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

Prayer Of The Week

Send us forth each day, O Lord, believing in the goodness of this world, seeking it without ceasing, recognizing it when we find it with great joy, sharing it with others. Bless us, help us, grant us kindness and peace, this day. Amen.

Powell Was Right On Black Power Move

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D - N.Y.) has written to known supporters of Black Power who were invited to attend a National Conference on Black Power that he will no longer serve as an organizer of the Movement in this country.

He thereby cancelled the conference which was scheduled for this weekend.

In the congressman's opinion, the Black Power Movement cannot have "significant impact under the leadership of one man." The only way the Movement can be successful is for the masses to organize. "Black people themselves must provide the mass basis necessary for success," Mr. Powell declared.

Some of his critics suggest that Mr. Powell's action is another instance in which the congressman grabbed the spotlight by initiating a project to which he did not intend to give sustained leadership.

It is true that Mr. Powell's style and dramatic pronouncements have made him a favorite topic of the white press. More precisely, his behavior has most often made him a favorite target of the media.

Be that as it may, we believe Mr. Powell was right when he said, "The growth and development of Black Power will stagnate as long as only one man is responsible for the organizing thrust."

Powell's appeal has always been to the masses. And it is those constituents return him to office whether he campaigns or not. His arrogance and lack of Uncle Tomism instill in them a sense of dignity and racial pride.

Stokely Carmichael is not satisfied that the masses experience this vicariously. He wishes colored Americans to have a sense of their own worthiness as individuals.

Until colored Americans recognize their economic and political strength when used as a collective force for change, neither Mr. Powell nor Mr. Carmichael can stir them to action.

Mr. Powell is not lacking in leadership, but the congressman is a wise man. He knows that leadership without followship is futile.

The congressman has suggested the establishment of a National Committee of Conveners to provide impetus to the Black Power Movement and stressed that he will assist in a major role if asked to do so.

The response to this idea may indicate whether the masses accept or reject the concept of Black Power.

Assassination Questions

Millions of Americans and foreigners never will agree on whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

In addition, there are questions bout how many shots were fired and where the shots came from.

And as expected from Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of accused Lee Oswald, there now is a renewed claim that her son was framed.

When or how it all ever will end cannot be predicted.

Were it within our power the furore would be ended and the Warren Commission report accepted, despite the fact it was not as tidy a job as could have been done.

What we are faced with now is a many - sided view of how one of the country's most popular Presidents met his death.

Historians will not agree. School systems and teachers may have to pass on the unsettled questions to future generations.

If this year is any forerunner of the future, the discussion will remain a live and controversial one for a long time.

Where there are such doubts among a large group of interested people in our society, there simply is no way at this point to bring all their minds to a single view.

The Warren Commission could have done much more toward this end than it did.

It would seem now that in addition to living with the tragic death of President Kennedy we also must live with agonizing questions about the assassination.

Poor's Food Project

Much interest is being expressed in the new anti-poverty effort to help poor families better their living conditions by pooling their funds to buy foods at cheaper prices.

There is a possibility that before the program is successful it will result in the establishment of area cooperatives staffed by poverty-level workers.

Without question there will be protests against such a program because such a project would pull business from some established merchants.

Just by trying to establish such food outlets, the poor should reap profound benefits.

In our competitive system, as long as a merchant can turn a profit, he will make his prices compare favorably with those a customer can find elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Thus if merchants are to fight the cooperatives, they would have to do so by making their food prices close to what they would offer.

Either way, the poor should benefit.

It is a program that bears watching.

Sweeping Probe Needed

At this point it is impossible to determine the validity of numerous and serious allegations purporting to show many irregularities are to be found behind prison walls.

It is true that these allegations are the subject of an investigation. Judgment, therefore, on the merits of the accusations would be premature — if not indeed improper.

Of more immediate concern now, however, are some irregularities of the investigation itself.

LAST SUMMER many of the charges currently under investigation were raised. They included improper conduct of employees, homosexuality, dope traffic, favoritism and inhuman treatment of inmates.

Principal accusers were now Senator-elect Clarence M. Mitchell 3rd, the Rev. Fred Gray, now Delegate-elect Troy Brailey, and inmates.

Quick Investigations conducted under the direction of ranking prison officials turned up only negative results. Or so we were told.

Then came the penitentiary riots which wrought nearly a million dollars destruction in property, plus numerous injuries.

At that time Gov. J. Millard Tawes announced the formation of a "blue ribbon" commission to conduct an investigation.

To date taxpayers have heard nothing of its findings. The same is true of a mystery-shrouded probe by the State Police.

In recent weeks new charges, bearing the same label, have been lodged.

To be expected, another investigation was ordered.

For reasons yet unexplained the newest inquiry is separate and distinct from previous ones. Further it is being conducted by the city police department.

Since the Department of Correction is a state agency, — and this is not intended as a reflection of the team of city officers heading the current probe — it is logical to assume that the task would fall, at least in part, to state investigators.

It has not.

Of grave concern too is the disturbing report that the current investigation — in part at least — grew out of somebody's anxiety to conceal goings-on behind the walls far more serious than charges now getting the attention of investigators.

It becomes obvious then that nothing short of a sweeping probe utilizing all available resources — into all facets of the prison system is mandatory now.

Mrs. Santa Returns

A story detailing the opening of the AFRO's Mrs. Santa annual project to bring a bit of cheer to needy families at Christmas time is printed elsewhere in this edition.

For the most part this cheer takes form of badly needed food for adults and children who otherwise find that Christmas has little promise other than more misery, want, and need.

Nearly a decade now, Mrs. Santa has been responsible for hundreds of such families getting a decent meal at Christmas by way of food baskets.

* * *

THESE BASKETS have been made possible through concern for the less fortunate by those who have reason to be happy and contented with their share of the abundant life.

In an effort to secure funds for this undertaking Mrs. Santa is sponsoring a concert of religious music and appealing to those among us who care to send in contributions to supplement whatever proceeds realized from the concert.

All funds raised through these sources, will be used to buy food baskets, with nothing "taken off the top for expenses or incidentals."

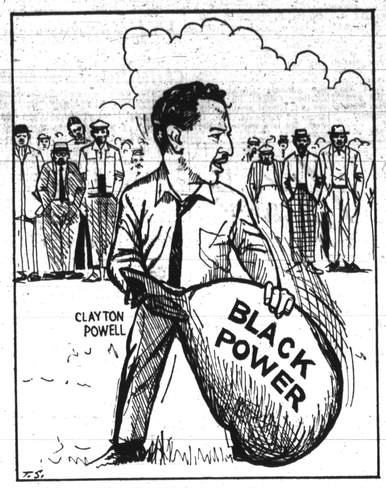
* * *

THE PROJECT is too important for such technicalities. That is so because people — unfortunate people — depend on Mrs. Santa.

In spite of the time and work involved in an undertaking of this magnitude, Mrs. Santa and the AFRO are convinced that it's worth it.

There's nothing more priceless than a smile of an underprivileged child or tears of joy of an impoverished adult who can see at Christmas they have not been forgotten.

Mrs. Santa and the AFRO are satisfied that Baltimoreans — as they have demonstrated in the past — won't forget.



'Grateful' America Gives Thanks In Words, Not Deeds

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

"Thanks are better spoken by deed rather than word. Therefore, it behooves a grateful America to share its blessings with . . . those who have so little of the abundance that is ours."

Those words are from President Johnson's Thanksgiving proclamation.

Most Americans, if polled, probably would agree that possession of wealth carries with it an obligation to help the poor.

That view did not originate with President Johnson. It is the central teaching of the Jewish and Christian religions from which we consciously or unconsciously draw most of our moral concepts.

The President also was voicing sound Biblical doctrine when he said that deeds are more eloquent than words. St. John said pretty much the same thing 20 centuries ago: "Let us not love our brethren in word, but in deed."

* * *

BY THE yardstick of actual deeds, does America in 1966 really measure up as a "grateful" nation?

As President Johnson noted in his Thanksgiving proclamation, this country's total output of goods and services—what economists call the gross national product or GNP — is now at an all-time high of more than $740 billion a year.

But — as the President did not see fit to mention—the sum voted by Congress this year for foreign economic aid was the lowest since World War II—only a little more than $2 billion.

This means that we're using less than three-tenths of 1 percent of our wealth to raise living standards in countries where millions of people are stalked daily by actual starvation.

You can decide for yourself whether these figures are compatible with the image of "A grateful America" sharing its blessings with others.

* * *

THERE IS no evidence at this Thanksgiving season that vast numbers of Americans are stricken in conscience about the growing gap between their wealth and the poverty which prevails over most of the world.

On the contrary, when congressmen read their mail from the folks back home, they find that most of the protests about foreign aid are to the effect that it still is too high.

Apparently, many people begrudge even that three-tenths of 1 percent.

Congressional mail also indicates that the domestic War Against Poverty is losing popular support. The first burst of enthusiasm has worn off, and the poor are still with us and some of the better fed citizenry are beginning to find the whole thing rather boring.

Predictions are already being made in Washington that the new Congress which meets in January will wield a heavy economy axe on foreign aid, domestic anti-poverty programs and other measures scornfully labeled as "give-aways."

* * *

THE PRESIDENT may have something to say about all of this in his State of The Union Message. But it is doubtful that he can say anything there that is more deeply pertinent to the issue than these sentences from his Thanksgiving proclamation:

"Never has our nation possessed a greater abundance . . . never have we been better fed, better housed, better clothed . . .

"Simple justice and a concern for our fellow man require that we be ready to offer what we can of our food, our resources, our talents, our energies, our skills and our knowledge to help others build a better life for themselves.

"We should thank God that we are able."

Our Readers Say:
Ex-Critics Pleased

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., Baltimore.

Dear AFRO:

Our thanks for a job well done! We feel that it is not only necessary to criticize when things go wrong, but also to congratulate and express appreciation when things go right.

The new location for the Thirteenth Ward, Seventeenth Precinct Polling place for the recent election was an ideal situation.

The First Emmanuel Baptist Church at 2209 Park Ave. was the selection.

The Rev. James Wise, pastor, was very kind in providing for our comfort.

He turned on all of the gas burners, brought a small heater from home, also coffee, tea, cream and sugar for us.

He was most solicitous and concerned for our welfare during the voting period.

Our work was much more pleasant and enjoyable because we were housed in a comfortable location for a change.

Mrs. BERTHA W. CROSS,
Mrs. MARY HARRINGTON
Mrs. DORIS GIBSON
WALTER MATTHEWS

Candidate Pleased

Dear AFRO:

The results of my campaign for public office have served to encourage me greatly.

I feel that I could hardly regard it as an unsuccessful campaign.

It was instrumental in (1) electing a governor, (2) passing the Bard Plan for Redistricting City Council, (3) getting two colored persons elected, a first for the Second District.

And, I, a Republican running for public office for the first time, in a district where my party is outnumbered five to one, led the Republican party in number of votes.

Feeling that I have something to offer the citizens of Maryland and seeing that so many obviously share my feeling, the outcome has served as an inspiration to me to enter the race again.

So, being grateful for the support I received and proud of the confidence in my ability and qualifications shown by the citizens of the Second District, I will one day again be seeking the opportunity and privilege to represent our citizens in the interest of a good government.

BARBARA J. ANDERSON

Backs Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

Senator-elect Clarence Mitchell 3rd announced that he would run for mayor. Since he has youth "some day" did not enter into the picture. Youth does not dream of a vague "some day," but of a definite "tomorrow."

His dreams are being realized because he is good and is learning fast. He realizes through hard work, devotion to duty, love of fellowman, and dedication to right that he has already attained the first rung on the ladder leading to the mayor's chair.

Because of his faith in Divine Guidance he knows that he will be a good state senator. He, as an enlightened leader in a dynamic age has the right to announce calmly that he will run for mayor not on a distant "some day" but on an understood "tomorrow".

(Mrs.) SUSIE B. MYLES

William Doub

Dear AFRO:

Although I did not receive more votes than my opponent in my campaign for Attorney General, I feel that the campaign was well worth my effort and, in many ways, successful. Not only did the people of Maryland elect Spiro T. Agnew governor, but it gave me the opportunity to work with literally hundreds of wonderful and dedicated volunteers in a common cause.

To each of those volunteers and the better than quarter of a million Marylanders who voted for me, I have nothing but deep appreciation and an humble, "Thank you."

WILLIAM O. DOUB

AID Send Thanks

Dear AFRO:

The cadre of professional recruiters of the Agency for International Development, temporarily stationed in Baltimore, expresses to you and your editorial staff extreme thanks for editorial support and news coverage of the six-day recruitment drive to enlist skilled civilians for work in Vietnam.

At the close of the campaign, we counted hundreds of applicants who had called or visited headquarters.

The struggle in Vietnam will not last forever. When it is finally concluded, it will have been "won" largely by dedicated Americans there whose mission is to fight against poverty, illiteracy and disease.

Their ultimate victory will transcend the necessary effort to overcome the Viet Cong enemy in battle. The two campaigns - military and AID - proceed side by side. At this point one cannot manage without the other.

Thanks for your help.

HERBERT F. HODGE, JR.
AID Recruitment Staff

Raps Black Power

Dear AFRO:

Black Power is like a thorn in society's flesh. This stairstep to power and prestige for radical colored leaders is but a dungeon for the uneducated and poverty - stricken and a set-back for his purpose.

The modern way — seize power, then learn to use it—is an approach to solve the colored man's problems. But power is not the answer.

At the most, Black Power is a horse without a rider — free and wild. It is in the race for a free society of colored beings and it may be ahead in the race for colored juvenile participation, but it has left the "cause" far behind.

The attempt to begin at the top and work down is as backwards as putting a pan in the oven to bake a cake when the mix is yet in the bowl.

The colored movement began peaceably and moved slowly, but it moved. The race was for gaining colored dignity, honor and acceptance in a hostile, frightened world.

Then appeared the horse without a rider, bucking society and enticing others who could have been a help in a peaceful movement to become outspoken mouthpieces for an unnecessary outburst of hate and lust for power.

The non-white runs to this "Sham" the way hungry war-torn countries run to Communism.

The boundary begins where the white man's rights end. The only thing the colored man had wanted is equal rights; but now he seeks to overthrow all the white man's boundaries. He no longer seems satisfied with striving for equal rights; now he wants power.

A colored nation cannot eliminate rulers, elites, or classes; only individual initiative can move any man up in status. The intelligent will always rule, and the ignorant have no choice but to follow. Black dictatorship — is that what the colored person wants?

The cry for Black Power is a hollow voice of violence, of condemnation giving full support to deplorable conduct. It intices the colored person to riot, to destroy and gives him an excuse for malicious behavior beyond reason.

The cry for Black Power has caused an increase of crime condoned by the colored masses. And cries of police brutality have hampered what little protection by law the colored person had as well as the rest of society. The non-white has begun to cry "wolf" and once too often.

The colored person who would band as a violent voice in society and would condone such behavior as looting, destroying property, killing out of hate and rioting as a cover for theft is no better than the society he seeks to overthrow.

Between two hostile forces there can be no compromise, there can be no understanding. Hate breeds hate; poverty breeds lust for wealth; and Black Power is the extremely backwards attempt at getting what the majority of non-whites really want.

Is it property the colored person wants or equal housing, money or economic status, hate and fear or love and understanding, power to rule society or acceptance as part of society?

If Black Power was considering what is for the good of the entire race rather than the empiralization of a Black mass, it would be beneficial to the cause and much more moderate in its display of conduct.

The stress on power has stopped the progress that was being made. It is responsible for the failure of the new bill to pass, for intense feelings of fear among the Caucasian people, and open hostility among the blacks of this nation.

In its calmest form, Black Power will remain a threat to colored acceptance in society. And in its most profound and workable state, Black Power will be an angry, frustrated cry, "We will be heard! We will be seen! We will have something for nothing at the expense of a nation!"

Is this really what the colored person wants? Power!

Does the non-white want to be feared or does he want to be accepted as a human being and a part of society? With such a question facing the colored people, a little thought before action is a big necessity.

Miss BERNADINE LEE
7323 Arlene Drive
Seat Pleasant, Md.

Political Notebook
Dubious Leadership

By MAX JOHNSON

Now that the Mahoney fog is lifting somewhat over the state — there is emerging a Democratic picture of dubious leadership, intra-party power plays.

This is evident to a sharp degree in the 4th District — where unity of purpose should be the foremost thinking.

Back to this district, though — after a look at the scene, generally.

* * *

OLD PARTY brass — what's left of it here — faces the problem of trying to get in on the act of determining the inevitable new party brass.

Lesser leaders — and the job of trying to impress their followers they are close to whomever the still undetermined brass will be.

It's a confusing picture of hopeful fishing on the part of much of the would-be leadership.

Back of the whole thing is the Democratic flop in the landslide victory by the Republicans' Governor - elect Spiro T. Agnew.

Democratic wounds salted in the bitter September primary failed to be soothed with the Mahoney debacle in the general.

Democrats who sanely switched to back Agnew are vying for his eye — with their own cast in the direction of his patronage job plums.

Democrats who stuck stubbornly, blindly to Mahoney are now looking fervently for some place to go — and somebody big enough to help them get there.

* * *

EVEN THE more carefully spoken of the party's Old Guard reluctantly admits that their ranks are dangerously split.

The Democratic State Central Committee is to face much of this state of affairs here Tuesday evening.

It is to be an organizational meeting primarily — and a long look at what, if anything, can be done.

After about the middle of January— there will no longer be top Democratic leadership in the governor's office in Annapolis.

Can the party look for state leadership General Assembly-wise from Sen. Tydings and/or Sen. Brewster?

They have their hands full with Maryland's place on the national scene — or so it would seem.

* * *

THE GOP'S Mr. Agnew will, of course, be dealing with a high majority Democratic General Assembly.

Will the party's spokesmen then be Senate President William S. James, House Speaker Marvin Mandel and Attorney General-elect William B. Birch?

Veteran observers see this picture shaping.

But — how dead is George Hocker, close friend of outgoing Gov. Tawes and long-time top money raiser for the party?

If anybody has valid answers for what will be the shaping Democratic leadership out of the present complex picture — nobody has voiced them out loud.

* * *

IN THE midst of all of this uncertainty — there came rumblings this week of more disunity, more discontent within the 4th District and its new Annapolis delegation.

This latest upheaval is centered on the takeover of the 4th District Democratic Organization by incumbent Sen. Verda F. Welcome and her ardent followers this week.

Senator-elect Clarence M. Mitchell 3rd pulled out sometime ago to form his own group — and has resisted all bids to return to the fold.

Still another faction in the organization is and has been unhappy for sometime.

All three will have representation in the district's seven-member House of Delegates team.

It is for the best interest of their district and the city that they work as a unified team in Annapolis.

Their supporters have the right to expect this.

The Democrats face a disunity on the state scene that this district's delegation simply cannot afford.

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 common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

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

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices race prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., 1920

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