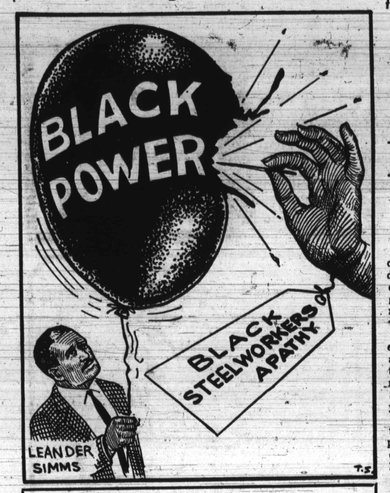
"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of hate and bitterness"—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

6 FEBRUARY 22, 1969



Perspective

Is Dick Doing Our Thing?

By DAVID E. SLOAN

Perhaps it is too early to tell, but all signs that are visible to read seem to tell black citizens of this country that Richard M. Nixon wants to be their President too.

It was just a month ago that the new Chief Executive assumed the mantle of office in a setting that was strikingly white as political gatherings go in the mid-1900s.

Most blacks of our acquaintance were more interested in seeing the Monday night movie of Jan. 20 than in watching the taped reruns of the Inaugural news reels.

And their lack of enthusiasm was not disturbed at all by the smirking presence of Spiro T. Agnew and the old-timey, clown antics of musician Lionel Hampton.

But that was all a month ago.

Since then, Dick Nixon has by no means become a 'brother,' nor do we have information that he has joined the NAACP.

But we have seen him on a foot excursion to the rubble-strewn, riot-torn section of Washington's inner city brandishing a promise to help Mayor Walter Washington out through red tape to finance rebuilding in the riot-scarred ghetto.

We have seen his new Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert Finch, cut off federal aid to three school districts in Arkansas, Tennessee and South Carolina for failure to meet federal desegregation guidelines.

We have also seen his new Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, file desegregation suits against the Houston, Tex. School District and against three parishes in Louisiana for stalling on presenting desegregation plans for schools.

In other words, the new President has shown in these ways his disposition to pursue the enforcement of the law where it benefits the black citizen.

Never mind that many by now are downgrading desegregated education as a desirable goal. The fact is that the most clearly symbolic act of espousing black equality under the law in the U.S. today is for the Government to continue to break the back of separatist law and practices wherever they exist.

And then, just last week we saw the new President appoint James Farmer, militant-extraordinary, to a subcabinet post in HEW where he can have great influence throughout the Federal establishment.

And if Mr. Farmer's record and personality are good guides, no one can say Nixon picked up a black yesman.

Perhaps the absolute, best thing that black citizens perceive about the new Administration is that it is worrying the conservative, white Southern establishment.

One leader was quoted as having said last week, "If Robert Finch promotes policies of school integration, the Republican Party will be hurt throughout the South. The South knows there can be no return to segregation, but it does not want vindictive action taken against it."

If Mr. Nixon keeps on the way he has started in these first 30 days, the new President may convince black citizens — and a number of right-thinking whites and others of both parties — that he really does want to "bring us together;" that he really wants to be our President too.

On February 21st, we honor the anniversary of Malcolm X's death.

Malcolm X, or El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, as he became known after his famous journey to Mecca, was assassinated in 1965 as he spoke in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. He was introduced as "one who is a trojan for the black man and he gave his familiar greeting, "Asalaikum, brothers and sisters."

"Asalaikum salaam," some in the audience responded, the reader is told in Alex Haley's epilogue to "The Autobiography of Malcolm X."

"About eight rows of seats from the front then, a disturbance occured," Haley wrote. "In a sudden scuffling, a man's voice was raised angrily, "Take your hand out of my pocket!"

"The entire audience was swiveling to look. 'Hold it, hold it! Don't get excited,' Malcolm X said crisply, 'Let's cool it, brothers...'

"With his own attention distracted, it is possible that he never saw the gunmen. One woman who was seated near the front says, 'The commotion back there diverted me just for an instant, then I turned back to look at Malcolm X just in time to see at least three men in the front row stand and take aim and start firing simultaneously. It looked like a firing squad.'"

Since his death, he has become a hero to thousands of black Americans, particularly young black revolutionaries. During his lifetime, his words inspired a generation of courageous civil rights workers to question their belief in non - violence - a questioning which led to the black nationalist explosion 16 months after his death.

Malcolm X's call to black youth to look into their glorious past has been answered in the student revolts over black studies "In hating Africa and in hating Africans, we ended up hating ourselves, without even realizing it," he said.

The black nationalist leader emphasized that you "can't hate the roots of the tree and not hate the tree. You can't hate your origin and not end up hating yourself.

"You can't hate Africa and not hate yourself. You show me one of these people over here who has been thoroughly brainwashed and has a negative attitude toward Africa, and I'll show you one who has a negative attitude toward himself. You can't have a positive attitude toward yourself and a negative attitude toward Africa at the same time."

Student agitation for African History courses are the best indication that his prophetic words and spirit have not died with his body.

Malcolm X came down hard on the non-violent philosophy of the early 1960's. "There's no such thing as a nonviolent revolution. The only revolution in which the goal is loving your enemy is the Negro revolution.

"That's no revolution. Revolution is based on land. The white man knows what revolution is. He knows that the black revolution is world-wide in scope and in nature. The Cuban Revolution — that's a revolution. They overturned the system.

"Revolution is bloody, revolution is hostile, revolution knows no compromise, revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way.

"Revolution is never based on begging someone for an integrated cup of coffee. Revolutions are never based on turning the other cheek.

"And revolutions are never based on singing, 'We Shall Overcome.' Revolutions overturn systems. And there is no system on this earth which has proven itself more corrupt, more criminal, than this system that in 1964 still colonizes 22 million Afro-Americans and still enslaves 22 million Afro-Americans."

In the District, major activities in honor of Malcolm X's death will be held at New School of Afro-American Thought, 2115 14th St., NW. Dramatic readings, talks, eulogies and musical selections will be given from 7 p.m. until midnight February 21-23.

Each of us in our own way should pay homage to this courageous black man who taught his people to love and respect themselves and be willing to die for freedom and justice.

Shameful Failure

Colored steelworkers have been clamoring for a voice on the board of directors of the United Steel Workers of America, the nation's second largest union. This was one of their major demands at last year's convention.

Baltimore steelworkers had a golden chance to do something about the all-white policymaking directorship in the District 8 election when experienced and competent Leander Simms campaigned for the $30,000 a year job.

Considering what was at issue, plus the fact Simms had the active support of I W. Abel, international president, one would have expected a heavy colored vote for Simms.

Instead, the turnout was disgracefully low.

Here was an opportunity to reach out and win some black power in the democratic tradition.

"If I had got a strong black vote I could have won," a dejected Simms was to comment after the election.

He did as well as was expected among white voters.

This is the type situation he ran into among his own people:

Baltimore Local 2610 has about 13,500 members and an estimated 43 percent of them are colored. Only 3,583 votes were cast there for both candidates, about 6,000 fewer than the number cast in the previous election when no colored candidate ran.

There are about 5,300 colored members in Local 2610. They failed miserably to support Simms.

A second thing about the election, looking at the vote from 2610 and other locals, is that white voters did not turn out in huge numbers to rally around the white candidate in an effort to beat Simms.

This kind of lack of interest in progress by colored steelworkers, we suggest, is behind many of the problems they have in winning advancements and equal opportunities at Bethlehem Steel.

Nobody pays much attention to people who won't stand up and be counted when the chips are down.

District 8's colored steelworkers have just displayed a remarkable example of lack of interest in their own welfare.

They can rest assured the powers that be in the companies and international union did not overlook this shameful failure.

Loss To Community

Baltimore suffered a real loss when the Cahill Recreation Center near Leakin Park was destroyed by fire on Sunday.

Reports by firemen that one or more arsonists caused the fire are disturbing.

Cahill was one of the busiest recreation centers in the city.

It operated six days a week and during the summer was home base of one or more summer camp activities.

For 35 years Cahill played an important role in the development of young people. It also served as a meeting place and center of activities for some adults.

It would take a rather sick person to set fire to a recreation center, or any other building.

Any citizen with information that might help police in apprehending the guilty person should come forth.

It is not safe for the community to have arsonists at liberty to strike at will.

A man who will turn down a recreation center like Cahill will destroy anything.

Keep Self-Help Autonomy

Poor people know best what their problems are, what caused their problems, and most likely know best how to solve them. This is the exciting thing about Self-Help Housing. It is the only Poverty Program group that is conceived and run by people who come from and live in the area it serves.

Self-Help is facing a possible disruption of its governing board and loss of faith from the people it serves because the city auditor recommended that it be suspended until new leadership replaces the leadership that got Self-Help off the ground.

What might happen if Self-Help's autonomy is violated is that one of the strongest forces protecting tenant rights and giving a hand in home repairs and sanitation will be destroyed.

The Rent Escrow Bill does not protect tenants from eviction if they withhold their rent because of landlord negligence.

Groups like Self-Help that can inform tenants of whatever rights they have and negotiate with landlords are the only avenues of redress open to most Baltimore tenants. And evidence indicates that Self-Help is doing its job.

The strength of Self-Help is its community self-determination.

If this freedom is taken through CAA intervention and self-determination violated, there is evidence that Self-Help will no longer be "the most successful group in the Poverty Program" — enthusiasm often dies with freedom.

The way out of the dilemma caused by the auditor's findings that funds have been mismanaged seems to be a simple matter.

Do what Self-Help employees themselves say they want done: let someone who knows how to keep a budget and who knows bookkeeping work with the group to prevent another bad audit.

Stride Forward

Provident Hospital has taken another stride forward with its anti-drug abuse program which began operating this month.

Such projects can be welcomed on two counts:

With mounting crime rates linked to drug abuse, programs which lead to an end of the addiction can only help citizens breathe easier.

And such a program, embodying a sensible approach to addiction, should provide a welcome alternative to the hell of the addicts.

The Provident program — Project ADAPT (Anti-Drug Abuse Program and Therapy) — provides a sane combination of medical and group therapy.

ADAPT has three different phases of care one of which may be prescribed for a patient. Two of the phases utilize Methadone, the synthetic drug, either to wean the addict from heroin or the dangerous drugs or to maintain and rehabilitate the addict away from the dangerous drugs. A third phase, requiring strength and conviction, relies on abstinence by the patient.

The detoxification, or weaning phase, done with diminishing doses of methadone, is believed to be unique to the Provident program.

In this context, it is interesting to note that the Provident program was drawn up by medical men to embody treatment they feel will work. Methadone is one of the integral parts of that treatment.

In this area we are willing to put our confidence in the medical authorities, and place no credence whatever in the Puritanical beliefs of the members of a recent Grand Jury which lead them to condemn the use of methadone in rehabilitation.

Without consulting the medical testimony on the methadone treatment, the jury's report condemned the methadone treatment, urging in its stead the exertion of will.

The failure of many programs based on will power in the past and the return of many addicts to habit after having kicked it show the need for bold new projects such as the Provident undertaking.

We hope its success will cause it to become a model for future ventures in quelling the fires of the hell of addiction.

First Lesson of Economics

One of the elementary lessons of economics is that free trade bolsters the economies of the nations engaging in it, and restrictions on trade weaken economies.

Without restrictions, a country's citizens benefit by being able to buy goods at their cheapest price, no matter where they are made. With restrictions, a citizen has only one choice: to buy his own country's goods, no matter how expensive.

Without restrictions, nations each make the goods they can manufacture most efficiently, and buy where they can get the best price.

The Maryland "Buy American" Bill (House Bill 16) now before the Maryland Legislature flies in the face of this simple lesson in economics.

The bill on the face of it has the purpose of prohibiting state agencies from buying goods from countries that interfere with the free flow of U.S. products in world trade.

But, the American Institute for Imported Steel rightly points out that the bill could boomerang by depriving people of Maryland of benefits they have enjoyed from relatively unrestricted international trade. The definitions are so bad as to include practically all countries.

The elimination of foreign products from use in public projects advocated by the bill, would prompt similar barriers for American exports, as well as force the cost of these projects higher.

In addition, Maryland could be deprived of its lucrative export market for its agricultural products. And the port of Baltimore would certainly suffer.

There should be no place in the Maryland law books for this parochial, and most likely unconstitutional, bill.

Afro Action Line

ACTION LINE, a new AFRO community service, will help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post card to ACTION LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to starting the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO ACTION LINE each week because that is where the action is.

QUESTION — Please help me find my brother, Roscoe Winder Dobyns, who was honorably discharged from the Navy at San Diego, Calif. in 1965. He said he was going to get a government job and was residing at 611 5th Ave., San Diego at that time. He was formerly on the submarine, USS Gilligan, B-508, Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif. We dont know if he is dead or alive. Since we last heard from him, two of our brothers have died. We want so much to hear from him. — Mrs. O. L. Yerby

ANSWER — Social Security Administration is on the trail for Mrs. Yerby. On Wednesday they received her request in writing and are searching for information. If SS has the brother's name, address and Social Security number or any other clue, they will contact him and let him write to her. (NOTE: Social Security in care of Mrs. Charlotte Crenson, Room 111, Administration Wing, Baltimore, Md. 21235 will only receive requests in writing. No information about a person can be given out but if they can locate someone, that person himself will be reached and asked to contact YOU, that is if he or she wants to do so.)

• • •

QUESTION — Our next door neighbor has three dogs in the yard. No one cleans up and we dread the first warm day which will come soon. And the barking that goes on! And the "company" the two lady dogs have, now that it is "boyfriend time"! What can be done? Isn't there a limit to the number of dogs and cats a person can have in the city? — Mrs. Rea Brown.

ANSWER — Sorry, there is no limit to pets as long as the owners keep the place clean. If the over-crowding seems to be unfair to the animals, call the SPCA, 235-8226. They'll take care of that phase of the problem and talk with the owners about the girl dogs having too much company too. Meantime, report the unclean situation to the Health Department, (Pl. 2-2000, Ext. 507 or 508 (City Hall). An inspector will go to the residence of the dogs, check the nuisances and then send a written notice through the mails for the correction. If the problem is not corrected in 10 days when the inspector returns, in 10 days a final notice will be sent. After that, the owners can expect a court summons if the nuisance is not taken care of.

• • •

QUESTION — At a department store a wig salesman snatched the wig I was trying on from my head and I feel the treatment accorded me as a customer needs looking into. — Mrs. Gloria Holt.

ANSWER — The personnel manager at the store looked into the matter immediately when we called him. As he said, "We have a policy of treating customers with every respect since without them we're dead pigeons." In the wig department, the store says it fries on wigs "all day long" and 40 to 50 percent of the buyers are black persons who receive cordial acceptance.

• • •

QUESTION — At O'Donnell Heights, a public housing project, we have had heat trouble over a month. Also garbage cans with no lids allow the trash to blow all over my block. — Mrs. Shantee Johnson.

ANSWER — Edwin Richards, assistant manager, says over half the residents in your court have received warning letters about their responsibility for garbage cans and sanitary conditions. A social worker is due to call to get the cooperation of the neighbors. About the heat from your individual furnace, he says maintenance men are trying to get around that way as fast as they can. They have 900 individual furnaces to look after.

Our Readers Say:

Reverence For Life After Birth

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signature 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:

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow, standing on the USA Justice Department steps on 2-5-69, asked for a shift of USA priorities from war to development at home.

Cortta Scott King is a prophetess, following in her prophet - husband's footsteps, and the footsteps of Gandhi—literally and figuratively. She noted her disdain for guns. Need we ask why?

On 2-11-69 "The Church and Violence in the Nation" convention opens in Atlanta. It might profitably consider Dr. King's conclusion that the USA is the present-world's greatest purveyor of violence. Let us and the convocation participants ponder the following:

In service to living persons, violence to inanimate places and things (slums, concentration camps and ovens, buildings, draft cards and files, political and military machines, etc.) is justified yea—encouraged.

For a relatively short span of time it has been evident that it is practical for man to actually live without killing any other animate (living and breathing) thing from man to insects and germs. Why? How? Is it possibly because of birth control tactics on the one hand and protein substitutes for diets on the other?

Have Moses, Indian Hindus, and Albert Schweitzer been right all along? Most men have seen it as impractical to allow other people and living things the precious gift of life too—especially detrimental insects and animals. Is birth control for all living things the answer?

What does this imply and prophecy for war, capital punishment, and carnivorous animals? Should any animal (including man) eat another animal (or fish)?

Is one characteristic of man (the (and style of life which acknowledges) that life is sacred? Does this pledges) that life is sacred? Does this concern distinguish man from the beasts? He, of all animals, should see this sacredness of life.

What is implied for high powered car manufacturers and dealers; alcohol, dope, cigarette, and gun manufacturers and dealers; slumlords and draft-board-overlords; air-pollution; law and order gun-wielders (and users); hunters and fishermen; gun (and rat) control legislation; spy and political executions; military and police professionals of any political stripe; physical (and mental) lynchings? Are military paraphernalia and the glorification of the military (past and present) now anachronistic and decadent in this new world?

What is implied for life shortening habits, and sports injuries?

What is implied for purpose theologians who seem more concerned about life before birth (and breath) that post-natal independently breathing inhalers and inflatables—in Mississippi, Watts Saigon, Biafra, Prague, and Palestine?

(Where can this writer hide for protection from critical readers of this item—as a matter of life and breath and death?)

BROTHER JAMES

James Callis

Dear AFRO:

I commend the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN for the excellent news items which appeared in its issue of February 15, 1969 in reference to James A. B. Callis. For a number of years Mr. Callis and I were on the Board of Directors of the YMCA. He always acted with commendable zeal and I can vision him now as he sat at his usual spot at the Board meetings. His meritorious services on numerous boards deserve public acclaim and I am glad to join with many friends of Mr. Callis in paying this tribute to him.

HARVEY C. BICKEL

The Review Board

My poetry emergence was no miracle
Just simply enough I waxed lyrical,
But the New York Times
Said these contemporary crimes
Leave our editors all hysterical.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

Spy Executions

Dear AFRO:

I really don't know what all the excitement and protest is about in the execution of 14 convicted spies in Iraq.

Didn't we ourselves execute the Rosenberg couple in the 1950's for espionage?

CLAYTON D. LOUGHRAN

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 injustice and prejudice, or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR. — 1920

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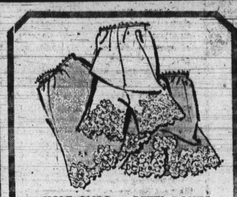
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