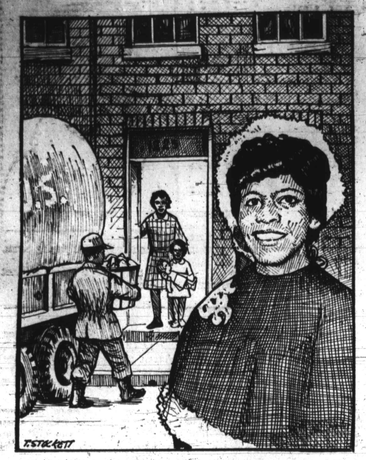
Thanks From AFRO's Mrs. Santa



NEWS ITEM: — 'Best year ever,' says AFRO's Mrs. Santa who raised $12,210.95 this year to help buy food and clothing for over 1,500 needy families at Christmas

Baltimore Afro-American

A-4 DECEMBER 25, 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

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

Christmas-1971

Nineteen hungred and seventy-one years ago, three men, one of them a black man, were journeying towards Bethlehem, when the radiance of a star came to them from afar, lighting their way to the humble manger where lay the infant Jesus, most blessed of babes. Over Him bowed the Virgin Mother, starry-eyed — awed by her Gift. Mary — holy Mother of Jesus...

The miracle of His birth has been the wonder of all men on earth for generation upon generation. Yet still more wondrous is the conception of life as He lived it...

A simple carpenter by trade. He was, by inspiration, the sublime philosopher; by practice, the great teacher, and in truth, the noble sufferer.. In every era do we have great men.. and so, in every age, is greatness the inspiration to teach the truth..

Christmas — 1971, — and still the Star of Bethlehem, casts its mighty beams of light over all the world. Many have been the wise men who have followed it as a vision which may reveal to them His teachings..

There are always men who will follow.. but may we hope for more leaders who will carry His word... who like Him, are inspired to teach the truth.

In business.. in politics.. in the family.. and in the community.. let each one of us teach those about us that joy of heart... peace of mind.. and glory of soul are to be found if we seek them in Truth.

WASHINGTON REPORT

The Elected Public Official On Vacation?

REP. MITCHELL

By PARREN J. MITCHELL, M.C.
(D-7th District-Maryland)

What does an elected public servant do when the legislative body in which he serves is not in session? I suppose most follow pretty much the same type activities I have scheduled between now and January 18.

Although the House of Representatives has adjourned, the casework problems continue and the agencies of government must be dealt with in order to resolve constituents' problems.

A particularly thorny issue at the present is the 8-A government procurement set aside program.

This program, developed by the Small Business Administration, requires that each federal agency set aside a percentage of its government procurement contracts for minority enterprise.

Black businessmen are being thwarted by governmental agencies in their attempts to secure such procurement contracts. So we are continuing to work on a case by case basis to break down agency resistance.

Although the Congress is in recess, we must continue to work on problems.

Typical problems on my desk at the date this column was written are:

1) Working with the Price Commission to prevent 34.1 per cent premium increase in the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Plan under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

2) Attempting to secure February entrance into a local Law School for a constituent.

3) Shepharding an appealed case of racial discrimination through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

4) Expediting the return of a Black soldier from Germany so that he can be with his gravely ill mother who resides in the 7th Congressional District.

Congress may take a vacation but it appears the problems people and organizations confront do not take vacations.

Between now and January 18, I shall spend alternate working days in the Baltimore office and in the Washington office.

I think it is most important that elected public servants be identified with the positive efforts to solve the ongoing problems in the community.

How is this accomplished?

Perhaps my schedule for this week will give at least an approach.

12-19-71—Visited the sick at Lutheran Hospital for three hours.

12-21-71—Attended Douglass High School Alumni Program to secure funds for uniforms and instruments for the High School Band.

12-22-71—Attended the Christmas Assembly at Baltimore City College. (We must make every effort to work with our public school students.)

12-25-71—Christmas Dinner with the inmates at the Maryland House of Correction.

12-26-71—I will visit the patients at the Veterans Hospital.

There is so much that all of us must do on both an official and informal basis to try to make the lives of our fellow men better.

I have the very strong feeling that thousands of people in our city are working in their own ways on diverse problems to accomplish just that—making life better for someone else.

To them—to you—THANKS.

Santa Don Schaefer?

Mayor William Donald Schaefer is playing a rather reluctant Santa Claus, taking his good time about pulling the goodies out of his Green Bag.

The longer it takes him to announce his selections to key posts, the longer the list of hopefuls grows. And that adds to the number of rumors.

Mayor Schaefer was saying to us as voters a few weeks ago that he knows the problems of the city, that he knows how to handle them and that selecting him as mayor meant we would not have to suffer through an on-the-job training period with anyone else.

Is Mayor Schaefer having trouble getting the people he wants?

Is he having to make compromises with big backers? Has he got meaningful input from leaders representing 47 per cent of the city population?

Some of these answers will be obvious when Schaefer starts making his appointments.

It is a good thing for Baltimoreans that Schaefer doesn't have to play Santa Claus to the citizens here on any given date, say, like Dec. 25. In fact, the dates he earlier indicated might be ones on which expected appointments would be made, came and went without much joy being spread.

The best we can do now is hope that Mayor Schaefer is taking his time so that his choices will reflect his determiniation to push for progress, peace and brotherhood among all who will be affected by his actions.

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.

No Musical Chairs

Dear AFRO:

If Thomas Jefferson is somewhere observing the workings of our government, he has to be pleased with one of the finest democratic performances ever turned in by a freshman Congressman.

From the 1st to the 92nd Congress, no member of the upper or lower house has been more dedicated to advancing the rights of the heretofore unrepresented than Parren J. Mitchell of the 7th Congressional District.

The advocates of a "black hope" to challenge Mitchell are overanxious to see him unseated. In the name of good government, why?

Now that the 7th district has tasted excellence in representation, it will settle for nothing less.

For the first time our sweat, tears and hopes are permeating the halls of Congress.

We will look unkindly on any aspiring leader who will allow himself to be used to dash these hopes by bringing about the political demise of one of the most versatile men Maryland has produced.

The poor, aged, and helpless will not gain meaningful recognition by playing musical chairs with their representative every two years.

Mitchell deserves the same enthusiastic support that is given other sincere hardworking Congressmen throughout the land.

CHARLES E. THOMAS

Fence Painting

Dear AFRO:

Recently, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association sponsored, through its Livelier Baltimore Committee, the painting of the fence surrounding the construction site of the new North Avenue Market and the housing for the elderly on 20th Street between Maryland and Charles.

Anyone driving by, I am sure, will be impressed by the way this work done by the community people brightened up the ehvironment of the area.

On behalf of CPHA, we should like to thank the scores of community people from the MUND area and Charles Village who participated in the actual painting of the fence, and Ray Allen of the Maryland Institute and his three classes of students who spent all day Saturday and Sunday sketching the designs on the fence.

This cooperative effort between the Livelier Baltimore Committee and the Maryland Institute produced something that everyone who lives in this area can be proud of.

It is our hope to extend these fence paintings to all areas of the city where construction is underway.

There is no reason why neighborhoods should be forced to view ugly plywood fences erected around construction sites for periods of one to three years.

These paint-ins involve the entire community and serve not only to brighten up the construction site, but also bring a real level of participation from community people. Again, our thanks to the Maryland Institute and to all those who cooperated in the fence paintings.

CHRISTOPHER C. HARTMAN
Executive Director

True Now, Too

Dear AFRO:

It seems that Welfare will be one of the most debated items in the Governor's budget in 1972.

Those who are opposed to welfare are saying, "Put welfare recipients to work."

Back on June 29, 1968 I wrote to Mrs. Esther Lazarus the then public welfare director and told her it had been called to my attention that welfare recipients who were being trained through the Work Experience Program were being dropped.

Most of the people who finished the program were not placed in jobs due to the rigid civil service examination.

I asked then why the civil service examination if you are really trying to get the people off of the welfare and into a job?

I said further that poor people are being exploited for political purposes just as they are today.

Del. TROY BRAILEY,
D-4th

Inauguration

Dear AFRO:

The members of the Inaugural Committee would like to thank all the people of Baltimore for making the Inauguration of Mayor William Donald Schaefer on December 7 such a distinguished occasion.

Many people, working together, made this first major event of Mayor Schaefer's administration an example of the sense of community action and cooperation among Baltimoreans.—MARIE HENDERSON, ELMER SMITH, BETTY WELLS (Co-Chairmen), KATHLEEN CAMPBELL (for the Committee).

Entire Nation

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for printing my letter concerning Dr. Roland Patterson in the last Friday's issue of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper. However, the letter was not printed as I sent it to you, and the reader missed my point altogether.

I wished the readers to feel that the fault lay with Washington, or the National Administration, not the parent alone.

MR. and MRS. MONROE P. TAZWELL

(ED'S NOTE: The Tazwell letter was printed without the last line which said, 'The fault lies, not in Dr. Patterson, but in this entire nation.')

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

Black Americana—Carols

The Birth of Christ has inspired some of the most beautiful songs ever created. But the most beautiful ones are seldom heard, except in some of the smaller black churches.

Many blacks forget that these Christmas carols (for that is what they are) came from the hearts of people held in bondage. These carols, which are included among spirituals, tell two stories—the birth of Christ, and the people's own hardships they felt as slaves.

Here is some of Black-Americana heritage.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.
When I was a seeker,
I sought both night and day,
I asked the Lord to help me
And He showed me the way.
He made me a watchman
Upon a city wall,
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Rise Up, Shepherd

There's a star in the East
On Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
It'll lead to the place
Where the Saviour's born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

If you take good heed
To the angel's words and
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
You'll forget your flocks,
You'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your sheep, leave your lambs,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your ewes, leave your rams,
Rise up shepherd, and follow!
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

What You Gonna Name That . . . Baby?

Oh, Mary, what you gonna name
That pretty little baby?
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!
Some will call him one thing,
But I think I'll call Him Jesus.
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!
Some will call him one thing,
But I think I'll say Emanuel.
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!

The Virgin Mary Had A Baby

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they said His name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom!
Oh, yes, believer!
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom!

Is There A Santa Claus?

(From The Papers of Carl Murphy, Christmas 1922)

Some of the thoughtless say no. And there is even in these times a "National Association of Santa Claus Unbelievers," who would rob us of this feature of the Christmas festivities.

No young boy or girl, no older man or woman for that matter, need listen to this anti-Santa Claus propaganda for one moment.

To be sure, the absence of snow for Christmas presents some slight difficulty and modern dwelling heated by gas and coal oil have chimneys all too small for humans, much less fat, jolly, old Santa with his pack. But these are trifles.

Every bundle-laden figure hurrying homeward through the streets, the brightly-lighted, crowded stores, the holly, the Christmas trees, the Opportunity Fund and the Big Brothers movement are more eloquent of the existence of Santa Claus than any words of "Santa Claus Unbelievers."

Santa Claus is the Christmas spirit, the spirit of giving, of making others happy.

If you doubt Santa Claus, look around you today—look around you Christmas morning.

How Christmas Came To Poor Man's Home

From the Story "Piccola" by Cecilia Thaxter

"Piccola, there can be no Christmas gifts for you!" her mother repeated half sobbing. But Piccola did not hear. Too firm was her faith that every child shared alike in the love of the good God, and none could be shut out from His good gifts.

By the dim glow of the candlelight she made ready for bed. In her heart was all joy and merriment. Last of all she set by the hearth, where the fire was dying down, her little wooden shoe.

"Through all the year, I have been as good as I know how," she said, "so I shall find something good here tomorrow."

Then Piccola crept happily into bed, but her mother and father sat long by the embers, and looked sorrowfully at the waiting shoe they had not gifts to fill.

Slowly the night wore away and the gray dawn came. Piccola opened her eyes.

"Christmas is come!" she cried and sprang from her bed. Eagerly, expectantly, she crept to her little shoe.

Her mother and father heard her, and listened with bated breath. "Another minute," they thought, "and she will cry out in disappointment!"

But gay on the air, rang a sound of gladness.

"See! Oh, see! My shoe is full!"

Astonished, father and mother hurried into the room. There stood Piccola with shining face, caressing her shoe, and, cozily resting in it, lay—a bright-eyed little bird!

"It fell down the chimney into her shoe," her father said; but Piccola did not heed him. The bird had come as her Christmas gift, she knew. And every wish of her heart was satisfied and fulfilled.

All day long she warmed the bird, and cuddled it, and fed it, till at last her father and mother, seeing how happy she was, caught her joy and were happy too. So Christmas came to Piccola rich and full, because Christmas was always in her heart.

Lacy No. 1

Pro, the official magazine of the National Football League, lists the AFRO Sports Editor Sam Lacy as the No. 1 expert selection.

On Page 122 of the Dec. 19th issue, our Lacy stands at the top of the list with a 30-17 score.

The magazine notes that Lacy picked seven of eight winners last week to nose out Bill Tanton (with 29-18), for the title. Sam's only miss was on the Pittsburgh-Cincinnati game.

Ranking behind Lacy and Tanton are:—Cameron Snyder, 28-19; Amateur, 27-20; Bob Maisel, 26-21; Pro, 26-21; Larry Harris, 25-22; and, N. P. Clark, 24-23.

Congratulations to AFRO's Lacy, the No. 1 expert.

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 unmeaningful black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact as well as theory.

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GREENBURY Plays Santa Claus For Grandson

(ED's Note: Greenbury, an honest bartender with good common sense is the main character in this new AFRO column. Following is the third in a series).

How come you all dressed up in that Santa Claus costume, Greenie?

It's fun.. real fun.

I never seen you look so happy.

Yep. my grandson got me in it for his play in school.

I never believin' Santa Claus, fact is never like seein 'em hanging on corners ringin' them bells

They confusing sometimes, 'specially to little children

What you do in the school play, Greenie?

It was fun, me handing out toys and the children so happy to see me.

You shoulda heard me saying 'ho, ho, ho.'

Didn't they know you was just Greenbury?

Naw, man, only my grandson and he didn't tell them it was funny in a way too.

How?

One of those little rascals asked me how come I was cullud?

Can't blame 'em can you.. all they ever seen been white?

Yep.. but he was right puzzled 'til I told him I was Santa's helper and I had authority to deliver his message

What he do then?

He gave me long list of things he wants

What else you do?

Nearly cried I was so happy

How come?

You'd have to be there, friend... listening to those kids whispering in my ears about the toys and things they wanted me to bring and..

Well, what made you cry, Greenie?

Some of them little ones.. they asked me for food cause they said their folks didn't have no money.. I just nearly cried, that's all

Honest?

Yep.. It just fore me up inside.. especially when I see all the folks come in here spending their money on booze.. probably some of them has children like that.

Maybe, but what ha gonna do about it?

Don't know, friend,.. maybe we could...

Could what?

What you think about putting a little box up here on the end of the bar? Maybe some of the lushes who come in may have the Christmas spirit.

And do what, Greenie?

Put some money in the box and I could take it to my grandson's teacher.

School's closed.

That's all right, she lives up the block.

And, then you'd really be playing Santa Claus.

Yep.. really be playing Santa Claus.

All right, Greenie, don't give me another beer.. just out the price in the box.

Thanks, friend.

Merry Christmas Santa Greenie.

Same to you.. you playing Santa too.

Not me, I don't believe in that foolishness!

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

5 DECEMBER 25, 1971

NOW and THEN

If Politicians' Yule Dreams Come True

By G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

If politicans, and other public figures, had their way, what would they like most to find under their Christmas tree?

If you ask them publicly, they will probably say: "Peace on earth; a world free of war."

When they are talking to themselves, however, they would quickly add something else, or even replace peace with what is really their No. 1 wish.

If this is true, let us second-guess some of these VIP's:

Mayor William Donald Schaefer will certainly be hoping that somehow Santa will give him the means to run and serve Baltimore City without raising the real estate tax.

Since he needs so much, he will also wish his Christmas stocking will bring guarantee that his "honeymoon" with press can last at least a year.

Talking about the press, School Superintendent Ronald N. Patterson will be looking for the skills to carve a better public relations image for himself and to win more friendly headlines.

As a second gift from Santa, Dr. Patterson may be wishing that somebody else (the governor or the mayor) will accept the responsibility (with authority) of taking guns out of the hands of teenagers.

Gee, it seems that Santa should be generous with the new school superintendent and also bring him assurance that the reconstructed Board of School Commissioners will be easier to work with and that the chief objective of most of its members will not be to "do him in" — to promote themselves at his expense.

Council President Walter Orlinsky would certainly consider his best gift a guarantee that he can form a reliable, public-centered and public-serving coalition in the 18-man chamber.

If he cannot hold such a coalition, the same old hands will make life miserable for him.

The column can not fathom what City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr., has asked of Santa, but we wish for him appointment to the Court of Appeals, the state's highest body, or to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Judicial temperament and capabilities he has in abundance.

Annette C. Johnson, principal of Lake Clifton High School, certainly has asked Santa for guidance, strength and light, to keep that institution of such promise out of the hands of young guerrillas, so that those who want to learn may learn.

The Fourth District Democratic Organization must be on its knees praying for unity in its ranks, so that it may continue to sponsor unbossed candidates for public offices, candidates who consider the public good their greatest challenge.

Clarence "Du" Burns, (2nd Dist.), chairman of the City Council's Committee on Urban Affairs, has his eyes on four years of spectacular success (including a good press), so that he may build on his first term in council.

The Fifth District will ask Kris Kringle for direction into the next two elections, so that this district can increase the number of blacks in the General Assembly and the City Council

Ditto the Second District.

The Third and Sixth Districts want double doses of enlightenment to bring about the kind of liberal action which will give blacks some measure of representation in high places.

Republicans Marshall Jones (2nd District) and Carl Adair and Thomas Mickle (5th) are asking Santa the next to impossible: To give them a break, as Republicans, so that the city may be two-party in fact and the state more so.

In their own way, ditto for Dr. Ross Z. Pierpont and Mrs. Margaret Dyer. City Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams recently made her appeal publicly. We hope Santa will give her what she asked for. She deserves it.

President Nixon, we bet, has asked Saint Nicholas for sparkling success on his several "summit" conferences, especially those with China and the Soviet Union.

And while at it, he naturally also asked for a second term at the White House.

Vice-President Spiro Agnew undoubtedly must be wishing that the next Vice-President will the best man possible. Who is he? Spiro Agnew.

This columnis is no public figure, but his wish from Santa is to obtain wisdom to understand why certain black leaders, led by Delegate Walter Dean, a sociologist, are opposed to the regulation of hand guns by the state, thus placing themselves in the same bag with the National Rifle Association. To all its readers this column wishes a joyous but safe Christmas-tide.

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, Md., 21201.

Q. Every time I go for an interview the employee seems happy with my typing and shorthand. But I never get hired. What am I doing wrong?

A. Better take a good look at your appearance. Like it or not, many employers judge applicants as much by their looks as by their abilities.

So save the casual clothes and wayout outfits for parties and cabarets. Keep your hairstyle simple and your makeup light.

Finally, get someone you trust to check your appearance before you leave for the interview.

Q. I've heard that the Employment Service has a quicker way of helping people find jobs—sort of a self-assistance program. Could you explain this?

A. You're talking about Self-Service. At Self-Service the applicant himself can review all types of job openings in the "Job Bank Book." From this book, which is updated daily, he can quickly pick out a job that he thinks he qualifies for

Q. For years I've worked as an engineer. Six weeks ago I was laid off. Can the Employment Service help me?

A. Definitely. After you prepare a good resume, visit the Professional Career Information Center (PCIC) at 330 N. Charles St. This center will provide you with complete job search services.

Q. How can I become a carpenter? I'm really good at working with my hands.

A. Ask about apprenticeship training at any office of the State Employment Service.

Being good with your hands will be a point in your favor. Good grades in math will also help.

A real interest in carpentry is also important, because the apprenticeship takes four years.

Q. Some years ago I worked in agriculture. More recently, I've been working construction jobs, but now I'm considering going back to the agriculture field. Where can I get information on available job locations?

A. Talk to an employment counselor at any office of the State Employment Service. He'll direct you to the nearest Farm Service Representative.

STATE OF THINGS

Empty Boxes Under Tree

By VAL HYMES

What's under the tree for Marylanders this year?

The biggest present, still not delivered by Uncle Santa, could be the Mills revenue sharing bill (HR-11950), which would bring from $60-90 million to the State and at least $50 million to the City and counties in July.

Because distribution to the subdivisions would be based on population and the density of the poverty population, that will mean a dandy gift for Baltimore, if it survives hearings beginning next month, the vote and White House scrutiny. The state's share would be based on its income tax.

The rest of the presents; including Governor Mandel's promise — wrapped in equivocation — that he will scrape to avoid a tax increase a tax increase, depend mightily on that action because right now, there's one well-decorated — but empty — box under the tree.

New funds for needed expansions of health, education, welfare, corrections and natural resources were planned for that package, but the budget request cuts have been made "not just with a scalpel, but a shredder," as the Governor put it.

The revenue growth picture is so uncertain right now, says one fiscal expert, "There won't be anything new under the tree. In fact, there might not even be a tree."

The problem, simply put, is that under the Governor's tree there are programs already mandated — by law or commitment — that must be funded, totalling somewhere between $90 and $147 million, depending on Congressional and Federal decisions.

At this point, there's nothing left over. In fact, there may be a $30 million deficit, although some of those mandated programs include expensive but nice gifts for Marylanders. Among them are $44 million for education, including school construction, up to $24 million in salary boosts for State employees, unemployment compensation worth $1.1, million for certain education and health employees, $13 million in retirement benefits for teachers and State employees, and increases in State grants like those for local police departments amounting to another $2 million.

The Public Defender System may mean another million or two, and the welfare caseload increase will cost $18 million, plus Maryland's Medicaid share of $19 million for the recipients, and for proposed Social Security increases, of $8 million.

So any new gifts to Marylanders from the Legislature don't stand much of a chance of getting delivered. In fact, some recommended last year, or by the Legislative Council may even get thrown in the trash.

Some programs, like community corrections are going into Federal fund packages, but others, like the ethnic minority studies and reading disability plans or the embarassingly low welfare existence standards, probably won't even see the glint of tinsel.

But there are some brightly-wrapped presents for Marylanders under the tree.

There's a public defender for every poor defendant and a "Little FHA" for State insuring of building loans, both beginning Jan. 1.

And on the same date, ecologists will find the "taxing" of utilities for research and site evaluation for future power plants.

In July, the State's modular housing and mobile home codes go into effect, with the potential of attracting home component industries.

The Governor is gathering together another pile of presents dealing with gun (crime) control, State scholarships, automobile insurance and inspections, offtrack betting and farmland assessment, the last two aimed at producing some more revenue.

Mandel is thinking about several other gifts for the Legislature, but they are marked, "Do Not Open Until Jan. 12," including his reapportionment bill.

And the Association of Counties has another stack of packages with similar labels, which would have the State take over the costs of mandatory tax credits, District Courts-related problems, like State's attorneys, and hospital care for the poor.

Also, a bigger beer tax with a share for the counties, sales tax exemptions on local public construction and an open space program with less red ribbon attached.

An unwanted present might be the State takeover of local assessors' offices.

Bills for more have been prefiled and the Willis Commission has proposed a shifting of taxes to help pay for a more equitable and accountable State-funded school plan with locally elected or appointed boards.

But most are doomed to wait for a better economy, because without money in the bank, the Governor won't move.

That kind of Santa Claus died a long time ago," says Estimates Board Chairman Louis L. Goldstein.

But like small, starry-eyed children, each department and legislator hopes his will be the letter Santa will answer. The average Marylander will be happy, however, to reach into his Christmas stocking this year and find—rather than a tax increase — a lump of coal.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTY MOSS

MRS. MOSS

It's that time of the year again. Here is how this columnist would relate the Christmas story, which we have entitled "It looks so far, don't think I can make it...

'It looks so far.. I don't think I can make it..'

The small, black woman with the natural hair-do gasped with pain as she tugged at her husband's arm.

Joseph patted her, then leaned down and picked her up in his arms.

'Don't worry, Hon, we'll make it,' he said comfortingly.

By the time they reached the door of the lighted stable, her time had come. Joseph quickly pulled his jacket off and made a bed for her.

Mary let out a piercing cry. The baby was on the way. Joseph knelt to help bring his son into the world. He had learned in the Army how to meet such emergencies.

When he held the newborn baby up for Mary to see, tears streamed down her face.

Joseph's eyes were damp too, but the healthy baby's cries comforted them both.

'It's a boy, Mary, we'll call him Jesus'.. he looks like he will be a big, strong man.

As he spoke, Joseph circled Mary and the baby in his arms.

They stood transfixed as they heard voices raised in song.. 'Glory to God in the highest.. on earth, peace, goodwill toward men...

Beautiful people doing beautiful things: It was so on Thursday evening at the W. Lafayette Ave. home of Maurice Murphy.

He is the talented musician who is professor of music at Coppin State College and the college of Notre Dame, as well as director of music at St. James Episcopal Church.

Mr. Murphy's party followed Coppin's annual Christmas Choir concert. He held it to celebrate Beethoven's birthday.

Guests came in full dress, some from round the world, like Baltimore's own Veronica Tyler, who flew in from Europe en route to Ujah.

And another Baltimorean, Nansi Carroll, fresh in from London.

They arrived to find the host's elegant inner city home aglow with beauteous Yule decorations — a Christmas tree with dozens of tiny white lights and large bowls of punch.

Artists, caught up in the magic of the concert-like atmosphere, tickled the ivories of the two grand pianos and joined in singing of their favorite arias with great abandon.

Among those about, such well known names in musical circles as Paul Davis and Edith Ho and Reynaldo Reyes, and Kelley Muller and Gloria Chester, Arshel Morrell and Ernest Ragogini, all of whom are with Peabody or Notre Dame.

Plus, non-musicians like Jeralin Manuel and Sertha Greene of the Coppin faculty; and more musicians like Susan Mueller, Virginia Jackson, Earl Grandison, Frederick Patrick, and Julius Tilghman and Mr. and Mrs. David Rurger, to name a few.

A truly unique and glorious party it was.

Rooms with five or six spotless cribs with picture name tags showing the child's name and birthdate; two to three assistants, teachers and helpers in each room watching as the children sleep and quietly planning the afternoon program, and the soft Christmas music in the background.

This was the scene Monday afternoon at the Martin Luther King Center for Parents and Children.

The center, which is located directly across from the main entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital, is showing there is a difference between children who are loved with respect and those who never find out anyone cares.

The Christmas program was on the afternoon agenda Monday when we visited and every now and then a mini bus would drive up bringing some of 90 parents and children to the center.

Mrs. Mary Robinson, center director, showed us through. In each room we visited, parents who had been trained to become assistant teachers and helpers were quietly at work.

Mrs. Robinson talked of a new program, an expansion of the present one using such terms as "outreach" and child advocacy...

Keep your eye on this center. There's more to come from both the directors, the mothers and the children.

Speaking of Hopkins Hospital, things have really changed since the days all of us were called by a first name or 'boy.'

We saw faces of all shades and hues and heard many different languages in the short span of a city block. The cafeterias, nursing stations and corridors also showed that Hopkins may be moving in the right direction.

Further, you can't help visit east Baltimore town without being awed by the vast number of homes that have disappeared in the past 20 years and the new high rise apartment dwellings for medical personnel replacing them.

The new Dunbar High School Community School is also underway. This is the one state Sen. Clarence Blount will head as principal.

AND SPEAKING OF THE OLD EXPRESSION, "Chivalry is not dead," Special praise goes to Officer Harold Williams of the Baltimore Police Department, and Clyde Tatum who were seen helping a motorist whose car had stalled at Sequoia Ave. and Hilton, last weekend when the temperature had dropped.

Jet Note:—If you're wondering where the jet set is off to these days you might be interested in a $242 eight-day eating, living and ski holiday in France.

The French Government Tourist Office Ski Department in New York reports there is one hitch:—four persons must share a deluxe apartment with a private bath.

Incidentally, skiing is one of those expensive sports...it's not the ski resorts that cost so much as the amount of money spent on clothes (ski boots, $50 up), or equipment (skis run $35 up).

But, of course, there are always ski shops that rent.. a good idea for the novice.

Speaking of ski trips: The International Division of the YWCA is sponsoring one to Elk Mountain, Union Dale, Pa. from January 28 to January 30.

Included in the package price of $67 are sleeping accomodations for two nights at an inn, four meals, skis, boots, ski poles for two days, a Saturday ski lesson, round trip bus transportation from Baltimore, and all taxes and tips.

Want to go? Call the International Division of the YWCA, 685-1460. Deposit of $10 must be paid by the end of December.

Special for children at Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School No. 122: The current issue of Crisis Magazine (the NAACP monthly), has an excellent portrait and article about the black composer for whom your school is named. (Author is L. Moody Simms Jr.).

Get your teacher the one you think is a dues-paying NAACP member and thus gets the Crisis monthly), to cut the article out. Perhaps you'd like to display it in your school bulletin board or study about him in your classes.

Cuff notes: Baltimore's Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School is at 507 W. Preston St.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, (1875-1912), was a familiar name to many of us who grew up in Baltimore schools because of Douglass High music teacher, the late W. Llewellyn Wilson.

He gave us loving instruction in singing the beautiful Hiawatha choral trilogy this famous black artist composed back in 1898! Remember?

Wasn't That A Mighty Day?

Wasn't that a mighty day
When Jesus Christ was born?
Star shone in the East,
Star shone in the East,
Star shone in the East,
When Jesus Christ was born!