behalf of the people of Baltimore for her exemplary life . . . and for her unceasing crusades in the interest of making this city a better place in which to live and to rear families," the resolution reads.

Dr. Jackson was also depicted in the resolution as "a tower of strength and of inspiration to those now in the midst of the battle for equality in all things in the City of Baltimore."

Councilman Dixon's resolution concludes — "the great debt of gratitude for the many years of public service" which Baltimoreans owe Dr. Jackson and in its passage, the City Council extended "warmest congratulations upon the occasion of her 77th birthday."

PHILADELPHIA — District of Commander Harold L. Miles, one of three high-ranking colored police officials in Chicago was elevated to 32rd degree masonry during ceremonies in the United Supreme Bal Tabarin of the Sherman Council, AALR cathedral.

two Guys

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2 pairs of contrasting Jamaica shorts with coordinated tops. Assorted colors. Sizes 7–14

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BOYS' HENLEY STYLED VELOUR SHIRTS

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Luxury cotton knit Velour. Short sleeves. New Spring colors.

Sizes 8–18.

$1.90

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