What The AFRO Stands For

"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

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts of the city.

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and untrammeled black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

New Court System's Old Habits

The new district court system continues all the old traditions of Maryland judicial systems. A token nod for blacks and politics in judgeships as usual.

Out of 38 new district court appointees, Gov. Marvin Mandel named one black.

The three lower court judges in Baltimore City, John R. Hargrove, William H. Murphy and Solomon Baylor of the Municipal Court, are among the other 41 judges who make up the new statewide system.

Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney has named Judge Hargrove chief of the 22-judge Baltimore City system. Highly qualified by training, experience and temperament, Judge Hargrove will be responsible for the administrative duties in Baltimore City and will report directly to Chief Judge Sweeney.

Judge Sweeney could not have made a better choice of a man to run the Baltimore court system.

J. Franklin Bourne of College Park, a member of the State Workmen's Compensation Commission, was appointed to the Prince Georges 5th District bench, the only member of his race chosen by Gov. Mandel.

That took care of the tokenism.

Any AFRO reader still deluded into thinking that the district court system will be more racially representative or is out of politics, should ask themselves some questions.

Who's going to get the compensation commission plum Bourne held? Now that the black community has been given the prestige of having one of its own named chief of the city district court system, how long before Gov. Mandel will choose his friend Danny Friedman to fill the Supreme Court vacancy left sometime ago by the retirement of Judge James K. Oullen?

And who will get Friedman's Orphan Court seat when he is promoted?

If all this political activity works out under the tokenism arrangement, would not the black community be justified in backing someone like Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard next year in a bid for the Court of Appeals seat to which Gov. Mandel recently named his law partner?

Should these questions fail to open any eyes, ask yourself why the morning daily that always has insisted such a court system would get politics out of the selection of judges, claims that a special Senate session would keep the approval of the judgeships from becoming entangled in the politics of a regular session and why that paper suggests more than a one-day session is necessary to study the records of the 38 nominated men.

Doesn't it know that Gov. Mandel and his aides already have talked out the political situation with key state senators? Is it encouraging taxpayers to shell out for a special session of several days to handle what already has been decided?

The public should know now that if the Senate completes its work quickly, it will not be simply rubber-stamping Gov. Mandel's selections; it will be making formal what it politically has agreed to.

And if it takes a lot of time to tie the ribbon on its political deal it will be doing nothing more than wasting money and attempting to pull the wool over the people's eyes.

'13' Must Stand Guard

Now that the Congressional Black Caucus has made its first step toward building a working team, they would be well to continue looking over their shoulders to make sure the "crabs in the barrel" at home are not up to their old tricks.

American history has constantly been attempts to disenfranchise the black man when his white countrymen discovered he could no longer be controlled.

Near the close of the 19th century and the beginning of the present 20th century, the black man had the balance of power.

From eight southern states came 22 black congressmen, according to historian Benjamin Quarles. Two of these sat in the Senate — Hiram R. Revels and Blanche K. Bruce.

Thirteen of the total had been born in slavery, ten of them had college training, including five with college degrees. But, says historian Quarles, these congressmen were not destined to leave any mark on national legislature because "their numbers were small and their tenure in office was short." It was at this time that state after state wrote into their constitutions laws to guarantee white supremacy.

Mississippi, where blacks outnumbered whites, led the way, followed by South Carolina and Louisiana in the 1890's and by 1919 such states as North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Georgia and Oklahoma had cornered the vote for the white man only.

Poll taxes, gerrymandering, confusing tests, new election codes all became a part of the scheme, favored by both major parties and supported by radical organizations. All of this happened in spite of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution which guaranteed the right to vote.

It has almost taken some 60 years to put back on the election rolls the millions of men and women whose names were taken off the books in the 1890's.

It was not until 1957 that the Civil Rights Act gave the Department of Justice authority to bring action against intimidation for the purpose of interfering with the right to vote in Federal elections. The Civil Rights acts of 1960 and 1964 also helped pave the way for today's black caucus.

But men who study history — men who know that history has a habit of repeating itself — men like the 13 in the Congressional Black Caucus — must always stand on the alert, if they intend to lead instead of follow in slavery.

What Kind Of Justice Is This?

OUR READERS SAY

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, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Mandel Appointments

Dear AFRO:

People of Maryland who believe in constitutional government are watching with interest the racial composition of judges being appointed to the newly formed district court system.

The authorization which established this system was half of a legislative package which the voters approved.

The other half, which was defeated, addressed itself to the selection of judges.

This should say to the Governor Mandel, yes, we the people of Maryland demand that the court system be improved.

However, we have some reservation concerning the selection process. Thus, acting in a prudent and just manner at this time should provide the Governor with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate, especially to the black citizens of Maryland, that a selection system will not disenfranchise them.

True, the chief of Baltimore City's 22-judge lower court system is black; and, certainly, the Governor is to be commended for this. But, one appointment is not in itself a true measurement of equality in a system.

I call upon Governor Mandel in the appointments he has left, to demonstrate that justice is color blind, that all the people of Maryland can have faith and trust in this kind of selection system because our Governor, through precept of example, has made it so.

HOWARD E. MARSHALL

Dems On Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

In a recent statement by Senator Clarence Mitchell he said that certain contributors to the campaign of City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr. for Mayor have not in the past measured up to his ideas of being racial liberals.

We would like to know if Senator Mitchell is aware that there is a growing public impression that certain persons close to or associated with the Pollack, Kovens and Stonewall Democratic Club Organizations are contributing quite large sums to the Mitchell campaign.

And it has been stated by informed, intelligent civic minded citizens black and white that Mitchell entering the race can only muddy the waters to the degree it will assure that no black man could hope to win the nomination.

We have also heard in discussion with persons in all walks of life, all ages and colors, who have the public interest at heart, that Mr. Mitchell's entrance into the campaign can only confirm and solidify the old political adage "If I can divide them I can conquer." And believing he must be aware his opposition to Judge Russell can only result in the defeat of both Russell and himself.

Can he not see that to many he is besmirching the escutcheon of a name, so long highly regarded, respected and honored as the vanguard of those so unselfish, sacrificing aggressive citizens, who for so long battled without thought or desire of personal gain or aggrandizement to attain and assure a better recognition of the Black man's status as a full fledged American citizen and a one hundred per cent human being.

Knowing the Senator to be an intelligent, ambitious young man with the potential of someday achieving his expressed desire to hold high public office, should he permit himself to be influenced more by judicious thought and action and less by the impetuosity of youth and self seeking back slappers?

Thus we ask Mr. Mitchell not to allow himself to be guided as the bellwed goat to lead the sheep to slaughter by false prophts who will stoop to any means to gain their end, without regard for the shattered ambitions left in the wake of their determination to win at any price. THE WESTERN DEMOCRATIC CLUB INC.

CLARENCE SHAD BROWN,
Chairman Of The Board

Crossing Guards

Sunday marks the close of the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS Crossing Guard Contest and we are sorry to see it end.

For the past 15 weeks, over 7 million votes have been cast for 142 crossing guards — those women who stand at the street corners in all kinds of weather to make sure children get to and from school safely.

But better still for us, these white-gloved ladies have been in and out of our Eutaw Street office bringing in votes in an effort to win a first prize of $500; second prize of $300 and third prize of $200; fourth place of $100; fifth and sixth place, $50 each and 12 prizes of $25, for a total of $1,500.

We have enjoyed getting to know them, and are glad that thousands of persons who did not read the AFRO will be reading it because of the subscriptions purchased as part of the contest.

Contests have been a tradition at the AFRO. From the Annual Clean Block Campaign which awarded prizes on a competitive basis for the best block in town to the Favorite Newsboy Contest where last year there were 3,581,200 votes.

Plus, the Favorite Minisert Contest which brought 26,081,700 votes, and the Favorite Teacher Contest, with 11,052,600 votes cast.

These contests have always been able to show over and over again the high esteem in which the AFRO holds the community and in turn the way the community feels about the AFRO.

For under no circumstances would a reader clip out a coupon and vote in a contest unless he or she felt that his vote would count.

We hope this lesson will carry over to the coming election.

Notice To ALL Candidates

Beginning Tuesday, June 29, 1971, the AFRO-AMERICAN Company of Baltimore city will publish political news containing releases, pictures or our own stories from all candidates.

Deadline for the releases from candidates is Wednesday noon for our edition and Sunday noon for our Tuesday edition.

A good definition of news is:

"News is a report of an event containing timely (or at least hitherto unknown information), which has been accurately gathered for the purpose of serving the reader."

The Editors

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, and the cowardice of compromise

John H. Murphy
—1929

Report From Washington

By PARREN J. MITCHELL

REP. MITCHELL

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Mitchell is the Congressman from Md's 7th District

Two Housing reports were published in Washington the other week; together, they say a lot about segregated housing in America, and the approach to it we can expect from the Nixon Administration.

On Thursday, June 10, 1971, the United States Civil Rights Commission reported that Federal home-ownership programs for low-and-moderate income families were continuing segregated housing patterns, providing whites with mostly new homes in the suburbs, blacks with mostly old, in some cases dilapidated, homes in the cities.

The report concluded, "Minority buyers received a cheaper, inferior housing and smaller government subsidies than white buyers."

In short, the commission found clear evidence that, even in a federally-administered program, unfair housing practices are still a crushing reality, three years after passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

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On Friday, June 11, 1971, a less honest and open, but equally informative document was issued entitled "Federal Policies Relative to Equal Housing Opportunity."

It purports to define and explain the policies of the Nixon Administration. It also symbolizes them as well: it is unclear, self-contradictory, and motivated by the lowest considerations of electoral advantage.

In one paragraph, it states the basic economic argument for low-income suburban housing: "Industry and jobs are leaving central cities for the surrounding areas.

"Unless minority workers can move along with the jobs, the jobs that go to the suburbs will be denied to the minorities—and more persons who want to work will be added to the cities' unemployment and welfare rolls."

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That is as precise a statement of the problem as can be found.

Obviously, then, the only solution is to build low-cost housing in the suburbs, it necessary over the objections of suburban governments.

The Federal Government has the power to do so: the threat of withholding water and sewer funds which every suburb needs is enough to force recalcitrant subdivisions—such as Baltimore County—into line.

But no, that is not Mr. Nixon's viewpoint. "This Administration will not attempt to impose federally assisted housing on any community."

But why, it may be asked, should any local community object to building necessary housing within its boundaries? Is this problem simple bigotry? Oh, no, says Mr. Nixon:

"Quite apart from racial considerations (!) residents of outlying areas may and often do object to the building in their communities of subsidized housing which they fear may have the effect of lowering property values and bringing in large numbers of persons who will contribute less in taxes than they consume in services.

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"Beyond this, and whether rightly or wrongly (!!) as they view the social conditions of urban slum life many residents of the outlying areas are fearful that moving large numbers of persons—of whatever race—from the slums to their communities would bring a contagion of crime, violence, drugs, and the other conditions from which so many of those who are trapped in the slums themselves want to escape."

One might expect, in what is supposed to be a statement of federal policies on equal housing opportunity, that this cool statement of the viewpoint of suburban racism and class snobbery would be followed by a rebuttal, a call to action, a statement of firm policy.

But one would be wrong.

"The balances to be struck are close," says the President, "and the considerations complex!" Perhaps suburbanites are afraid of their fellow citizens "rightly," the report implies. In that case, shall we simply wall the ghetto off, like the old ghettoes of Central Europe? After all, many Christians, "rightly or wrongly,, feared a "contagion" of Jews.

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In case anyone had missed the point, the report finally comes out and says what it means: "We will not seek to impose economic integration upon an existing jurisdiction."

The conflict between the rights of poor people to live where they can find jobs and the desires of some suburbanites to keep their neighborhoods free of "those people" is resolved in favor of "local control."

The questions, Mr. Nixon says, "are essentially local in nature"; for "The challenge of how to provide fair, open and adequate housing is one that (individual subdivisions) must meet; and they must live with their success or failure."

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But that, of course, is false; or, at best, half-true.

As the report mentions, the jobs are increasingly in the suburbs. If suburban communities choose to keep the poor out, jobs are not available to them (black unemployment reached 11.8 per cent last month).

The poor, too, must live with the success or failure of fair housing policy; so must we all.

It is clear that neither vigorous action nor moral leadership on housing has come from the Nixon Administration.

After all, Richard Nixon's votes came from the well-off in the suburbs, not the poor in the cities.

Our only recourse is to assemble a new coalition to elect a different sort of President. This must be our priority.

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

MRS. WHITE

The Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau recently published an updated report on the myths and realities of male and female workers.

Following are some excerpts from that report:

Myth: Male workers are more equal than female workers.

The Reality: No! All workers are equal.

Myth: Women take jobs away from men; in fact, they ought to quit those jobs they now hold.

The Reality: There were 31.5 million women in the labor force on the average in 1970. The number of unemployed men was 2.2 million. If all the women stayed home and the unemployed men were placed in the jobs held by women, there would be 29.3 million unfilled jobs.

Moreover, most unemployed men do not have the education or the skills to qualify for the jobs held by women, such as secretaries, teachers, and nurses.

In addition, the majority of the 7 million single women in the labor force support themselves; and nearly all of the 5.9 million widowed, divorced or separated women working or seeking work support themselves and their families. They also need jobs.

Myth: Women should stick to "women's jobs" and shouldn't compete for "men's jobs."

The Reality: Jobs, with extremely rare exceptions, are sexless. Women were found in all of the occupations listed in the 1960 decennial census.

Tradition rather than job content has led to labeling certain jobs as women's and others as men's.

For example, although few women work as engineers, studies show the two-thirds as many girls as boys have an aptitude for this kind of work.

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Myth: Women don't want responsibility on the job; they don't want job promotions or job changes which add to their load.

The Reality: Relatively few women have been offered positions of responsibility.

But when given these opportunities, women, like men, do cope with job responsibilities in addition to personal or family responsibilities.

In 1970, 4.3 million women held professional and technical jobs; another 1.3 million worked as nonfarm managers, officials, and proprietors. Many others held supervisory jobs at all levels in offices and factories.

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Myth: The employment of mothers leads to juvenile delinquency.

The Reality: Studies show that many factors must be considered when seeking the causes of juvenile delinquency. Whether or not a mother is employed does not appear to be a determining factor.

These studies indicate that it is the quality of a mother's care rather than the time consumed in such care which is of real significance.

Myth: Women are out ill more than male workers; they cost the company more.

The Reality: A recent Public Health Service study shows little difference in the absentee rate due to illness or injury: 5.9 days a year for women compared with 5.2 for men.

Note: (If you have any questions you would like answered or opinions to express, write "It's Not A Man's World," AFRO-AMERICAN, P. O. Box 1857, Balto., Md. 21203).

Cowboys, Cattle

Dear AFRO: Just saw a photo of cowboys branding cattle with an iron — in 1971! One more sign of man's stupid and unwarranted cruelty.

Granted, cattle must be marked, why not with a band of some kind on it neck or leg — anything but a hot iron!

But man is no good, cruel, violent and insensate, killing even other humans, so why expect kindness to dumb animals who can't fight back? Man is no good! — B. J. SMALL

A Prayer

Oh God, this is my prayer that I pray each and every day. I want you to protect me as I fight and struggle to win a hard battle to save my, darling hearts — the children from this tragic disease, dope.

Oh God, put your arms around me, hold me tight; I am up against a tough fight.

Oh God, my heart is beginning to overflow, please answer my prayer; because my only hope is built around my darling hearts. — G. P. J.

The Votes That Count

It was Senator Mitchell's hard work running for President of the City Council in the integrated Angelos mayoralty ticket that made D'Alesandro promise to appoint a black to a high policy position if he were elected. That's how Russell got appointed.

Senator Mitchell was talking about a black mayor for Baltimore City and running for Mayor long before City Solicitor Russell gave any indication he was thinking about entering the race. Mr. Russell's sponsors from Pikesville and thereabouts beat Senator Mitchell to the punch.

We want unbossed and unbought candidates. All that white money back of Russell doesn't mean a thing. The masses of the people have the votes and it is the votes that count.

JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL

Dear AFRO: Dr. G. James Fleming has never supported Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III. Dr. Fleming is the same political prophet who appeared on TV in the September 1970 primary election night program when the early election returns showed Parren A. Mitchell losing.

He told the world that Parren was losing because he had "lost touch with the community." What kind of prophet is he?

George Russell has never been a part of the Civil Rights struggle in Baltimore. He never volunteered to represent the sit-in students during the 1960 Civil Rights Crusades as other lawyers did.

He discouraged his law partners from helping the NAACP defend police brutality victims.

He said he had to make money. He made this money. After much persuasion, he finally paid a NAACP Life Membership.

Russell never worked in any civic activity until the non-controversial Provident Hospital Building Campaign.

When Dr. G. James Fleming asked Senator Mitchell to withdraw from the mayoralty race, he ignored the fact that City Solicitor Russell owes his job to Senator Clarence M. Mitchell.

In the 1967 Mayoralty Primary, Thomas D' Alesandro had a lily white ticket and refused to put a black on it.

Lyndhurst Pleased

Dear AFRO:

Recently, you were very kind and considerate in publishing some articles about activities in which the children at the Lyndhurst Elementary School were involved. It was a most appreciative gesture.

The AFRO-AMERICAN helps keep the Baltimore community aware of the positive values of our children.

Thanks again for your interest and consideration. (Mrs.) CECELIA MILLER

Black Caucus Affair Historic, Beautiful

DR. FLEMING

By DR. FLEMING

Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful," is the way a seasoned politician described the fund-raising dinner of the Congressional Black Caucus, held last week in the largest ballroom in Washington.

Some 2,800 people, from all parts of the country, paid $100 each, and 300 people had their subscriptions ($30,000) returned.

There was no more room.

Those who attended made possible a fund of over a quarter million dollars ($250,000), to set up a trained staff for the Black Caucus. As an effort spear-headed by blacks, this is historic.

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But the Black Caucus affair was not the dinner itself, or only the number of people, or the amount of money, or the grandeur of the formally and colorfully attired guests, or the sparkling wit of Ossie Davis (master of ceremonies), or Dick Gregory or Bill Cosby, or the graciousness of Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. (extra-attractive with her lost weight).

The real importance is the totality of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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First is the fact that there are now enough blacks in the House of Representatives to make a black caucus possible and to give it numerical significance.

Next, more than numbers, is the fact that these blacks in the House of Representatives — 13 of them — although individualists, are smart enough to know that their optimum strength would come from joint action, from a united front. As the old-time copybook said, "In unity there is strength."

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Thirdly, the 13 members of the Caucus recognize that they cannot confront the political establishment alone in weakness or ignorance.

Without a pattern of unity and without its own independent funds, the Caucus' main asset would be its blackness, but it would be weak in very essential areas of its existence.

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Without a full-time professional staff — fact-finding, planning, lobbying — the Caucus would not only be weak, but it would often operate without the undergirding that comes from knowing all the facts, from knowing more than the adversary.

In years past, the Black forward movement has suffered greatly because it has so often been short, not only of funds, but also of maximum information, inside information, information that will stand the test of counterattack, of rebuttal, of the courts.

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Another noteworthy strength of the Black Caucus is really an achievement to be shared by both the Caucus and those it represents.

The Caucus has demonstrated, beyond any misinterpretation, that it has support over a wide area of concerned people — Blacks in and out of politics, and whites in business and politics. Most important is the fact that most of the nearly $300,000 subscribed came from black subscribers.

This kind of support gives the Black Caucus the quality of political muscle no group of politicians has had before, not even during Reconstruction.

As noted so well by Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr., although the Caucus consists of only 13 voting members, there are times when this number is quite sufficient for effective bargaining in the House of Representatives.

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In addition, as the Caucus shows itself able to achieve national leadership and attract national following, it will gain more strength, more muscle, and the political "press" will take it seriously — more seriously — on the national, state, and local levels.

The impact which the Caucus' first document to President Nixon made is a good sign that the public, especially the black public, is inclined to clothe the group with authority and to listen to it as being a responsible voice representing the masses of blacks.

Many have asked why did the black congressmen wait so long to organize.

The Black Caucus, as it is, had to wait for the passing from the political scene of Adam Clayton Powell (no longer in the House) and Congressman William L. Dawson (now deceased).

Both of these veterans were loners" in their own way. Congressman Powell could not have subdued himself to a group unless he headed it, and Congressman Dawson felt his strength came through the party organization rather than through black-consolidation-in-Congress.

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If the Caucus continues to show strength and success, such success will come because the 13 members find ways to put black interests ahead of party interests, or are ingenious enough to merge these two interests.

They must be smart enough to sell their party supporters the idea that "What is good for blacks is also good for the party and the nation."

The combined strength (muscle) called for will mean that the Caucus must not disintegrate when, after 1972, the man in the White House may be a Democrat instead of a Republican (All present members of the Caucus are Democrats).

The future of the Caucus also means that the new Young Turks, largely the result of the Black Revolution," must find a way to work with (or convert) the more orthodox black members of Congress and those younger ones who owe their election to old-line political machines.

In other words, and for example, how long can the honeymoon continue among Parren Mitchell (Md.), Ronald V. Dellums (Calif.), and William Clay (Mo.), on one side, and, on the other, Robert N. C. Nix (Pa.), and George Collins and Ralph Metcalfe (both supported by Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago)?

The Black Caucus has positions of power, it members are largely products of the masses, it now has money. It has brains and will hire more, and the people are ready for its leadership.

Something most beautiful and historic seems to be in the making.

TOGETHER

Victim of Justice: Angela Davis

By MADELINE MURPHY

MRS. MURPHY

The story was told by one of Angela Davis' attorneys, Margaret Burnham, that there was a bomb scare in the Marin County Jail and all the women prisoners in the cell block had to be evacuated. There were four women including Angela, one a Mexican-American (Chicano), one white and one other black.

The matron handcuffed the Chicano and other black women together, the white woman walked freely at the head of the group unshackled, and Angela was insultingly handcuffed with her hands behind her back. This melodrama is constantly being played to try to influence prisoners into believing that Angela is a most dangerous criminal.

On another occasion, Angela wished to visit the library on the floor above the cell block, but because she was considered dangerous, and because she would need to be heavily guarded, the prison authorities refused permission on the grounds that it would cost them $1,000 a day for a single trip.

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This systematic frustration and harassment is calculated to break the spirit of this beautiful brave black woman.

But Angela herself was quoted in Muhammad Speaks, when she was imprisoned in New York, as saying: "Even if I am eventually allowed to leave the dungeon, I will not consider myself free. My freedom will become a reality when we as a people have destroyed our enemies, when we black people have broken the yokes of enslavement and can freely erect a society which reflects our needs and our dreams.

"I will not be free until all black people are free."

In previous articles, I have touched upon the plight of Angela Davis because I feel her plight is that of every articulate, fighting black woman, regardless of ideology or political philosophy. In Angela, we see raw persecution, we see the personification of law and order and the utter disregard for justice.

To have been accused is not to have been found guilty. To have bail posted at such an exhorbitant rate is certainly against all constitutional rights. But as a black woman, the government truly believes she must serve as a warning and example to all of us who speak out and who certainly speak out in her defense, that the same punishment will happen to us.

But in February in New York at a birthday rally for Angela, 4,000 people could not be easily intimidated. "Never in my life as a civil liberties lawyer" attorney John Abt told the crowd, have I seen such broad support all over the world for any case.

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"It ranges from the YWCA to the far left. The main task is to unite the movement into a mighty fist which will smash the bars of Angela's jail and set her free."

Angela Davis was put on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list because shooting her on sight as a fugitive would have helped suppress any efforts by black people to point out the wrongs in this system; to organize black people; to begin to make change in the system and to educate black people about the evils of the system which are part and parcel of an effort to either keep us enslaved in the crowded slums or find excuses to imprison us.

I proudly display a picture of Angela on my door and solicit funds for her defense. At the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church USA, in its May convocation, $100,000 was pledged for her defense. Even the church sees the personification of Angela's persecution translated into a threat to the freedom of every man, woman and child.

Angela is a political prisoner, one who believes in change and black unity. She was quoted as saying in Muhammad Speaks: More and more black people are being incarcerated not because they committed a crime, but because of their political beliefs and the activities they undertake to bring our people together for freedom. Counterfeit charges are invented, outright frame-ups are increasingly becoming the rule."

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To illustrate: Not long ago a daily newspaper of this city photographed Angela's picture on our front door. No article was written, but this may just be the beginning of a kind of intimidation and harassment because of our beliefs in the dignity and rights of black people to have justice above law and order.

The motto: Justice, Elect It or Lose It" was no idle gimmick, no ill-conceived catch phrase, but a deadly serious promise in the 1970 election, and there are forces in this city who are unhappy with a justice which is truly blind and fair.

As with Angela, the forces here would rather persecute black people than ever believe that justice for all must be the rule. No one is safe, however, unless justice means fairness.

The American judicial system is bankrupt." said Angela in her interview. In so far as black people are concerned, it has proven itself to be one more arm of a system carrying out the systematic oppression of our people. We are the victims, not the recipients of justice.

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Consequently, in every election where judgeships are still chosen by the people, we must reverse this trend. We have the votes, we have the power, we have successfully used it before, we must use it again.

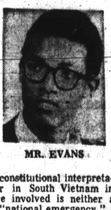
We must not let intimidation or harassment deter us from our commitment to justice. If thousands passed Angela's picture to the front door, what a tribute to this commitment as long as Angela is persecuted, all of us are in jeopardy. We must be determined to hang together or surely we shall be hanged separately.

"Justice and power must be brought together so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just" . . . Pascal.

ODDS and ENDS

Matters of the Times

By PAUL EVANS



MR. EVANS

Since the fiery trial of Peter Zenger (New York newspaper man) in 1735 established the principle of freedom of the press in the colonies, America has professed a tradition of laissez-faire in governmental relations with the press.

Clear and present dangers as wars and national emergencies acknowledged by the Congress under the stewardship of the President occasioned a constitutional duty by the press to restrict its publication of "sensitive" material.

With strict constitutional interpretation the war in South Vietnam is which we are involved is neither a "war" nor a "national emergency."

There is no "understanding" legally binding or otherwise between the Government and the press which forbades the publication of material (documents, letters, maps etc.) deemed by government officers to be vital to national security.

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The principle of executive independence from the Congress has been candid with the Congress and the people informing them on national options.

When time and time again Senator William Fulbright (D., Ark.) was denied access to secret governmental information on the conduct of the war, this columnist feels the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, this newspaper, and any other, has a responsibility to its readers and itself to print those facts which are even denied to constitutionally authorized leaders in the Congress.

However, the withholding of information from the Congress on national policy of life and death of American soldiers, major troop deployment and national alignments raises constitutional queries as to the role of the legislature in deciding basic direction.

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It is tragic when members of the Senate in this country have to read the daily newspapers to obtain information on the war in South Vietnam.

This administration and past presidents obviously have been less than candid with the people informing them on national options.

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The whole matter of executive integrity has been brought to scrutiny with the onslaught of volumes and volumes of Pentagon papers which were ordered as a secret study by former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

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We must insist that our Maryland senators and congressman make their voices known in insisting that a resolution be passed in Congress which requests the Supreme Court to review the restraining orders placed against the press and offer a landmark decision on the rights of journalism as dictated by the Bill of Rights.

We as citizens must ask what further information is being withheld on future plans in Vietnam and the American military posture in the world in general.

The wheels of Congress must begin to turn immediately to insist in future years that no major military action initiated by the President be continued longer that 30 days without full authorization by the Congress and full briefing of executive decisions to congressional leaders of both parties.

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At this point we cannot be sure what further revelations will be made about American life in the Sixties.

There are the assassinations, the riots and the Chicago Convention of 1968 to remember. What information may be concealed from the public and the Congress by the executive as to what really happened?

No, we must not become so disconcerted as to suspect there is a lie in every governmental pronouncement, but we must make firmly clear to our President who is our elected servant, he is dealing with a people who want the truth.

The coming days will be crucial as to journalism's role in being free to print during peacetime information vital to the life of the nation.

In many ways citizens feel helpless. Congress has been helpless.

State and local governments must now find ways to force the government to stop the war and bring American troops home as soon as practical.

Investigations should be opened as to account for all monies which have been given to the Vietnamese since the Eisenhower Administration.

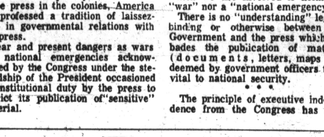
Effective action by citizens groups may be the last hope for the country.

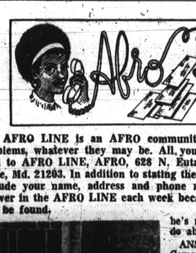
We must begin to understand what the Declaration of Independence meant when it said:

". . . Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their Just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . ."

Afro Lines

AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to your 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 can be found.





QUESTION: I am 20 years old. When I was a small child, I visited here in Baltimore and I remember most, the white steps. Does Baltimore still have them: — ANNE G.

ANSWER: Yes, there are still many white steps in various sections of the city. There are beautifully kept ones in all areas of the city — 2500 block McCulloh — is outstanding. There are also stones and wood steps and steps of a variety of substances. Accompanying photo shows the familiar white ones (right) next door to the stone ones, left.

QUESTION: I came home today to find a note on my door telling me my water was being shut off by the city because of unpaid water bills. I have tried to reach my landlord, who is supposed to pay for the water, but he's never in his office. What can I do about this? — MRS. A. N.

ANSWER: The Housing Ad Hoc Committee for Tenant-Landlord Relations, part of Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., has information on how to deal with problems of any kind involving landlords, rental or sale of apartments or houses. They are located at 32 W. 25th St., phone 243-6097.

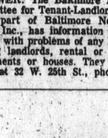
To Sons and Daughters

We put tunnels under the rivers, and building on vacant lots
We met every challenge; we invented and we improvised
For your happiness, we dedicated our lives and our labors
If this is not enough; what more is there for us to do?
You must be prepared to carry on for us, this is what we ask
Our computers and gadgets we rely on; but it's you that we depend on
Perhaps we did not implant the urgency of morality and fidelity
Nor did we suppose that you would even show mature responsibility.
Not is the money; it is your time, for great contributions
Your rendezvous with destiny shall give us cause for pride and joy
Now is the time for roll call for sons and daughters
My children, you must not dare to fail me now.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

IF YOU Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS



People, places and things

FLASH: — Please send thinking-of-you cards to Mrs. A. P. Shaw (Lottie). She is the widow of the Methodist bishop who served here in our area.

They lived in Baltimore some years back. Remember?

Your hellos will reach her if addressed to 2151 W. 20th St., Los Angeles, Calif., 90018.

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Get-well wishes and cards should go to George Grafton Brown, the Mondawmin C and P Telephone Co. manager who is home now at 3503 Cedardale Rd., after 45 days illness in Sinai Hospital. The phone company announces that he's improving nicely after a spell of pneumonia and they hope he will be back soon.

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Oh goe and Marie, who is over 21, is one of my right hands here at the office.

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Send cards of cheer to Mrs. Cora B. Chambers, longtime cashier at the old Lennox and Diane theatres.

She is a patient at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, 6700 N. Charles St.

Mrs. Chambers had an eye surgery and is doing nicely.

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Say a special prayer for Mrs. Madge Hibler Allen, former Morgan State College professor, who is now in Pittsburgh where her father, Lamar George Hibler on June 12.

Her sister, Miss Clara Hibler of Washington, D.C. a Delta Sigma Theta soror, also made recent serious surgery on June 14.

And, Madge's husband, Arthur Allen, a Norfolk State professor and candidate for a doctorate degree, also underwent surgery on June 8.

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All The Get-Well Prayers you can send heavenward will help Mrs. Mamie Spriggs widow of Joseph Spriggs, 1337 Woodyear St.

She is confined to Maryland General Hospital (Room 357) after a fall at home last week.

A 60-year member of Metropolitan Methodist Church, Mrs. Spriggs and her husband were wed 50 years prior to his death last month.

Also wait your prayers upward for Mrs. Geneva Buddin mother of Mrs. Mary B. Adams, who is in Room 512 at Maryland General and underwent surgery Thursday.

And ask special blessings to come to James Jones, father of Ophthalmologist Dr. Thomas C. Jones who is confined to Provident Hospital and reported in fair condition.

And, send up a prayer for Arlington S. Phillips of Phillips Funeral Home, 1727 N. Monroe St., who is also in Maryland General. Mr. Phillips entered last Sunday for a rest.

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Old U. of Minn. friend, Gordon Parks was here in Baltimore last night for the Eastern world premiere of his movie, SHAFT, starring Richard Roundtree.

Mr. Parks is director of the movie which the JF Theatres Inc., showed for the first time at the Hippodrome.

Proceeds of the opening night performance, sponsored by Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions was to benefit Echo House of which Alfred Joyner is executive director. Dominic Fornaro is president of the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Baltimore Council.

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Orchids to School Board members James Griffin and Larry Gibson for doing it like it did at their press conference this morning. It just goes to show that unless you get it in writing a gentleman's agreement isn't worth the time it takes to make one.

It's an open secret that the only circumstance that Sterling S. Keyes was named interim superintendent over William L. Pinderhughes was that Mr. Pinderhughes was "the leading candidate" for permanent superintendent and Mr. Keyes would not seek the office nor accept it if offered.

Now that the out-of-town candidates have been narrowed to four, three of whom are black, there comes a move to put Mr. Keyes in the spot.

This ought to teach a lesson. Gentlemen's agreements, when you are dealing with a political situation, should be avoided. If it isn't in writing people have a habit of forgetting what they said.

The name of the game is "lack of integrity."

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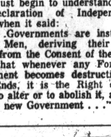
Different strokes for different folks: — If the hippies who invaded the stage at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia on Wednesday evening had been black like you and I they would have been arrested and headlines the next morning would report their disgraceful conduct.

To wit: — the blonde who took off her blouse and bra and danced around on the stage, and the long-haired guys, openly smoking pot who surrounded the performer and later with their girls rolled in blankets on the grass.

It was a sight to behold. Imagine what would have happened if they had been black.

In the Spotlight



In the Spotlight this week is LANCE CORPORAL L. H. SMITH

A letter of commendation was sent by the 3rd Platoon Commander, Company "M," 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, about Lance Corporal L. H. Smith of the U.S. Marine Corps.

In