Let's Get Together Or They'll Destroy Both Of Us

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

A-4 NOVEMBER 27, 1971

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.

Thanksgiving 1971

(Guest Editorial by U.S. Senator Charles MCC. Mathias Jr. (R.-Md.)

More than three hundred years have passed since Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony issued the proclamation that brought Pilgrim and Indians together to share a three-day festival of food and friendship.

This Thanksgiving 1971, more than ever, we need to rediscover and renew that same sense of sharing among all Americans and, indeed, among all people everywhere.

We have, in our country and in the world, let too many walls and barriers spring up between us—between black and white, between rich and poor, between city and suburb, between East and West.

Yet, as our environmental crises have made many of us increasingly aware, we cannot forever cut ourselves off from the circle of life.

Neither, if we hope to overcome our social and racial divisions, can we continue to cut ourselves off from each other.

I hope that this Thanksgiving we can, somehow, begin again to build among all Americans and among all peoples everywhere that sense of community and common humanity that alone can bring within reach of all of us a life to be thankful for.

Report From Washington

Not Since The Days Of Reconstruction

REP. MITCHELL

By PARREN J. MITCHELL
M.C. (D.-7th. Md.)

As black political involvement becomes more effective and more sophisticated it is necessary to establish identifiable political goals.

Towards this end the Congressional Black Caucus met on November 18-20, 1971, with Black Elected Officials from across the Nation, sharing their ideas and information.

This Conference with black Elected Officials culminated a call for a Black Conference.

—

The following statement, entitled, "Not Since the Days of Reconstruction," was made on Saturday, Nov. 20, 1971:—

"For 300 years black people have been the victims and pawns of the American political process.

"For 300 years black people have been the victims of internal and external divisions fostered, in many cases, and manipulated in all cases by white parties, organizations and individuals.

"The political representatives of the Black community, meeting in Washington, D.C., in November, 1971, have concluded that we still wear the shackles of political bondage.

"Three hundred and fifty-two years after the arrival of the first blacks in Jamestown, 108 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and 94 years after the destruction of the black power of the Reconstruction period, these representatives have resolved to end the political slavery of Black people.

—

"This conference and a series of earlier meetings held across the country have considered the development of a political strategy for black people in 1972.

"A substantial consensus of these meetings determined that a national, unified thrust by Black voters is of paramount importance.

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"The deliberations and planning which would design and ratify a unified program must be open to all black people, regardless of party affiliation or ideology to reflect the full diversity of interests among the nation's 25 million Blacks.

—

"Therefore, tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus issues a call to the black people of the United States for a national political convention to be held in April or May of 1972, for the purpose of developing a national black agenda and the crystalization of a national black strategy for the 1972 elections and beyond.

"Further, to develop such a national convention, we call for regional meetings to be held in the northeast, in the south, in the Mid-West and in the western sections of the country to bring together representatives of black organizations who would enlarge the basis for involvement in developing the national convention and its program.

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"1. A proposed overall format for the accomplishment of these ends is herein set forth as follows:

"A. There should be a national black convention in April, for the purpose of: "1) identifying and ratifying the National Black Agenda for 1972 and beyond; and

"2) crystallizing strategies for maximum practical unity in the national participation of blacks in the Democratic and Republican conventions, and in local, state and national elections.

—

B. There should be the provision of appropriate processes to assure that there be broad-based discussions among blacks in local jurisdictions which will feed into the national dialogue through:

"1) Regional meetings held early in the year drawing from constituencies of elected officials, community organizations and the nationalist movement at a local level; and

"2) sending regional representative delegations to a national planning session to be held in late February, at Washington, to develop the Agenda for the Convention in a manner which reflects the regional dialogues.

—

"The regional meetings are not only for the purpose of preparing a base for a national Black convention, but will permit or facilitate local organizations and black communities to begin to address themselves to pressing and immediate matters such as delegate selection, presidential primaries, redistricting, reapportionment, local elections.

"The regional sessions' most important purpose shall be to maximize communications among local jurisdictions on a regional basis as a prelude to more complete national interaction.

—

"II. Before Christmas the Congressional Black Caucus and a convening group composed of local elected officials, community organization leaders, and the nationalist community will develop a set of general guidelines addressing the process and framework for developing the national convention.

"These general guidelines will be refined in the regional meetings.

"The regional meetings will take place in January. The national planning session for the convention will take place in February, followed by the convention in April.

"Having arrived at this point in our history as a people, we solemnly acknowledge our debt to those brothers and sisters who have come before us, who, from our first sorrowful days on this continent have piled their sufferings and hopes and indeed, their bodies into the trenches of black despair, so that we who live today may stand on firm black ground and look, at last, toward our goal of full black liberation.

"Let us here assembled lift every voice and sing!"

More Voices Needed

We are glad to note concerned citizens have begun to speak out in support of our city's new public school superintendent, Dr. Roland N. Patterson.

When he came here from Seattle October 1, there were some news media and other critics, beginning with a top city official who began criticizing him and blaming him for all our city's ills. There were many who interpreted these premature attacks because he is black.

Of course, no one in one month can perform miracles. Certainly Dr. Patterson deserves a chance to help us solve the perplexing situations which have plagued us too long.

But many more voices should join the chorus, if only to let the new superintendent know they have his support.

Dr. Patterson is a smart educator, quick on the draw, and knows what he is talking about, particularly when he reminds us all that you don't meet violence with violence and you look past the symptoms to find the real causes before you seek solutions.

Dr. Patterson needs the support of parents, students, businessmen and civic leaders.

He needs to hear the voices from 25th Street, where in many areas they are strangely quiet (or don't these so called experts recognize genius when they see it).

Ministers need to revamp their Sunday sermons to include thanks to God for sending poor-old Baltimore a man like Dr. Patterson.

Student council leaders should speak out and school newspapers across the city could carry a welcome. Even little Johnny who has a smart teacher could be taught to write a picture letter of welcome to the new superintendent.

Out in Seattle, our new school chief put a tremendous program across even though he found many powerful segments against him, and had to fight both words and bullets.

We are glad to have a man like him at the head of our school system. He deserves all our help for OUR children.

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 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21283.

Freedom House Backs Dr. Patterson's View

Dear AFRO:

The following is a letter sent to the School Board in support of Dr. Patterson's position on security and discipline in the schools:—

Our Freedom House Neighborhood Council, at our weekly meeting that Tuesday night, voted unanimously to send to you our resolution of support for the stand of Dr. Roland Patterson, superintendent of schools, on security and discipline in the schools.

A law to control and prevent guns from coming into the hands of students will be helpful; but we cannot tolerate guns in the hands of school security guards.

—

Through the years, this nation has sown the wind in the wholesale, systematic denial of the rights of black children to an equal opportunity in education and to first class citizenship.

In this city and elsewhere we are reaping the whirlwind of decades of neglect and deprivation.

To compound the injury, some of the very ones who have fought hardest against equal educational opportunity want us to shoot down in the schools the young people who are psychologically damaged and whose humanity has been warped by the cruelty of the oppressors.

These youth are displaying, in turn, the callousness and the cruelty they have suffered from society.

—

We applaud the courage and leadership of Dr. Patterson in prodding this city to stand up to its total responsibility for the correction in a meaningful way of the results of its neglect, indifference and prejudice.

We believe that this also must include straightening out our priorities and pouring the millions of dollars of expressway monies into creating wide scale earn-while-you-learn training opportunities for children in the schools!

Joblessness is creating hopelessness and causing youth to be mean and cruel.

—

We must reward those teachers who are not clock watchers and who go the second mile in fulfilling the highest traditions of the educational profession. Our children come home and tell us.

They know the difference between the teachers who care and those to whom it is just a job.

The Freedom House Neighborhood Council, composed of neighborhood leaders from across the inner city, has been meeting every Tuesday night since June, 1970, working together with police officials and city agencies to prevent and clean up the rampant crime and delinquency in our neighborhoods.

We have made significant progress; but we have consistently taken the position that guns in the hands of school security guards is not the answer.

Please count on our help in developing a creative, corrective program in the schools with the involvement of the community. — Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, advisor; John H. Peters, chairman; Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, counsel.

Mortgage Study

Dear AFRO:

The Citizens Planning and Housing Association, CPHA, is presently completing a study of Federal Housing Administration mortgage practices in the city of Baltimore.

For many years, people have been saying that the FHA mortgages have contributed greatly to the exodus from the city by providing mortgages in the County.

We have heard from across the country that FHA is not making substantial mortgage commitments in older city neighborhoods.

CPHA's study is geared to finding out if in fact this is the case in Baltimore and if so what we can do about it.

We need your help. We must have information from people who have been denied FHA mortgages as to the areas in which they have been denied them and the reasons why they have been denied them.

All this information will be kept strictly confidential. This study could prove to be one of the most important ones done in years, not only for Baltimore but for the East Coast.

CHRISTOPHER C. HARTMAN
Executive Director

Greenbury

Dear AFRO: I like the new AFRO feature, Greenbury (Nov. 20, 1971). I am looking forward to reading more articles by him. Is he a real person?—JAMES COX

ED's Note: Greenbury is a composite of some very real people.

—

Dear AFRO: Your Mr. Greenbury sounds just like the bartender in my neighborhood. All goes to prove you don't have to be a professional to have good common sense. More power to the AFRO's Mr. Greenbury.—MRS. LOUISE KNIGHT

—

Dear AFRO: The AFRO's new columnist, Greenbury, looks like Mr. Bumble. Any relation?—HEZEKIAH JONES

ED's Note: None at all.

Columns Open

Dear AFRO:—I am writing to inquire about permission to submit editorials to your paper. Knowing that my interest is in my race, compels me to ask.—M. MALONE

ED's NOTE: The AFRO welcomes letters and comments from its readers. All, however, must be signed, although names will be withheld upon writer's request.

Good Business?

Must a man who wants to serve a certain system, city, institution, or organization be a part of that group or can he be an absentee policymaker?

This is the question cities, states, businesses, school boards and the like must face if there is to be good democratic government.

The United States is built on the foundation that you can't have taxation without representation.

Does this mean that a fireman must live in the city if he wants to work there?

Must a senator live in that district he wants to represent?

Does a school board member have to live in the city and send his children to public schools?

Must bankers who serve on boards of large manufacturing firms own stock in the business?

Cyril Byron, Coppin State College dean, is now a county resident. Should he come off the Board of School Commissioners?

Walter E. Fauntroy in Washington sends his children to private school. Should he be asked to step down?

Policemen, firemen, city employees and teachers live in the county and surrounding areas outside the city yet city real estate taxes pay their salaries.

Is it good business to ask Baltimoreans to support thousands of county residents?

Walter Carter Blvd.

The current campaign, headed by Model Cities Council E Director Irvin J. Conway, would rename North Ave. for Walter Percival Carter.

Known as 'Mr. Civil Rights,' Mr. Carter was a guiding light in the struggle for equal rights and dignity for all citizens until his untimely death last July at the age of 64.

It is appropriate to suggest that North Ave. be the one to bear Mr. Carter's name.

It was on North Ave. where the first Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) office was opened in the early sixties and Mr. Carter helped plan the freedom marches and campaigns for jobs, housing and involvement of black people in the total city.

North Ave. runs the length and breadth of Baltimore city. Walter Percival Carter's life touched the entire city.

He was respected as a man whose concern was for all of all races, all people.

To those who would suggest Walter P. Carter Blvd. would be too long a name to attach to a street sign we hasten to note that where there's a will there's a way.

Renaming North Ave. for a man of Walter Carter's stature would do much to restore the faith of so many who have reaped so little from the city they have called home for generations.

CEBO Pleased

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore Council for Equal Business Opportunity, Inc. (CEBO), wishes to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to you and your associates, for the coverage you provided at our Second Annual Luncheon which was held on Thursday, November 18, at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel.

SAMUEL T. DANIELS, director

Will Of People

Dear AFRO:

It has been stated time and time again in the daily press, that I, Senator Verda Welcome, am the head of the Fourth District Democratic organization. The implication is that this organization is not able to move or take action without my approval.

In order that I set the record straight, it should be noted that the president of our organization is Rev. Olin P. Moyd, and Isaiah E. White is the chairman of the executive board.

All matters, decisions, policies, etc., are first discussed and voted upon in the executive board meetings.

Later, these decisions are presented to the general membership by our president and a final vote is taken.

Our organization lives by the will of the majority and it should be understood that I have only one vote just as the other board members.

Since the founding of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, it has served the people of the district with dignity, honesty and responsible leadership.

Those who have tried it expedient to leave this organization did so because the Fourth District Democratic Organization, could not be a party to corruption or personal gain at the expense of the people in the district.

This has been our creed in the past and it will continue to be so.

(Mrs.) VERDA F. WELCOME
State Senator, D.-4th

Pope's Audiences

Two Baltimoreans went to Rome to visit the Pope last month.

One, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, 3rd, reports his visit with the head of the Roman Catholic Church was the highlight of his life.

The other, Miss Estella Collins, a Baltimore Catholic in good standing was among six black Catholic lay leaders denied an audience with His Eminence.

Mayor D'Alesandro reports Pope Paul VI was familiar with the history of Catholicism in Baltimore so he had a rewarding visit.

Not so Miss Collins and her associates who went to the Vatican to air their grievances about segregation in the church in the United States.

We are surprised.

It is hard to believe the great Holy Father would "utterly ignore" Miss Collins and the other black delegates. But she reports this did happen.

It points up once again that people in high places who are presented an opportunity to exchange dialogue with aggrieved persons miss the boat when they refuse to listen to the little man on the totem pole.

Until the Catholic church hierarchy, beginning at the Vatican, realizes it must listen to all its communicants, there will continue to be turmoil in the Catholic church.

Kaufman On Statue

Dear AFRO:

A great deal of discussion has taken place with regard to the erection of a statue to honor black soldiers. As I have heretofore stated, there are many Americans of black ancestry who have, because of their valor, bravery and heroism, distinguished themselves on the field of battle.

It has always been my feeling that it is more meaningful to erect a statue to memorialize and honor a specific individual rather than a general statue that would honor a race, creed or religion.

The AFRO in an editorial stated that the time has come when Americans of black ancestry who have distinguished themselves not only as soldiers, but as citizens, who have contributed through their efforts to build and make this nation the great country that it is, should be memorialized by the erection of a statue.

I fully agree with the opinions and views expressed by the AFRO.

To that end, I would like to help start a movement to have erected statues to honor and memorialize some of our Americans of black ancestry.

It would indeed be in the public interest. If the AFRO would appeal to its readers to suggest the name or names of deceased black Americans who deserve to be recognized and honored.

HARRY D. KAUFMAN,

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kaufman, a lawyer, is a member of the City Park and Recreation Board. The Black Soldier statue referred to here is nearing completion and will soon stand at the north end of the Battle Monument Plaza. It is a sculpture by James W. Lewis, chairman of the art department at Morgan State College. The AFRO agrees with Professor Lewis that his statue, representing all black servicemen who have fought in American wars would be an inspiration to the community, especially since all other statues in our Monumental city have white images. Mr. Kaufman disagrees with the one statue idea and voted against the Black Soldier. Here, he renews his proposal to honor individuals. AFRO readers may want to comment).

Teachers Too

Dear AFRO:

We are teachers at Southern High School in Baltimore City and are concerned with the filling of the existing vacancies on the School Board.

It is our belief, after eight combined years of teaching experience, that the School Board is wanting in that it does not include the contemporary classroom teacher.

Today's teacher, in trying to improve the atmosphere and learning environment of his own classroom, is sometimes not included in policy-making decisions.

As voters we have been assured of Mayor-elect Schaefer's concern for our city's education, and we wish to urge him to appoint contemporary classroom teachers to the School Board.

We also wish to urge other concerned teachers to join with us in writing to Mayor-elect Schaefer, to members of the School Board, and to other city officials to express their concern with this issue.

MRS. PAMELA HUNTER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Last week, Baltimore City School Board voted to make two students non-voting, associate members of the board).

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.

Afro Credo

I measure a newspaper not in buildings, equipment and employees —those are trimmings.

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 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

PAGE OPPOSITE
Baltimore Afro-American
NOVEMBER 27, 1971

NOW and THEN

White House On Aging And Labor

DR. FLEMING

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Another "White House Conference on Aging" opens on Sunday and thousands of words will be uttered on the nation's obligation to its older (senior) citizens.

Most of these words will be worshipful and laudatory—paying obeisance to those who "brought us into this world," those "who have labored so that we could be where we are today," and those "who have helped to make the nation strong." There may even be the remainder that "The hands that rock the cradle rule the world."

Some voices will be more militant. They will remind the government and country that senior citizens are suffering "because pensions are not buying much these days," because prices are so high," because "even annuities are falling short of expectations."

—

Some other oldsters do not believe the government is doing enough: in housing for the elderly, in surplus foods, or in welfare payments for those who get "too little" from Social Security.

The black aged, now also organized, will have some grievances of their own.

Altogether, the complaints mean that few Americans are in position to save enough for their rainy days—especially when those days are also days of inflation and high unemployment.

Americans, like other people, pay a great deal of "lip service" to the aged, but, by and large, they are a neglected group—especially the poor aged.

Even the assured, steady income that most elderly people now receive, tends to their troubles. This certain income means there are all kinds of smarties, and others, who stand ready to bilk them of what they have.

Among those who prey on the elderly may be their children or grandchildren and operators of one kind or another of "nursing homes" or "homes for the aged." It is not untrue when these homes refer to themselves as, for instance, the nursing home "industry."

This column hopes the White House Conference will pay some attention to this matter; that it may develop some standards, that it may find ways to protect these aged clients whose income is largely federal money.

This is not intended as a wholesale indictment of all nursing and convalescent homes and homes for the aged; but there are enough that seem not to care, that give little medical service, that are interested only in profits.

Against this industry the individual elderly person (more correctly, patient), has little power, especially since "the industry" is adequately guarded by lawyers and lobbyists on the local, state, and national levels.

—

No one knows what President Nixon will say to the aged people who attend the White House Conference. It is to be expected that he will be more charitable than he has been with the recipients of welfare.

The President has taken every opportunity to bring charges that large numbers of welfare people are cheating and that they prefer to live on government relief than to get a job.

This is a tune that the President plays over and over again. Now he has been joined by Governor Mandel and Lieutenant Governor Lee. None of these three (nor Mr. Agnew, for that matter) really has any sure figures substantiating their charges of cheating or that welfare people would rather be idle and on relief rather than work.

Every time jobs calling for mass workers have been advertised, this writer has seen, or heard of, hundreds of strong-backed men turning up at the employment gates. Most of them leave without jobs.

At Morgan State College, since June, there has been a steady line of recent graduates reporting their inability to find jobs, even in the usual places, such as the Department of Social Services or the public school system.

—

Even in speaking to the AFL-CIO in Miami last week, President Nixon resorted to his charges against welfare recipients (a kind of curry-favoring with the "hard-hats and white ethnics").

This column agrees that nothing takes the place of a man having a job. For one thing, it allows him to "raise hell" with anyone who casts aspersions on him; it improves his image with his family; it is good for his ego.

But, where are the jobs, Mr. President? Unless, it is national policy that it's time for all black people to return to the white madam's kitchen or to the lowest paid jobs, or to the 4-H jobs (hot, hard, heavy and hazardous). And even these jobs just are not there.

—

Do you have a real job, Mr. President, for each physically fit welfare recipient, or even for just those who are willing, anxious, and able?

The Job Hunter

Q. Must a person go to 1100 N. Eutaw St. to get help in finding a job?

A. No. Any of the state's "Outreach" offices can help you. These neighborhood offices keep up-to-date listings, exactly like those on Eutaw Street.

Below are the addresses for those in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Charles Street—1727 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Md., 21201; Columbia City—5365 Robert Oliven Place, Columbia, Md., 21043; Essex-Middle River—1515 Martin Boulevard, Essex, Md., 21220; Lafayette Square—1002 W. Lanvale Street, Baltimore, Md., 21217.

Mayor's Station: Coldspring—3006 W. Coldspring Lane, Baltimore, Md., 21215; Pratt Street—2133 W. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Md., 21223; Towson—311 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Baltimore, Md., 21204;

Cherry Hill—2700 Spelman Road, Baltimore, Md., 21225; Echo House—1705 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Md., 21223; Greenmount—2434 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21218; Mayor's Station—City Hall - Room 123, Holiday and Fayette Sts., Baltimore, Md., 21202; Mayor's Station, Govans—5227 York Road, Baltimore, Md., 21212;

Professional Career Information—330 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md., 21201; Washington Boulevard—788 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Md., 21230; U.S.V.A.C. (Veterans only)—Federal Office Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza - Rm. 109, Baltimore, Md., 21201.

What's So Wrong With Baltimore?

By WILLIAM G. SYKES

(Editor's Note: Following is the last in a 3-part series from a speech Mr. Sykes delivered at the monthly meeting of the Philomathian Club. Mr. Sykes is director of the Model Cities Agency and active on a score of boards, including the Md. State Board of Education. He is a graduate of Hampton Institute and holds a master's in social work from Howard University).

Part 2: WHY I LOVE BALTIMORE

The argument you hear sometimes is that Baltimoreans are not together. But don't Baltimoreans have a right to be different like other people in other towns?

MR. SYKES

I believe we have demonstrated the capability to come together when enough was at stake although we have failed from time to time to achieve our objectives.

On at least one occasion we came together so well that it might have, in the final analysis worked to our disadvantage. In referring to the unified effort which denied George Mahoney the State House and awarded it instead to Agnew who used it to catapult himself into the nation's vice presidency.

—

Unity in our objectives is a must. We cannot; however, expect to achieve unity in our approach to reaching these objectives since each of us must contribute in his own way.

The only cities that are fully together are cities of sheep.

The only people that are fully together are those that are dominated by despots.

The only ideologies that presume to be fully together are those which preclude the expression of opposing thoughts or convictions.

—

We hear other complaints. It is said that the School Board is divided. I ask, why shouldn't it be?

Must board members always agree with each other?

If so, then we only need one member!!

The weather is too hot or too humid or too cold.

Well, there isn't too much we can do about that!

Baltimore is accused of being lacking in leadership. If that means a Daley of Chicago or a Dale Anderson of Baltimore County, then leadership we can do without.

—

When we knock our city we, in effect, knock ourselves.

Obviously, there are many things that we need to change and should change. Let's do that.

Let us work together to make Baltimore a better place in which to live.

At the same time, however, let us recognize that the grass is not necessarily greener on the other side.

People and places are essentially alike. They have strengths and weaknesses; good points and bad; natural attributes and natural restrictions.

While I am not a Baltimorean by birth, and I hope you won't hold this against me, I consider myself a full-fledged Baltimorean through the naturalization process.

I have been thoroughly brainwashed and I love this city and its people.

I am committed to its continued growth and I intend to remain here as long as you allow me to. Thank you for your typical Baltimore kindness in asking me to speak with you today.

PETTY EXHIBIT of African art opened at Carl Murphy auditorium Oct. 13, continues to Dec. 10. Public is invited. See accompanying AFRO Line.

THE STATE OF THINGS

Reapportionment Ground Rules

By VAL HYMES

The ground rules for this decade's reapportionment of the Maryland General Assembly are nearly as confusing and hair-raising as the redrawing of the lines themselves.

Veteran session-watchers will long remember the struggles of the sixties following the one-man-one-vote court rulings. It was every man for himself in the fight to retain a seat and a voice for the constituents in Annapolis.

There had been no major change in the Legislature from 1867 to 1962, and until the court-supervised plan now in effect was adopted in 1965, there had been no recognition of the growth of the suburbs.

All that is history now, but some of the scars still show. So it is with some trepidation that the Legislature faces again the bloodbaths ahead.

—

The picture is two-headed, with a mandate from the voters in 1970 to come up with a plan or accept within 45 days of the session's beginning a plan submitted by the Governor based on the current membership of 43 senators and 142 delegates. The Governor's plan will become law on Feb. 26 if the legislature doesn't produce its own map.

But another amendment, which is on the 1972 ballot, would reduce and freeze the size from 143 to 180 members, adding another element of pressure because another map must be drawn at the outset of the 1973 session, if the voters want it.

The threat of an unwieldy legislature of 225 members by 1980 plus the flexibility of 180 for senate-delegate district ratios provided impetus behind that bill this year, but the size of each house was not decided.

—

The first chore tackled by the special legislative committee headed by Sen. James Clark (D. Howard-Montgomery) is to draw a plan for the present 143 members under the 1970 census figures with senators representing 91,220 people and delegates 27,620.

In plain language, that means for the first time in history, eight counties are not mathematically entitled to at least one delegate of their own. So a parallel battle will be fought over single-member or multi-member districts for delegates.

Under the broad outlines of the Governor's proposal, Baltimore City will embrace three districts and get 10 senators and 33 delegates, a loss of 2 senators and 10 delegates.

The Governor's staff, headed by Mrs. Ernie Honig, has drawn 13 "General Assembly Districts" for three senators and ten delegates (in all but two cases) with the hope that local delegations will work out internal lines.

—

The trouble," says Senator Clark, who drafted a milestone reapportionment plan in 1962, "is that some of us can't get used to the fact that we don't represent counties, but people."

So until Nov. 29, when a marathon committee session is set, the counties and city were holding their own "individual bloodletting," as Sen. Jervis Finney put it, to decide who should run against whom—or, to put it bluntly, just who is expendable.

The legislators, unlike congressmen, must live in the districts where they run, so we may see a lot of moving vans in front of political doors soon.

—

The biggest problem is that the delegate tricts do not fit mathematically into the senatorial districts, giving the voters what Mrs. Honig called "a very messy ballot" with different local, state and congressional districts to decipher.

Those districts must be drawn from the outer borders of the State toward the center. They must be contiguous—they cannot skip land, but may cross rivers, and they do not have to be compact, she said. Nor are they prevented from having both single-member or multi-member representation in a district.

Most of the legislators from the small counties, with their political lives on the line, are seeing the oft-dreaded single-member districts as the only means of giving the voters at least a chance to send a man to Annapolis. And they silently accept today the once-unthinkable idea that they'll never have a senator of their own again.

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The big hope is for a plan pleasing to both the Governor and most legislators before the session begins. But several other plans are already in the mill, the deadline for the Governor's is Dec. 6, and as one delegate bemoaned, "We can't even agree when to meet."

It seems inevitable that the first 45 days of the 1972 session will be laced with a wondrous confusion of rhetoric, statistics, amendments, maps and more maps.

When it's all over, the courts will take up the cudgel and the 180-member proposal may render all of this labor in vain if the voters see fit.

It's times like these when many a brave legislator—faced with voting himself out of a seat—wishes that hot seat never existed.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

To hum department: If you are over 30 and you grew up in Baltimore, YOU know there were few places for you and your parents to work, save the AFRO, post office and school system.

Many of today's black school administrators grew up in the system — getting their start at the old Coppin Normal School.

Many have brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, in-laws, cousins in school posts.

In many large families, it is not unusual for ALL breadwinners to work in the school system. Baltimore is a school-teacher town!!

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Before school desegregation (1954), it was not unusual for top white school administrators to serve on the SAME faculties with their wives and-or girlfriends.

At any high school graduation exercise in this city many of us can count at least a half dozen kin (including kissin' cousins) in the class.

Same is true at any junior high or elementary school class.

This was not a situation of our own making. . . You know who kept us relegated to school, jobs and then only certain ones.

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Anybody who wants to change the rules and talk about nepotism in schools (relatives working together), is opening a Pandora's box.

The documentary start with the 'in charge' people when we were in grade school and come on up through the years. (And, you know, we weren't 'in charge').

Criteria for hiring teachers, and other school personnel, on all levels, should be whether they are capable and can do the job satisfactorily.

If the superintendent's wife is a good math teacher, the schools do themselves a disservice by refusing to hire her.

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Cuff note: Board of Trustees of State Colleges of Maryland is amending its rules to permit fulltime employees of the board and the colleges and their spouses to take courses, free of charge, for credit at a state college, provided space is available.

Cuff note: Civic Center Director Harold J. Jennifer Jr. advises that the Elvis Presley Show presented on November 9, achieved a sellout attendance of 12,218, placing the show Number 15 on the "Top 20" Civic Center Attractions list.

It comes just behind the Three Dog Night Show, which recently on October 24, realized an attendance of 12,232 to go into the Number 14 slot. Elvis Presley's gross gate of $113,173 placed third beyond the Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier Fight on March 8 of this year, which grossed $187,860 for an attendance of 11,440.

The Frank Sinatra Show of July 15, 1967, which grossed $126,555 for an attendance of 12,988, the Number 3 attendance in the "Top 20."

Frank Sinatra's Show of July 17, 1965, still heads the "Top 20" list with an attendance of 13,177.

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School Note:- Star of David Post No. 292, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, recently presented an American flag to the Southwestern Junior-Senior High School.

The flag once flew over the nation's Capitol. Cynthia Parker, Patricia Oliver, Charlene Davis, and Maurice Acre joined in making the presentation.

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Kindergarten and nursery school children toured a Smith Ave. Store super market the other day and the AFRO tagged along and learned more than those youngsters did.

As they chatted and pointed with their tiny hands to meats and cuts not seen on their dinner tables at home, the market manager explained the difference between cans.

He pointed to one series of canned vegetables and stated that although one was four for 99 cents (25 cents per can) but had 16 ounces and another was 31 cents per can (or 4 for $1.21) and had only 17 ounces, they both looked the same but one cost more than the other per ounce.

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We didn't expect the kindergarten children to see the difference but the manager's lesson was well received by the shoppers who listened intently to the small fry lecture and by-passed the 31 cents for the four for 99 cents.

Just shows you working gals what goes on in supermarkets during the day!

Looking for something to do?

The livelier Baltimore committee of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association is sponsoring its second annual tree trimming contest in Center Plaza on December 4.

All community groups are invited to participate. Cash prizes will be awarded to the three winning groups.

Contest begins at 10 a.m.

To reserve a tree for your group, call 539-1369.

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Love note: Baltimore-born Bill Elliott was the name of that handsome black man, with the beautiful voice, who sat beside Dionne Warwick on the Wednesday evening Merv Griffin show.

It was husband and wife night and a very entertaining program. Bill and Dionne are, Mr. and Mrs.

Liked the way he looked in her eyes and said he made up his mind when he met her at the Kleeco Club (here in Baltimore?), that she was the lady he wanted to spend the rest of his life with.

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Program also gave viewers an opportunity for an intimate visit with Senator and Mrs. Edmund Muskie and to hear from his own lips what he said about a black Vice Presidential candidate not being feasible at this time for a team that wants to win and solve gut problems.

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Want to know what kids are thinking these days? Read some of the school newspapers.

Interesting one which crossed our desk last week is entitled, 'Awareness.' This is four-page sheet published by students at Calverton Junior High.

It is interesting to note subject matter ranges from teen problems to inflation to poetry, etc. Anthony Vaughn is editor of the monthly.

MRS. MOSS

AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post-card to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21283. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer to the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.

QUESTION: Is the art exhibit still on at Morgan? I am anxious to take my school children during the holidays. — MRS. M.C.

ANSWER—Yes the Wilbert and Irene Petty exhibition of traditional African art is still on at the art gallery in the Carl Murphy Auditorium at Morgan State College. James E. Lewis, head of the art department, advises the gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 10.

Photo above shows visitors admiring the exhibit which features a variety of sculptured figures, masks, fabrics etc.

The exhibit is on loan from the Pettys. Mr. Petty is a U.S. foreign officer who spent 11 years in West Africa. Exhibit is valued in excess of $120,000.

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QUESTION—I am soon to be released from prison, but I need to have a job awaiting me in order to meet requirements for release. I have no job I can take. No one wants a person with a record. Someone must help me. What can I do? Who will help me? —Worried Prisoner.

ANSWER—The Maryland Department of Correction under Commissioner James Jordan, prisoners are taught skills which rehabilitation program.

Through the efforts of Commissioner Jordan, prisoners are taught skills which lead to jobs when they have paid the debt to society and they are free. There is also job-finding provision in his plan.

Write Commissioner James Jordan and tell him the AFRO-assured you that your job problems can be solved in some area of his new program. Commissioner James Jordan, Division of Correction, 920-22 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

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QUESTION—My son was apprehended by police officers as he stood by in the school yard watching an incident that took place last week.

Some children came home and told me he had been carried off in a police wagon. I phoned everywhere in the police department to find out if this thing had really happened and where my son was.

Late at night, police officers drove up and let my son out after holding him hours and questioning him. All this is wrong.

Why was I not notified? My husband could have gone wherever they held our son to be with him and see that he was treated right.—RESPECTABLE CITIZENS.

ANSWER—Parents have the right to know at once if their children are taken in by police officers regardless what the purpose or reason. According to law, the child is not to be questioned nor talked to in any manner without the presence of parent, guardian or lawyer.

If indeed things occurred as you say, yours and the rights of your child were violated. You are entitled to seek redress by filing a complaint with the Police Commissioner. If you have no family lawyer and can not afford one, you may have the services of a Legal Aid attorney free of charge.

The telephone operator will give you the number of the Legal Aid Office in your area.

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QUESTION—Somebody told me early Christmas "bargain sales" include merchandise left over from last year, some dry rotted and most of them out-of-date. Is this so?—Mrs. D.G.D.

ANSWER—Maybe so. Perhaps not. However, a careful shopper will examine all items, test the materials and search for signs of age. Always buy from a reputable dealer so that dissatisfactory goods can be exchanged on a money-back guarantee.