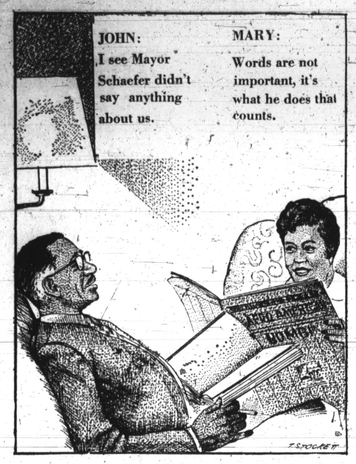
We, Too, Have High Hopes



JOHN: I see Mayor Schaefer didn't say anything about us.

MARY: Words are not important, it's what he does that counts.

T. Schaefer

OUR READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, "Say," but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words. In length. Address them to "Our Readers" Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

HMN Group Plans To Aid Community

Dear AFRO:

Recently, a community group in Northeast Baltimore devoted considerable time and effort towards impeding the fund raising efforts of "The Campaign For Human Development."

This group made many charges and allegations regarding a grant of $20,000 which was earmarked for the Homestead-Montebello and Govans area through the North East Community Organization.

A great injustice was done to a large segment of the population of the Northeast Community.

For many years the residents in the black communities within Northeast Baltimore have been attempting to develop resources for meeting the needs of its people.

Recognizing that we have been virtually erased from the map as far as federal poverty programs are concerned, we began to explore other ways of meeting our needs.

Black people in Northeast Baltimore are knowledgeable about what their problems are but it is, indeed, a new endeavor for us to take on the responsibility for creating ways to correct these conditions.

We have many families with young preschool children and as a result there is a great need for day care.

There are no medical facilities other than one area hospital, thus creating a need for a medical center.

A few years ago some of the people in Homestead-Montebello, Waverly and Govans areas began to pull together some resources and as a result we have achieved success in the establishment of a Day Care Center by the Department of Social Services and a Medical Center.

However, we soon realized that new leaders needed to be developed to work along with the small numbers of residents who had begun this effort.

We are prepared to take on this responsibility, and as a result of the $20,000 grant from the "Campaign For Human Development," we now have a greater opportunity for achievement of this goal.

With this grant, we have now established our office with the community contributing towards the cost of the operation . . . thus, making it a joint effort.

It is staffed with two community organizers, and secretarial staff.

This office has become the first tangible sign of progress toward community coordination of effort.

The leadership workshops which are planned as the second phrase of our project, will thrust our community fully into the concept of self-help.

The residents and members of the Board of Directors of the Homestead-Montebello NECO Complex are committed to the Self-Help approach to the development of this community. Our plans have indeed been enhanced by this grant.

Our investment in this project will not be hampered by any group and this is a commitment, we make . . . to all black citizens in Baltimore.

MRS. ERNESTINE F. JONES, chairman.

Concert Story

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the excellent coverage you gave our choir's "Festival Concert" on the occasion of the Inauguration of Dr. King V. Cheek, III as seventh President of Morgan State College.

Many persons spoke of the article and we think that it was one of the principal factors in our big turnout. Fortunately the concert was a great success for us as people are still talking about it.

Please let them know that we are giving a full length Christmas Concert in Carl Murphy Auditorium this Sunday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

NATHAN CARTER, Director
Morgan State College Choir

Keep Russell

Dear AFRO:

It is a rare occurrence when Baltimore's mundane political scene is punctuated by a man who carries the badge of natural leadership, boundless capability, professional demeanor, and above all compassionate sensitivity to human need.

Such a man is City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr., who both in victory and defeat has manifested genuine quality.

Unfortunately, on January 1st, our community may well lose the much needed services of this very special person.

In light of today's overwhelming socio-economic problems which inundate our city, it would appear extremely foolhardy to permit Mr. Russell's departure at such a critical time.

However, I take heart at the possibility that Mayor William Donald Schaefer has such dedicated concern for our city that he is capable of making responsible choices which transcend the narrow realm of political consideration.

I am sure that I mirror the welter of public sentiment in hoping that George L. Russell Jr., may be reappointed to the highly sensitive and responsible position of City Solicitor for the next four years.

(Mrs.) ANNA CLINKSCALES

For Unity Meet

Dear AFRO:

A few weeks ago I read in Jim Fleming's column in the AFRO a plea for a Black Unity Conference — or the need for blacks to get together to discuss some vital issues. I wrote him how much I liked the idea and how much value and need there is for such. He said he would let the AFRO know my reactions.

I'm dropping you this note to suggest that the AFRO might want to consider sponsoring such a conference for our community.

DR. HARRIET P. TRADER

Change Priorities

Dear AFRO:

I would like to first apologize to Dr. Roland N. Patterson for the lack of intelligence displayed by critics who feel that the responsibility lies with him, or some master plan of his, to solve the problems that are plaguing our school system today. They all lack the hindsight, insight, and foresight necessary for understanding and dealing with these problems in their proper perspective.

We are all guilty and victims of always looking for a scapegoat. At one time we looked to the family to control our children. The responsibility then fell on the church. When that began to fail, it was the police, and now, we say its our educators.

Where does this leave the children? The love and attention they once knew and read about that they should have is gone. You want to know what the kids are saying and doing about all of this? Just take a good honest look at them for once. When you see their violence in the schools, college campuses and universities, they feel its their only way that you will pay any attention to them.

They want to be recognized.

They want to be loved. They don't want to be taught how to make a living at the sacrifice of love, they want to be taught how to live and love.

Our values and goals must be redefined and our priorities must be changed. We must eliminate the contradictions such as racism, hatred and the dog eat dog concept which plagues our society and which subsequently turns off our young kids.

PHILLIP J. REID

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

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.

Schaefer's 'New Time'

At his farewell banquet Monday evening, Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III, in assessing his administration, observed that the future of this city and this nation lies in how well those in authority play their trump card.

He described the trump card as black citizens in urban cities, like Baltimore, who are fighting for an opportunity to determine their own destiny and who, as Mr. D'Alesandro said, once given the opportunity, are willing to go half way and frequently more than half way.

When he took office the next morning, Baltimore's 35th Mayor, William Donald Schaefer, a 50-year-old bachelor, made no specific reference to the racial composition of the city he will head for the next four years.

But our count of the inaugural crowd indicated a substantial number of us turned out.

As they did at the testimonial the night before, black citizens participated in the inaugural program, Mrs. Marie Henderson, a Schaefer neighbor who co-chaired the committee, presided at the swearing-in, Apostolic Bishop Winfield A. Showell offered prayer and youngsters of both races were in the musical groups from public schools and Community College of Baltimore.

Nevertheless, Mr. Schaefer ran on an all-white ticket and has not yet made public his plans, if any, to include black citizens in his official family.

It is good that his office staff is integrated and that Quentin R. Lawson is serving as his aide on school matters, but a city half black, or nearly half black, will not be able to relate to a chief executive unless there are top level appointments to policy-making boards and committees in all areas.

If Tommy D'Alesandro has left any legacy which William Donald Schaefer will do well to copy it would be that he was cognizant of the importance of involving all citizens and he set a record for appointing black people to policy-making jobs.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Schaefer made no specific reference to race. We would interpret his words near the end of his speech in which he said, "welcome to the beginning of a new time in the history of American cities," as alluding to the kind of togetherness he plans.

The AFRO recommended last week in this space that as we go to the new year 1972, under a new Mayor, AFRO readers give him their support and an opportunity to work and prove himself. We would only add this further word of advice offered by his predecessor:

"Black citizens in this country might well be the trump card which will save this nation. . . in their fight for equal opportunity they are willing to go half way and many times more than halfway."

The AFRO recommends that AFRO readers go half way, if necessary more than half way, in their tolerance and understanding but the burden of proof is now on Mayor Schaefer if he is to have real success in his 'new time.'

Gun Control Needed

Some public officials, including Governor Mandel, are on record as supporting gun control legislation.

We think those sections of the state which don't have such legislation on the books ought to get them promptly.

But, in Baltimore city, we need to enforce existing regulations.

For example, Article 27 of the Maryland Annotated Code provides in Section 36 imprisonment for not less than 6 months nor more than 3 years if a person is convicted of using a gun with the deliberate intention of harming another.

Section 445 of this same article imposes the same penalty for persons convicted of crimes of violence, habitual drunkards, or addicted or habitual users of narcotics or barbiturates found possessing a gun.

Section B goes further and makes it unlawful for any person to sell a gun to persons under 21.

The laws are here. The problem is enforcing them. It should be unlawful for anyone to carry a gun for any reason.

Too long people have hid behind the old defenses in fear of bodily harm, need to protect their possessions etc.

Our law enforcement officers and our civil rights groups should study very carefully the existing laws and come up with suggestions for strengthening them, at next year's legislature.

If stiffer penalties are needed for violators, we should have them.

If special agencies are necessary in Baltimore city to interpret the existing statue, let's get them.

Unless we deal seriously with this gun problem, we will all soon be living in a jungle.

Pages 80-84 Tell Story

Baltimore City needs to take a look at the way telephone numbers offering services are listed in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area Directory, if the city really means to be of service to the city residents.

The Health Department and Police Department usually get the bulk of the calls made by city residents but the listing for these two departments shows a lot to be desired.

The city lists 12 titles under the health department for services but none for information only.

On the other hand, Baltimore County has 78 listings under health department including 2 numbers for information.

One of these numbers for information gives a number to call when, "numbers are not listed." The other number is for, "nights, Sundays, holidays and emergencies."

Of particular interest to all our readers should be the listing under mental health. Here are found numbers for:

Alcoholism Control, Community Mental Health Centers, Comprehensive Services, Drug Abuse Program, Geriatrics, Mental Health Clinics, School Child Mental Health Services, and Director.

The only comparable telephone listing for Baltimore City residents is the Police Department's, "criminal investigation" with a sub-title "narcotics."

Many city residents complain they can't locate the proper services even though they have been told such things are available. We believe that the telephone book is a good indication of why people can't find what they are looking for.

For if you can't locate the number in the book and the phone number you keep calling is busy or "not caring" it is easy to understand why there are a lot of "uptight" residents in our city.

We are inclined to think that in this instance county workers have a whole lot of understanding about what people need to know to get services.

We also believe that the telephone book is saying that when people live and work in the same area, they understand that area and the things they do show they care.

We urge our readers to compare pages 80 and 81 with pages 82, 83, and 84 in the new Baltimore Metropolitan Telephone Area Directory and draw their own conclusions.

Only 14 Days Left

If any AFRO reader doubts there is poverty and unhappiness in this city, we recommend reading letters to this newspaper's Mrs. Santa.

Now in its tenth year, this AFRO Charities Inc. project, tries to provide Christmas cheer for deserving families.

Readers can help by contributing money which Mrs. Santa uses to buy gift certificates for food and clothing, or they may adopt one or more families from Mrs. Santa's list and provide for their needs themselves.

Food baskets and certificates purchased by Mrs. Santa are delivered in time for Christmas by members of the Md. National Guard.

Readers who desire to help Mrs. Santa spread a little happiness should act now—get their contributions (tax deductible), in the mail promptly, or call Mrs. Santa at 728-8200 and arrange to adopt a family.

Those who share with others are acting in the Christmas spirit.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Crime, No Single Action

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

REP. MITCHELL

Unless action is taken simultaneously on at least four fronts, we will not achieve any significant reduction in crime rates.

We must act in terms of eliminating the environmental dysfunctionings conducive to crime.

We must achieve full employment.

We must institute significant prison reform and.

We must insure that resources are available to combat and deter crime.

With respect to the last area, I have co-sponsored H.R. 11813 — the Emergency Crime Control Act.

The basic aim of this legislation is to get the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to channel more funds into high crime areas and also to speed the flow of such funds.

We who co-sponsored the Bill found that . . . 92.1 per cent of the LEAA money appropriated for that year still being held by the States. (That is to say, local governments had not yet received the money). . . . 51.1 per cent of the LEAA money appropriated for the previous fiscal year (1970) also not having reached local target areas.

. . . In ten States, no 1971 money had moved. In five other States, less than 1 per cent of the money had been distributed. In seven additional states, less than 5 per cent of the funds had been distributed.

The bill would alleviate this situation by requiring block grants of LEAA funds to high crime areas. These areas would get a sum of money based on population and incidence of crime.

Then each area would determine for itself how the sum is to be allocated to various projects, in line with needs and priorities as perceived at the local level.

This would do away with the requirements for filing separate applications for each project — a factor that accounts for so much of the red tape.

Under this proposal, each area would be guaranteed a predictable sum of money, making it easier for local authorities to set up their budgets.

In addition, the money would arrive quickly, and it would constitute a significant sum.

And, of course, there would be greater flexibility at the local level in spending the money.

The legislation amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. The basic structure created by that act — a system of block grants to the states — is left intact.

Although more money would be directed into high crime areas, the portion of funds that States receive from LEAA would not be diminished.

The new program launched by the Bill would not require any increase in the sum of money authorized for LEAA purposes under existing legislation.

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 post-card to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857,

QUESTION: The Baltimore City Department of Social Services is planning to open a decentralized unit in the Cherry Hill Multi-Purpose Center. It will service residents from Cherry Hill only.

Residents from adjoining communities of Westport, Mt. Winans, and Lakeland will receive the Health and Welfare Department, the Inner City Community Mental Health Center, and the Drug Abuse Treatment Center which will be located at the Cherry Hill site.

The Department of Social Services plans to serve these non-Cherry Hill residents from its Federal Hill Center which will be located on Sterrett St. near Washington Blvd.

We, the residents of Mt. Winans and Westport, would like for the Department of Social Services to answer one question for us. Why? It seems unreasonable to have our residents go to the Multi-Purpose Center in Cherry Hill for all their needs, except one.

What you are saying is that we must spend two car fares and perhaps take two days to satisfy our needs when with wise planning on the Department of Social Services part, we could get all our services in one building, but most important, in one day.

Our Residents Council will meet on Monday, Dec. 13, at 2343 Norfolk St. on this matter. — H.J.

ANSWER—Van Story Branch, head of Management Division, Housing and Urban Development asks that Mt. Winans and Westport residents make request to their project managers for a facility near the center of their own. He says he will alert the managers to look forward to the citizens' request and respond to them and him.

Mr. Branch states he will then do two things (1) to consider making a center out of a couple of dwelling units as soon as possible (2) include the request for the center in the modernization budget of the Westport and Mt. Winans developments—a long-term thing that could reach completion in 1974.

He states that the Cherry Hill residents went through the Mayor's Office to obtain their center and as an alternative, the Mt. Winans and Westport citizens could get in concert with their managers and take the problem to Mayor Schaefer.

QUESTION: I am writing to you out of desperation. I am a resident of the 500 block of Wabash Avenue, and have been for the past ten years. During that time, I have witnessed a number of accidents due to the speeding traffic.

At least a dozen or more families have had their cars struck while parked on one side of the street or the other (some families have been struck twice in the same year).

Last Tuesday, my car was struck while parked and pushed several hundred feet into two other parked cars and a tree. My car was a total loss. On Thursday, my dog was struck and killed in front of my house.

On Friday, my next door neighbor's car was struck while parked (this is a second time for him) and pushed into another neighbor's car damaging it, also.

There is a sign at the corner of Wabash Ave. and Sequoia that says RIGHT TURN PERMITTED WITHOUT STOPPING. I feel that if cars were made to come to a complete stop on Sequoia, they might proceed down Wabash a little more slowly. I, also, feel that there are other alternatives:

1, A traffic light at the corner, since Wabash, Sequoia, and Rosedale traffic have to merge.

2. More police supervision and use of radar.

3. More signs posted as to the speed limit in a residential area or warnings that speed kills.

I am praying that we do not have to wait until someone is killed before something is done. Please help. Thank you.

MRS. S. J.

ANSWER: AFRO Line has great sympathy for this writer knowing full well the facts stated here are accurate. We've seen some of the incidents. The Department of Traffic Transit has promised a prompt investigation. Let AFRO Line know what happens. Address for filing further complaint with this bureau is 401 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

QUESTION: I recently wrote an article on black unity. Since then I have lived in terror. The police parade around my house constantly. I am followed. My bank account took a sudden decline which I question.

I have been intimidated by teachers on the campus. The people here are trying to make me out a "criminal" investigation, with a sub-title "narcotics."

Many city residents complain they can't locate the proper services even though they have been told such things are available. We believe that the telephone book is a good indication of why people can't find what they are looking for.

For if you can't locate the number in the book and the phone number you keep calling is busy or "not caring" it is easy to understand why there are a lot of "uptight" residents in our city.

We are inclined to think that in this instance county workers have a whole lot of understanding about what people need to know to get services.

We also believe that the telephone book is saying that when people live and work in the same area, they understand that area and the things they do show they care.

We urge our readers to compare pages 80 and 81 with pages 82, 83, and 84 in the new Baltimore Metropolitan Telephone Area Directory and draw their own conclusions.

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 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

NOW and THEN

Atlanta Still Different Kind Of Big City

By
G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

Atlanta is still different from most of her sister cities. It is certainly different from most of the rest of Georgia — including, if not especially, Fulton County which surrounds it.

In an overall sense as well as in things racial, it has its own style, or so it has always seemed to this columnist who again visited the city last week.

The first thing that strikes a listener is that no one speaks of the city as a "dying" city, or a "broke" city.

Atlantans may run down Fulton County, or Georgia, or Nixon, but they do not run down Atlanta, at least that is the impression one gets from a short look-see.

They explain Maddox either by cracking a joke or saying "his bark is worse than his bite," or calling him a political freak, "just as McCarthy was to Wisconsin."

Last week Atlanta's mayor Sam Massell (the first Jewish mayor in its history) was elected president of the National League of Cities — and the city's newspapers, radio and television were effusive in their congratulations to him.

They were sure the members of the league had voted wisely and brilliantly. The editors also took the opportunity to land the mayor's city (Atlanta) as "alive," "innovative," "moving."

Blacks no less than whites think Atlanta is "some city."

They give credit to its many educational institutions, including six historically black ones, the latter all joined together in the Atlanta University Center.

They boast of its black-owned and operated businesses — large ones and the small neighborhood enterprises. Currently, the showplace is the new 12-story Citizens Trust Bank building.

They point also to the fact that Atlanta Life is still one of the two or three top black-owned businesses and that, because of its presence in the city down the years, black Atlantans have one of the highest ratings in home ownership, especially of higher quality property.

The Alexander Brothers seemingly head the list of large-scale black builders, the like of whom is not seen above the Mason and Dixon line.

The Paschal brothers' Motor Hotel is still one of the leading hostelries of the city, with a black and white clientele — but one can find blacks in every other "name" hotel, including the new, storybook Regency House.

It is not unusual for the Paschal Hotel to send some of its prospective guests downtown if it is full, and it is not unusual for a downtown hotel to send some of its white guests to Paschal, under the same circumstances.

Some of the churches are also making a mark between Sundays. Wheat Street Baptist Church probably leads the way, not only with the usual educational building, but with a 200-unit apartment complex, newly built, and a 12-story senior citizens' facility now going up. Altogether, the church has real estate holdings of some $18 million, amassed under the leadership of the Rev. William Holmes Borders, its pastor for 34 years.

But (thank the gods!) there is also a lot of "rapping" and questioning in Atlanta, with the university, and college faculty and students most vocal.

There is also institutionalized criticism of "the system" in the Institute of the Black World.

At the fourth annual conference of the Atlanta University Conference on African and African-American Studies, last week, one of The Institute's Dr. William Strickland espoutulated on "Black Power" and why, both as concept and goal, it is as practicable for today and tomorrow as it was for yesteryear.

He, pointed to the "fallacies" of the present American system and called for changes — "changes which can only come through exercise of power."

He also advised blacks "to go outside of the usual electoral politics" and to work towards cities governing themselves — cities with their large proportion of blacks or their majorities of blacks.

Another speaker, Robert Holmes, also of the Institute for the Black World, observed that "we may have to create a new unit of government — the neighborhood — each with its own legislature and related powers."

A visiting delegate, not an Atlantan, argued that the only sound premise for black action is to know that the whites "have a plan, and have always had a plan, to commit genocide against blacks."

The conference also heard revealing papers on the income of black families, the urban political process, blacks and drugs, the debate over black English, the black theatre, and negritude.

This year's conference also honored and marked the centenary of James Weldon Johnson, black poet, journalist, diplomat and civil rights leader.

Prof. Richard A. Long, of Atlanta University, formerly of Morgan State College, was director of the conference.

There is much more to Atlanta. It has plans for a subway linking the metropolitan area.

There are also those with dreams of electing a black mayor, in the not too distant future.

STATE OF THINGS

Welfare Aid Complicated By Confusion Of Prejudices

By VAL HYMES

The welfare "gravy train," as Maryland's Social Services has been dubbed, has run over some broken tracks and into bad weather lately.

Not only is that train too long, with 224,000 Marylanders receiving assistance, but too expensive, with a budget request of $130 million in for next year.

And it is becoming too unwieldly to sweep under a rug since public ire has been aroused by reports of "cheating" and administrative errors costing the taxpayers some $8 million annually.

This can of worms is compounded by unemployment, the wage freeze and debate over side issues like welfare aid for strikers or abolishing the rule forcing mothers to bring non-support charges against absent fathers. And it is complicated by a confusion of prejudices with priorities.

It does little good to tell a taxpayer that middle income families also accept handouts from Uncle Sam through loans and grants for education, home mortgages, small businesses, college tuition or the soil bank.

To most voters, welfare is a something-for-nothing program for freeloaders who won't accept menial jobs or just continue having children for the $25 a month more.

As taxpayers, they hear that the number of people on welfare has quadrupled in 10 years and that the budget will be up 43 per cent, adding to the threat of a tax increase.

QUESTION: I recently wrote an article on black unity. Since then I have lived in terror. The police parade around my house constantly. I am followed. My bank account took a sudden decline which I question.

I have been intimidated by teachers on the campus. The people here are trying to make me out a "criminal" investigation, with a sub-title "narcotics."

Many city residents complain they can't locate the proper services even though they have been told such things are available. We believe that the telephone book is a good indication of why people can't find what they are looking for.

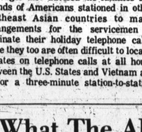
For if you can't locate the number in the book and the phone number you keep calling is busy or "not caring" it is easy to understand why there are a lot of "uptight" residents in our city.

We are inclined to think that in this instance county workers have a whole lot of understanding about what people need to know to get services.

We also believe that the telephone book is saying that when people live and work in the same area, they understand that area and the things they do show they care.

We urge our readers to compare pages 80 and 81 with pages 82, 83, and 84 in the new Baltimore Metropolitan Telephone Area Directory and draw their own conclusions.

The Job Hunter



Direct your questions about possible careers, training opportunities, job openings, and the Maryland State Employment Service to Labor Market Information, Room 205, 1100 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Q. I'm worried. In just six months I finish high school, and I really don't know what kind of work I want to do. Is there somebody I can talk to?

A. Request counseling at the nearest office of the State Employment Service. In a confidential interview an employment counselor will review your qualifications for today's jobs and training programs.

In addition, vocational information is available from most branches of the Pratt Library.

Q. I've got a record. Does this kill my chances for an apprenticeship?

A. Probably not. In most cases the selection board does not automatically screen out applicants with prison records.

Instead it looks for a sincere attempt at rehabilitation. Signs of honesty and stability are especially important to the board.

Q. I run a gas station. I need some help I can rely on. Can you help me?

A. Call the Job Bank at 383-5541. Although you'll see as many people as you want, you're not obligated to hire anyone.

Of course, there is no charge for this service.

Q. I really like drafting. And my highest grades are in mechanical drawing. But I still have another year of high school left. If I drop out, do you think I could get a job?

A. Stay in school. No matter how good you are, most employers will not hire you without a high school diploma. A few might hire you, but your salary will be considerably lower than that of a high school graduate.

How You Can Talk To Him In Vietnam

Is your husband, brother, father, or friend serving in Vietnam? Want to talk to him for Christmas?

You can, provided you plan early.

First thing you do is arrange to have your special serviceman place the call from there, says E. A. Stenger, general traffic supervisor for the C and P Telephone Company of Maryland.

Reaching a particular serviceman quickly by calling from the U.S. is close to impossible, says Stenger. Most servicemen are likely to be on duty or stationed in remote areas where they're extremely difficult to locate, he explained.

To minimize these difficulties, special arrangements have been made again this year to permit servicemen to call home at the times most convenient for them.

The U.S.O., the military, the Bell System, and communications people in South Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Guam will be working together to simplify the calling and permit the maximum number of men to talk.

Last year, more than 1,000 calls daily throughout the Christmas season were completed from Vietnam for off-duty servicemen calling home.

Many servicemen call from the U.S.O. center in downtown Saigon, but calls also can be placed from a number of hospitals and service centers at bases elsewhere in the country.

Stenger also advised the families and friends of Americans stationed in other, southeast Asian countries to make arrangements for the servicemen to originate their holiday telephone calls, since they too are often difficult to locate.

Rates on telephone calls at all hours between the U.S. States and Vietnam are $9 for a three-minute station-to-station call and $12 for a three-minute person-to-person call. Servicemen can call collect so that the messages can be paid for at home.

Note: — Vietnam is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

Aid Unused

Many severely disabled World War II veterans are not taking advantage of Public Law 91-666 which, among other provisions, provides funds for the purchase, repair or replacement of special adaptive equipment for their automobiles.

George A. Davis, director of the Baltimore VA Regional Office, says his office is authorized to provide money toward the purchase of an automobile for veterans who suffered the loss or loss of use of one or more hands or feet or both eyes in military service.

The new law raised the VA auto grant, Davis said, from $1,600 to $2,800 and also authorized VA to pay for adaptive devices needed on replacement cars purchased in the past.

He explained that those who previously received grants — whether the amount was $1,600 or $2,800 — cannot receive a second purchase grant, but they can receive payment for the cost or installation of adaptive devices purchased since January 1, 1971.