What The AFRO Stands For

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.

True 78 Years Ago And It Is True Today

The following comment appeared on the AFRO's editorial page on April 29, 1893.

"The interests of the AFRO-AMERICAN population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which foiters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy."

From the AFRO-AMERICAN
April 29, 1893

Actor Or Administrator?

If you want to be a school superintendent in the monumental city of Baltimore you must be a good actor — On the surface this seems to describe the interview procedure now which the Board of School Commissioners used.

A candidate was invited by the board to a public meeting where he was ask questions both by board members and citizens.

But a deeper look at the method might not only reveal some good points and the man who could be a good administrator but also a fair look at just who is doing the acting.

Baltimore is supposedly looking for an administrator who can relate to all kinds of people, who can take abuse, think on his feet, find answers on the spur of the moment and be well versed in his discipline.

This keen administrator should be able to relate to the problems at home, put up a good front and be a crowd pleaser. His job will take him to some of the painful business of school board members and to the rundown auditoriums, like Alexander School No. 112.

He should know how to talk to militants and non-militants both of whom are defined as persons who want what they THINK is best for their own group whether it be change or the status quo.

Once the school superintendent has dealt with the wide range of personalities in the Baltimore public schools from the energetic young teachers, to the worn out old "hag," to the polished experts, once he has appeared before the City Council, the Board of Estimates, had an audience with the NAACP, the Lawyers Wives and the DAR; once he had eaten lunch at the Center Club and with a high school home economics class, he better had be an actor or Baltimore will be looking for one more administrator.

For to act means to perform, enact, simulate, do, make, operate effect, accomplish, enforce, achieve, stimulate, preserve, perpetrate . . . all characteristics of a good superintendent.

As we said on surface the board's process looked good. The only trouble is that that's all it is — surface.

For it gets clearer the further along we go with the process that some powers-that-be were the biggest actors.

Their job has been to stage this entire production giving the public the idea they were participating in the selection process and then move in and say the process did not work so "we have selected the administrator for you."

We hope the public and the remaining members of the school board who have integrity will not turn this latest scene into a tragedy.

Mail Will Remain Slow

For the past week, affiliated offices of the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS in Washington and Richmond have been sending to the Baltimore office a special delivery and a regular 8 cent letter as a test.

No need to say that the special delivery letter and the regular letter came about the same time in two instances; or that one regular letter from Washington took two days; or that from Richmond, a special and a regular letter arrived both at the same time in Saturady morning, one delivered and one we picked up from the post office. These things our readers already know.

The new U.S. Postal Service went into effect on Thursday, July 1. This is a semi-independent government corporation which admittedly will take five years to make the postal service an efficient business.

Gone will be the postal service's dependence on Congress on appropriations.

They will be able to issue bonds and again raise rates if need be.

The postal service will have a new eagle emblem and most postal stations held opens house on Thursdays so the public could see historical exhibitions.

But while all this born blowing is going on to welcome the new service, it is a sad commentary on the U.S. Governmental Machine. It has to admit that the Postal Service is so inefficient it will take anyone five years to straighten out the mess.

Busing Favoritism Exposed

Federal District Judge James B. McMillan, in Charlotte, N.C. has a knack of slicing through the red tape and tom foolery to get to the heart of school desegregation roadblocks.

After issuing the busing decision later upheld by the Supreme Court in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg desegregation case, Judge McMillan observed last week that the new desegregation plan devised by the school board "comes about as close to putting all the transportation burden on blacks as it could."

In so stating Judge McMillan put his finger on a major problem that sooner or later haas to be faced up to. Both the letter and the spirit of the laws on school desegregation have to be carried out if real progress is to be made.

The white power structure usually finds a way to get the message through. Where legally forced to desegregate schools, there is a price exacted along racial lines. Principals or teachers lose jobs or find themselves demoted. When there must be busing, relatively fewer white children are compelled to travel the long distances. Where schools are to be closed, the white ones usually survive.

This message is not lost on minority children nor their parents. After years of being treated as second class in their own country, they don't have to be rundown by a school bus to get the message.

Surely Judge McMillan would not make a point of bringing this issue to the forefront unless he intends to do something about it.

Once again Judge McMillan is pointing the way in a sensitive area.

A Grave Peril To Society

"Only at the gravest peril to our society," says a panel of manpower experts, "can the American people continue to ignore the growing frustration, despair and hostility that characterize more and more jobless young black people."

The Twentieth Century Fund in warning the nation to do something on a massive scale about the shocking unemployment among young minority people, joined groups such as the National Urban League and the NAACP in demanding action on the crisis.

Calling the situation an explosive problem, the task force urged "immediate, priority actions" to create more jobs, funding for anti-discrimination efforts, expansion of services to make it possible for more young people to work.

For years the nation has been gambling with sky-high jobless rates in the inner-city areas. There seemed not to be the concern necessary to move to reduce the jobless rolls, even when politicians talked about getting people off welfare onto jobs.

The seriousness of this situation is such that governments at every level should move with private industry to bring it into some semblance of reasonableness.

Rational thinking goes out of the window when frustrations and despair boil over. Unless something is done to alleviate the stresses caused by so many unemployed people jammed into the ghettos of the nation, there is every reason to suggest that someday our leadership will look back and curse these days of too little action.

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 interests 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 economic injustices and prejudice, and the cowardice of compromise.

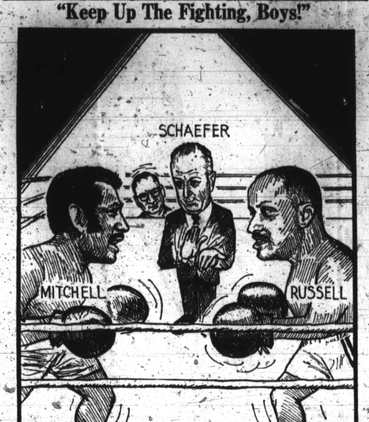
John H. Murphy.
—1929

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

A-4 JULY 3, 1971

"Keep Up The Fighting, Boys!"



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.

One Slum To Another

Dear AFRO

A black living in the slums of Baltimore dreams of the day when he will be able to move to a better neighborhood. Very often, when the opportunity arrives, he moves into a racially mixed neighborhood where he feels that at last he will live in a neighborhood where the streets are cleaned frequently, where the health department and the police department keep constant vigilance to guard its residents.

Little does he know that this dream is short-lived. Soon the whites start to move out leaving the neighborhood virtually all black, and for one reason or another the city no longer keeps a watch on health or crime. When called upon to explain the neglect, City Departments say the service is the same as before and just as adequate.

My argument is this: What was adequate before, with one family to each home, is not adequate today, with several families living in each of these houses. When the whites moved out they either sold their houses to investors, who converted them to apartments, or did it themselves.

Increasing the number of families in the area was supposedly catering to the teeming numbers of blacks who dreamed of a better neighborhood, but failed miserably to provide proper city services. Little did the unassuming black know that when the whites left this community, in which he has invested his hard earned money, it would be changed.

Little did he know that the city would permit builders to come into the neighborhood with extensive apartment developments, changing a once adequate community, with just enough schools for the children, to a community where schools and neighborhoods are overcrowded, and where the streets are full of crime because of the lack of police protection.

The black who dreamed of a better neighborhood now dreams again. Little knowing that his is in a vicious economic circle controlled by the white economic system. It is now time that all Americans, black and white, stand up against this system that exploits the black Americans as well as the white.

JOHN H. McKENNY,
President, Denmore
Civic Association

Deserving Student

Dear AFRO:

T. L. graduated from Douglass High School this month. He is an outstanding young man.

His academic record is only average. Math and English are not his strengths — a liberal arts education is not part of his future.

But he has a deep interest in art and he recently applied to the Maryland Institute for admission in the fall. He presented one of the strongest portfolios reviewed this year. And his recommendations by teachers are an avalanche of superlatives.

His family (mother and five children) does not have adequate income to cover the cost of living and tuition at the Institute.

Because he applied so late, almost all the Institute's financial aid resources were allocated. A $1500 loan — a large commitment for both the Institute and T. L. — has been secured.

The Institute has also commited a $500 work opportunity scholarship. T. L. still needs $600 in aid to "make it."

We seek grants in units of $250 to help fund work opportunity scholarships for outstanding young people. If so indicated, they shall be earmarked for the most deserving and promising young black students from the City of Baltimore.

CHARLES G. TILDON

Mathias' Bill

Dear AFRO:

I read with great interest your article on Charles Mathias' proposal to return to the old style of tuition and fee payments.

As a recently discharged vet who hopes to return to technical school full time in the fall I have a strong desire to see Sen. Mathias' bill passed.

This will enable many low-income veterans like myself to devote the time needed to obtain a quality education in the field of their choice.

I wish to congratulate your newspaper on its campaign supporting this move.

ROBERT L. GREENE

AFRO Drug Series

Dear AFRO:

After reading your fine expose on current widespread misuse of drugs, I find it expedient to commend you, for diligent and unselfish work in service to all humanity.

While major emphasis is placed on physical correction, the root lies in dissatisfaction, despair, moral and spiritual stagnation.

These unfortunate people are greatly disillusioned, because while tremendous strides have been made in acquiring great material wealth, vast streams of moral and spiritual attainments have declined exceedingly.

There is a void in the hearts of large numbers of young people and misuse of drugs is just a way to exhibit the mental hurt inflicted upon them by their fellowman.

The remedy supreme is the Will of Man. Vigorous exercise of Will through reverent prayer and deep meditations on the Most High will gain control and turn rampant discord into peace and harmony.

Support this with strict but tender care and tune with soft harmonious currents of sincere love, and the spark of hope that has so long been smoldering will fan into a useful living flame of life.

When Man has reached the point where he has faith in God, in nature and himself, he then will hold a sovereign balm for every wound, a cure for all the ills of life.

VERNON BULLOCK

Report From Washington

Medical Reevaluation And Review System

By PARREN J. MITCHELL

REP. MITCHELL

A black elected official has the duty and the responsibility to carefully scrutinize each piece of legislation and each administrative act to determine whether or not the interests of black Americans are being transmeled.

Recently Dr. Tarr of the Selective Service System outlined a new system called "Registrant Medical Reevaluation and Review System." This "new" system prompted me to make the following statement on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Gentlemen: I have come before you more than once to relate my concern with the Selective Service System and its effects on our young men. Though you may not have agreed with me in the past, today I speak to a problem that each of us ought to examine carefully because it seriously effects the quality of a conscripted armed forces.

The Selective Service System has outlined very specific physical standards that each registrant must pass before he is inducted into the armed services. Presently, each registrant is examined at a pre-induction physical, and on the day of induction.

Based upon these examinations many young men are physically disqualified for service. I would like to believe that each and every physical is thorough and complete.

Yet each day I find a number of requests for help from constituents who have been dissatisfied with the quality and/or the findings of their physicals.

And in too many of these cases they are able to document very serious omissions during the physicals.

For security's sake, only those men physically qualified for service ought to be inducted. Yet the Government Accounting Office estimates that for the years 1966, 1969 and 1970 the armed forces accepted an average of 20,000 men who should have been rejected for physical defects.

Despite improvements in the process, the military spent 17.9 million dollars in fiscal 1969 for the pay, uniforms, and travel of soldiers who were discharged because of pre-service defects.

How can so many, often with obvious disabilities, slip past civilian and Army doctors? As one Army doctor explains, "Documentation is the name of the game. Without documentation a guy just won't get out, and with it he probably will."

If the key is prior documentation, as most sources indicate, then how does one get documentation? Well, one pays for it. A family that can afford proper medical care, can provide their offspring with complete medical histories dating back to birth.

College students take advantage of college health facilities, and sympathetic university personnel. But for a large number of young men, the lower middle class, the poor, the black, there is no such medical luxury.

Many of these do not understand nor can they plug the documentation game. If they are fortunate they have found their way to a local clinic with their physical problems. But such visits are unlikely, given the condition of local and poverty health care.

And to obtain medical records from a clinic often takes several weeks and a records fee and then under no circumstances will the clinic deliver the records directly into the registrant's hands.

Remember too, that a person under 21 cannot even permit the release of his own medical records.

For the black community there are additional burdens. In Southern back communities the asthma rate is over 50 per cent, but without documentation most of these men will pass the physical.

For sickle cell anemia, an ailment peculiar to the black community, the Army provides no detection lab test at all. Psychiatric consultation is unheard of.

As Dr. Tarr himself has said, "The rising tide of medical deferments is a cause of serious concern because it's one of the real inequities left in the system."

It is a system judged inadequate by consensus. One would thinkk any step taken to change procedures would be an improvement.

Nevertheless the Selective Service System has advanced a new set of administrative procedures that are regressive. They deny young men the one of the few chances they had left to correct the results of an erroneous pre-induction physical.

Formerly when a young man believed that some mistake had been made during his physical he could write to his Congressman. (He could write to the Selective Service System and to the Surgeon General as well, but usually these letters brought little action).

The Congressman in turn would ask the Surgeon General for a complete medical review. This could go on right up to the induction. Although not ideal, at least my constituent received a fair review of their cases.

Sometimes even consultations with specialists were arranged for those who could not afford to go to their own.

Though not perfect, at least a minimal attempt was made to provide an adequate medical examination prior to induction.

On May 28, 1971, I received a memo from Dr. Tarr outlining a new system called Registrant Medical Reevaluation and Review System to be implemented. It both concerned me and gave me.

Instead of being an improvement, it is merely a vehicle for avoiding the whole issue of medical reevaluation. Under the new system the state director will make the first judgment on medical evidence submitted by a registrant.

To my knowledge Col. Hayes, the Maryland state director, is not a doctor.

In fact he has often told me that since neither of us is a physician we ought to allow the Army doctors to make medical decisions.

Now he will make the first medical decision. Only if he agrees, will new evidence be passed on to the armed forces entry and evaluation station doctor.

This could be the same doctor who made the initial examination. Now he is asked to correct himself!

Even if these two men concur that an error has been made, the final decision still has to be made by the United States Army responsible for manpower. And no action will be taken after an induction notice has been issued, even if an error has occurred.

It is very clear to me that this new system does nothing to insure that young men will get a better medical examination. It simply assures that any physical defect overlooked initially, will continue to be overlooked. And a man's ability to serve his country may be affected.

I call on Dr. Tarr to make immediate improvements in the entire medical evaluation process. I hope that my colleagues in the House will do likewise.

Correction

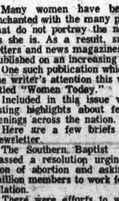
Dear AFRO: In your story ("I love the AFRO, says young mother age 70" — June 26), I am incorrectly quoted.

I did not say anything like dope fiends should be put in work camps. I did say that 18-year-olds should be able to vote. Please make this correction. I live in peace and harmony in my neighborhood and get along well with all my AFRO customers. I don't know anything about dope fiends.

(MRS.) ESTELLA DIXON

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE



MRS. WHITE

Many women have become disenchanted with the many publications that do not portray the new woman as she is. As a result, small newsletters and news magazines are being published on an increasing basis.

One such publication which came to the writer's attention this week is entitled "Women Today."

Included in this issue were interesting highlights about female happenings across the nation.

Here are a few briefs from that newsletter.

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution urging legalization of abortion and asking its 11.6 million members to work for new legislation.

There were efforts to water down the resolution, which calls for legalization in cases of "rape, incest, clear evidence of fetal deformity and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental and physical health of the mother." However, these efforts were defeated by a show of hands.

The Justice Department is due a few brownie points for one of its major appointments.

Attorney General John Mitchell selected a black woman as assistant director for citizenship in the Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York District.

Mrs. Marjorie Jackson, a lawyer, is the highest ranking woman in that Service and is also the highest ranking black woman in the Justice Department. When interviewed, Mrs. Jackson said, "I think women should be given an opportunity to advance. I have had that opportunity in the Justice Department".

For the first time in its 270-year history, two women have joined the ranks of the Yale Corporation-the university's highest governing body. Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman a black civil rights lawyer, and Mrs. Charles Gray, an associate professor of history at the University of Chicago were among the four trustees named to serve on the 19-member panel.

"Women Today" also announced that August 26, 1971, is a day of fund raising to establish a Washington office for Women's Rights and a fund for women candidates.

Men and women throughout the country are requested to join the celebration by pleding that day's wages or salary.

Fund raising parties, benefits and rallies, street fairs, booths at shopping centers and other activities are being planned.

Mrs. Aileen Hernandez, national president of the National Organization for Women, said: "This past year has become increasingly evident that the key to women's equality is political power."

Citing the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, she said: "Women knew that one of the keys to their liberation was political. And they went to Washington, year after year, to lobby for those rights. When they won the vote, they went home. The theme of August 26, 1971, will be "Return to Washington — and this time we're going to stay."

This writer is reminded of the story of Representative Bella Abzug (N.Y.) and the theme of her political campaign "A Women's Place Is In The House" (of representatives, that is).

Historical Note: The first normal petition for political rights for women ever presented on the American continent was to the House of Delegates, Saint Mary's, Maryland in 1648.

The petition, entitled "For Place and Voice," was presented by Margaret Brent, an early feminist.

Interesting Quote: "Many who have at last made the discovery that the blacks have some rights as well as other members of the human family, have yet to be convinced that women are entitled to any." Frederick Douglass, 1848.

(Note: This column would like to hear some of your views and opinions, and have you share some interesting quotes with us. Please write "It's Not A Man's World," AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Balto., Md. 21203

TOGETHER Shuckin' And Jivin'

By MADELINE MURPHY

MRS. MURPHY

The supervisors of Elections, having rejected the proposal of the Citizens Committee for Voter Registration for deputy registrars, has reaffirmed its insensitivity to and calculated racism toward inner city residents.

All along they played along with us using the familiar shell game — now you see it now you don't — suckering us in and then taking our proposal, our ideas, incorporating what they safely could, into their Supplemental Registration plans.

We, as usual, were left with the volunteer role of canvassing for unregistered, developing car pools, transporting prospective voters to the one shot registration stations, which they chose and when they chose them, of course taking all the credit for its success — slavery times all over again.

• • •

Our plan was that ordinary citizens could be sworn in and trained as volunteer registrars — no pay — saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

They would work as teams in the twenty-nine Community Action neighborhood centers and in twenty outlying areas, in churches, registering citizens every day, five days a week, Saturdays and Sundays if necessary.

Our proposal was factually sound since we proved that there was a higher number of unregistered in the inner city.

The Attorney General's office saw nothing illegal about our proposal in using centers and churches, since they were considered to be quasi-public places.

The Attorney General found that if we used mini-buses as registrar centers or door-to-door registration, the law of five days' notice could not be fulfilled.

The decision to use volunteer registrars was left solely, by law, up to the discretion of the three-man Board of Supervisors of Elections.

• • •

The Citizens Committee for Voter Registration, headed by the Policy Advisory Committee of Volunteers, CAA, composed of clubs, churches and interested citizens in all parts of the city, with the help of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell's office obtained the services of a coordinator for the program from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) with two assistants, funding for an office and equipment until the close of registration August 16.

Makes you wonder about the tax situation in this city, when the board refuses free help!

John Donahue, president of the board, admitted in a public statement that he would prefer the League of Women Voters and the Junior Association of Commerce (as an afterthought, our committee would work under them), to take on the deputy registration and choice of sites when a law was passed by the State Legislature.

He also admitted in a newspaper story that he is directly responsible to the Governor in spite of the Political B'hoys who control the green bag appointments in the Supervisors of Elections. But he's not politically biased nor partisan!

• • •

The other members, Percy Davis, our black representative who refers to the president as "Mr. John" and a Mr. Gimki from the Second District all gave a unanimous decision rewriting their promise on May 17, to accept our proposal.

Mind you, a month of precious time has passed, over-shooting our June 1 deadline.

The opinion ran counter to all their promises and praises and obvious envy of our proposal, because they wished to "avoid partisan or factional advantage, particularly as it relates to time and location of registration. It will establish a 35-day schedule of approximately 70 well distributed locations with emphasis on those areas where mass registration can be anticipated."

• • •

The fact that the co-chairman, Paul Chester filed for President of the City Council, (even though he had tendered his resignation to the committee and made this known to the board five days before their final decision), and that Fr. Eugene Ruane indicated his desire to run for City Council in the Fifth District and upon his nomination in this city, when the board of filing for office, gave the board an "out" to do what it wanted to do anyway — deny the black community any possibility of mass registration in the inner city.

For in a review of the Supplemental Registration list, phase one from July 7 to July 24, in the twenty-seven proposed locations, the board has designated approximately eight areas which would hit a few of the black inner city residents, that is if they happened to be there at the time and hour.

In all of the white and affluent neighborhoods the registration closes at 8 p.m.; in the areas where blacks would register, the closing hours are 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

In phase two, there would be eleven full days of supplemental registration.

Black people will just have a rough time registering unless they leave the kids unattended or lose a day's work.

• • •

Even though the board deputized teachers to register the 18-year-olds in the schools before they closed in June, and even though in Prince Georges County deputizing of registrars is standard operating procedure, the racial implications of this board's rejection of a similar proposal and choice of supplemental registration stations leaves no other avenue of approach than to report their capricious and discriminatory action to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The areas of the highest unregistered population are in the inner city where urban (black) renewal (removal) and expressway routes have displaced hundreds of families.

These areas, therefore, have high mobility, and require a more concentrated registration effort.

In a year when black people "dare" to run for the highest political positions in the city based upon the consistent track records of Judge Joseph Howard, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, Court Clerk Paul Chester, Municipal Court Judge William H. Murphy Sr., all the new delegates to the House in Annapolis and two additional black senators, the white establishment realizes, (more than we do), the powerful potential of the black inner city community voters who could have the power to build a new city, in their own image, on their own terms.

The sole survival of the black elected officials in this city rests upon a large black voter registration.

The sole survival of the black community rests upon the concern and caliber — the "being for real" — of the men and women we elect as to whether they are serious about their commitment to the poor, black and disenfranchised citizens of this city. Whether they care and understand the racial implications of this setback on the part of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

The Black Congressional Caucus in Washington should prove to them the seriousness of the times and the concern they should have for our survival and look to themselves, not to whether they're shuckin' and jivin' — playing the shell game — to the tune of "Mr. Marvin," or playing the survival game with and for the people.

It's time to put up or risk being shut up in the zero hours of 1971, 1972 and 1974 NOW!

As Bill Cosby said: "It's right on inside where everybody is safe and once past the door to the outside it's 'right off!'"

Well, the voters can "write off" too and maybe that's the lesson to be taught this year and 1974!

What is unless those concerned elected officials speak up. They all know of the Citizens Committee for Voter Registration and were invited to contribute. They certainly are not in Mississippi, or do they understand their silence makes Maryland and Mississippi twin states?

Your elected delegates and councilmen should get a phone call from you, dear reader, NOW, before it's all over.

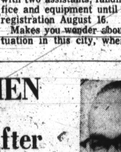
Your unregistered friends, acquaintances and neighbors (I'm assuming that all my readers are registered), should get a nagging from you, a ride from you, an organized effort from you to see that this racist board won't have its way.

It should be your commitment to clog that Board of Supervisors of Elections every day until it closes on August 16, to clog every supplemental registration place inside and outside of your neighborhood, with determined would-be-citizens, for in the long run, it's everybody's job to protect our civil rights.

NOW and THEN

Ali's Victory After Four Lost Years

By DR. FLEMING



A great wrong, or a regrettable mistake, has been corrected.

The Supreme Court is to be applauded for upholding Muhammad Ali's status as a sincere conscientious objector within the framework of his Muslim religion.

The Justice Department had misled the Selective Service System, it appears, into denying his religious claims and into charging him with draft evasion.

The Court's decision cannot undo the harm done to the boxer who, based on his conviction in lower courts, was barred from pugilistic competition by the World Boxing Commission.

This WBC decision caused Ali to lose nearly four of the best years of his professional life. Those years were years he cannot really recapture, in prowess, physique or dollars.

How a little group of men, with no legal power, and subject to no speedy appeal, can so damage (almost wreck) a young man is hard to understand.

It need not be overlooked, however, that there was ultimate appeal and, further, that even before the Supreme Court spoke, smart and courageous men had found ways to put "the champ" in the ring again.

The expose of the Pentagon Papers should make Presidents and diplomats more careful in the future; it should make them more responsible, more mindful of the fact that they are not powerful beyond the reach of the people.

Diplomacy cannot be conducted wholly in a goldfish bowl, it is readily admitted here, but too much in foreign relations is kept secret that needs not be secret. Indeed, if some "deals" and decisions had to be made openly, they would not be made at all.

If rulers and their agents knew their secret doings might be revealed in their lifetime, they would have less of "the public be damned" attitude.

Some "Top Secret" items are often not open to the public for a generation.

Somewhere there must be a balance, so that the public's right to know and react is not sacrified on the altars of "Censored," "Confidential" and "Top Secret."

Neither can we afford to give up the long fought for right of "freedom of the press." Every dictatorship has begun by throttling the press.

This column, therefore, is compelled to be on the side of the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Boston Globe which, among other papers, have been publishing excerpts from the Pentagon Papers — excerpts showing that recent American Presidents in reference to Vietnam, have been telling their people one thing and doing something else, or just the opposite of what they were saying.

• • •

It was months ago (AFRO, Nov. 27, 1970) that this column revealed that study that revealed details of how United States leaders kept the public in the dark about Vietnam decisions and actions.

Not only did the papers do editorials based on information that failed to jibe with legal facts available to them, they managed to dig up a Bar Association spokesman who backed them up and a judge who, if he does what he claims, goes beyond his legal authority in handling traffic cases.

The reporters and editors of the two newspapers are intelligent men, so it has to be assumed they knew the law involved.

In Paragraph B of Chapter 16-113, Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland, under subtitle Appearance Bond, it states: "A written promise to appear in court may be complied with by an appearance by counsel."

The same Article, under Chapter 16-109.1, says this about the presence of police officer at the traffic hearing: . .

"If the person so summoned does not notify the chief clerk of the traffic division of the court that he desires the presence of the officer at the time of the hearing as aforesaid, it shall not be necessary that the officer who issued the summons appear . . ."

That's it in legal terms — Allen, or any John Doe in Baltimore facing a traffic court hearing for parking violations, properly could send his lawyer; and, it would not be unusual for the policemen involved not to appear.

This legality has been ruled on as proper procedure more than once.

But to hear the Sun Papers, stories and editorials, a reader would get the impression a lot of underhanded stuff was being slipped over on the public by this black state's attorney and judge — and that the quality of justice was in peril for the future.

They did their hatchet job even after Allen explained the tickets were not his — the car was registered in other than Gordon — should let Judge Aaron know that it's legally okay for lawyers to represent their absent clients in traffic parking cases, whether Aaron likes it or not.

DMV deputy commissioner William T. S. Bricker, a former assistant attorney general assigned to the DVM, not only defended Allen but was bluntly critical of Gordon for "speaking about something when he didn't know the law."

He cited the passages of the Maryland law that covered the Allen cases.

That was reported in the news paper of the evening Sun of Friday, June 25.

This probably was intended to make Allen and Baytor look bad — but to those aware of the law, it suggested reasons why Allen's department might not have been able to win convictions on the basis of any investigation in which Gordon played a major role. The man obviously makes strong statements on the basis of weak facts.

Flanery also quoted Municipal Court Judge Howard Aaron, the self-styled "hanging judge," as having said:

"As a general rule, I never accept a not guilty plea unless the defendant is present."

The chief judge, or someone from the Baltimore Bar Association — other than Gordon — should let Judge Aaron know that it's legally okay for lawyers to represent their absent clients in traffic parking cases, whether Aaron likes it or not.

DMV deputy commissioner William T. S. Bricker, a former assistant attorney general assigned to the DVM, not only defended Allen but was bluntly critical of Gordon for "speaking about something when he didn't know the law."

He cited the passages of the Maryland law that covered the Allen cases.

That was reported in the news paper of the evening Sun of Friday, June 25.

But over on the editorial page of that same issue, the paper was piously declaring such things as these:

". . . As long as there are differences and doubts over the propriety of handling cases as his (Allen's) were handled, there is one way of easing those differences and doubts without risking possible erosion of the whole judicial system.

"That is for Mr. Allen to appear in court — and let the rest of us and tell it to the judge."

The only "differences and doubts" seem to be with the two newspapers, Gordon, Aaron and a couple of unnamed judges.

One of the papers attempted to make light of Allen's thinking that his race may in some way have colored its objectivity.

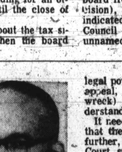
More than objectivity was involved here. This was a press hatchet job, pure and simple. It was designed to make Allen understand that the plantation mentality still exists in Baltimore.

The extent to which unjustified doubts were created about the judicial secutor and judicial system — along with the fallout polarization that went with the hatchet job — seem not to have concerned the two papers unduly.

That's the priorities. That's why neither Allen nor Baytor better hold his breath awaiting an apology.

Cheap Brickbats On Traffic Issue

By MOSES J. NEWSON



MOSES NEWSON

The Sun Papers of Baltimore owe State's Atty. Milton B. Allen and Municipal Court Judge Solomon Baytor apologies — but neither should expect to get them.

They are two black officials in important posts who handle their jobs the way they see them, not the way the press would have them operate.

When you're independent and interested in fair play for all, you get a lot of undeserved brickbats.

But seldom are the brickbats as biasted and cheap as those heaped on Allen and Solomon, especially on Allen, in connection with some traffic tickets.

The gist of what happened is that Judge Baytor made judgments in the cases without Allen's being present and without policemen who wrote the tickets being present — although Allen's attorney, Leonard A. Briscoe was there to plead him not guilty in some of the violations.

It should be noted at this point that Allen had agreed to drop charges against a judge who had been indicted as result of a series of articles the Sun Papers had run exposing irregularities in a number of traffic court instances.

The state's attorney found there was not enough evidence to get a conviction.

Both the morning and evening Suns jumped on Allen with both feet.

Ironically, their baseless attacks came at a time when the nation's press was distinguishing itself by publishing results of a Pentagon study of the revealed details of how United States leaders kept the public in the dark about Vietnam decisions and actions.

Not only did the papers do editorials based on information that failed to jibe with legal facts available to them, they managed to dig up a Bar Association spokesman who backed them up and a judge who, if he does what he claims, goes beyond his legal authority in handling traffic cases.

The reporters and editors of the two newspapers are intelligent men, so it has to be assumed they knew the law involved.

In Paragraph B of Chapter 16-113, Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland, under subtitle Appearance Bond, it states: "A written promise to appear in court may be complied with by an appearance by counsel."

The same Article, under Chapter 16-109.1, says this about the presence of police officer at the traffic hearing: . .

"If the person so summoned does not notify the chief clerk of the traffic division of the court that he desires the presence of the officer at the time of the hearing as aforesaid, it shall not be necessary that the officer who issued the summons appear . . ."

That's it in legal terms — Allen, or any John Doe in Baltimore facing a traffic court hearing for parking violations, properly could send his lawyer; and, it would not be unusual for the policemen involved not to appear.

This legality has been ruled on as proper procedure more than once.

But to hear the Sun Papers, stories and editorials, a reader would get the impression a lot of underhanded stuff was being slipped over on the public by this black state's attorney and judge — and that the quality of justice was in peril for the future.

They did their hatchet job even after Allen explained the tickets were not his — the car was registered in other than Gordon — should let Judge Aaron know that it's legally okay for lawyers to represent their absent clients in traffic parking cases, whether Aaron likes it or not.

DMV deputy commissioner William T. S. Bricker, a former assistant attorney general assigned to the DVM, not only defended Allen but was bluntly critical of Gordon for "speaking about something when he didn't know the law."

He cited the passages of the Maryland law that covered the Allen cases.

That was reported in the news paper of the evening Sun of Friday, June 25.

But over on the editorial page of that same issue, the paper was piously declaring such things as these:

". . . As long as there are differences and doubts over the propriety of handling cases as his (Allen's) were handled, there is one way of easing those differences and doubts without risking possible erosion of the whole judicial system.

"That is for Mr. Allen to appear in court — and let the rest of us and tell it to the judge."

The only "differences and doubts" seem to be with the two newspapers, Gordon, Aaron and a couple of unnamed judges.

One of the papers attempted to make light of Allen's thinking that his race may in some way have colored its objectivity.

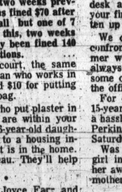
More than objectivity was involved here. This was a press hatchet job, pure and simple. It was designed to make Allen understand that the plantation mentality still exists in Baltimore.

The extent to which unjustified doubts were created about the judicial secutor and judicial system — along with the fallout polarization that went with the hatchet job — seem not to have concerned the two papers unduly.

That's the priorities. That's why neither Allen nor Baytor better hold his breath awaiting an apology.

IF YOU Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS



People, places and things

Miss Minna Whittaker, 14-year-old AFRO news carrier will represent Baltimore in the first annual Miss Black Teenage Maryland pageant.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yancy Whittaker, of Hillsdale Rd.

Minna has been selling the AFRO for three years and boasts that she has the "best route" in Baltimore.

She campaigned in the last political election and plans to campaign in the coming city election. She does volunteer work with her mother with the Delta Girles.

Proud parents are Mrs. Helen Whittaker, who is a third grade teacher at Wellwood Elementary School. Dad is a guidance placement counselor.

Minna has one brother, Yancy Jr. who is in the 9th grade at Pikesville Junior High School.

Minna will be a freshman at Pikesville Junior High in September.

• • •

Cuff note: At its Wednesday meeting the Board of Trustees of the Community College that Richard M. Turner, III, currently Chairman of the Department of Music at Fisk University was made Dean of Student Activities at the Community College of Baltimore, effective July 1.

• • •

Different strokes for different folks department: In House Court last Tuesday, an elderly white lawyer charged with 20 housing code violations was fined $40.

In the same court, same day, a black man, a Prestman St. resident who faced 7 charges two weeks previous for which he was fined $70 after he had corrected all but one of 7 violations. And get this, two weeks before he had already been fined 140 fined the same violations.

Also in the same court, the same day, another black man who works in Washington was fined $10 for putting plaster in a plastic bag.

Note: to the man who put plaster in the plastic bag, you are within your rights to have your 16-year-old daughter refuse admission to a housing inspector when no adult is in the home. Call Legal Aid Bureau. They'll help you.

• • •

Cuffd note: Miss Joyce Farr and Robert L. Gillard have a date at the altar. This date is Saturday, July 24, at Fulton Baptist Church.

Miss Farris, daughter of Mrs. Lulu Farr of Baltimore and Willie Farr of York, Pa.

She is a graduate of Douglass High, attended Coppin State College and is now employed at Social Security.

Mr. Gillard is the son of Mrs. Daisy Gillard. He is a graduate of City College, and is presently in the Army.

• • •

Looking good at the 5 by 5 Demo Club's reception at Martin's West for Pinkney Howell running for City Council in the 5th District were Mr. and Mrs. Rick Johnson (Louise) of Gwynn Oak Ave.

She was saying something in her white pants suit (low cut in the back) and his white suit, in the latest mod style was elegant too.

Cuff note: Mr. Johnson is in 3rd year law at U. of Md. She's a psychometrist at Hopkins Hospital.

Cuff note: The Learning Center East sponsors a tutorial program. Any student at the elementary, secondary, and college level who wishes to be tutored in mathematics should call the center at 539-4033.

• • •

Special note to Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau: The calls we've been getting here at our city desk at all hours indicate some of your fine men in blue need to straighten up and fly right.

We do NOT need a police-citizen confrontation in this long, hot summer we face. True, the fault is not always the policeman's, but there are some calls we've had which indicate the officers could try harder.

For example, take the case of the 15-year-old Gough St. girl who was in a hassle with a 14-year-old boy in that Perkins Homes recreation area on Saturday.

Was it really necessary to put the girl in the paddy wagon and carry her away, refusing permission for her mother . . . . . to ride along?

• • •

Delightful and talented youngster in our midst this week is 24-year-old Alaina "Tiny" Reed, who hails from Springfield, Ohio, hometown of the head of our house.

She plays one of the lead roles in "Hair," the current sell-out at the Morris Mechanic Theatre (Her role is that of 'Sheila').

Miss Reed has an unusual voice range — covers four octaves from elto to 1st soprano — and she's going far. Remember you read it here first!

If you don't get to see 'Hair,' try to buy her first record. It's a Capital 45 entitled, "Don't Let Me Fall In Love Alone" Flip side is "Easy To Be Hard."

More cuff note: Try to see Hair before it leaves town this weekend. The youngsters are tel