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

MARCH 4, 1967

Prayer Of The Week

Our Heavenly Father, we pray that loving kindness may abide in this house. We pray that at work we shall find strength, and in achievement, we shall find joy. In all of our relations with others may we demonstrate a knowledge of Thy truth and an evidence of Thy presence.—Amen

Second-Class Fighting Men

Congressman Clarence D. Long (D., 2nd, Md.) is becoming one of the most insistent critics of the treatment accorded colored servicemen.

Earlier this year he pointed to the fact that colored servicemen are being killed in Vietnam at a higher rate than others. On behalf of a Baltimore mother he asked questions about the shabby treatment colored servicemen generally get in the service publications.

Now Congressman Long is asking pointed and meaningful questions about the relatively few promotions that go to colored servicemen.

He notes there is little difference in the educational levels of colored and white servicemen.

To show how badly the colored serviceman is treated, Congressman Long said that instead of having 36 officers per 1,000 military personnel there would be 129—if they were promoted at the same ratio as whites.

Per 1,000 military personnel there would be for the Navy, 52 instead of the actual 3; for the Marine Corps, 83, compared to the present 4, and for the Air Force there would be 92 instead of the current 16.

Congressman Long will not get the answer we know to be the true one from the Defense Department. That great agency will not admit that it still discriminates against colored servicemen.

Even while colored servicemen die at a faster rate than anyone else in Vietnam, in the name of freedom, this nation slaps him in the face by treating him as a second class citizen.

Secretary Robert McNamara should order some immediate corrective action.

If he hesitates, President Johnson should order McNamara to act.

In the military orders have to be followed. If certain things don't take place it has to be assumed the necessary orders have not been given.

Howard Deserves Lost Pay

Joseph C. Howard, cleared by the Bar Association of any unethical action after a study of charges that there is dual justice here in the treatment of rape cases, was sworn in Thursday.

We have seen nothing yet from the Supreme Bench of Baltimore to suggest that Mr. Howard, chief of the trial division for State's Atty. Charles E. Moylan Jr., has received anything but a bad deal in this entire matter.

What really has happened here is that Mr. Howard has been forced to give up two months of pay while his appointment was dragged out.

If Mr. Howard is to be effective in his job he must work closely with members of the Supreme Bench.

As long as the Supreme Bench does not see that Mr. Howard is paid for the time he was wrongly idled during the investigation of his right to serve, there will be a barrier between them.

We must assume that Baltimore has suffered to some degree because Mr. Howard was away from his prosecuting duties so long.

It is not necessary for him to be punished by a loss of pay.

There is still the feeling that revenge has been taken because Mr. Howard pointed to the fact that the courts, and others, mete out justice differently when the victims in rape cases are white and the defendants colored.

Any American can see this except the court officials, if we are to give credit to their reactions.

The record speaks for itself on the matter of sentences handed out in rape cases. It speaks with the same clarity on whether local judges have consistently approved racially imbalanced grand juries here.

We can see how a man dedicated to justice under the law could find himself in the position Mr. Howard did.

What now is important is that the pursuit of justice in our courts move ahead with vigor and equality.

Paying Mr. Howard for the time he lost should be a part of the decision to close the breach and move ahead.

The Regressive Tax

Gov. Ted Agnew is right when he says a sales tax is regressive.

It is the easiest way to snatch bread from the poor man's income.

He is the man who spends every cent he makes every week of the year.

Under few other tax arrangements is he likely to be forced to pay so high a percentage of his income into taxes.

He gets absolutely no credit for family size.

In fact, the larger his family, the more the sales tax hurts him.

Not only does he spend everything he makes, he never has enough to take care of his family's needs.

A man who makes $3,000 a year only pays $30 under the earnings tax. Over all, he could come out a bit better with a one cent hike in the sales tax especially if the starting point for paying remains at a quarter rather than the proposed ten cent level.

Compared to the income tax, which gives him credit for his low income or family size, among other things, neither gives the poor man the break he deserves.

If Baltimore is in a position similar to that of a poor man with special problems, the conclusion must be that the income tax, without the sales tax hike, is better for the city.

Another Study To File?

Baltimore seems to have a fated rendezvous with tragedy in its school system.

The fire and water that struck old School 108 and School 139 may have been blessings in disguise.

They have resulted in another study of the schools being made.

Studies are nothing new for the outdated inner-city schools.

Officials know that some of the schools should be discarded.

But young children are sent to them every day to take their chances.

There are some disasters which cannot be predicted.

The AFRO never would predict that a disaster of major proportions is just a matter of time because of the physical conditions of some of the schools the city tolerates.

It is not far-fetched however to suggest the possibility of disaster is sufficiently strong that another study to be publicized and filed won't lessen the odds.

Dr. Fischer's Question

Dr. John H. Fischer, former superintendent of public schools here, makes an argument about de facto desegregation that should be heard more often.

Dr. Fischer, now president of Teachers' College at Columbia University, questions the value of an education in schools that symbolize racial isolation.

He wonders if this prepares them to live in today's society.

It is a society in which most of the people are colored and in which that majority is gaining in influence each year.

A racially isolated people will be at a disadvantage in that society.

Dr. Fischer suggests that if it takes busing to rid our schools of racial segregation or isolation, then that is what should be done.

He does not accept the answer that housing or other factors create racially segregated schools and it is not the responsibility of the schools to do something about it.

Hopefully, we someday will grow so that housing and other artificial barriers will not produce segregation in our schools.

Until then, Dr. Fischer makes a sensible case.

Candidate For Supt.

At least one possible contender for the position of Supt. of Schools in the District is Dr. Elliott Shapiro, assistant superintendent of schools in Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Shapiro has indicated he would be willing to take a salary cut of $2,500 from his present salary of $28,500 per year to accept the post now held by Dr. Carl D. Hansen, superintendent of D.C. schools.

* * *

DR. SHAPIRO became nationally known as an innovator while teacher and principal in the New York City school system.

The local Board of Education should carefully consider Dr. Shapiro when it has kept the faith with the common people.

Whether it has not other good 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.

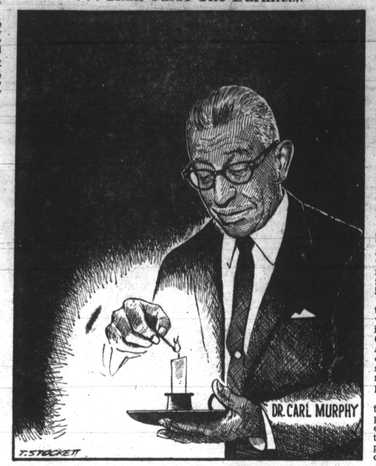
Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices race prejudice or communism.

Any search by the Board for a new Superintendent is hampered because of a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Board recently that it cannot begin a search for a successor until after a decision has been made not to reappoint Dr. Hansen.

If the Board delays reaching a decision on Dr. Hansen's contract expires, it will have little recourse but to reappoint the Superintendent for lack of an alternative.

Now that Dr. Shapiro has expressed interest in the position, the Board should investigate his qualifications along with those of others who appear possible candidates for the D.C.

It Is Better To Light A Candle . . . Than Curse The Darkness



DR. CARL MURPHY

(From The Chicago Daily Defender) (An Editorial)

American journalism and the colored people have lost a great, uncompromising leader in the death of Dr. Carl Murphy, editor and publisher of the AFRO-AMERICAN, one of the best edited weeklies of our time.

Dr. Murphy was a stickler for accuracy and reportage in depth. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he had a definite news policy and editorial philosophy that were clear, consistent, unchanging and beyond bargain. AFRO-AMERICAN news and editorial comments simply could not be slanted or bought.

Again unlike many of his contemporaries, Dr. Murphy was a first rate reporter himself and an unsurpassed editorial writer.

His learning was encyclopedic. He knew people, he remembered events and had ancient and current history and facts at the tip of his tongue. He was among the first ten of his class at Harvard and demonstrated his intellectual prowess by producing a newspaper that is today in the very first rank of publications of its kind in the United States.

He was a German scholar and taught that language at Howard University for a stint. He gave up teaching to follow in his father's foot-step. Old man Murphy founded the AFRO-AMERICAN against all odds, but he died leaving the paper in a much sounder financial condition than most colored publications, past or present.

While other publications were on their knees, begging for financial support, the AFRO-AMERICAN weathered all storms and never once extended its arms for alms. It is independent, challenging, fearless and uncompromising.

Dr. Murphy saw the colored problem not in the perspective of mere racial prejudice, but as a misplaced sense of history, as a remnant of the ancient antagonism between North and South, as the survival of the old hatred for which hundreds of thousands of souls lie buried and from which America has not yet fully recovered.

A Republican by tradition, but he was the first to wield his pen against the party's weaknesses and departured from its commitments. And he had the logic to sustain his critical blasts. His language had both the rhetoric and acid of a Churchill at war. He was devastating, tremendous in his criticism. He was without a peer.

Above all he was a man of vision, of compassion, of understanding and of unfailing adherence to moral principles. He loved beauty, he loved poetry and he loved music. His soul was bathed in the sunlight of the aesthetics. But he hated dishonesty, fraud, depravity and duplicity. He felt that colored people and the colored press should never cease to crusade for justic and equality so long race prejudice remained embedded in the consciousness of White America.

Dr. Carl Murphy labored hard and long on behalf of a new day for the colored American. He has done his work. May he now rest in peace.

Our Readers Say:

Backs Mayor's Move

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:

Recently when Mayor McKeldin announced his decision to submit again to the Baltimore City Council a bill designed to provide open housing, there was an outcry from some corners that this represented an exercise in futility.

While I have no desire whatsoever to engage in any form of "argumentum ad hominem;" nevertheless, I am compelled to express the feeling that this statement is worthy of being given further careful analysis.

The history of the American of color has had the misfortune to be comprised of page upon page of exercises which some others may also have deemed in futility, from the time of John Brown at Harper's Ferry to the era of Martin Luther King on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

However, what our present day Doubting Thomases fail to realize is that only out of such exercises birth was given to meaningful advances such as the Emancipation Proclamation, the 14th Amendment, the 15th Amendment, the Supreme Court decision on school desegregation and the recent far-reaching Civil Rights Act.

It is therefore extremely important that men of good will such as our mayor be encouraged to continue to use high offices to prod and stimulate the moral and spiritual conscience of the community to condone one day only such actions which are just and right.

Ambition and partisan politics on the part of others should never be allowed to mock the useful toil of a proven humanitarian as is our Theodore R. McKeldin.

DR. EMERSON R. JULIAN —

Silent "Leaders"

Dear AFRO:

I am colored and have been a resident of Washington, D.C. for many years. Up until recently, I was very proud of the achievements of our colored leaders. However, in the past few months, the actions of the colored leaders, especially the colored Congressmen with reference to the Adam Clayton Powell case have been disgraceful.

I do not see how you can sit idly by and do nothing while the greatest civil rights fighter of our times is being subjected to the most vicious attack ever conducted against any American citizen. Are you really so naive that you do not see the handwriting on the wall?

Adam Clayton Powell is being attacked, not because he misused Committee funds, not because he has problems with the New York courts, not because his wife was on the payroll when she was not in the proper district or doing any work, but he is being attacked, and I cannot overemphasize this fact, he is being attacked because he has refused to play the part traditionally assigned to colored by the white power structure.

He is not dependent on the power structure nor is he indebted to it. Using his political base in Harlem he has attacked Presidents, vice-presidents, Congressmen, agency heads, labor unions, not so militant colored leaders, and any other group you want to name. However, his attacks have always been in the interest of promoting justice and equality.

I challenge you to name any instance where Congressman Powell has attacked any person or group, and the furtherance of full equality was not his purpose or goal.

* * *

IN ADDITION, I challenge you to rebut the argument that racism is not behind these attacks on Congressman Powell. No other person in the history of the Congress has ever been treated this way. Congressman John Conyers has been used for one purpose and for one purpose alone.

That was to convince colored citizens that racism was not behind these attacks. On all the newsreels and in all papers, the only statements attributed to Mr. Conyers were those denying racism. This was an old trick of the power structure that is to get colored to do their dirty work so that if the question comes up in the future they can always point to Mr. Conyers and his statements.

It has been mentioned in several quarters that Mr. Conyers is the heir apparent to Mr. Powell's throne. If his performances is going to be similiar to that of the past week, "God Deliver Us."

I think that the most effective thing that could be done now is to get together with the other colored congressmen and hold a joint press conference on the Powell case. The colored people deserve at least this much.

They need to know that when one colored citizen is in trouble, other responsible citizens will come to his aid. I cannot bring myself to believe that Mr. Powell would sit idly by and do nothing if they were being attacked in this manner.

I greatly appreciate any consideration given this letter.

ODELL HARRIS

Their Kind Of Man

Dear AFRO:

This statement of Dr. Carl Murphy should be framed, these are the words of one who cares:

"The Little People are the Most Important People," as he describes us.

So often our needs are forgotten; or the promises they make, and the obligations to society.

Those words will help them remember we the poor people need their help.

Dr. Murphy cared even while he was confined to Johns Hopkins Hospital. He wanted to know what was going on in Annapolis.

This was the day, Friday, Feb. 24, we tread the snowy highway to the State House and listened to a summary of the Rent Strike proposal, Bill Number 410. We went before the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly, asking them to adopt the bill and certain amendments.

There were various organizations supporting the Escrow or Rent Strike Bill. There were many opponents to having tenants attend a housing clinic, or the setting up of one, which is provided for in the bill.

Spokesman for the group was Mrs. Mary Sollers of 237 N. Pearl St.

Highlights from the spokesman were: Asking that our sons enjoy pleasant living at home before going to Vietnam; asking for more justice in courts for our City tenants; and better living conditions in slums, dwelling houses and apartments.

Our trip was sponsored by the Neighborhood Councils of East and West Baltimore.

And so goes the report of the "Little People" at Annapolis the day before Dr. Carl Murphy made his departure.

MRS. MARY SOLLERS
For The Entire Group

Reader Wrote Open Letter To Congress

We are American citizens, qualified to vote and firm believers in our Constitutional form of government. Until recently, we were very proud of the way you have attempted to uphold that form of government. However, since the beginning of the 90th Congress, you have given us reason to believe that the Constitution, that great document of our Founding Fathers, has no application to the 90th Congress.

You the Members of the 90th Congress violated the Constitution your first day in office on January 10, 1967 in this respect: You voted that Congressman Adam Clayton Powell not be allowed to take his seat until such time as a Select Committee could determine the question of his qualifications for that seat.

We would grant that each House is authorized by the Constitution to judge the qualifications of its Members (Article 1 Sec. 5 Paragraph 1).

However, under the Constitution as well as the Rules of the House, to ask a Member-Elect to step aside while a determination of his qualifications to be seated is made; a formal challenge of his certification of election must be first formally presented to the House of Representatives.

According to the Record, no such challenge was presented to the Clerk of the House. We ask you, under what section of the Constitution, or what Rule of the House did you presume to act when you cast your vote on January 10th? We would like to know!

* * *

NOW IT appears that you are about to violate the Constitution again. The Select Committee Report, in addition to recommending that Congressman Powell be seated, recommended that he be punished for acts committed during the 89th and preceding Congresses.

We have searched the Constitution and all cases interpreting the Con- of one Congress can punish a Member for acts committed during a preceding Congress.

The House of Representatives is not a continuous body.

If you Members of the 90th Congress can punish a Member for acts committed during the 89th Congress, what would stop you from punishing a Member of the 10th Congress. We can just picture now a Member of the 10th Congress being taken from his grave and being brought to the House floor in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms to be publicly censured by the Speaker of the House for acts committed during the 10th Congress.

* * *

IN ADDITION, how is it that you Members of the 90th Congress who were not even Members of the 89th Congress feel that you have a right, either legal or moral, to sit in judgment on acts committed by Members of a preceding Congress, during this Congress. We would strongly urge that you Members get yourselves a copy of the United States Constitution and read it thoroughly before you make any more decisions contrary to that great document.

You Members of the 90th Congress have given America a bad image throughout the world through your violation of that document that your forefathers upheld so greatly. You Members have assassinated the true meaning of democracy in America.

* * *

HOW CAN you Members of the 90th Congress expect the soldiers in Vietnam, to fight to give the Vietnamese the right to establish a Constitutional government when back here in America—the land of the free and the home of the brave — you Members of the 90th Congress are voting to destroy our Constitutional form of government.

Let the Constitution guide all of your future decisions — Members of

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 good 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 communism.

CAMERA RECORDS DR. MURPHY'S RITES

NEARING JOURNEY'S END — Slow-moving procession moves down Wilkens Ave. en route to Arbutus Memorial Park where Dr. Murphy was buried in the family plot.

CAPACITY—This is part of the more than 800 mourners who attended final rites Wednesday for Dr. Murphy, whose pall-draped casket is resting before the altar.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA Fraternity services, held at the Murphy residence Tuesday night were led by Father Donald O. Wilson, frat member and rector of St. James Episcopal Church and Frank Ellis, regional director. A Paul Moss, Dr. Murphy's son-in-law, right rear behind Father Wilson.

PRAYS FOR "GRANDPOP" — Eleven-year-old Rachel Phillips kneels at casket to say prayer for her "Grandpop," for whom she composed a poem, printed elsewhere in this edition.

ELKS RITES were led by Dr. Bernard Harris, president of the Tri-State Elks and past grand exalted ruler. The solemn services were held Tuesday night at the Murphy residence.

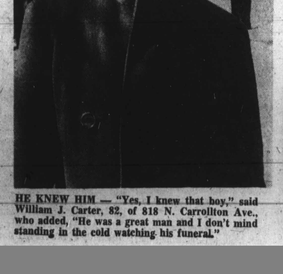
A BROTHER'S GRIEF — John H. Murphy Jr. wept Monday night when he was overcome with grief during Masonic rites for his brother. Among Masons performing rites were M. Brooks Waters, assistant senechall, United Supreme Council; Grand Master Samuel T. Daniels and Grand Treasurer James Dorsey.

HIS SONG — Veronica Tyler, lyric soprano who studied music on an AFRO scholarship, gives moving rendition of "Angel's Song," written by Dr. Murphy and put to music by William Parrott, veteran organist at St. James.

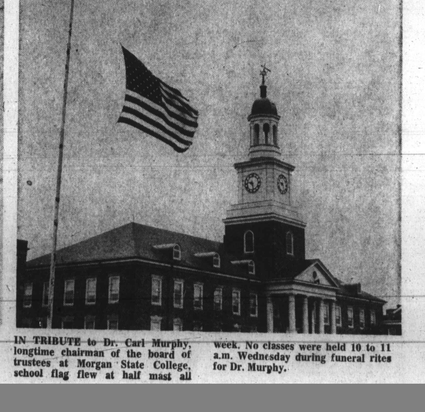
BROTHERS — John H. and D. Arnett Murphy, Dr. Murphy's surviving brothers, enter church with their wives, Mrs. Marie Murphy and Mrs. Sadie Murphy, respectively.

AFRO STAFF PHOTOS BY:

I. HENRY PHILLIPS SR. IRVING PHILLIPS JR.
STERLING A. PAIGE MICHAEL DAVIS



HE KNEW HIM — "Yes, I knew that boy," said William J. Carter, 82, of 818 N. Carrollton Ave., who added, "He was a great man and I don't mind standing in the cold watching his funeral."



IN TRIBUTE to Dr. Carl Murphy, longtime chairman of the board of trustees at Morgan State College, school flag flew at half mast all week. No classes were held 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday during funeral rites for Dr. Murphy.

EDUCATORS — School Superintendent Laurence G. Paquin, Dr. Houston R. Jackson, and Mrs. Laurence G. Paquin were among numerous educators who visited Dr. Murphy's Morgan Park home to pay their respects.

POETS' NOOK

DR. CARL MURPHY—
"A Tall Man"

It doesn't matter how he combs his hair
As long as he is fair—
Or the church that he attends
Or who may be his friends—
No; not a tall man.

I might disregard his political choices
Or opinions that he voices
But doing his job right
Is what gave him the height—
Of a tall man.

When I was very small
I hoped to grow up tall—
But then I came to know
Your heart must let you grow—
Into a tall man.

Dr. Carl Murphy I avow
Has quietly left us now—
He did more than dispense news
He wore the busy shoes—
Of a tall man.

I wish I had the guts
Or the enterprising mind—
That in our hearts will live
A small tribute to give—
To a tall man.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

SWEET ADAM

Cynical daring jazzman of Congress.
Spit in their faces!
Laugh at the codes they taught you
for they live not by them.
Give us our unreached dreams:
Steel birds roaring and soaring
across the blue.
Green rolls falling and fleeing
quickly on casino tables.
Creamy yellows and sultry browns
flirting and flitting in your manhood's arms.
You show 'em Adam!
You tell 'em Adam!
You dare 'em Adam!
And though they slap you down
you'll rise again—
For simple black folk love thee.

SUZANNE BRIGHT
35 Y St., NE.

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Without an armed Regiment, or a
gallant fighting force
On to meet the enemy, without shield
or armor
Unafraid, though overwhelmed by
the odds
Undismayed, though without sword
or fortress
Here is our leader —General Jesus
In a fight for love—for Godliness—
for freedom
Our general supplies all of our
needs:
Our number increases, but we take
no hostages.
We forgive all of our transgressors.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

"ERRATA"

In games we never meant to play for
keeps
We cast caution to the winds
And sped with reckless abandon
So fearless in our youth
Now is too late to turn back
The fields are full of the dead
Who fall rotten in a day
Many lay wounded with eyes gone
sightless
Never more to wink and play
Young men grown old beyond their
years
Too late too late for tears
Now where a forest once stood
Is vast bleak desolation
The gift of dynamite
Forget it's over now forget
The smoke has settled
The game has ended
The scars are healed now
Yet I wake screaming in a dream
What did it all teach us
We haven't learned a thing.

RICHARD D. ROBBINS III

Credibility Gap

The skeptics sneered at Thomas Edison—
The doubters scoffed at Christopher
Columbus:
It can't be done; it simply can't be
done—
Who directs this glee club of dissenters?
Where enters, these purveyors of
gloom?
Who insist that poverty cannot end:
That ignorance is the accepted rule—
That colored progress should be moderate.
The federal carpet is worn paper
thin,
From an assortment of odd feet draggers—
The journey to success is a faraway
port
Carrying a cargo of political
deadweight
There's too much mutiny at sea,
On the good ship L.B.J.—
They can huff, and puff, but the good
shall remain.