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.

78 YEARS AGO—"The interests of the AFRO-AMERICAN population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy."—The AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893.

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, ridiculous, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher — 1889-1967

Modern Angel Gabriel

The late Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, who finally succumbed to illness, was certainly no stranger to physical maladies, nor was he slighted by personal troubles.

* * *

Satch had been plagued with ulcers and indigestion which more than once caused cancellation of concert dates. In 1955, he was stricken in Paris, and in 1959, he was described as "gravely ill" in Italy as he lapsed into a coma following serious heart disorders and pneumonia.

Armstrong was also burdened with many personal problems that followed him throughout his career.

In 1945, he lost over $100,000 when his deal to produce a completely nonwhite musical motion picture collapsed.

The well-traveled celebrity was accused in 1959 by the Egyptian press of being "The leader of an Israeli spy ring."

But it was Satchmo's first time in trouble that affected his life. It one believes in fate, then one would certainly agree that it was in the stars for Armstrong, born July 4, 1900, to be apprehended by the authorities at age 12 for firing a .38 revolver in celebration of New Year's Eve.

It was while serving a year's term at the Colored Waif's Home For Boys (a New Orleans reform school) that Louis learned to read music. . . . and play the cornet.

* * *

He was given the "red-carpet" treatment all over the world, and was dubbed "The Ambassador With a Horn" as a result of his numerous goodwill tours in the Near East, African countries, European countries and behind the Iron Curtain.

Few will forget the "line-of-a-life-time" when Satch, performing a 1932 concert at London's Palladium, grinned over towards the Royal Box where King George V was seated, and announced, "This one's for you, Rex."

* * *

Critics have called Armstrong "The most talented, most important instrumentalist in the history of jazz." Satch has also been known as "The Peter Pan of Jazz," "An Authentic American Genius" and "The Modern Angel Gabriel."

Perhaps the very essence of Armstrongs existence could be summed by none other than the great one himself, when, at age 50, he said:

"I am so happy . . . still blowing my Satchmo trumpet, still enjoying the fine things in life, still love everybody, and everybody loves me . . . and from one end of the world to the other, to me, everybody's just like one happy family."

In 1949, Louis was asked how long he thought he could last. He replied, "Right until I get to the Pearly Gates, I hope." He added that when he got to those gates, "I'm gonna blow a kiss to Gabriel."

We would like to think that the two trumpeters have joined to render the all-time version of "When The Saints Go Marchin' In."

Death writes "20" to High C

Capacity - Matter Of Standards

The Clifton Park Pool which has a 1,200 capacity has up to 3,000 persons some days, an AFRO reader reports.

A high School for 1,500 has 2,500; a classroom with seats for 35 has 50 children assigned who sit on window sills and, in some cases, on the floor.

But:

If you go to Radio City in New York, they make you stand in line for an empty seat. The parking lots downtown exhibit a "Lot Filled" sign when there is no more room.

When a good concert comes into town, the box office carries the sign "Sold Out" or "Standing Room Only".

Even colleges say, sorry, we can't accept your child because we have met our quota.

What, then, is wrong with our various agencies under city administration?

Do they have any knowledge about how capacity is determined . . . what it means to fit too many children or adults in a given space?

Don't they realize that health standards, fire regulations and just old common sense are just some of the reasons a public area — like a swimming pool — should know how many persons it can accommodate safely?

When basic rules of common sense are ignored, you end up with a school like Pimlico last year where there were far too many children for even good administrators to handle.

Or a pool like Clifton Park, which borders on danger while waiting for the crowd to dwindle down as the summer goes on.

Like schools, which had to go on double shifts to accommodate overpopulation, administrators of pools like Clifton Park must be imaginative and develop a system to fill the needs of the community.

Why not a plan whereby there would be two swimming sessions a day, or maybe four? Or separate hours for adults and children? Or an extended day?

We can't conceive of anyone who has the understanding of what it means to have hundreds of sweaty bodies in a ship's hold, not being able to come up with a solution for an overcrowded pool.

Bang, Bang, You're Dead

Back in the days, before the John F. Kennedy assassination, only the cops and robbers used the real gun and the peaceful American citizen stood on the sidelines not caring much.

Slowly, the citizens discovered that more and more gangsters were getting guns while the powerful gun lobby in Washington prevented any real good regulations from getting on the books.

So Joe Citizen, seeing the cops outnumbered, went out and bought his own gun and started shooting back.

Today, across this land, when the gangster goes bang, bang, the good citizen returns the fire and both end up dead.

It is a sad commentary on the American way of life, if the only way a man can stay alive and in business is to hold a gun in one hand while counting the day's receipts with the other.

Morticians And Death Notices

The AFRO became concerned last week when a long-time reader whose sister died, complained that her funeral director had discouraged her from placing a death notice in her community newspaper.

That concern took on new dimension when during the same week another AFRO reader dropped by our offices to show a personal interest in his death notice for a loved-one, only to find the mortician had taken it upon himself not to place the notice in the AFRO.

It was only when the AFRO called the undertaker with the reader standing by insisting that the death notice be placed in his community newspaper, that the undertaker acted.

The AFRO does not understand why a mortician serving people who turn to him in a time of bereavement, should have to be prevailed upon to have this newspaper serve him, particularly when the bereaved must pay the regular charge made for newspaper announcements by the funeral parlor.

The realization of how important a death notice in the AFRO is to many of its readers has encouraged this newspaper to make immediate changes in its production schedules so that such notices can be accepted until two hours before presstime on Tuesday and Fridays.

On more than one occasion the AFRO has questioned the wisdom of families spending too much on funerals, but that is not the issue here.

The question is whether or not our faithful readers and supporters are able to avail themselves of a service they desire the AFRO to render for them during a trying period.

With the new schedule changes, a family's mortician in most cases, will be able to call the AFRO for this service just as he calls other publications.

Or, the family may call. Every effort will be made to provide this desired service for our readers.

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

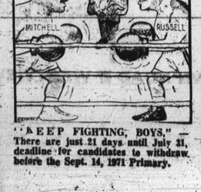
Whether it has kept the faith with the common people;

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 abuse, damn injustices and prejudice, and the cowardice of compromise

John H. Murphy, —1928



"KEEP FIGHTING, BOYS," There are just 21 days until July 31, deadline for candidates to withdraw before the Sept. 14, 1971 Primary.

Baltimore Afro-American

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.

Secretary Rita Davidson Welfare Rule Is Fair

Dear AFRO:

Publicity about the opposition to the change in Public Assistance Rule 200 XA (2) proposed by Mrs. Rita Davidson, Secretary of Employment and Social Service, has forced the valiant lady to subject her proposal to the approval of the Maryland Legislature in the next session.

The change she proposed would allow people who have been disqualified for unemployment compensation to receive Public Assistance if they qualify.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to some of the reasons why the present rule is unfair and information refuting the charges brought by her opposition.

One of the criticisms leveled at the proposal is that it would be damaging to business interests in Maryland and would discourage business from locating in Maryland because it would give undue advantage to strikers.

The Law Reform Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau has informed me that there are 25 states in which rules permit strikers to receive welfare if they qualify.

Many of these are heavily industrialized states and there has been no apparent negative influence on their business communities.

There is no basis for another of the charges brought against Mrs. Davidson; namely, that she has usurped the power of the State Legislature in attempting to make this change.

Research at the Legal Aid Bureau's Law Reform Unit shows that none of the bills dealing with unemployment or welfare introduced during the last session of the legislature, can be said to be similar to the proposed rule change.

Consequently, in absence of any such legislative precedent, it is clearly within Mrs. Davidson's power as an administrator to make the change in the rule.

The argument has also been raised that the government would not subsidize either side in a labor dispute.

But, already, the government favors businesses by allowing them to deduct fines incurred by them for unfair labor practices, and money lost as a result of a strike as business losses for tax purposes.

If business is allowed this type of support, surely there can be no reason for it to deny strikers who are most vulnerable and impoverished enough to qualify, the small allowances afforded by Public Assistance.

Children, Parents

Dear AFRO:

I would like to praise your article, "Why Do Kids Leave Home? Where Do They Go?"

The writer projected some valid reasons as to why our youngsters seek to evade the "security of home."

The points discussed were interesting and revealing. Children, as a rule, are incapable of choosing what is best for them. One can only hope that parents of teenage children will caution their youth about the inherent danger they can encounter when they abandon the home which they assume is not relevant.

(Mrs.) RUTH DREW

EDITOR'S NOTE — If the typical home we used to know could be restablished, all problems the children now suffer would disappear. If parents could know the heartaches a child has, the longing he experiences without anyone to love him, surely would make a home in which he could grow in happiness.

Chain Of Humanity

Dear AFRO:

I would be derelict in my duty as a Baltimore citizen if I did not praise publicly two young, black men who extended the chain of humanity by helping someone in need.

Eddie Montgomery, a local barber, helped a family to avoid eviction by providing them with enough money to pay the rent, plus extra for groceries. The interesting thing here is that Mr. Montgomery had never met them before responding to their need.

In a similar incident, Frank M. Conaway, candidate for Baltimore City Comptroller, responded to the plight of a family whom he knew, but had not seen for some years. His service, too, helped to avoid a traumatic family crisis.

Both men, by the way, are not aware that this public statement is made. I heard of both situations, checked their accuracy, and decided to share them with other Baltimoreans.

In both cases, also, it was the man in "humanity" that made them give. Surely these men are not the only ones giving service to others.

Perhaps there is hope for Baltimore, perhaps.

DELORES A. WILLIAMS,
Concerned Citizen

CCB Ads Pay

Dear AFRO:

I am about to leave on my vacation. It has been a pleasure to work with you during the past year.

I believe that jointly we have stimulated many of your readers and their children to attend Community College of Baltimore. The coupons from our ads are still coming in.

It is of interest to note that coupons from the tabloid supplement, distributed in high schools, are now coming in from your readers.

Apparently, they were stimulated by the more recent ads in the AFRO-AMERICAN.

SIDNEY KOBRE
Director, News Bureau

NUPA For Russell

Dear AFRO:

The Primary for the selection of party candidates for the municipal offices, is perhaps the most crucial in the long history of the city.

The Northwestern United Protective Association urges the democratic voters to support the candidacy of George L. Russell Jr., to the office of Mayor of Baltimore City.

(Mrs.) SUSIE V. HILBURN,
president;
Mrs. OLIVIA JACKSON,
Vice President
Mrs. MARTHA E. MALLOKY,
corresponding secretary.

Report From Washington

Tax Loopholes

By PARREN J. MITCHELL

We hear a lot these days about tax loopholes; those special provisions in tax law which allow certain forms of income to avoid taxation and thus impose an extra tax burden on the rest of us.

We hear less about spending loopholes; those special provisions of our spending policy which protect certain programs from the normal process of budget review and thus draw off revenues which could be assigned to higher priority projects.

The most outrageous of these is the Highway Trust Fund, a spending loophole equal in magnitude to the infamous oil-depletion allowance; on the tax side each year it swallows more than $5 billion, all of it to build roads.

* * *

Now this country has built, over the last twenty years, a road system which may be, in sum, the greatest construction project in the history of the world.

With a limited number of exceptions, (for example, the development of new communities) any road which hasn't been at least started by this point is a very low-priority item indeed.

If we really needed it, it would have been built earlier. If one adds to the immediate fiscal cost of road-building the sometimes immense social cost in the form of destroyed neighborhoods, ruined parkland, as in the case of Baltimore's notorious East-West Expressway, the case against more road-building may be viewed as very strong.

Even in terms of the transportation system, urban rapid mass transit, which would enable unemployed urban workers to get to unfilled suburban jobs, is a much more vital need.

According to estimates made by Hampton Associates, we could free more than $1.25 billion over the next five years simply by diverting funds released by completion of the Interstate Highway System.

But as the law is written now, we are stuck. Under the terms of the Highway Trust Act, that revenue can be used for one purpose and one purpose only: road-building.

If the money is earmarked, the money will be spent.

And the highway tax revenues are growing, partly because we have all those shiny new roads.

The only logical end to the process is the point where the entire surface area of this country is paved over.

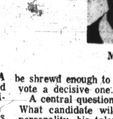
There is a solution: free the money. H.R. 9049, of which I am a co-sponsor would create a new Transportation Trust Fund, which would receive all the revenues presently going to the Highway Trust Fund.

This money could be spent for any Federal transportation program, and the bill specifically urges "greater resources and more rapid development" for urban mass transit.

It's time we got our transportation system off the road to nowhere.

ODDS and ENDS

By PAUL EVANS



MR. EVANS

Put on your MUST reading list: A Rap on Race by James Baldwin and Margaret Mead. Also, Norman Mailer's new book Prisoner of Sex.

Although there are still connections by many of both races that black and white can't mix socially without "confusion under heaven," a recent visit to Riverside Park in South Baltimore, is a singular example that youth of both groups find it pleasant not to be "hung-up" about race.

At long last, a large part of the American population which has been disinfranchised and has borne the burden of under representation in a democracy finally has been given a chance to help participate in destiny-making.

With the ratification of the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution, American youth, 18 to 21, will be able to vote in ABL elections in the nation.

The political significance of such a "liberation" is so momentous that special polls have been taken and will continue to investigate the direction in which the voting strength of youth will go.

Now that the deadline has passed for filing for the Sept. 14, 1971 Primary, we get a better perspective on how the political scene will be shaping up.

A note of caution on the judicious use of power. Political power, whether wielded by white men or black men can be corrupting when applied in the wrong hands with the wrong intent.

* * *

Politics, we must believe, is an inherent part of the governmental process; it is thus necessary.

We who have been on the outside looking in for so long in politics must be shrewd enough to make our every vote a decision one.

A central question we must ask is: What candidate will best utilize his personality, his talents and his common sense to further the interests of as people of color in Baltimore?

Prudence and sound judgment dictate that we hope to increase our representation in the City Council, as much as possible' and if conditions warrant elect a black man as mayor.

But, we must not feel that we are obligated to elect a black man mayor who has not gained the confidence of the people — all the people.

This writer has been told this election is not an ordinary campaign.

Leaders in the black community as well as mothers, fathers and young adults will have a great deal of "soul-searching" to do before they cast their votes in September and November.

We must ask, should we sacrifice present gains for greater long term future gains; that is, should we delay voting for a black mayor until 1975 because we don't expect to get the kind we need now and may get in another four years?

Time is on the side of the black person in this country. Should we take the first thing that comes along merely because it says it is good for us or wait until we are sure we have something we know is good for us and the city in which we live?

Many have said Baltimore is not the kind of place in which to be happy.

There has to be an effort by all peoples who are interested in making this town a good place in which to live before anything constructive and lasting takes place.

TOGETHER

Economic Awareness

By MADELINE MURPHY

MRS. MURPHY

Two areas in which black people are still substantially naive are the understanding of the dynamics and strength of their economic and political power in this city.

As their boycott of the Pennsylvania Ave. shops, the Black Panthers and the Soul School are illustrating a beginning in the area of economic awareness.

Unlike the Zionists we as a group find nationalism to be a dirty word because it has not been sufficiently defined for us and its importance has not been equated in dollars and cents.

As repression becomes increasingly more forceful in the black community, it is extremely important that we move from the area of being givers and receivers of goods and services and become owners and dispensers (manufacturers, as well) of goods and services.

So long as merchants are able to take money from the black community with no need or no commitment to return it in employment at decent wages, in substantial contributions to our causes, we shall be continually on the begging and receiving end of and on niggardly langesses.

* * *

Five years ago, we were being pressured in the Community Action Commission, when I was a commission member, by William Donald Shaefer and Herman Katkow of PALMA to allow federal funding for a Small Business Development Center.

It was to go into the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Council for the purpose of building small shopping centers and off-street parking, the majority of the beneficiaries being the white business community.

By a close vote nearly black/white split — we as a Commission, with the help of Dr. Homer Favor, Lalit Gadhia and an aroused black citizenry, in spite of Mr. Shaefer's membership, were able to keep the funding and develop a Small Business Development Center, staffed by blacks, administered by blacks to help develop black businesses, whose main benefits were received by the black community.

Ruth J's Boutique, Taylor's House of Flowers, a trucking firm were only a few of the businesses developed under this program. Certainly they would never have been funded under the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Council.

The program was an economic threat to the total white community because blacks were making inroads as providers of services in areas heretofore closed to them and with the counseling of the Small Business Development Center, were succeeding at a phenominal rate. Not only in Baltimore, but in other cities was this program successful.

And in the main, it was showing the Small Business Administration how it could do a more meaningful and less punitive, racist job in fostering and counseling small businesses and in guaranteeing loans.

But as with all successful black programs, even though (through Adam Clayton Powell's committee), we got a year's extension of the program over others across the nation, funds over which we had no real control were withdrawn by the federal government.

* * *

In spite of this de-funding, there are some lessons the black community must learn about unity in economic awareness and development:

1. Boycotting businesses which have no interest and no concern for our legitimate programs and our uplift efforts should be standard operating procedure in the black community.

2. Support of black businesses wherever possible, even if it requires the sacrifice of going across town for prescriptions, food, clothing, so that we develop our people as providers of services.

This generates more jobs, more money flowing back into the black community and a more efficient business base to develop as more demands are made on it.

There is a booklet which lists these businesses, put out by the Small Businessmen's League. Dr. Donald Chandler at Morgan College can direct you to the person who circulates it. We must learn to be as patient with our own business people, with constructive criticism and continued patronage, as we are with the outright exploitation of the white business community.

* * *

3. Develop businesses with the help of counseling services like CEBO (Council on Equal Business Opportunity, the SBA (Small Business Administration), EDO (Economic Development Organization of Model Cities.

With the number of social events sponsored by the black community, and the thousands of dollars spent in the white business community, it is deplorable that we do not have a coordination of sororities, fraternities, professional groups which would band together to build a hall or a motel or both, is that nothing on the black social level would directly benefit the black employment level.

4. Support the two black Building and Loan Associations — Advance Federal, 1611 W. North Ave., and Ideal Building and Loan Association, 1629 Druid Hill Avenue — where both banks insure deposits and are the only ones which grant loans for houses in the inner city, unreservedly.

The black community has over $90 million in white banks in this city. The very banks which deny the black community loans for homes in the inner city, which lend city pension funds, reaping high interest rates and returning low interest rates to the pension funds deposits — ask Frank Conaway, he knows.

All these vital resources go out of the black community with a high penalty to the black community in the area of jobs, capital resources and ownership.

With our money big business and banking are able to control the politics of this city, to use our money to defeat us in political campaigns and deny us funds to develop our own community.

* * *

5. Support the Community Action Agency Credit Unions where poor black people can borrow at low interest rates for needed household items. This program not only encourages thrift; it also counsels in the area of consumer protection.

6. Boycott the United Appeal and CICHA and with these same contributions develop our own Black United Fund as Washington, D.C. and other cities have done.

7. Support the Free Medical Clinic of the Panthers and their breakfast program, among others, so that our philanthropy directly helps our own people. There is enough money in the black community, properly husbanded, if properly banked, distributed and contributed which could support any worthwhile effort we cared to create, develop or continue.

The Provident Hospital Development Fund, which raised in the black community over $1.2 Million is testimony to the fact that once motivated, black people in all walks of life can and will give to self-help projects.

Cherry Hill with a goal of $15,000 raised $16,650.

* * *

8. Most importantly, this drive for affluence and the middle-class image must be directed toward mutual cooperation, mutual self-help and mutual economic benefits.

There are those among us who wish and hope for a day when money will get us status, position and the spotlight, not realizing that rather than unity us as a people this thrust separates us, by the way we induce our black businesses to willingly allow the white business community to exploit us.

I have been to innumerable affairs recently where Martin's West has catered and where not a black face is seen serving us.

This goes the gamut from the Maryland Conference of Social Welfare to Russell affairs and the most recent high school proms to Joe Julian affair. The excuse is always the same: "ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE."

This is that Martin's West is contracted by the Civic Center as its only food purveyor, yet their visible hiring policies flaunt the city's obligation to uphold fair employment practice laws.

In the face of this, the Belvedere closes its doors leaving veteran black writers and waitresses unemployed.

* * *

We black people must be singularly sensitive to the drain of money from our community that we support and encourage by our own inaction, by our patronage to banks and businesses which openly discriminate.

All of this is called Black Nationalism and it is this very Black Nationalism which will bind our community together, strengthen it economically and politically and consequently serve to build our own institutions, our own business enterprise and our own blueprint for freedom.

As Ossie Davis said at the Black Caucus dinner: "It is Not the Man, but the Plan," or "It's Not the Rap, but the Map!"

All ethnic groups learned this and traveled this route. Even in the face of racist criticism, we must understand the beneficial power of this kind of effort.

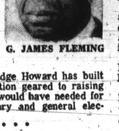
We have the power in the palm of our hand. All we must do is grasp it in our fist and then "Right On"! Surely this is one step in the direction of the ancient proverb:

"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE."

NOW and THEN

Russell And Better Political Style

By G. JAMES FLEMING



G. JAMES FLEMING

Judge Joseph C. Howard has always been smart and intelligent. He remains so, as proven by his decision not to enter the race for Mayor of Baltimore.

Of course, he is of mayoralty calibre; of course, he has shown his ability to win city-wide; of course, he has demonstrated that he is able to "make it" without boss or machine support.

But, if Judge Howard left the Supreme Bench, the black community could easily lose that important spot for some years to come.

Then, too, Judge Howard has built up no organization geared to raising the monies he would have needed for both the primary and general elections.

* * *

Most important, those who wanted Howard "at any price" gave no evidence of having the power to cause other black candidates to withdraw from the contest.

There, or even two, serious black candidates, come very close to guaranteering that no black mayor will be elected in 1971.

Keeping Joe Howard on the bench is not a real loss, since the front-running black candidate, George L. Russell Jr., has the training, the experience and the broad support which a mayoralty candidate must have.

In addition, Russell has shown that many people believe in him enough to support his campaign financially.

This column believes that Russell is the only black candidate who has a chance, this year, of being nominated and elected. What bothers us about him is his "style".

We know he can only be George Russell — polished, clean-cut, judge-looking, careful in language.

But, sometimes this columnist feels like asking, "Judge, do you have to out-Ivy League the real Ivy Leaguers?"

Say this about George Russell. He is honest. He has not dashed off and bought an Afro toupee or started wearing dashiks and other African dress, just to prove he is black on that he is interested in his people.

* * *

In 1954, when blacks challenged the political boss in the Fourth District and elected the first blacks to the State Legislature, George Russell was in the midst of the struggle. He has never tried not to be black.

But Candidate Russell is not presently making the impact on blacks which will arouse them into voting for him with a vengeance. He is touching mind-strings but not touching heart-strings enough. He is forgetting the statistics: that blacks only vote in gigantic numbers when they have a stirringly racial reason to do so.

* * *

If black voters are to come out, crusade-like, to vote for a moment candidate who happens to be black, they must be given unchallengeable reasons why they should vote in such large numbers.

Black voters, of course, want to hear mature discussion of the issues. But, they also want (and need) some emotional injections. As the old time ministers knew so well, they need the "rousements."

Turning on the heat, which Judge Russell has not yet done, does not mean he must indulge in "racist" charges or in a hate campaign.

It does mean that he must be the black David going out after the many kinds of Goliaths that have kept black people "in their place."

So far, his dedication to bringing Baltimore "together" and his commitment to be the mayor "of all the people" have not struck fire. These ideals are taken for granted. Every and any serious candidate is expected to be similarly disposed to togetherness.

* * *

To this column, if George Russell lets black people know more, and more directly, how he stands on the gut issues and feelings of blacks, this kind of stand should be understandable to his close white supporters.

Certainly, these white supporters must know that he cannot be nominated or elected without a massive turnout of black voters; indeed without a black bloc vote.

If blacks feel that Russell is too cautious, too unsure, about their interests, they may just sit out the primary. Even though the candidate is 100 percent committed to black advancement, if the masses of people are confused or uncertain, they may withhold their votes from him.

There is one other angle: Since there is little or no evidence that the other black candidate, Clarence Mitchell III, can be nominated or elected, then, unless Candidate Russell asserts a clear, bold image of himself, he leave William Donald Schafer — to hold the substantial following of "liberals" and blacks who might have supported Russell.

Schaefer is also sure of the support of the political pros.

George Russell has no taste for the hell-raising, fire-spitting type of campaign. It is not in his nature. He has other tools rather than hate, invective and profanity. He and his supporters have been working to give him a good and acceptable image.

But, in politics, as in boxing, a fighter cannot hope to win if he remains in his corner, or if he does not slug sometimes, or if he does not take the fight to his opponent and sometimes, too, he must give the crowd (here, the voters) something to be excited about, something to swear about, to argue about; something that makes large numbers to feel he's their hero; he's "my man."

FRANKLIN

Looking In

BY BUTCH FRANKLIN

MR. FRANKLIN

If Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's "secret papers" which he released to the press concerning the Vietnam War are to be believed, then the cat is definitely 'out 'da bag.'

Those secret papers, called the Pentagon Paper, trace the gradual involvement of the U.S. into the war in Indo-China.

They have finally told more white folks what we and other poor people in this society already know, plus a few things that we didn't know.

But we do know in general that politicians and people in the government positions lie; it's not an outrageous lie, it's more subtle, pulled together by many different people adding just a little to it. But say what you will, the end result is a big-fat lie.

The "Pentagon Papers' have caused such a furor, that if we had a parliamentary form of government, the Nixon Administration would certainly fall.

If the general will prevail, a new third party group would be elected to run the government.

The end result of those decisions, as reflected in the papers, is that people, civilian and military, ordered saturation bombing of a peninsula with napalm (that is a jelly that burns the skin off), and anti-personal devices (specifically designed to kill humans).

This caused massive death and injury to people who were not involved actively in the fighting.

They approved the use of defoliant chemicals over a large part of Vietnam — in violation, as we now see, of international conventions.

They decreed the free-fire zones and sanctioned destroy missions that, along with the bombing, made millions of Indo-Chinese homeless.

Yet, all this by keeping the facts away from Congress, the public, and in some cases even the President.

We know now that during the years of 1964-65, some high level government officials were carrying on a debate concerning the feasibility of fighting a war in Indo-China.

Forty-five thousand (45,000) lives and billions of dollars (whichever comes first in your mind), later, we find some degree of truth.

Some wise man once said the truth shall make you free.

He might have meant free internally, because you know that if the truth threatened anyone in power, they will do all they can to keep it from getting out.

In fact, most people don't have to be in power before they'll try to quash the truth.

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg will be tried for stealing property that belongs to the Federal government.

He could spend ten years in a federal penitentiary. Can you imagine that? That's about as absurd as putting us in jail for trying to get a coke at a lunch counter; but they did it.

Lyndon Johnson, on the other hand, gets a library and the opportunity to write his "memoirs."

All the generals have been promoted or retired, and the rest of the 'fellas' are at various progressive agencies — from the World Bank to the Ford Foundation.

It is important for us to follow these events closely. Here, we are watching a process reaching a long conclusion (?) that we started during the sixties.

But, as they say on the corner, we are caught in a bind.

I'll bet that the Pentagon Papers are one of the few truly white documents in existence.

IF YOU

Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS

People, places and things

People moving about: Mrs. Joan Hines, daughter of the late James Howard, and her four children, Karen, Janice, Howard and Gregory are here from Alterdena, California.

They are visiting her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Williams.

Mrs. Hines' last trip to Baltimore was fourteen years ago.

During her month's stay, she and the children will be visiting all relatives and friends on the East Coast.

* * *

Bon voyage to Mrs. Agnes Brown who is off on a European vacation.

Stops will include London, Frankfort, Germany, Rome and Paris. She will return to Baltimore on the 22nd.

* * *

Maryland's Prince Hall Grand Master Samuel T. Daniels and a group of 16 Masonic leaders left Friendship Airport last night (Thursday) for Europe.

They will spend two weeks visiting Masonic and Eastern Star lodges in England and Germany.

Mondawmin Travel Agency handled arrangements.

* * *

Visitors: Dr. Julia Juliette Jackson of Atlanta was here over the Fourth visiting her sister, Mrs. Lou F. Perrin.

Her visit coincided with the baptism of her grand-nephew, Malcolm Cardrew Griffin, 23-month-old son of the James Griffins (Cardrieme).

Event was at Bethel AME Church.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. James Carter and children of E. Palo Alto, Calif., (he is son of Mrs. Bettie Robertson of E. Chase St.) are in Baltimore visiting his mother and Mrs. Willie Mae Carter, who is his brother's ex-wife.

* * *

Grad Note: Three graduates of the Lexington Terrace Elementary School, No. 19 were Elizabeth Butler, daughter of Mrs. Joyce Butler, Ingleside Ave. of the Baltimore Green Sisters, Adrienne Melcher, daughter of Mrs. Esther Melcher, W. Lexington St., and Carl Wright, son of Mrs. Eva Wright, Argyle Ave.

Graduation was in the school auditorium. Delmas Milburn, principal was speaker.

Carl Wright will be studying music at the Peabody Institute of Music Preparatory Class this summer.

* * *

Sunshine, please, to Mrs. Majorie Coles, wife of T. Shelton Coles. She is confined at University Hospital (Room 305 after being transferred from Provident this week. No visitors yet.

* * *

Say a prayer for Edgar M. Ewing, longtime housing and civic leader. He is in Johns Hopkins Hospital (Marbutz 203).

Get well cards to Willie Lloyd, AFRO printer who is in Maryland General Hospital, (Room 510).

Due home from Cnafritz Hospital in S.E. Washington is Miss Marilyn Oliver, AFRO director and June graduate, master's degree at Howard University).

* * *

Cards to Room 1014 A Provident for Louis Cox, AFRO pressman.

Children grow up: Belated birthday wishes to Stella Phillips, 17 (July 1) and Martin Phillips, 15 (July 8). Sheila is a senior at Forest Park High School; Martin graduated from Calverton Junior High School last month with honors and will be a freshman at City College in September.

Both are children of AFRO's senior photographer, I. Henry Phillips and Mrs. Phillips (Laura).

* * *

This prayer for the week comes from State Senator Verda F. Welcome (D.-4th), who is travelling in Israel with her husband, Dr. Henry Welcome.

"Thy Will, O Lord Our God and God of our fathers, to conduct us in peace, to direct our steps in peace, to uphold us in peace, and to lead us in life, joy and peace unto the heaven of our desire.

"O deliver us from every enemy, ambush and hurt by the way, and from all afflictions that visit and trouble the world.

"Send a blessing upon the work of our hands.

"Let us obtain grace, loving kindness and mercy in thine eyes and in the eyes of all who behold us.

"Hearken to the voice of our supplications for thou art a God who hearkenest unto prayer and supplication. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who hearkenest unto prayer.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord turn his face unto thee, and give thee peace."

In the Spotlight

MRS. PHYLLIS BAGWELL

Mrs. Phyllis Bagwell, the lounge hostess at Mechanic Theatre, has one of the most enviable, valuable and unusual collections of autographs anyone could ever possess.

The group of penned names and best wishes of the world's most famous stars of screen and stage, has been saved over the entire 27-year period of the gracious, gray-haired lady's career in the theatre here in Baltimore.

Mrs. Bagwell began work at Keith's Theatre at Park and Lexington in 1944 and when it was closed in 1956, went to the Century at Lexington and Charles.

Before the Century was torn down, the owner asked her to go in between time to Ford's checkroom.

Subsequently she served at all downtown theatres and soon every star who appeared for promotion of movies or on stage knew and loved her as "Our Phyllis."

Then came the big night when she was on TV at one of the important persons on the staff at the Morris Mechanic Theatre. That was on Jan. 18, 1967 when the magnificent, multi-million dollar theatre opened.

Mrs. Bagwell is still there greeting every star since her reputation as "such a nice person to know" has spread from Hollywood to the Great White Way in New York.

Among those who have signed her souvenir programs are Gloria Swanson, Betty Grable, Carol Channing, Celeste Holm, Robert Goulet and Catharine Hepburn (who was termed "the loveliest person I have ever met by Mrs. Bagwell but earned the term "hatefull" from others).

Mrs. Bagwell's priceless souvenirs are stored in her basement since her husband, Isaac, collects history books and lately wanted "nothing but history books in his bookcase upstairs."

As would be supposed, Mrs. Bagwell is an excellent housekeeper and a wonderous cook. "I love a clean house and good roast beef" she remarks.

Her most memorable moment was when she was operating the elevator at Keiths Theatre long years ago and took Charlton Heston up when he appeared to promote his "Ten Commandments" movie.

It was just like meeting a Biblical character" Mrs Bagwell states. Mr. and Mrs. Bagwell's only daughter is Mrs. Sarah Bell, a Hampstead Hill Junior High School teacher.

Donald Bagwell, a son, sets up medical centers throughout the nation and resides in Nassau, New Hampshire. Their two grandsons are Michael, a Poly June graduate who will enroll at Morgan in September and Alphonso, who goes from Roland Park Elementary to Northern Parkway Junior High in September. Mrs. Bagwell's sisters are Mesdames Sally Foreman, Louise Ray and Lily Carson.

AFRO LINE

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 stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.

QUESTION: I know of nowhere else to get any information concerning my problem with my landlord.

Last fall, I had trouble with my furnace. It continued to stop during cold spells. The landlord sent someone out to fix it but it ran for awhile then stopped again. He also promised to put a heating vent on the third floor. To date he hasn't.

During the winter one of the third floor windows fell out. He still hasn't fixed it.

I took it upon myself to hold back the rent. I have for the past five weeks. Recently, my daughter heard someone unlocking the door. She thought it was my son but soon found out it was a strange man.

He said he was there to issue an eviction notice. Was it necessary for him to unlock my door? What were his intentions?

Will AFRO LINE please help me with this problem? — MRS. B.

ANSWER: Roger Nissley at the Bureau of Consumer Services said whenever you have a complaint about property you are renting, FIRST report it to People's Court, Fayette and Gay Sts.

Do not take it upon yourself to hold back the rent. There are special city Agencies which handle rental problems.

You must send your landlord a registered letter expressing need for immediate repair of faults in your home. If he does not cooperate then come to People's Court.

It is the property owner's right to evict you after getting a written notice from the city. He may, however, evict you within 30 days with proper reason or 60 days without.

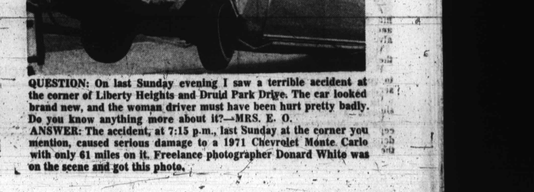
QUESTION: I was on a crowded No. 19 bus this week. A man got on and tried to move to the back. He asked a white lady politely to move so he could get by. The woman said "I don't take nothing off of black people. You boys have been over there in Vietnam and have come back mean."

The lady refused to move so the man tried to pass her. She jumped up and hit the man, then sprayed some type of chemical on him and two other passengers. They all had to be taken to the hospital.

The police arrived but did not arrest the woman. I would like to know why.

MRS. J.

ANSWER: AFRO Line was not able to find out when or where the incident occurred. Legal Aid advises the gentleman or other passengers who were involved in the incident, should call them at 539-5340.



QUESTION: On last Sunday evening I saw a terrible accident at the corner of Liberty Heights and Druid Park Drive. The car looked brand new, and the woman driver must have been hurt pretty badly. Do you know anything more about it?—MRS. E. O.

ANSWER: The accident, at 7:15 p.m., last Sunday at the corner you mention, caused serious damage to a 1971 Chevrolet Monte Carlo with only 61 miles on it. Freelance photographer Donard White was on the scene and got this photo.