Baltimore Afro-American

IN MEMORIAM

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher—1889-1967

Losing Battle

The Ku Klux Klan, it seems to us, is a natural born loser. The hate organization's latest exercise in futility is its protest against the integration of the Brooklyn public housing development.

In this venture, as in other useless efforts to hold back the tide of progress, the hooded order is doomed to failure.

Richard L. Steiner, director, Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency, the chief landlord of the South Baltimore development and all other public housing here, put it succinctly:

"The demonstrations will in no way affect integration of the Brooklyn Homes . . . Under Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act and under policy established by our own commission this agency is obligated to make housing equally available to all people who earned it."

Mrs. Marion Johnson, whose family is one of four colored families now occupying units in the project, is further evidence that the Klansmen are fighting another losing battle.

Nursing her trusty shotgun, Mrs. Johnson has served notice on the robed fraternity. "If they try to enter my home, I won't be afraid to use it" — the gun, that is.

Mrs. Steiner also has a message for other tenants who might be inclined to follow the KKK line of reasoning.

"There is a statement in the lease that says the tenant agrees not to obstruct or interfere with the rights of other tenants, or in any way injure or annoy them at any time."

Failure to comply with rules, it should be emphasized, means automatic eviction.

"We are in contact with the police and they seem to have the situation in hand." Mr. Steiner reports.

In spite of its fondness for lost causes, even the Klan must know that public housing was created to meet the needs of the public period.

Policemen And Riots

Baltimoreans, like residents in 12 other major cities, are looking to the summer with a considerable degree of apprehension.

Along with Baltimore, Washington, Detroit, Newark, St. Louis, New Orleans, Atlanta Memphis, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Cincinnati have been pin-pointed as potential targets of violence this summer by the President's Crime Commission.

Abuse by police of ghetto residents could spark an explosion, the commission holds, pointing out that "serious problems of colored hostility to police in virtually all medium and large cities exist. It notes similar friction between police and poor whites, Mexican-Americans or Puerto Ricans."

This hostility, the crime panel concludes, stems from both real and imagined incidents that lead colored residents and others to consider police their enemies and "protectors of white people, not as protectors of their interests as well."

Intimidation in the form of racial and ethnic slurs adds bitterness to growing hostility and tensions, commission researchers found, and reported that slum dwellers are the most frequent victims of the high crime and violence rates.

Still another contributing force to the smoldering resentment of ghetto residents, according to the commission, is a "significant number of officers engage in varying forms of criminal and unethical conduct."

Restating many of the allegations contained in Fred Cook's "Corrupt Land," the commission said such conduct includes "improper political influence, accepting bribes, grafts, and the use of excessive force.

The commission's recommended ways to head - off trouble include modification of police procedures on the street, stronger discipline over policemen, enlarged police-community relations units.

Proper handling of citizens' complaints, elimination of biased candidates from the force, recruiting better educated policemen and paying them decent salaries.

Baltimoreans fortunately, are in a better position to temper their apprehension with optimism.

Our police department, while undergoing re-organization under the direction of Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau, is already taking many of the recommended steps.

Following closely the path chartered by the International Association of Chiefs of Police — which found the department one of the "worst in the country" — Commissioner Pomerleau is working on the premises of "providing efficient service to the public."

Like his precedessor — Maj. Gen. George M. Gelston — Commissioner Pomerleau views the public as "all the people."

While stressing education, equipment and reorganization, he also insists that policemen be courteous.

"Officers who use racial slurs are not needed on the force," the commissioner has declared publicly.

He is "optimistic" that the summer will "pass peacefully."

More importantly Mr. Pomerleau is not just optimistic. He's working to make it so and deserves the support of the total community.

Dr. Duke Ellington

Edward Kennedy Ellington is hardly a familiar name to most Americans.

Duke Ellington, however, is a name which conjures up a vision in the minds of millions of Americans of a debonair and masterful musician.

Truth is, Duke has become a legend in his own time.

It gives those of us on the other side of the go-go generation a great sense of serenity — and sanity — to know that the man responsible for such classics as "Mood Indigo," "Solitude," "A Train," 'Don't Get Around Much Anymore," and other collectors' items, is still casting his magic musical spells.

In recognition of his incomparable contributions to the music profession and to music lovers the world over, the AFRO suggested some years ago that the Duke be given an honorary degree by Morgan State College.

We will remember Monday night with special fondness. That's when the marvelous maestro was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of music.

While we extend hearty congratulations to Dr. Duke Ellington, we can't help but add that it is rare indeed when a recipient is more deserving of an honor.

No Leg To Stand On

The speedy decision of Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen to uphold the Modified Bard Plan in his U.S. District Court Monday came as no surprise to fair advocates of equitable councilmanic redistricting.

They knew the new districts had been painstakingly drawn, population-wise, as near equitably as possible.

Fresh in mind, too, was the fact that a majority of city voters had given their overwhelming approval to the plan at the polls last November.

But there was keen interest, nonetheless, in Councilman Larry S. Best's suit to invalidate the Modified Bard Plan.

His own redistricting plan, approved by a working political combine in the City Council, had been soundly rejected at the November polls by city voters and was not before the court.

The Best suit charged, principally, that the Modified Bard Plan established districts that favored colored voters over whites.

So interest was high in what Councilman Best and his attorneys would produce to attempt to prove this assertion.

As matters turned out, Judge Thomsen saw no merit in what they laid before him and said so quite forcibly.

At one point the judge told the Best attorneys:

"You don't have a leg to stand on."

Judge Thomsen was on firm grounds.

He pointed out a big fact that it seems difficult that Councilman Best and his attorneys could have overlooked unless they planned their case on a racially emotional pitch.

The city's six new councilmanic districts remain virtually the same in racial makeup as the old ones, with the exception of the 2nd which shows some increase in colored citizens.

If the Best suit accomplished anything except a waste of the court's time it gives Baltimore's citizens renewed confidence in the fairness of the realignment of the city's new districts.

Now we ought to be able to get down to the business of preparing for the municipal elections this fall.

Each of the city districts will elect three councilmen.

Councilman Best is a freshman appointed—not elected—member in his 3rd district, which now has four seats.

If Councilman Best loses in a bid to remain in the City Council, we can't truthfully say we will be sorry.

Municipal Court Vacancy

It has been brought to the attention of Gov. Spiro T. Agnew — and properly so, we think—that he has an excellent opportunity to improve the lowly state of minority representation on the Municipal Court Bench.

With the elevation of Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman to the Baltimore Supreme Bench, Governor Agnew could take a giant step in closing the gap between token and actual representation for a segment of the population which constitutes 41 percent of the total.

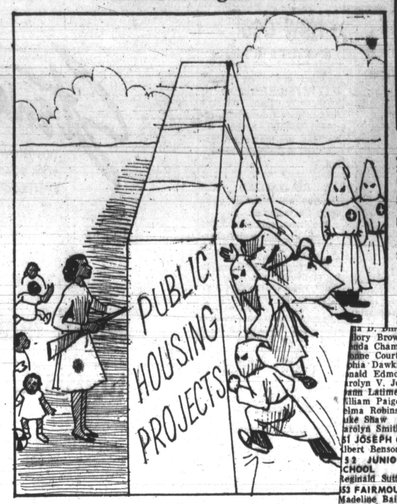
Judge Robert B. Watts is the only jurist of color currently serving on the 16-member tribunal.

We believe that Mr. Agnew agrees that 41 yercent of the city's citizens deserve more than one-sixteenth percent representation on a body which, for the most part, is their first and only contact with the judicial system.

Governor Agnew and the Baltimore Bar Association, which recommends candidates for appointment, should have no difficulty finding qualified attorneys of color.

Among the estimated 65 active members of the Monumental Bar Association are many lawyers eminently qualified to serve on the Municipal Bench consistent with the highest tradition of jurisprudence.

Losers . . . Again



THE PEOPLE SPEAK: Shortchanging

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signatures will be omitted if requested. Letters should be

Dear AFRO:

The report of the National Education Association regarding the inner city schools of Baltimore may be shocking to some, but is old news to colored parents and children of our fair city.

The shameful aspects of the situation are the pitiful excuses being made by both political leaders and Board of School Commissioners for not constructing new schools within the inner city.

I have observed school construction over the last 15 years in terms of numbers and locations and know these excuses to be less than the truth.

And I can have no respect for those responsible for these decisions.

A far greater tragedy than the inequities forced upon the poor children in our schools is the tragedy of the "middle class colored administrators and leaders" who have been willing to live with these disgraceful conditions without raising their voices in protest.

I am fully aware of a very small minority expressing concern, but theirs were small "voices crying in the wilderness of despair."

It seems incredible that colored school leaders, many of whom just one generation removed from poverty, could permit such injustices without taking a stand for the thousands of poor kids being damaged in our dilapidated school buildings.

They have remained silent for years under the guise of being a "loyal member of the team."

I, too, consider myself middle class, but still remember the days of poverty. I, too, am a loyal member of the team, but must seek the best for every child because I am a teacher dedicated to improving the lives of all children.

I, too, can manipulate and get my children in the "best schools," but, I feel responsible to parents who are not capable of doing the same.

Just as doctors are dedicated to saving lives and improving health, so must teachers be dedicated to improving the minds and character of children for all of the people.

There are other inequities—far more subtle than school construction—being heaped upon the children of the poor, not only in our schools but in the community at large.

It is well for all of us to remember that when we salvage one life, it will in time return benefits to our society. When we short change these children, however, we must also remember we will create a monster which will in time, come to haunt us all.

ISAIAH R. WHITE

(ED. NOTE: Our correspondent is principal of the Saratoga Junior High School No. 182, which is 97 years old and located at Saratoga St. and Carrollton Ave.)

Thanks from League

Dear AFRO:

Sincere thanks for your contribution to the success of the Maryland League of Women's Clubs' annual meeting.

Also, thanks for your support of the Maryland League.

(Mrs.) MAURICE A. LEE

Citizens Grateful

Dear AFRO:

We of the Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement Association wish to thank the AFRO for attending our recent meeting and discussing with us the new school facility proposed for our neighborhood.

As more information concerning the progress of our proposal comes to your attention, we will be eagerly looking forward to hearing from you again.

ISAAC M. COLBERT
Chairman

Retarded Children

Dear AFRO:

A I rode by your plant, I saw a sign that said that $1,500 would be given to the student of the year. This is a wonderful idea; that some deserving boy or girl, who may have to drop out of school for the lack of funds to continue, could win this to further his education. But have you thought of the retarded child or her education?

As you know, there are some trainable that would like to have a future and look towards some of the bright things of life.

They need money, too; or have you said to yourself, "It's no use, let them stay without education or the finer things that normal children enjoy."

Last Sunday I went to the Day Care Center and see fine work, time and patience the teachers and helpers put into working with the children you would want to help, too.

So, the next time you decide to help some deserving people, remember "retarded children can be helped."

MRS. SHIRLEY JONES

Time To Act, Teddy

Mayor McKeldin is still pussyfooting around on his promise to name a colored member to the important Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.

It is a little odd for the mayor, usually a man of his word.

We can tell Mr. McKeldin that quite a few citizens are becoming a little restless and concerned about his failure to live up to a promise.

Every time he is asked about the appointment Mr. McKeldin has another lame excuse.

We think, Mr. Mayor, it's time you 'keep the faith" with the people.

Political Notebook

What Would Be Your Decision?

By MAX JOHNSON

There is a king-sized knotty problem hovering over Baltimore's City Council—one that citizen leaders here and elsewhere may try their hand at helping to unravel.

Citizens who visit here, as well as the residents, could be affected.

The situation is this:

There is pending before the Council an ordinance to expand the city's public accommodations law to cover all bars and taverns.

Its sponsor is Councilman Henry G. Parks Jr. (4th D.) — who wants such a law to halt embarrassment to city visitors and many residents unfamiliar with such establishments open to all.

City law now exempts alcoholic beverage dispensing places which do a higher volume in this phase of business than service of food.

ON THE face of it—the problem can be stated just as simply.

It is this:

Should Councilman Parks bring his ordinance to the Council floor at this time?

But—there is really far more to this than a seemingly, ready postive answer.

Involved with Councilman Parks in the indecision are Thomas D'Alesandro 3rd, Council president who wants badly to be the next mayor—and David L. Glenn, director, the Baltimore Community Relations Commission.

Their indecision is based on the municipal elections September and November.

There are two opposite schools of thought on the question—both vitally political.

THEY GO like this:

1. Let's bring the ordinance to the Council floor now—and spotlight the councilmen who vote against it.

This will allow the many citizen groups who have long fought for full public accommodations to concentrate on defeating those who seek reelection this fall.

2. Keep the ordinance off the Council floor now—and spotlight the councilmen who have voted against public accommodations and civil rights legislation in the past.

This will allow citizens the same opportunity to work for defeat of the opposing councilmen.

So far — a decision would seem rather simple.

But—there arises some rather tricky questions on both points.

For example:

If the ordinance is brought to the Council floor now—it's quite possible that at least two councilmen in the 2nd District and one in the 5th, who previously opposed civil rights legislation, would vote for the measure.

This would enhance their reelection in areas where they cannot win without the colored vote.

Why, then, give them the chance to get off the hook—to get back in office?

They haven't been our friends in the past—how could we—be assured they would be in the future?

Why let them campaign now for the colored vote on a switched stand on public accommodations?

We can wait a bit longer, elect a new Council this fall—one assured of passing such an ordinance, anyway.

ON THE other hand—the opposing school of thought sees the ordinance brought up for Council vote as a good political move at this time.

The thinking on this side is that the possible passage of the ordinance now is of paramount importance—what with the coming summer season and tourists and visitors here.

The reasoning is that the three votes of the 2nd District councilmen and the long opposing vote of the 2nd District councilmen and the long opposing of one in the 5th are sufficient to pass the measure.

Hope is based on the strong possibility that these councilmen will be swayed by the coming elections—and the fact that they cannot win without strong colored support.

Whatever concern there has been over their stand on civil rights issues is overshadowed by what they will quite possibly do favorably now.

So—the whole thing is momentarily in doubt.

There are a few more intricacies on both sides than have been mentioned here.

These are enough, however, to set the picture.

I don't propose to have the rightful answer.

This is somewhat akin to the waging argument on Vietnam.

Should we greatly accelerate the war and chance a wholesale conflict—or should we continue losing men and money in a battle for hoped for peace?

What's your opinion about the ordinance?

SB—No, I don't know the gentleman. He only served briefly on the Supreme Bench before being elevated to the appeals court.

Anyway, if he was quoted correctly—and you don't go around misquoting judges—I'm baffled about his obvious concern for legal niceties.

Q—What do you mean?

SB—As I recall it, the Supreme Court's reversal was based on the fact that state prosecutors and policemen knowingly withheld evidence which had a critical bearing on the case.

Q—Where do legal niceties come in?

SB—It appears that Judge Barnes

SB—Nope. But that's nothing new. I rarely agree with any astute politician who has his eye on a higher office.

Q—Are you suggesting that our man Moylan is gunning for Ramsey's job?

SB—No chance. But if you think he plans to spend his life in the downtown courthouse, you have another think coming.

I still don't think it's too cool for a local prosecutor in effect, to call the nation's No. 1 D.A. a nitwit. Such things have been known to boomerang.

• • •

Q—BOOMERANG reminds me. Our first deputy U. S. D.A. here, Art Murphy has deferred in favor of Stephen Sachs as far as gunning for the top spot in the local office. What about the logic here?

SB—I understand that Mr. Murphy agreed to take a back seat on the basis of a promise he will be taken care of later on.

The ever-present booby trap involved in such an arrangement is that politicians have been known to 'forget' promises.

I guess a man should be permitted to take a gamble, if he wants to. Personally, I only like to gamble on sure things.

• • •

Q—DID you ever hear what killed off the plan to construct a medical building near Provident Hospital? It now seems to be as dead as last year's love.

SB—According to some of my brother 'underground agents, the medicine men weren't willing to comply with 'Rule 1.'

Q—I don't follow you.

SB—I really didn't expect you would. But it's a rule of the metropolitan jungle that if you want to get certain things done, you must make sure the wheels of red tape are sufficiently lubricated.

Q—Since you are so smart, will you tell a simpleton how it is possible to lubricate what you can't see?

SB—That's just it. You have to use invisible lubricants.

Q—How can you cope with what you can't see?

SB—Easy. Just get a few brothers who can see invisible things on the various commissions, boards, and agencies which pass on such matters.

Q—This would stop it?

SB—I doubt it. But it would mean that we can lubricate together.

• • •

Q—WELL, WHAT'S new with the Birds?

SB—That's the problem — nothing new. As you know I said earlier in the season they would win it all. Although I'm not ready to panic, they are finding new ways to lose ball games.

• • •

Q—I HEAR that Del. Troy Brailey's fans are secretly passing the word that he's a cinch to become a State Senate candidate in 1970.

SB—I wouldn't knock it. Troy's fans —even those in South Carolina — have a way of doing whatever they say they are going to do.

If Mr. Brailey performs the rest of his term as he did in his first session, I wouldn't bet against it.

• • •

Q—DID YOU see that piece the other day dealing with the prospect of trouble this summer?

SB—I did. I'm still waiting, however, for somebody to ask the people who really have the answers.

Although some mighty prominent community leaders were quoted extensively as I recall, I don't remember any of them ever starting trouble in the first place.

Somebody should check the real trouble makers — the Ku Klux Klan Fighting American Nationalists, and the National State's Rights Party.

Q — You aren't naive enough to think they are going to say whether they plan to make trouble or not, do you?

SB—They just might fool you. Those folk have shown a strange sense of public relations in the past.

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 and prejudice, or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR. — 1950

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DR. DUKE ELLINGTON — The debonair Duke Ellington, "American Cultural Ambassador to the World," reflects satisfaction while inspecting his honorary degree of Doctor of Music, awarded Monday night by Dr. Martin D. Jenkins (left) at Morgan State College. Dr. R. Haynes Strider, chairman of Morgan's Music Department, looks on.

May 21 set for measles drive

Maryland will be the site of an extensive anti-measles drive during May, announces Governor Agnew.

The Maryland State Department of Health and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, in cooperation with local health departments and medical organizations will conduct this drive on three consecutive Sundays.

On May 7, the children of the Eastern Shore and Allegheny County will receive measle vaccination. On May 14, the site of the immunization drive will be moved to Washington County and Frederick County.

Baltimore City and the 10 surrounding counties will be the site of vaccination clinics on May 21.

• • •

IN BALTIMORE clinics will be set up at the following locations:

Mondawmin Shopping Center
Reisterstown Plaza
Turner Armory, Hillen Rd. and Argonne Dr.
Curtis Bay Recreation Center, Curtis and Filbert Sts.
Cherry Hill Recreation Center, 2700 Spelman Rd.
Montgomery Ward, 1000 S. Monroe St.
Druid Hill Health Center, 1515 W. North Ave.
Eastern Health District, 620 N. Caroline St.
Southern Health District, 3411 Bank St.
Western Health District, 2700 W. Lombard St.

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3.77
Permanent press twill, 2 ply nylons, tackle twills, Dacron, cotton wash & wear. Popular zip front, barracuda storm hat collar, 2 slash pockets. Favorite golf style models. Black, navy, maize, tan, blue, pewter. Sizes S, M, L.

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MISSES' DACRON, COTTON PERMANENT PRESS GOWNS
Embroidery trimmed, machine washable, 65% Dacron, 35% cotton. Several styles to choose from Floral print. Sizes S-M-L.

MISSES' SATIN TRICOT MINI PETTICOATS
Perfect for spring fashions. Lovely embroidered applique' trim in semi tailored "mini" length petticoat White, pink, blue, maize, mint, and peach. Sizes S, M, L.

MENS' & YOUNG MENS' WASH & WEAR TROPICAL SUITS
$18
Ideal suit for the hot weather ahead. Fabrics includes 65% Dacron, 35% cotton, Fortrel and Zantrel, and chromspun cords. Complete nylon linings, 2 and 3 button models. Side and center vents. Tan, black, blue, grey, olive. Shorts, regs, longs.

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BOYS' BLUE BELL FINE LINED COTTON SLACKS
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