Baltimore Afro-American

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

4 JANUARY 25, 1969

1921: Abandon

The Samuel Chase Elementary School 135 that rapidly went up in flames Tuesday morning was recommended for abandonment in a report on school facilities made in 1921.

While ravaging by fire is not the way we like to see schools go — we prefer the good old wrecker's ball accompanied by plans for construction of a modern facility — the thought arises that perhaps the elementary children are safer out of the antiquated school which was so quickly swept by fire.

The 87-year-old school has a history of condemnations in studies made of school facilities. In the 1921 Strayer Report it was marked for early abandonment. In a 1961 School Plant Survey it was listed as fair. And in the 1964 Citizens School Advisory Committee Study the school was tabbed obsolete.

The most recent survey of school plants, the late 1967 Booze, Allen and Hamilton survey also recommended the school for renovation or replacement. But under the master plan of the report the earliest action would have come in Phase Two, during the years 1975-1980.

While repeating that fire is not the way to get rid of obsolete schools, it is worth pointing out that the destruction of School 135 Tuesday morning only bears out recommendations for its abandonment that were made as early as 1921.

Significant Firsts

Two assignments in the General Assembly underscore the degree to which the 11 colored members are moving steadily into positions of influence in the lawmaking process.

Dr. Aris T. Allen, of Annapolis, only Republican among the 11, was named minority whip in the House of Delegates by the Republicans.

This was a significant first for Maryland. It means that Del. Allen is one of the policy makers for GOP legislative programs and a key leader in attempting to get measures through the House.

It also means that along with Del. John S. McInerney of Montgomery County, he becomes a logical spokesman on party positions concerning legislation before the House of planned.

Dr. Allen will continue to promote and fight for progressive legislation and as a leader of his party with special official status, should be in a better position to win support for such laws from GOP members. There are 25 Republicans in the 142-member House.

On the Democratic side of the aisle, Del. Arthur A. King of Prince Georges County, was named chairman of the Joint Committee on Organization and Procedures in the House of Delegates.

It marked the first time a member of his race had been named chairman of a standing committee in either chamber.

Nothing proves so emphatically how little race has to do with the leadership capabilities of an individual as an opportunity to show what he can do.

Del. Allen and Del. King are the type of leaders whose conduct in their new responsibilities will enhance the general political picture in Maryland.

A Message For OIC

Baltimore's Opportunity Industrial Center has become so mired in a fight within its ranks that it faces loss of support by the national OIC and by local businessmen.

This disgraceful situation must be cleared up without delay so that those persons in the community who would turn to OIC for the training they need to get jobs can be served.

There are conflicting arguments about what ails OIC. Robert Holt, former executive director, was fired. Other employes have supported him, taking a position against the board of directors, headed by the Rev. Sidney Daniels.

Alfred Ramsey, chairman of the voluntary council of businessmen and industrialists, says national OIC will withdraw use of its name unless the Rev. Mr. Daniels and other ministers on the board resign. Holt says businessmen will not support OIC until changes are made.

However, the Rev. Mr. Daniels insists an understanding has been reached with a regional representative of OIC and that instead of losing industry support, contracts have been extended.

All in it is a tragic situation For people who are supposed to be reaching out a helping hand to others in the community, it is a sorry and intolerable spectacle.

As a national organization OIC is making tremendous strides.

There should be some definite action taken to settle the local dispute by Jan. 31. The national OIC is expected to act by that date.

The community must start gearing itself now to throw full support behind the local leadership which gains OIC national backing so that the center in Baltimore can again join the list of those doing a meaningful job.

More Parks Sausages

Henry G. Parks and the Parks Sausage Co. marked a new level of business development this week with the issuance of some 220,000 shares of stock in the company.

From a small firm started in 1951 to serve mostly the central city colored market, Parks Sausage has grown into a major company reaching 12,000 food outlets catering to all markets.

Not only has Mr. Parks, who also is a city councilman in Baltimore, gained new personal success through making his company public, but he has made it possible for others in the community to buy in on the action.

More of us now will be able to get a personal thrill as part owners of a thriving major American company when we hear the famed ad jingle, "More Parks sausages, mom!"

The Orderly Transition Of Government

Apprehension has been rife for several months about what would happen when the Republicans took over the operation of the government. The much-feared on one hand and anticipated on the other finally came to pass on Monday. Mr. Nixon and his supporters moved in and President Lyndon Johnson and his supporters moved out.

Washingtonians are accustomed to this periodic change every four years, and except for some minor personnel changes in the various bureaus and agencies at the top, the everyday life of the average Federal employee goes on as usual.

There is usually a great flurry of excitement about the appointment of this or that high personage of color in this or that position of apparent authority, and there are great expectations among the rank and file and accumulated rumors that the lot of hundreds of little people will be greatly improved. But after months pass and the new administration hangs up its inauguration finery and puts on its work clothes, nothing really happens.

Career workers remain in their old nishes and are passed over for promotions which they have earned through long years of service and young upstarts are eased into the better grades while the incoming party begins to squeeze in all the people to whom they owe political debts and place all the friends of fat campaign contributors or relatives.

While all these readjustments are going on, the workers who must carry on the daily work of government sink lower and lower on the wage scale or are finally eased out all together.

While all this is going on, the so-called "black" big shot is lost in the shuffle after the publicity over his appointment has been bled for all that the traffic will bear. He is stripped of his power and forgotten.

The prime efforts of the race appointee for the remaining four years is to keep out of the limelight and away from controversy to protect his own job. Any involement on behalf of the masses is avoided like a plague. He or she must not be branded as a "trouble maker" because that would be the kiss of death.

Any appointee who is unfortunate enough to designated as having anything even remotely connected with race relation, equal opportunity or fair employment policy is generally considered a burial ground for protests and complaints. The bigger his reputation for being a fighter, the more apt he is to file your complaint where no white official will ever find it or even hear of it.

This is what is called in political parlance the smooth transition of government. If it can't be blamed on the outgoing party, the idea is to just sweep it under the rug, where it will not be seen. Incoming office holders look upon the conscientious "equal employment investigator" as a liability to the incumbents.

There is another angle to this that bears looking into. A famous white Catholic, in a speech of acceptance, boasted "I am proud to announce that all of my appointees are bona fide members of the Knights of Columbus, implying that he was only appointing Catholics and Italians. But the colored official was asked why he had no colored employees and he replied "Just because I am colored, I don't think I am going to pack my office with colored workers. I am going to give a chance to all races."

Bad Way To Go, But...

Our Readers Say:

Pictures On A Wall

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:

I am presently confined at the Maryland House of Correction — a maximum security institution. Recently one of the local grand juries came through on an inspection tour of the institution.

A day later one of the local papers carried the findings of the grand jury.

It was stated that on the walls of the cells were pictures of a demoralizing nature (90 percent of these pictures were the centerfold of Playboy magazine).

It was also stated that the inmates had curtains hung in their cells and the correctional officers couldn't see in the cells therefore advocating homosexuality.

It would seem to me being incarcerated in this institution on two previous occasions that the primary concern of this investigative party would be the security of the institution and the treatment of the prisoners in that order.

If the grand jury wanted to make the impact of their visit felt, why didn't they come unannounced so that they could see this filthy pig sty for what it is?

On the day they came we had a meal I hadn't seen before and haven't seen since.

Some of the members of this grand jury, or maybe all of them should spend a week or so in this cold, filthy place and they would see why the prisoners hang curtains in front of their cells, not in front of the doors but in front of the beds to help keep down the ever present dust and try to keep some of the cold air out of their living quarters, and this is exactly what these cells are to the inmates confined here.

Some of our residents have been with us for a few years and will be with us still in the years to come.

In 1963, when I first came here, no pictures were allowed on the walls, the only pictures we were allowed were those of our famiy or loved ones, and believe me there was an abundancy of homosexuality, muchmore so than there is now.

Curtains or pictures do not breed homosexuality, a man is what he is.

Maybe you have read where a man has been raped, but this is definitely a rare occasion, those that are homosexuals are readily available and don't have to be forced.

As for the pictures being demoralizing, if this was so, why didn't the grand jury order the pictures out of the jail, instead of having them removed from the walls, the inmates still have the pictures in their possession, so the issue is still here.

But now we have to sneak to look at them instead of doing it openly. And we are still allowed to receive these demoralizing Playboy magazines through the visiting room.

Evidently the issues they were interested in (security and treatment) met with their approval.

But we inmates have to live here not them.

Why should they deny us the opportunity to make our cells a little more attractive and livable?

Personally, I believe the wardens here should have taken a stand in the inmates behalf, as long as this jail is running smoothly they're in good stead.

But let a riot break out because of some grievance and the inmates do a few thousand dollars damage to state property and their heads will roll, and who will roll them, the same people who can't find anything else to harp about but pictures of women on the walls?

I am a man and I find beauty in a woman regardless of whether they are nude or clothed.

Maybe all of us should get pictures of half naked men to display.

I sincerly hope that none of the men on the grand jury became offended at the pictures of the women. And if it were the female members that were offended maybe the next time they come here in an institution for men (over 1,400 inmates) maybe they should leave their mini-skirts at home and wear maxi-dresses, so they won't be so self conscious of their attire.

JOHN H. HARRIS

Want A Pet?

Dear AFRO:

The Municipal Animal Shelter gives all its unsold and unclaimed dogs to experimental laboratories for painful and repetitious experiments.

Unfortunately, they don't tell this to people who send in dogs, most of the time. They are reluctant to do so, because the majority of the public wouldn't want their animals to undergo this painful type of scientific inquisition.

If anyone would like a nice pet, I wish that he or she would go to the Municipal Animal Shelter on Calverton Road and get one. It would be an act of mercy as it would rescue an innocent dumb animal from the merciless hands of the researcher.

(Miss) JUDITH DEE

Political Notebook

Nixon May Face Short Honeymoon

By MAX JOHNSON

President Richard Milhous Nixon's inaugural address shattered no eardrums, said nothing that hasn't been said before, carried him to no new heights and was about as general in theme as any safe speech should be.

Almost everybody is pleased to hear about world peace and the brotherhood of man.

The boat isn't rocked.

Facing explosive circumstances in Washington, elsewhere in the nation as well as abroad — the Nixon judgment held little for argument.

It was no longer a matter of — take me to your leader.

He is the leader — speaking at the time to himself as such, as well as to those he would lead.

Actually — the quiet delivery stood in marked contrast to his stormy campaign oratory. An opinion he was musing out loud to himself would be excusable.

It was time for deep sober reflection, tense quietness — an aura far from being motivated by the dignity of the ceremony itself.

The new President Nixon had just taken upon himself a cloak as full of trouble as a disturbed hornet's nest.

And it might well be that Mr. Nixon faces an extremely short honeymoon.

To begin with, he is now the titular head of his Republican Party — an unenviable position, to say the least.

For the GOP is so split at the seams and shabbily dressed it is hardy recognizable.

The Nixon decision to retain Ray Bliss, a chairman unable so far to get the party off its knees, could emerge as his second major error.

The first, of course, was the Nixon failure to replace Dr. Robert Weaver with another black American in a top level cabinet post.

Then — there looms that majority Democratic Congress, sure to be more recalcitrant than ever with an opposing party member in the White House.

The outlook isn't appetizing — however naively bright the eyes.

An elephantine portion of the Nixon programs inescapably faces a sticky amendment road through the Democratic Congress — of such consequences they aren't likely to emerge recognizable as his.

Aded to this is the king-sized headache of seething turmoil in city streets, explosive racial disunity, a highly vocal segment of the constituency yelling for law and order — and disgruntled opposing forces too downtrodden to care about law and order.

Further, there is the wariness of the black community — given little so far other than flowery phrases.

President Nixon has heavy troubles here at home to shoulder.

Not only are they monumental here, but they are even more so abroad.

There still stands as broad as daylight that pesky Vietnam war — a leechy thing boldly sucking away the prime youth of this nation with no solution in sight.

A quick Nixon solution would probably prompt a rescinding of the two-term presidential law and give him the White House for a permanent residence.

The President, who boastfully campaigned on a different note, now says he doesn't have one.

A fast-increasing nasty element of the public is certain to recall this and become even nastier.

Results could be of such a nature as to add new worry lines to the Nixon features in a matter of days.

The President, however, faces still a bigger problem of such magnitude it's frightening.

It's that explosive situation in the Middle East — and the sticky question of how best to handle it.

Here's a delicate bomb that could touch off World War III at any time with an error of judgment.

Mr. Nixon's capacity for correct decisions in hazardous international matters of this scope is untested.

His biggest claim to distinctive fame is that he was once this nation's Vice President — a post in which he was sent off on jaunts when not presiding over the Senate.

Had there not been the jaunts he would have gotten little schooling.

His boss at the time, Dwight Eisenhower, came up with some of the most indecisive decisions in history.

So — the new President Nixon had just cause to be in a quiet reflective mood in delivering his inaugural address.

A majority of America appears to be willing to rally around him in support.

But before long, Mr. Nixon just might find himself wishing fervently he was back again safe in his plush New York law office.

Remember the old adage?

All that glitters ain't necessarily gold.

Perspective

Beautiful!

By DAVID E. SLOAN

As has been shown before in this column, we are always interested in innovations that take place in the use of the tools of our craft, words.

For just as the journalist may use his observation of events to record the continuing history of his time, so he may gain new insights into the human drama by listening to and learning the meaning of unfamiliar as well as well-known words.

For example, when the "flower people" or "hippies" were new, they developed a staccato use of the work "like" which not only created a new interjection serving as a filler of open spaces in speech, but also bespoke the universal difficulty youngsters were having in attempting to draw comparisons between phenomena that ought to have but did not show sameness.

"Like you want me to tell the truth even at pain of punishment, dad, but you lie so much — to Internal Revenue, to mom — you don't even realize you're lying," a youth was heard to say to his father.

We became aware recently that another word which once meant one thing for so long has suddenly been given new meaning. The word is "beautiful."

Webster's dictionary naively declares that beautiful means having a "quality that excites sensuous or aesthetic pleasure."

But ever since Stokely Carmichael stood on the mud flats of Mississippi and yelled "Black power!" and "Black is beautiful!" the word "beautiful" has taken on new connotations.

Now it not only means what Webster says it means. It also means that which has an efficient ability to bring about a desired goal.

So when Appollo 8 efficiently soared around the moon and returned to earth, the event was beautiful.

The other night while watching television, we heard a learned young man address a leading question to Eric Mann, a contemporary philosopher of the New Left.

Mann was so impressed by the question, since it gave him a perfect opportunity to say just what he wanted, he began his answer with the one word, beautiful!

If we were to say, therefore, black Americans stand critically and alertly by in these beginning months of the Nixon Administration cataloging their impressions for future political use, our young friends would say, "beautiful!" meaning blacks do this as a demonstration of their capability to be aware citizens, ever alert to their interests.

Reflections In Verse

You ask, "What gives? Why do
Blacks cuss?
What is your gripe? What's all the
fuss?"
This is our answer (please read
through),
And then be fair. What would you do?
Our father's worked three hundred
years,
They gave their sweat, their blood
and tears
To mold and build a Nation free
For all who love sweet liberty.
Our fathers' backs helped bear the
loads,
They drained the swamps and built
the roads,
They were paid, his labor went
In helping forge a Government.
They cleared the forests, built the
schools,
They built the houses, lawns and
pools,
They built, improved, kept in repair,
And building hopes someday to share.
They built the barns and worked the
fields,
They reaped the crops, yet shared no
yields;
Free labor, thirty decades long!
Advanced to make our Nation strong.
In all our wars, on sea, in air,
They faltered not, in all did share;
They gave their blood, their sons,
their all
To make our Country safe and tall.
Our mothers cooked, were maids —
the crew
They nursed your sick, your children
too;
They hoed tobacco, cotton, corn,
And were mid-wives to children born.
They were seduced and raped and
rent,
Upon your altar, Lust, were spent;
You sired them children, these were
sold
To satisfy your greed for gold.
Two hundred years of labor free,
A hundred more in misery;
This represents their fortunes spent,
Investing in our Government.
In Equity we now seek aid,
Accountings for investments made,
With damage added for delays
And interest running years and days.
We ask review of other ills,
Of rights infringed against our wills,
God given rights of liberty,
And Civil Rights, due all men free,
For rights usurpted, ignored, denied,
By unjust laws by force applied.
For all injustice, partial rules,
That brought ghettos, unequal
schools.
For all the wrongs that fan hate-fires,
That brought despair, suppressed desires.
We lay these claims for liberty
Down at the feet of Equity.
Nor do we come with hats in hand,
But as free men, we make demands;
We come, free men, without amends
Demanding rights, our dividends.
And so we march and pout and fuss,
Some pray a bit while others cuss;
Some march and sing, some block the
way,
All seek the same — a better day.
Some may want out, I choose to stay,
I'll wait and wait until that day,
Tho' hell may freeze, tho' time expend,
I'll stick to get my dividend.
This is our Gripe, this is our Case,
This is our cause, our theme, our
race.
We shall not falter, fail or fall
Until we bring Full Rights to All.
You ask, "What gives? Why do we
cuss?
What do we want? Why do we fuss?"
And now I ask, What would you do
If all these wrongs applied to you?
(Republication authorized in interest
of better understanding.)

A. BRUCE KOGER
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AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in one permanent 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. — 1920

Facetious Candidate

State Senator Harry J. McGuirk startled newsmen last week with an announcement that he intends to run for the post of State Comptroller.

The graying Democrat and former Baltimore councilman told hushed reporters that "I want to be considered as a candidate" for the state office now held by Louis L. Goldstein.

Mr. McGuirk's candidacy for a state-wide office can only be held to be facetious. Any man who aspires for an important public office these days must have a proven record of social concern.

Unfortunately, Mr. McGuirk has chosen to ignore the basic tenets of human decency and the foundations of democracy. His record in the State Senate and the City Council can hardly be called enlightened.

Present and future candidates for high office in the state must run on their records. Mr. McGuirk's lackluster record has been duly noted.

Civil rights leaders to teach poverty course at JHU

James Farmer, founder of CORE; Walter Carter, director of the Model Cities program; and Walter Lively, civil rights leader, will join members of the Johns Hopkins faculty and other visiting lecturers in discussing the "Economics of Poverty."

The course, which will be offered to undergraduates beginning during the second semester, will be supervised by Dr. John Dwyer, associate professor of political economy.

Read this—you may be where welfare checks are cashed

Results of a survey to determine where Food Assistance checks are cashed in Baltimore City were released today by the State Department of Social Services.

The survey was requested by the State Board when it was reported welfare checks were being cashed at

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Suit still alive, Adam

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