Poor's New Phase

It's on to the Republican and Democratic conventions in Miami and Chicago for the Poor People's Campaign.

In sending his troops home from Washington, D.C. and announcing the establishment of a Poor People's Embassy, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy set in motion a new phase of the ongoing drive to better the plight of this nation's poor.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and its allies have redefined the business of lobbying in Washington. The poor now have a voice in Washington and those who make and execute the laws that affect their lives are likely to be hearing a lot from their spokesmen.

Unlike the special interest lobbyists who busy themselves with one or two measures a session, the poor people's spokesmen run the gamut. They have been and will be interested in a broad spectrum of legislation.

The poor people showed the nation that they no longer are willing to accept what they have as the best this rich country can afford them.

They won some victories in Washington, including some hefty additions to the food stamp program, the school lunch program and precedent-setting moves to allow them to participate in the priorities of the expenditure of certain funds.

They learned a great deal, also. One of the things they learned is that politicians react most favorably when they see themselves getting or losing votes.

Rev. Abernathy and his aides, without creating disturbances which would hurt their cause at this time, will strive to have the Republican and Democratic platform writers put in proposals that would benefit them.

It goes without saying that the poor will be told which party offers them the best break and how they should vote in their own district, state and nationally to boost their own cause.

Also, as the leaders of the poor move ahead into the new phase, they pull their troops out of Washington with the satisfaction of having proved major violence need not be a part of any honest protest.

Mass Media Snow-Job

Americans are falling for another snow-job.

Ever since the Kerner Report called for adding more colored reporters to the staffs of newspapers, magazines, radios and television news staffs, much has been heard about this facet of the problem.

It is foolish to think that hiring a few colored writers will change the policy, scope of coverage or emphasis of a newspaper, magazine or television network to any meaningful degree.

And that is what needs to happen.

If the mass media decided to change its policies, then all its reporters would do a better job of covering the colored community.

Until this basic change is made having a few reporters here and there who can "tell it like it is" when permitted to do so, means relatively little.

Take any newspaper you know with a sizable colored contingent, say the Washington Post, and strip all stories of by-lines and see how much difference there is in them. Very few people will know if a story was written by a colored or white reporter.

Adding colored reporters does not mean a basic change of policy by mass media. Most colored reporters who think militant thoughts work for white outlets only because of the difference in personal income.

And this brings up another facet of the problem.

Because the mass media isn't going to change its basic policy any sooner than is the society it mirrors, the only way interested white persons are going to see life as it is in the colored communities, and from their viewpoint, is to read a colored newspaper.

Colored publishers should demand that some of the foundation grants being wasted on training colored reporters to become a part of the white mass media—which is not going to perform the service expected of it—be used to prepare reporters to work in the colored press.

Almost every colored reporter being trained now with help of any foundation or institution, quite frankly, is expected to take a job in some phase of the mass media other than the ethnic papers.

Big city policemen, welfare department workers and teachers, among others with sensitive community roles, would be a lot better informed about the people they serve by reading a colored newspaper than by reading a daily paper with two or three colored writers.

Having colored policemen on a force does not mean people in the ghetto are treated any different—unless the basic policy change is made higher up.

Having colored tellers in a bank does not mean members of their race will get the same treatment when they seek a loan—unless the policy change has been made higher up.

Having colored insurance agents won't get you a policy on the same basis as a white client, unless the company decrees it so.

Same with putting a colored reporter on a daily newspaper, national magazine or television station.

Police Changing For Better?

We have learned over the years to pay more attention to what white Americans do than what they say.

So, despite the highly vocal denials of police brutality in the country, we are encouraged by some of the things we detect in recent months.

Although policemen are being armed with weapons Americans did not dream would be stocked for fellow citizens a few years ago, we detect signs of a crackdown on police brutality.

Policemen in more than a few cities are being required to detail what happened to cause them to use their weapons on citizens.

There always have been hearings when a policeman killed someone but where colored persons were involved, the outcome was seldom in doubt.

One of the cases which suggests a change in the air was recorded recently in Atlanta.

After a colored suspect was shot, two policemen joined the one who did the shooting in giving statements.

Later, the two admitted they had lied because they felt they should help their fellow officer.

The three are no longer with the police department in Atlanta.

For years whites too often used the police as their means of keeping the colored man in his place. Many lower courts collaborated.

The result has been that almost every explosion in the major cities has been touched off by some incident involving police officers.

If indeed there is a sharper turn toward fair play and equal treatment of all citizens by policemen, one of the causes of nationwide resentments against the power structure will be removed.

One-Day Discrimination

"Discrimination is not fun at all. I am glad I am not colored and being judged by my skin," wrote a Riceville, Iowa third grader after taking part in an "absolutely frightening" study in intolerance.

The lesson was taught by Mrs. Darla Elliott who on a Friday she called Discrimination Day gave all brown-eyed children in the class special privileges. That Monday, the blue-eyed children were made top dog.

"I was sick. I was simply dumfounded. We had all the problems you hear about being connected with intolerance and prejudice," Mrs. Elliott related.

Although they knew it was but an experience, the teacher found the "inferior" group reacted with real anger, frustration and despair while the "superior" youngsters lorded it over them.

Some of their grades suffered. "I didn't want to work. I didn't feel like I was very big," one youth said.

But the same youngster and others had a new outlook when his group became top banana. "On Monday I was happy because we discriminated against the brown-eyed people and I felt smarter and prettier and cleaner than the brown-eyed people," a blue-eyed girl said.

The pupils on the "inferior" level reacted in such things as "I felt like slapping a brown-eyed person," and "I felt left out," or "I felt like quitting school."

It was a revealing experience.

How lucky for the pupils it was just a one-day study in their cases.

TRADE MARKET

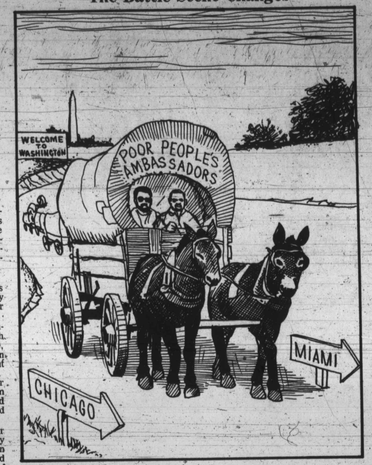
Life is just a trading market
Self service and bargains galore
'Fate,' as clerk, has all things stocked
And keeps 'Phobia' from the store
To give advice to all he serves.
He is honest in many ways,
But you, as the Customer, pays.

JOSEPH H. YOUNG

Strength For These Days From The Bible

Behold, now is the acceptable time (II Cor. 6:2)

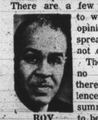
The Battle Scene Changes



Wilkins Speaks • By Roy Wilkins

Facing Guns Seen No Way To Go

It is just possible that the tide of racial upheaval may be turning. There are a few signs that seem to warrant a cautious opinion that widespread outbreaks may not occur.



ROY WILKINS

There is of course, no guarantee that there will be no violence in the cities this summer. There appear to be indications, however, that some centers, thought to be troublesome in the past, have their present sights on something besides physical conflict.

The new chief officeholder in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Phil Hutchings, could not resist quoting Chairman Mao Tse-tung of Communist China, but about the black American he did say flatout: "We want to put something in his head before putting a gun in his hand."

Other prominent spokesmen for SNCC have openly advocated violence —the use of guns for what they call "selfdefense." As program secretary in the newly reorganized SNCC, Mr. Hutchings is turning from this to political activity. His and SNCC's goal is a national political party of and for black people. The objectives were stated vaguely, but the intent is plain.

'Must Get Smart'

The important point is the emphasis on building voting strength, not upon organizing and arming guerrilla bands to indulge in violence. This is significant, not because such an emphasis will stop violence in its tracks (as though SNCC in the past had been the sole mitigator of violence), but because those who may foolishly choose street fighting are being told in front that SNCC's chief interest is elsewhere. A key sentence in the Hutchings interview contains a strong hint against conflict:

"We must get angry and smart at the same time. The man (white man) wants riots and black people in the streets. He has armed his police force and he would welcome the chance to kill black people. We've got to move on all levels and on all fronts — angry but smart."

Freely translated this would seem to mean that the SNCC leader is saying that all kinds of weapons on all kinds of levels must be employed, not the single and death-suffering one of rioting. When he says "get smart," he would seem to mean not to go into the streets because that is precisely the place "the man" expects assaults and is prepared to kill.

In the American Revolutionary War, lanterns were to be hung in the Old North Church to warn of the movement of British Redcoats "one if by land and two if by sea." In this 1968 interview, Program Secretary Hutchings is saying: "They expect us (black people) by land; let us go by sea." The sea, in his case, being the ballot box, political activity and the building of a "black" party.

Trend Away From Riots

In similar fashion, the Congress of Racial Equality ended its convention by turning away from the extreme extremists in its ranks and announcing an emphasis on building economic power in the getto. CORE has interested some Congressmen in legislation to set up community corporations in ghettos.

The CORE dissidents announced that they may call as a leader of their splinter, a former Long Island CORE official who was quoted a year or so ago as declaring: "It is time for black people to get their guns."

This division in CORE and this new emphasis in SNCC are not absolute bulwarks against riots this summer and fall. There are always the highly emotional youngsters in their very early teens. There are still unaffiliated local black militant groups who pay only passing heed to SNCC and CORE. But there is, undeniably, a trend to activity other than rioting — the "smart" part of the "angry" bit.

To Be Equal • By Whitney M. Young Jr.

Training In Sensitivity Needed For Better Relations

Police-community relations are among the most sensitive areas in American life. The Kerner Commission pointed out how the attitudes of some policemen in the ghetto can create tense situations.

All officals and others who come into contact with the public — and that includes business leaders and personnel people — need a greater awareness of what it means to be poor and what it means to black, in a racist society.

WHITNEY YOUNG

Covina, a town in California, has a program that helps policemen to better understand people's feelings. Police recruits were sent to the nearby town of Riverside and booked as felons, then put into the "tank" for the night.

Others were given $3 to buy a complete clothing outfit, and sent to spend time on Skid Row, drinking wine and sleeping in flop-houses. Still others were dressed as hippies and they stayed in hippie hangouts.

They were stopped by policemen, frisked, arrested and booked. They learned first-hand about the terror that strikes the heart of a man when he is stood up against a wall and searched.

Experience helped

They learned to appreciate that the the Riverside police addressed them as "Mister" when they were prisoners. They learned to value the importance of this way of conveying even to supposed lawbreakers a sense of dignity.

The recruits reported that their experience made them more patient and understanding with people, and that they learned the value of treating people with respect and courtesy.

The city's police chief said: "I've done everything with my men but turn them black and I wish I could do that."

Black people, whose experience with the police, especially in the South, has been one of hearing themselves called "Boy" and of being treated with insolence, are calling for police review boards and other civilian agencies which would insure better police treatment.

But this kind of training could be an excellent way to create a police force which is sensitive to the rights of the poor and minority groups. Putting yourself in other people's shoes is still the best way to learn to follow the Biblical injunction of doing unto others what you would have them do unto you.

But it's not just policemen, teachers and other public officials who need this increased sensitivity. Personnel people in corporations need to know how to treat the unemployed, the black, the Spanish-speaking minorities.

Sensitivity training

Too many of them have desk drawers full of corporate orders to hire more black people, but when a man comes downtown from the ghetto he's given lots of forms and tests and rigid interviews. He's not used to them, and the interviewer isn't sensitive to his anxiety and discomfort, and of course, he doesn't pass.

But it's not his fault; it is the personnel interviewer who just couldn't relate to him, make him feel at ease, and discover his potentials and willingness to work.

Fortunately, progressive businessmen realize this and they are taking steps to go into the ghetto to recruit, and to train personnel people better, but it's still a problem that could be licked by this kind of sensitivity training.

This is a big, cold society, and the poor and the racial minorities feel it worst. A little added sensitivity could go a long way to removing the barriers of racism.

AFRO READERS SAY

I wholly disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it — Voltaire on Helvetius

1999: No More Soul Food

New Kampala — Our troubles began in the fall of 1968. After the spring urban eruptions, the major cities were fairly quiet during most of the summer, but flareups in smaller cities kept the crisis in the minds of the electorate.

Various factors combined to sweep the Reagan-Thurmond ticket into office in November. The mood of the voters seemed to be "Let's crack down and end the mess at home and overseas."

The peace talks collapsed after that and the new administration fully mobilized the country. By the fall of 1971, the Vietnam war ended in Pyrrhic victory for the U.S.

Meanwhile, the tempo of urban violence steadily increased. The major metropolitan areas gradually came to look like the Fourth of July all summer long.

Martial law was declared sporadically in New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and New Orleans.

When the war ended, President Reagan announced that he was shifting all of these expenditures to the space program. "The cities will have to wait a little longer," he said.

The mayors of the ten largest cities blasted this action and threatened retaliation. A strange thing happened then.

Silently, the military - industrial complex had grown fat on Vietnam and, since Reagan's accession, the CIA had been getting more powerful inside the borders.

Within 48 hours, of their statement, Mayors Sutton of New York, Gregory of Chicago, Mitchell of Baltimore, Stokes of Cleveland, and the chiefs of six other metropoli died mysteriously.

Ten leaders were apprehended and tried, but rumors ignited the worst explosion of the federal government which was used to quell the outbreaks.

In February, 1972, Sen. George Wallace, of Alabama, declared the Republican administration moribund. That summer he got the Democratic nomination by acclamation.

Breakthroughs in various phases of space technology put the program at the brink of planet colonization.

Growing repression in the ghetto brought evermore violent reactions and the philosophy of separatism gained a majority.

In his 1963 inaugural speech, President Wallace announced a program of sending colored Americans to colonize the outer planets. Everything was to be voluntary.

The expeditions to the moon and Mars went off very well. But the rockets carrying 500 colonists each to Saturn and Jupiter exploded.

A World Court jury exonerated Wallace of genocide charges when he showed that it was all the fault of a clumsy Italian technician.

That was the end of volunteers. Thereafter, ghetto residents were conscripted for space. Many more died, either on the way or from the harsh conditions in their new environments.

By 1979, the United States was all-white for the first time in its history. (Indians to Mars, Chinese to Venus, Mexicans to Uranus, etc.)

We are developing a fair society here on Saturn, but the old folks get terribly homesick. They keep talking about "soul food." (As far as I care make out, what they call chickens and pigs and some kinds of leafy vegetables were edible on Earth.)

IBRAHIM SAID MUHAMMAD

Stop Belligerent Starvation

It is no longer a problem of "who done it" or "who is to blame." They are PEOPLE and we are concerned. Thousands of black people are being killed daily by bombs, starvation in the Biafra-Nigerian War!

For more than a year this slaughter has been going on with the apparent conspiracy of silence on the part of most of the world and, we seem so poorly informed on the issue. Non-black nations continue to supply arms. The black nations of Africa are a pawn and, have no effective voice in what is going on.

An attempt is being made to annihilate some of the most highly skilled and industrious black people on the African continent. These are not the "Yes, Sir" types. This is not a religious war. The dealings that were slowly dying were aroused and encouraged by non-blacks.

There has been too much killing; women, children and the aged (see Life Magazine, July 12, 1968). It has been estimated that millions will die by the end of August.

Please use your influence to appeal to the conscience of all leaders, national, local and international for a massive direct food air lift. Write to President Johnson, your congressman, your religious leader, your union, your organizations, your family and your friends. Today!

We have little time left to save the lives of these people. There must be a cease fire now. Biafra-Nigeria must not be a slaughter house, a testing ground for world powers.

YVONNE de CRUMPE

Response to militant

New York — Yes, I am white, but can I help what race I was born into. The current generation is not to be held any more than you for what my ancestors did.

If the races are part of God's plan, to work out whatever He has in mind, we had all better get busy and try to determine what that plan is. And to see ourselves as He sees us.

If, instead, some of you decide you have a right to be bitter and seek revenge because some white subjugated you in the past and others acquiesced, we will never improve conditions.

You have now jogged the well-meaning white person out of the indifference in which he was sort and alerted him to these dangers. Once we, the majority, have recognized the multiple errors of the past, constantly refashing them serves no purpose, except to squander time that could be used to correct them.

The rapidly-changing times will dump the white stick-in-the-muds by the wayside. And the chip-on-the shoulder militant will find that the too insistent beat of his drum has become idiosyncratic.

Or, if he is able to dictate his beliefs to his people, the majority race will believe this is truly their will and allow the white segregationist to win out. Is this truly what the militant wants?

Although he is only 10 per cent of the population, the black man has the power to save and improve this nation or to destroy it and himself. It is up to him.

It is too late for some white people to change. But the black man can be the example for those who can change.

LAURA MUNDO

The Weather

July 24	partly cloudy, humid
July 25, 26, 27, 28	wind and rain
July 29, 30	cloudy, showers
July 29, 30	cloudy, showers

JULY 1968

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

First Quarter	July 3	7:42 a.m.	
Full Moon	July 9	10:18 p.m.	
Last Quarter	July 17	4:13 a.m.	
New Moon	July 25	6:50 a.m.	
	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	
Wed., July 24	4:51 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	
Thurs., July 25	4:52 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	
Fri., July 26	4:52 a.m.	7:20 p.m.	
Sat., July 27	4:53 a.m.	7:19 p.m.	
Sun., July 28	4:54 a.m.	7:18 p.m.	
Mon., July 29	4:55 a.m.	7:17 p.m.	
Tues., July 30	4:56 a.m.	7:16 p.m.	

Afro Credo

I measure a newspaper not in buildings, equipment and employees — those are trimmings.

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 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

The AFRO-AMERICAN must become a bi-weekly, then a tri-weekly, and eventually, when advertising warrants, a daily.

It has always had a loyal constituency who believe it honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of newspaper now and I hope it never changes.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

Thoughts Of The Founder

If a person is rightly educated, he invariably shows it in certain practical ways of helpfulness.

John H. Murphy Sr.
Feb. 9, 1907

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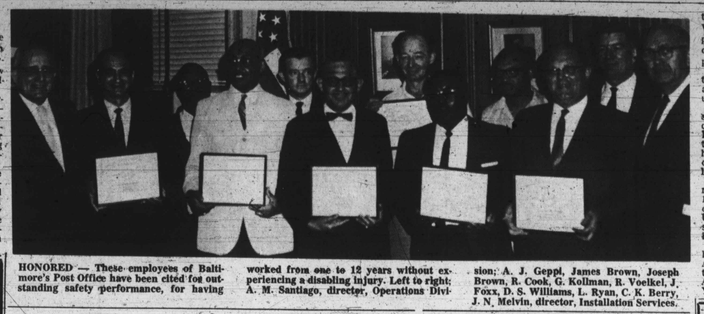
Job programs to employ poor

WASHINGTON — The poor are going to help run the Concentrated Employment Program from now on, Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz has announced.

The Secretary has ordered local sponsors — usually a city or a community action agency — to recruit at least half their staff members from among residents in poverty neighborhoods served.

And six months after the contract has been operative, all positions and all new positions must be filled as they become vacant by neighborhood residents, the Secretary ordered. The order became effective on July 15.



HONORED — These employees of Baltimore's Post Office have been cited for outstanding safety performance, for having worked from one to 12 years without experiencing a disabling injury. Left to right; A. M. Santiago, director, Operations Division; A. J. Geppl, James Brown, Joseph Brown, R. Cook, G. Kollman, R. Voelkel, J. Foxx, D. S. Williams, L. Ryan, C. K. Berry, J. N. Melvin, director, Installation Services.

Deadline nears for voter registration

By MAX JOHNSON

Citizens not yet registered as eligible voters, who expect to vote in the Sept. 10 primary, have until the deadline of Aug. 12 to get on the books.

Registration closes on that date and will not open again until after the primary.

Supervisors of Elections officials are cooperating in a general last minute registration campaign.

They are in the process of again setting up a number of mobile registration units in various neighborhoods. Details of times and places have not been completed.

Currently, the Supervisors of Elections Office, People's Court Bldg., Fayette and Gay Sts., is open for registration and change of voting address Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays to 7 p.m.

Beginning Aug. 1 this office will remain open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., up until the Aug. 12 registration deadline.

THERE WERE, as of a late April count, 415,952 registered voters in this city, of whom 146,811 are colored.

A further breakdown of the 146,811 showed: Democrats — 115,763; Republicans — 29,282; Independents — 1,766.

Voters in the Sept. 10 primary will cast ballots for Democratic and Republican nominees for U.S. Senate congressmen in each district, and in the city for three Supreme Bench and two People's Court judgeships.

The three congressional districts which at one time were wholly within the city — the 3rd, 4th and 7th — now extend to the counties.

The 3rd covers Southeast and South Baltimore and portions of Anne Arundel County. The 4th extends northward through the center of the city into Baltimore County.

The 7th covers West Baltimore and adjoining portions of Baltimore County.

* * *

WITHIN THE city boundaries of the 7th District, there is a higher colored registration than white. The late April check showed:

Democrats — col., 58,402, white, 58,302; Republicans — col., 14,311, white 7,532; Independents — col., 973, white 1,162.

Former Community Action Agency director, Parren J. Mitchell, is a Democratic candidate in the 7th District, among those bidding for the seat of Congressman Samuel N. Friedel.

In the 4th District, DeHaven L. Smith, attorney and Democrat, and Ernest D. Young, former House of Delegates member and Democrat turned Republican, are among those seeking the seat on the veteran Congressman George H. Fallon.

City-wide, Joseph C. Howard is among those trying for the Supreme Bench, and Archie D. Williams is a candidate for People's Court.

* * *

THIS REGISTRATION showed in city boundaries of the 4th District:

Democrats — col., 31,227, white 96,000; Republicans — col., 8,765, white, 24,022; Independents — col., 466, white 2,405.

City registration in the 3rd Congressional District showed:

Democrats — col. 26,651, white, 70,832; Republicans — col., 5,339, white, 7,263; Independents — col., 335, white, 434.

* * *

Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

* * *

El Salvador is the only one of the Central American republics without an Atlantic seacoast.

Ala. State gets dormitory loan

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama State College of Montgomery, received a federal loan of 1.5 million dollars for construction of new men's high rise dormitory.

According to Leotis Peterman, Business and Financial officer of the College, the dormitory will have seven floors and a basement with both air conditioning and elevator service. It will house 336 men in 16 single rooms and 160 doubles.

The bid award will be made by Oct. 15, with a 14 month construction time and a completion date of Dec. 15, 1969. Occupancy is set for Jan. 1, 1970.

Returns to Germany

A recent Baltimore visitor was Airman Clyde Andrews, formerly of 2308 N. Ellamont St., who is now serving in Bitburg, Germany. He is the son of Mrs. Beatrice Delots Evans and Herbert J. Evans.

After a month's leave, Airman Andrews returned to Germany last week.

While in the city, the popular young man who was formerly employed at Fibus Drug Store on Walbrook Junction, observed his 21st birthday.

He was away with the Det., 400 S Air Force Postal Carrier in Germany 18 months previously and notes how Baltimore has changed in that short time.

Observing how many new developments have opened and how far out from the center of the city people have moved, Airman Andrews states that housing seems to have improved and people seem to be more friendly and sociable.

As to Germany, he states that people there are quite cordial. On the Vietnam question, he reports that the German residents feel the U.S. should pull out right away.

He quotes them as saying they are against the war and the U.S. should clean up its own country first.

So far, Airman Andrews says, he has experienced no discrimination in Germany. In addition to visiting throughout the country he has made trips to Paris, other parts of France, Holland, London, Austria.

When Airman Andrews returns to Baltimore after 17 more months on his tour of duty, he will enter the University of Maryland to study business administration.

Since he is anxious to hear from Baltimoreans, AFRO readers may write to Cpl. Andrews, Box 3497 AF 11587415, APO New York, 09132.

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Four Beautiful Ways to Start a Conversation

Conversation starter No. 1. The lovely Princess® phone. Especially pleasing in the bedroom. Neat, graceful, takes up so little space on your bedside table. And the comforting glow of its lighted dial at night tells you that help is always at hand should you need it.

No. 2. You'll save time and steps with a smart "out-of-the-way" wall phone. Perfect for kitchen or workroom—wherever you're busy. You can talk all you want and still keep an eye on what's cooking.

No. 3. Something new. The stylish Trimline® phone. Its trim, sculptured shape will add a fashion note to your home. Wherever you put one—den, living room or kitchen—dialing is a breeze. Because the dial is in the handset. It comes to you.

No. 4. Or maybe you prefer the handsome, solid look of the familiar desk set. Appropriate anywhere in the home, but especially right for the desk in your den when household business calls for privacy.

Pick out the extension phone that's right for you, today. Whatever phone you choose, you'll find it'll make life at home a little easier all around.

For more information about colors, models and prices, just pick up the phone and call the Telephone Business Office. Or start a conversation with your telephone man. He has all the facts.

The C & P Telephone Company of Maryland
Part of the Nationwide Bell System