Rule Change

"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

4 MARCH 22, 1969

Change On Judgeships

The Mandel court package bill is an example of a systematic method of dealing with colored people when they are in positions of leadership.

Once a black judge demonstrates the ability to win an election, as Judge Joseph Howard did, then the rules are changed and there are no more elections.

Gov. Mandel's bill in effect would give all present judges life time appointments and would allow the governor to appoint judges when there are vacancies

There are now only three colored judges — all three of them should be aware that they are probably the last judges of color to preside in Maryland.

All three of these judges should speak out now against this bill before it is passed.

"I was elected to the Supreme Bench in November 1968 and, if the proposed amendment is passed at a special election in 1969, I could be renamed and continued in office until age 70.

"This is indeed enticing to all judges, but it is devastating to dark people who are trying so desperately to participate in the determination of their own destiny," Judge Howard writes.

We agree with Judge Howard that the welfare of the community is more important than the security of an individual judge's job.

All citizens, community leaders, church leaders, and the used-to-be-apathetic joined together to elect Judge Howard.

Now those same people must unite to make sure that there is another opportunity to elect another colored judge in this state.

The Pool Hall Issue

There is an obvious need for people to keep an eye on the City Council and challenge any legislation that would be harmful to their welfare.

A group of citizens, labeled 'black city councilmen,' appeared at City Hall on two occasions last week.

Their concern: The Council's proposal to pass a bill which would allow pool halls to remain open until 2 a.m., and lower the age limit to 16.

Because they live in the community, the so-called black councilmen know for a fact that some bars and pool halls breed crime.

They insist, properly so, that there be proper control and policing of these amusement areas.

The problem is that there is a conservative element in the Council which reacts in a hostile manner when concerned people speak out.

Instead of lending an ear to demands of grass roots people, they talk down to the community and threaten to take over Model Cities or cut back on federal anti-poverty money.

Obviously, this is not the way to represent their constituents.

It is up to the Council to open its doors, welcome the residents who have complaints, and listen to those who live in the areas whose welfare is in jeopardy.

Only through this kind of dialogue and responsive action can Baltimore's public representatives properly conduct the city's business.

Why Not Here?

OIC has worked in every other city except Baltimore. Last week the training director announced, "We're operating, but it's on the marrow of the bone."

One reason Opportunities Industrialization Center is barely functioning is personal conflicts. There is no excuse for letting a good program go down the drain because people can't get along.

OIC has trained many men and women for good jobs and bright futures. There is very little bureaucracy as compared with many poverty programs. The people who come there for training are paid a very nominal allowance. They come because they want to.

We hope that the program can salvage what is left and demonstrate that the concept can work here. We think it can.

Appropriate Thank Yous

Too often, public servants retire without a thank-you for a job well done.

Public testimonials last week honored three who have given superior public service in our community.

Reuben F. Jones, principal of Carver High, a teacher and principal for 44 years;

Miss Esther Lazarus, director of the Department of Public Welfare, 30 years; and

Mrs. Lillian M. Murphy, teacher, principal, director of schools, 48 years.

We congratulate the sponsors who arranged the testimonials for these three fellow citizens.

All of them have served with distinction in their areas. All of them are deserving of the honors they received.

There is consolation that Mr. Jones, Mrs. Murphy and Miss Lazarus are still comparatively young and have many useful years ahead.

It is comforting to know that the community will be able to benefit from their wisdom in the years ahead.

Transportation's Record

John Volpe, the new Secretary of Transportation has begun his task by talking right as far as minority group employment is concerned.

We note that Secretary Volpe has found what this newspaper has been writing about for more than two years that the record of black employment at the Dept. of Transportation is alarmingly low.

Mr. Volpe's office issued a statement saying that while he is assembling a team of specialists to attack the congestion problems of air and highway travel, he is concerned with lack of congestion in another area.

"Whenever," the statement read, "the Secretary ticks off the items of concern on his list of priorities, he never fails to express his disappointment over the lack of Negro and other minority group employees in the Department of Transportation."

Mr. Volpe admits "The percentages fall very low and we aim to do something about it."

The words sound encouraging. However it seems to the AFRO and its readers, that we have heard that song before.

Mr. Volpe's predecessor, Alan S. Boyd, made similar utterances. Although Mr. Boyd saw an increase of black people on his immediate staff, nowhere among the Department's nearly 100,000 employees is there to be found a black face with the so-called "supergrade" rank of GS-16 and above.

This is what Mr. Volpe has inherited. This is what he says will be corrected. We wish him well. And we hope that in correcting this deficiency, he will go beyond the outmoded approach of tokenism.

Mrs. King Carries On

"I know he has gone because his seat is vacant." Most Protestants who have attended the funerals of their friends and loved ones have listened with tear-dimmed eyes as some Baptist or Methodist clergyman has intoned those lines over the remains of a departed brother.

When thusly eulogizing a person, they imply that he left a place in life that will be hard to fill and for some time, probably a generation, no substitute can be found to take the place of the one who has passed to his eternal reward.

Members and sympathizers of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference can take pride in the fact that they had a person of the stature of Mrs. Coretta King, widow of their slain leader, to substitute for him as she did at St. Paul's in London, with a stirring sermon Sunday.

Mrs. King acquitted herself with distinction, thrilling an audience of 3000 consisting of high British dignitaries, members of Parliament and representatives of the crown, the first time that a woman, white or colored, had so addressed them.

Of her sermon, Dean Sullivan of St. Paul's said: "Mrs. King's sermon was beautifully done, so sweet and moving. Having her here has been a great benefit to St. Paul's. I think much good will flow from her visit."

Dr. King has been missed since his assassination for which James Earl Ray was convicted in Memphis last week and sentenced to 99 years imprisonment.

We can truly say, after hearing of Mrs. King's performance in London: Dr. King has gone but his seat is not vacant as long as Mrs. King carries on in his stead.

A Prayer For Lent

Almighty God, who hast shown us the true way of blessedness in the life and teaching of thy Son, and in His suffering and death dost teach us that the path of love may lead to the Cross, and that the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns:

Give us grace to learn these hard lessons, and to take up our Cross and follow Christ in the strength of patience, and in the constancy of faith.

And may we have such fellowship with him in his sorrow, that we may know the secret of His strength and peace, and even in the darkest hour of trial and anguish see the shining of the eternal light; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. — AMEN

Our Readers Say:

Questions Mandel

Readers are invited to submit letters for publi cation. 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:

Governor Marvin Mandel has worked untiringly for the past week forcing a bill through the Senate and House making sure that a colored man would not be able to be elected as Supreme Court Judge in Baltimore City.

We, the voters, will lose our constitutional rights to vote if this bill is forced through the legislature.

This bill is a referendum which means that the voters of the State of Maryland must vote on the bill whenever the election takes place.

Under this bill, the governor will appoint judges for 15 years and then it will be up to the Senate to say that he should serve another 15 years. Then the public will have to vote to okay the judge, if he is rejected by the Senate. If the electorate does not elect this judge, then the governor can appoint another judge for 15 years.

Under our constitution, the people of our city and state should have the right to vote for a judge of the Supreme Bench. We are talking about integration, this is segregation in its worst form.

There is every reason to believe this is a frantic reactionary bit of legislation given impetus because a black citizen, Judge Joseph C. Howard, beat the political establishment in winning an unprecedented election to Baltimore's Supreme Bench in the past election.

ROBERT MARSHALL

Ray trial 'token'

Dear AFRO:

On March 10, 1969, another example of "tokenism" was offered to the Black citizens of America, for on this date the Federal courts tried and convicted James Earl Ray for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. This will go down as another display of American "justice," another slap in the face for every Black man, woman and child in this country.

The opportunity to delve into the real murderers of Dr. King was at hand at the time of the trial when the accused insinuated and hinted of a conspiracy involving persons unknown and himself, an insinuation the prosecutor and the court chose to disregard rather than pursue.

These persons will remain unknown unless the members of the Black race demand that all information possible be dug out of the dirt surrounding James Ray. Of course, it will involve "stepping on a few toes" and maybe embarrassing some "higher ups" but we all know that as surely as James Earl Ray pulled the trigger, someone else took him out of jail, helped him get to Memphis, aided him in fleeing the state past numerous roadblocks after the shooting, and financed his escape from the country before he was apprehended.

It may cost money to bring into the open the "real killers" but so did the Warren Commission Report and Black tax dollars helped to finance this investigation of facts.

It may also take time but as a great man once said, "How long will it take? It will not be long for truth pressed into earth will rise again. How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, because the arm of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

How ironic that this should be true even in his death, but not long.

THELMA KOGER PARKER

Police dogs wanted

Dear AFRO:

I would like for it to be known that Rev. Vernon Dobson does not speak for me and hundreds of other colored women when he says that police with dogs are not wanted to walk the streets and alleys in our neighborhoods. I am a little sick of some of these people who are taking it on themselves to speak for the whole community. When in reality they are only speaking (maybe) for a few hundred people. I for one can speak for myself. I am thankful that we in this community are getting a foot patrolman with a dog.

MRS. IDA DAVENPORT

Another winner

Dear AFRO:

We read with great pride and humility in the March 8 issue of the AFRO, your recognition of our efforts to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for low and moderate income families, by placing us on the 30th Annual AFRO Honor Roll.

I want to express our sincere appreciation for this fine honor and pledge our total effort to extend the job of upgrading homes and neighborhoods for the citizens of Baltimore.

WILLIAM A. ROSS,
Executive Vice-President, HOPE

Ignoring poor

Dear AFRO:

Some members of our City Council — among them Reuben Caplan, William Bonnett, Joseph Mach, and James Duffy—seem willing to deny to the poor people of Baltimore ten million dollars of federal aid.

Why?

Because a disruption of their meeting by black militants mortally offended them. Mr. Duffy called them "riff-raff;" Mr. Mach wanted to call in Communist advisors; Mr. Duffy felt slighted that the mayor gave audience to the militants; and Mr. Duffy also threatened to "knock out" the Model Cities and CAA programs. Reuben Caplan would sacrifice federal money unless the City Council can exercise more control over the programs.

The reactions above indicate to me that these councilmen's aversion to the militants is greater than their concern for the poor.

SHIRLEY HARTWELL

No to loitering bill

Dear AFRO:

It would be a mistake to minimize the seriousness or the size of the crime problem which confronts us. Today Baltimore, like its sister cities across the nation, is threatened by the grave problem of crime.

The majority of the citizens of Baltimore say, "We are not moving on a large enough scale, we are not moving at a fast enough pace in what should be an all-out war on crime."

Yet too, we do not support the proposed anti-loitering law.

A loitering ordinance such as Councilman Gallagher proposes is no curtailment to crime on the streets. When the intent of this ordinance is noted closely its impact projects a terrifying picture.

In essence the intent of the ordinance is to curtail crime by stopping people from loitering or congregating aimlessly on the streets. Violators who failed to move off to the ordered liking of a policeman would be subject to arrest. Realistically, it is aimed at giving the policeman added power to molest citizens.

It would produce some frightening results in the area of race relations.

I am a proponent for a war on crime, excluding the ordinance proposed by Councilman Gallagher.

Now, I request of the propondents of this ordinance that their next request to Councilman Gallagher is for him to introduce a strongly worded resolution favoring the enactment of a truly effective gun-control law.

LARRY YOUNG
Executive Director,
Baltimore Youth Franchise

Animal Protest

Dear AFRO:

The Municipal Animal Shelter on Calverton Road sells its unclaimed and unadopted animals to the research laboratories for painful experiments.

Most people in the city of Baltimore are unaware of this when they turn over their pet to the city shelter.

Won't you be the "voice of the voiceless." They can neither speak out nor protest, but we can. Will you?

JUDITH DEE

Afro Line

AFRO 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 AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the action is.

CROWD SEES DEPARTMENT STORE INCIDENT

QUESTION — Monday evening at a downtown department store a whole crowd of customers stood by in terror as security men choked, subdued and handcuffed a man in the most brutal way. You just had another complaint about this same store which we understand underpays employees and has no black people in responsible positions. About 90 percent of us go there but I won't set foot in there again. This was the most horrible thing I have ever seen.—MRS. B.

ANSWER — The executive vice president regrets the incident he admits occurred as you say and states "It did our store no good but I do not know of any other way it could have been handled. The man resisted restraint."

The executive also said he was taking steps to generally correct the store's image and would like complaints to come so he will know where to take action.

HOSPITAL INCIDENT

QUESTION: I was in a Northwest Baltimore hospital when 1 witnessed disorderly conduct on the part of two policemen.

Their actions were such they could have ignited a riot. Except that those of us who witnessed their behavior kept our heads, things would have been of riot proportions. A. N. S.

ANSWER: This column has received a number of complaints about this incident. Citizens do have a responsibility to report such behavior to police officials. This has been done. An investigation is underway.

Political Notebook

Judgeship Bill Is Asinine Proposal

By MAX JOHNSON

Almost every session of Maryland's General Assembly in recent years, like Congress, has produced at least one outstanding piece of proposed legislation harmful to citizens' rights — and this fast-concluding session is no exception.

The general theme of these measures has been dangerously asinine.

Invariably, like Congress again, such bills have been moved to near passage and/or passage by the state's Assembly.

Again, this 70-day Assembly session is no exception. This time the Assembly has topped its own dubiously distinctive record in this respect.

At question here is the ridiculous bill to give to the governor appointive powers of judgeships for what must be construed as until mandatory retiring age of 70 to the Court of Appeals, intermediate courts of appeal, the Circuit Courts and the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

Such judges so appointed by the governor under current law must stand for election to a 15-year term.

Actually, Assembly lawmakers, obviously with tongue in cheek, amended the original life appointment clause in the judgeship bill to dictate a 15-year appointive term.

Then they turned around and came up with what somebody must have considered a brilliant salving amendment which says virtually the same thing as a life service appointment.

This amendment to guarantee such judgeship appointments to hold until the retiring age of 70 reads:

"If the 15-year term of a judge shall expire before that judge shall have attained the age of 70 years, that judge shall be reappointed by the governor, with the Senate's consent, for another 15-year term, or until he shall have attained the age of 70 years, whichever may first occur."

Key, of course, is that a sitting judge would be reappointed.

This means that under provisions of this bill voters would no longer be able to have the constitutional right of electing judges of their own choice.

Had this been the law last year, it wouldn't have been possible to have elected the black representative Judge Joseph C. Howard to Baltimore's Supreme Bench, nor the Jewish representative Judge Paul A. Dorf.

Before proceeding further, it should be noted this legislative proposal is a measure pressed for by Gov. Marvin Mandel.

The Senate has approved the bill and it is now before the House of Delegates.

The House, earlier, first rejected a companion measure introduced in that chamber, but under sharp prodding by Mandel aides reconsidered and passed its own bill too.

This means the judgeship appointive measure is virtually assured of Assembly passage.

To move further with this silly bit of proposed legislation, it must be noted there's a provision, spelled out in some detail by an amendment saying the same thing as the original bill which is quite interesting.

It might answer some unanswered thinking on why such a proposal would be given serious consideration — even by Maryland's current flock of lawmakers.

Here's what the thing says:

"No member of the General Assembly at which these amendments are proposed, or at which the number of or salary of judges for any of the courts of the eight circuits or for any of the counties or for the Court of Appeals or special Court of Appeals may be or may have been increased or decreased by the General Assembly from time to time;

"If otherwise qualified shall be ineligible for appointment as judge of the Court of Appeals or any other court by reason of his membership in such General Assembly."

Stricken of excessive and intended cloudy legal-type wordage for the layman, the amendment means simply this:

Any qualified member of the Assembly may be appointed to a judgeship by the governor, under the new bill.

So — hope abounds among many Assembly, members that they or their recommended choice, by virtue of support of the Mandel bill, will some day be smiled on by the governor for a judgeship vacancy in their bailiwick.

The Mandel bill carires other misgivings for minority groups.

There has been little exhibited by the governor to date to indicate he has fondness for the black community by way of appointments.

To be fair, of course, the bulk of his board and commission appointments are still to come.

Besides, Mandel will not be governor indefinitely — whatever his good appointive intentions.

There is one saving grace about this judgeship bill that gives citizens some redress — though it is certain to be passed and signed by Gov. Mandel.

It is a proposed constitutional amendment — a suggested change in the state's Constitution.

This means it must either be ratified or rejected by voters at the state's general election in November of next year.

So — Maryland voters have the last say on this asinine proposal for the governor's appointment of judges for life service terms.

This is a key point to remember after they have passed the bill.

POET'S NOOK

THE GOING THING

We danced barefoot in the snow
It was the going thing, you know
We couldn't wait for spring
And simply did our thing.
We sang off key, it was nothing to it
It was the going thing, our jazzy duet
We made the minor chords crash
And our voices clash.
We dined on wine and cheese
The going thing is a breeze,
Conformity is a dismal drag
And our hangup was a modern bag.
Swing power is the real sound
Waltzes and polkas is a letdown
We make waves that soothes
As long as the tempo grooves.
Tomorrow we may not make the scene
But don't dig me to complain
For the going thing is acceleration
And we make our vibration.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

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. - 1926

Rockin' Robin discusses Ruffin and Temptations

Rockin' Robin sat in his chair in the Premier Attractions office and waved his arms around in circles as he discussed David Ruffin and the new Temptations.

"I'm very close to them and I was hurt by the split. I'm glad everybody is doing well because I feel for them like my brothers," the Robin said.

David Ruffin will be coming to the Civic Center Sunday, March 23, headlining a show with Gladys Knight and the Pips, Jerry Butler, the Unifics, Mark Wes and his Soulful Trio, and Collection and the Civics.

"I never got a full story on it, maybe we can all find out when he comes to town, we can hear it from his lips," Rockin' Robin says of the split between the Temptations and their lead singer, Ruffin last year.

Ruffin has been schooled in the gospel tradition and carries the emotion of his Baptist Missesilli background. His first single as a solo act, "My Whole World Ended, The Moment You Left Me," has broken into the top ten R and B lists.

"David Ruffin in my opinion is destined to become in the very near future the hottest single mae act in the country," the WWIN nightbird says about the Sunday star.

Gladys Knight and the Pips is another group that bounced back from group difficulties and have produced a landmark sound with their million-selling "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." They have been working as a group for at least 10 years and record with Motown.

Rockin' Robin, who will m.c. the show at the Civic Center, spent a lot of time describing the style of one of the giants in single male vocalists — Jerry Butler.

"Jerry Butler is the only soul act in the country who can come on stage and never move a muscle, but can excite an audience to the same degree as those performers who employ all kinds of choreography and acrobatic movements," the Robin said about the former Impressions lead singer.

"When he puts his hands together and looks out into the audience and begins to sing what is now a standard entitled "For Your Precious Love' he can bring the house down," he stated.

Right now Butler has a million seller going with "Only The Strong Will Survive," and an album entitled "The Ice Man Cometh."

"Of all the new talent that I have witnessed in the past several years, the Unifics have more of what it takes to become big time in the future," Rockin' Robin says about the Unifics. They now have their third release out with "It's a Groovy World."

Mark Wes and the Soulful Trio is a Baltimore group, and Wes was former lead singer for the Strands. A songwriter as well as a singer, Wes organized the group three months ago.

"As his personal manager I can truthfully say there is no one in the Baltimore area more soulful and more dedicated than Mark Wes," Robin comments.

Mark Wes sings as well as handling piano for the group. Joe Dickerson on drums and Larry Wright on bass.

The group has been appearing regularly at Lenny Moore's Club 24 Wednesday nights, and their sound is as mellow as it is soulful. Robin predicts "nationwide acclaim for the group" with their release "I Love You a Little Too Much."

-SS murder

FROM PAGE 1

ing up, he didn't get in fights like the other boys"

Mrs. Johnson, who had worked at Social Security for almost ten yers, was killed between two sets of glass doors leading in the lobby the outer lobby of the Social Security building in the 200 block W. Lombard St., police said.

Police said her assailant apparently got into an argument with her outside the building and then chased her into the building, where she was stabbed.

OPINION

Perspective

New Sales Pitch Features Blacks

By DAVID E. SLOAN

America used its courts, then its churches without achieving the quantum of black acceptance it sought.

Now America, as it always does in the end, has turned to business — more specifically to the advertising industry — in its determination to sell the black American to the white American.

Can anyone challenge this thesis in view of the welcome, widespread use of the black brother and sister, baby and senior citizen, in all sorts of advertising in all the communications media we behold daily?

The interesting thing is that this gigantic sales job is proceeding at a time when it is risky business for the American advertiser. For one of his cardinal principles is to know that the consumer is ready or can quickly be gotten ready for the product.

And judging from some reactions we know about toward the high visibility of blacks in today's advertising, many whites are not nearly ready to accept the product yet.

For instance in a sprawling, low income section of a major northern city whites disapproved almost two to one of the characterizations and the message of the popular 'Julia' series being shown on network television, starring Diahann Carroll and a precious, black, pre-teen male actor.

But despite this spotty resistance the opinion makers and social planners have obviously decided that an all-out presentation of the black in an attractive package to the undecided American consumer is less of a gamble than continuing the policy of what Martin King used to call "nobodiness" for the black.

Affer all, the latter policy shook the naiton to its foundations in the riots of 1967 and 68.

And as long as the camera can be panned across, through, over, around and under black faces, winding up safely at home in a finale of laughing whites, there is not likely to be any wholesale uprising of the white consumer constituency.

Another interesting feature of this whole black selling phenomenon is that the product might turn out to be surprisingly pleasing.

Very much like color television.

Remember that for quite a long time the consumer's reaction to the highly touted color tube was, "Who needs it?"

But once the consumer had the experience of viewing the color set, you couldn't pay him to go back to black and white.

All of which reminds us of having expressed this thought to a white, male worker in our office, who rejoined by saying, "You don't have to tell me. I discovered this a long time ago."

He said this as he snuggled close to a black, female co-worker whose last name we had not noticed before was the same as his.

Yes, black just might turn out to be an indispensable commodity.

BLACK VOICES

By John Lewis

Two weeks ago, showing their usual contempt for poor black people, the Washington press corps relegated a major story to the back pages with small headlines.

A 50-member delegation and Beaufort and Jasper Counties S. C. came to tell Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin that the new free food stamp program which had been given nationwide publicity did nothing for 99 percent of the poor people in their areas.

"It's only a gimmick to raise false hopes among the poor," said the leader of the group, Mrs. Helen Frazier.

The South Carolina NWRO members told Hardin that only allowing families making under $30 a month to receive free food stamps was a vicious joke at the expense of the poor.

"If a family of four had been living on $30 a month, they would have been dead long ago," said Joe McDermott, a protestor.

• • •

The group continually made that point throughout the long day in Washington, a day beginning with a local welfare office rally, continuing with a Congressional hearing before Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein (D. N.Y.) and ending with the meeting with Secretary Hardin.

They demanded that free food stamps be made available to all families living on less than $3,000 per year, the government's statistical yardstick for determining poverty, and a chance to buy non-food items such as soap with their stamps.

"We came to participate in the formulation of plans that would get at the needs of hunger, parasite infestation, and malnutrition in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, said McDermott.

The danger of parasitic infestation is so critical that Dr. Donald Gatch, the South Carolina physician, who first brought to public attention widespread starvation, is presently in Freedmen's Hospital here recovering from infestation by parasitic worms, contracted through treating his patients.

None of those who came up to Washington qualified for free food stamps but they are all miserably poor.

• • •

"I went down to the Jasper County welfare office about a week ago and they told me that I have to pay $78 for $120 worth of stamps and I have 11 children, my husband and me," said Mrs. Katharine Fraser.

"Sometimes he don't make that because he works on a farm and when it's raining, he cannot work. I didn't get the stamps because I didn't have the money to get the stamps."

Many die or remain ill because they are too poor to afford medical care. "I've lived in Beaufort all my days and I'm glad to hear about the welfare right to help poor people," said a protestor to Secretary Hardin "I have to go into the hospital for an ulcer.

"On Tuesday, I went to the welfare officer for help to go into the hospital. She told me to see higher authority.

"I asked her what is higher authority and didn't get an answer. That's all I have to say."

• • •

Even when they are able to pay for the food stamps, they are unable to buy enough food. "I have a mother that is not able to work, three kids and no husband," one of the group said, "I earn $50 a week. We pay $30 for $40 worth of food stamps. That's not enough to feed a family of five for a month.

"My kids have to go to school. I want to clothe them and feed them a good breakfast but I just can't give it to them."

"The local welfare department operates to cripple a man's pride before giving aid," said a farmer, Alex Smith. "I have applied for the food stamp program and they told me that I would have to prove that my wife doesn't make over $30. I say no. I'm a man and I don't going to do that.

"They told me that my stamps would cost $20 and I told them I don't make that kind of money. I am a farmer. Sometimes the heat comes and burns up the crops. Rain drowns them out sometimes.

"That's why I want to get the free food stamps. Sometimes I don't make $200 a year."

• • •

That day in Secretary Hardin's office was an excellent political education for the South Carolina delegation. They saw Agriculture officials squirm under their questions. They saw the hypocrisy of the free food stamp program revealed as a sham.

They saw Secretary Hardin refuse until near the end of the meeting to give written responses to the questions his officials refused to answer. Finally, he relented to that demand, promising a letter of response within a week.

Among the most important of the group's demands was that the poor must be consulted before actions are taken in their name. "We are the ones who are poor," a protestor said.

"If people who are poor cannot say how a program can best rid them of their hunger, then who can?"

A good question. For that one and for the others Secretary Hardin needs to come up with some good answers before it's too late.

As a group spokesman put it, "You've had it nice this time, Mr. Secretary. We are going to come back and we are going to be angrier and there are going to be more of us."

City Council ordinances

C.C. 771 — By Mrs. Adams — Resolution congratulating Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III, on his selection to the AFRO Honor Roll.

C.C. 772 — By Dashner and Gallagher — Resolution expressing sympathy on the occasion of the death of Francis "Fibber" McGee.

C.C. 773 — By Sixth District — Resolution requesting the Board of Estimates to grant the Constables of Baltimore City expense allowances equal to that paid to the Sheriffs of Baltimore City.

C.C. 774 — By Schaefer (Administration) — To establish quarterly annual date of finality on which to allow discounts and to impose penalties and interest on real property taxes and establishing due dates.

C.C. 775 — By Schaefer (Administration) — To establish semi-annual date of finality on which to allow discounts and to impose penalties and interest on real property taxes and establishing due dates.

C.C. 776 — By Fourth District — To condemn and open all streets lying within area bounded by Prestman Street, Calhoun Street, Gold Street, and Carey Street.

C.C. 777 — By Fourth District — To condemn and close all streets lying within area bounded by Prestman St., Calhoun St., Gold St., and Carey St.

C.C. 778 — By Schaefer (Administration) — To provide a supplementary appropriation to the Department of Planning for the employment of professional consulting services.

C.C. 779 — By Schaefer request of Walters Art Gallery — To authorize the trustees of Walters Art Gallery to dispose of oversize objects which are no longer useful to their collection.

C.C. 780 — By Dashner request of Consumer Protection Division of Attorney General's Office — To provide reserved parking spaces for certain State-owned vehicles on Water St. near Light St.

C.C. 781 — By Third District request of Donnelly Advertising Corp. — To authorize the construction of an illuminated sign on the roof of the building known as 2023-25 Harford Rd.

C.C. 782 — By Schaefer (Administration) — To provide a refund for vending machine overcharge pursuant to Ordinance Nos. 147 and 314.

Intergovernmental Relations Committee — Joseph V. Mach, Chairman, Monday, March 24, 2 p.m. Room 204A.

Housing Committee — Mrs. Victorine Adams, Chairman, executive session, Monday, March 24, 2 p.m. — Room 203.

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