Baltimore Afro-American

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.
Carl Murphy,
Editor-Publisher — 1889-1967

A-4 FEBRUARY 12, 1972

Unbossed, Unbought

"Kovens has offered his money raising talents to the black candidate defeated in the 1971 mayoral election, George L. Russell Jr. who is considering a 1972 challenge of Parren J. Mitchell, the state's first black congressman.

"By refusing to work within the confines of the Democratic Party, Mitchell has become a threat to the ability of Manel and Kovens to insure that their political dominance will continue to extend into the black community."

This quote is from the article, "Maryland: The Governor Raiseth," written by Thomas B. Edsall in the February, 1972 edition of THE WASHINGTON MONTHLY.

Key words, (the verbs or action words), are OFFERED and CONSIDERING. There is nothing in this article about the offer being ACCEPTED or Russell ANNOUNCING his candidacy.

The article gives an undeserved black eye to Russell but at the same time it also gives a fair warning to our community to take a new look at their chief executive.

The writer talks of "a quiet transfer of power in Maryland" and the elevation of Mandel to the governor's office in 1969 as "the result of a political accident: the selection of Spiro T. Agnew as the Republican vice presidential candidate."

Maryland, however, must bear the blame for these accidents, especially since the real power play is focused on who controls the money.

Some money is needed to win an election. Communities must be made aware of the fact that nickles and dimes have to come in buckets in order to add up to the dollars thrown around by suburbia rich.

Under our one man, one vote rule, however, whether you have nickles or dimes or dollars, when you pull that curtain in the voting booth, you can only cast one vote.

In this country, today at least a rich man who wants to make governors or congressmen can give a voter "walk around money," but he can't make him pull that lever in the voter's booth.

This means, therefore, that once the community gets behind the man it wants to send to Congress we hope he is the community's man and not the bosses' boy.

WRITE ON!

But First Use A Ruler

"Let's put a little pride and dignity and education into our newspaper and stop getting so hung-up in this money-making scheme," writes one AFRO reader.

"The paper needs to get involved," says another.

These are just two quotes from the many letters the AFRO receives each week . . . and we are glad our readers write.

We would be asinine to say that the critical letters do not make our editors smart a little but at the same time we would be remiss if we did not point out what the AFRO is all about.

We are inclined to feel that typical of the many readers who write the AFRO is Miss Jeanette Edwards, an 18-year-old student at the University of Maryland's Baltimore County Campus.

Her fiery letter got her a personal tour of the AFRO plant at her convenience. When she returned to her dormitory room she wrote the AFRO again, saying:

"My apology for coming to such a warm criticism of the AFRO paper. Many people haven't had the opportunity to explore the AFRO building, to talk to and see some of the personnel so they, like I did, draw hasty, sometimes correct, sometimes not, conclusions because we are only detached observers.

"Remember at some point during the tour I remarked, 'This day may be a turning point in my life'?" Miss Edwards told us of her love for writing and ended this letter with, "I hope to be an asset to the AFRO paper rather than a liability."

Our main concern is that there may be hundreds of AFRO readers like Miss Edwards who as "detached observers" have not read the whole AFRO.

When you talk about crime in the headlines, do readers also take time to read the other 30-odd pages packed with sports, food and women's events, entertainment and what's happening, church news, stories from our offices in Richmond, Washington, Newark, Philadelphia, and from correspondents from all over the world as well as from places like North and South Carolina?

Do our readers note that we have the same United Press International wire and photo services as any other newspapers?

Take a ruler and measure the crime news along with the news of other events.

How many pictures of crime do you see in this edition? Count the number of pictures which don't deal with crime.

We want our readers to write . . . because when they write we know they care.

But please, when you write, make sure you are not just "detached observers" drawing "hasty conclusions".

With Godspeed we then urge you to WRITE ON!

Mandel Scheme Again

Gov. Marvin Mandel is back on the stump with another version of his make-believe plans for getting judges out of politics.

The voters saw through his fairy tale view of eliminating politics from judgeships in 1970, when they defeated his previous effort in this direction.

What the governor is about now is a scheme that would virtually lock into office for life all the circuit and appellate court judges selected by a governor and approved by the Senate. The selection would be rampant with politics, as it currently is.

From the viewpoint of a governor or senators, judgeships would become an even bigger plum for contributors, friends of contributors, friends and bosses.

For the black community it would mean very few judgeships, no matter how fast the population or numbers of qualified lawyers grew. With no chance to make the bench by the election process, black lawyers interested in judgeships would be at the mercy of the political bosses.

There is nothing in Gov. Mandel's track record to suggest that he would act to increase appreciably the representation of black judges in Maryland.

The folly of the scheme is that it cannot be proved that this change would in itself result in a better system of justice.

Indeed it is a system that encourages bluebloods, and others, who for varied reasons prefer not to face the voters in competition with other candidates, to accept judgeships.

They prefer what is called running against their records, which is close to not running at all.

Maryland voters struck down the Mandel trick before and they should do so again.

The very fact that Gov. Mandel is back on the stump again with his scheme is a clear indication that the people's view don't carry much weight in Annapolis.

Our Credo

I measure a newspaper not in: building, equipment and employes — those are trimmings.

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

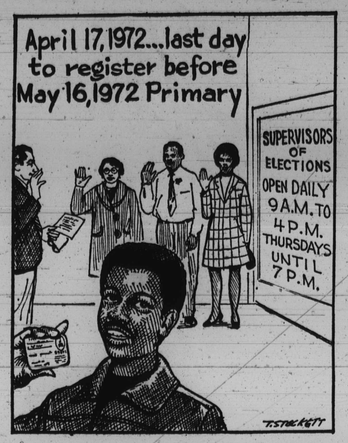
Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured:

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1929

Make Sure You're Ready



WHAT 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.

Daydreaming

Dear AFRO:

This year's Presidential Election, in its more elemental sense, offers Baltimore's black community a choice of action.

I have reference to the potential contest that is rumored to take place in the 7th Congressional District.

Here stands a "Monument," which all of us had a share in building, whether financially, emotionally or with our physical gifts of time and energy.

Some of us stand ready to tear it down in order to replace it with another that will barely equal the present one. Our "Monuments" to ourselves are far too few, were built with much effort spread over too many years, and are costly to replace. Let us build additional ones.

Our incumbent black Congressman in the 7th Congressional District is one of our "Monuments," that already exists. Let's pay him a tribute!

I think all will agree, that he has represented us well in areas most meaningful to us, good government and social and economic justice for all people. There are undoubtedly those who use "hocus-pocus" tactics to obscure his true nature, by labeling him a "Racist."

There are still others who accord him a superman-type nature, not allowing him the luxury of making mistakes, even those identical to their own.

We should pay tribute to the eloquent manner in which he speaks in our behalf; his intelligent understanding of the issues he's called on to decide and the enthusiastic, dedicated way he expresses his convictions.

Creative, intelligent minds are much in demand. Why then, should we exploit the virtues of two great men by having them squander their energies, demean their good reputations by fighting each other instead of problems.

Needless waste of our precious financial resources is inexcusable. How can we foolishly spend our "Widow's Mite" to view a duel only reasonably could be expected to enjoy? Instead, let's ECONOMIZE.

Very little finance is necessary to extol the fine qualities and dedication of our existing black congressman for reelection.

Are our personal goals and ambitions so different? Let's have a "Unity Ball" to raise funds for the "Opponent's campaign for another office, or give it to Provident Hospital, or any unified effort.

Just think of all the emotional confusion, strained relationships, and lack of togetherness, that we could avoid by refusing to sacrifice individuals, whom we profess to respect and whom we believe to have equivalent mental assets and almost identical political goals.

If we must play football, let's play on the same team and go into our huddles and come out of them with some brand new "Plays," not with the intention of fooling the guys on the other team, but with "Plays" so precisely planned and executed they will result in fewer casualties . . . and when the whistle blows at the end of the "Play" we will not have lost ground.

(Mrs.) CAROLE. HAYSBERT

Police Mistrust

Dear AFRO:

On Monday, January 24, 1972, at about 2 p.m., I witnessed an act of man's inhumanity to man. The entire act could have been avoided, but it was not. I believe that the incident could have and should have been handled differently.

At the corners of Howard and Lexington Streets, the pedestrians were held up by the "Don't Walk" sign.

One young lady proceeded to cross the street against the light. She walked into a police car.

The officer stopped, got out of his car and began to fuss to a degree that I felt was out of propoetion to the offense.

The young lady began to answer him word for word. Some other young people who were either her friends or who were very interested in averting a scene, helped her to move away.

I could accept immediately that perhaps the officer was upset and even frightened that the young lady may have been hurt and in his anxiety, overreacted to the entire situation.

I also understand that the police officer is a public servant who in this day and age, must be aware of the feelings of those he serves.

I would have felt so much more comfortable had the officer been able to preface his remarks with some acknowledgment of concern for the young lady's well being.

I freely admit that the young lady in question was guilty of not observing the traffic signal.

However, I truly believe that as long as some members of the police force exhibit inhumane treatment to other human beings, there will exist always for some segments of this society a deep mistrust for law enforcement.

(Mrs.) PATSIE L. DAWKINS

Sensational

Dear AFRO: "Melvin Van Peebles' play hits broadway, and "Doctor Murders Secretary; Is Killed by Police Officer:"

Believe it or not, both of these headlines could be sensational. However, more people will be aware of the latter headline than the first one. One reason is that the first headline has never been published by the AFRO-American Newspaper.

Why is it that whenever a black man commits a murder, rape, kidnapping or any other type of crime, the news is spread all over the front page of the AFRO?

On the other hand, when a sincere and ingenious black man such as Melvin Van Peebles attempts to educate our people in a way that will make them see the light, nothing is heard of.

I am referring to Mr. Van Peebles play, "Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death," which is now on Broadway at the Ambassador Theatre in New York City.

The play has no plot, but it simply shows many aspects of the life of the "so called" lower class black person. In my opinion, the play is beautiful.

However, this is just one example of the good that many of our people are doing for us. For instance, Jim Brown, Nancy Wilson and Lionel Hampton; check up on what these people are contributing to our cause.

There are many good things that the AFRO could be publishing about Afro-Americans. That is, if it wants to. But if your only goal is to perpetuate the feeling of uselessness and inferiority among black people, then I say, your newspaper is as constructive and educational as the "INQUIRER" or "MIDNIGHT" newspapers, which deal exclusively with sensationalism.

Let's put a little pride and dignity and education into our newspaper and stop getting so hung-up in this money-making scheme that "Whitey" has trained us for, all our lives. After all, which is more important, the survival and prosperity of our people, or cash in our pockets, which is as easily spent as it is hard to earn?

Rember, without Afro-Americans, there would be no need for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper. You Dig!!!

MRS. MARCIA SIMMS

Not The Birds

Dear AFRO:

Somehow I don't pity birds out in the bitter cold. They, by nature, can fend for themselves, but cats and dogs are so dependent on human beings. It tears your heart out to see so many cats and dogs abused and neglected.

Man's inhumanity to man is topped only by his cruel treatment of animals, those who can be wonderful pets and protectors, and the animals he painfully (so unnecessary!) kills to eat.

B. J. SMALL

Legal Opinion

Dear afro;

Where is our distinguished legal scholar and city solicitor, Mr. George Russell with his legal opinion?

Mr. Cyrus O. Byron, in my own opinion, was a highly qualified and responsible citizen and educator on the Baltimore City Public School Board, serving in the role of a member of the board. He was removed legally, because he had moved in the county, after having been on the board.

Now I have read in the AFRO-AMERICAN (January 29, 1972 page A8) that Mr. Howard R. Owen, a county resident, was not appointed as a member, but to serve as president of the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Where is our old friend and public dog-watcher, Mr. Hyman Pressman?

Where is that glorying, but dim, candle of justice? Where are the "band wagoners" and crusaders of Equal Opportunity?

"In the Temple he found men selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the money-changers sitting at their tables."

Thanks Dr. Emerson R. Julian for speaking out on the subject!

BERKLEY C. DORSEY

Hats Off

Dear AFRO:

Hats off to Dr. Trader, Rev. Bascom and Dr. Tildon for their superb response on Sunday, January 23, on WBAL's Brass Tacks program.

P. M. ELEY

WASHINGTON REPORT

Reactionaries At It Again

By PARREN J. MITCHELL, M. C. (D.-7th)
United States House of Representatives

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

Once again the bigoted reactionary members of the House of Representatives have undertaken the fight to subvert court decisions which were favorable for black Americans.

Case in point this time is Discharge Petition No. 9. Fletcher Thompson, 5th District, Georgia, is a prime mover in this travesty.

On February 7, Mr. Thompson circulated a letter to all the Members of the House.

In it, he says;:

"Last year, I drafted a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit outrageous schemes to achieve racial balance.

"My thoughts have been incorporated in the Lent Amendment, and Discharge Petition No. 9 will bring this to the floor for a vote, if we get 218 signatures."

To date, only a few more than 140 Members have signed.

Among those, however, is the Minority Leader, Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, who is very concerned about the education of American children.

I will at every opportunity call a quorum in order that those Members who have not yet signed Discharge Petition No. 9 will have ample time on the floor to do so.

Let's try to make Valentine's Day something more than "busing day" for children throughout America.

In a previous Floor fight on this issue, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm addressed her remarks to those who voted for anti-bussing legislation, calling them "hypocrites," and asking them "where were you all those years when black children were being bussed past white schools?"

Shirley was right! They are hypocrites!

Until every urban school has the same facilities, the same curriculum, the same equipment, the same advantages as the schools in lily white suburbia, I shall oppose any anti-bussing legislation.

None of us can afford to stand idly by while a little black brother or sister is denied the tools required for full competition in this society.

We can solve the bussing issue easily. Simply provide the resources to make urban schools citadels of excellence . . . make them so good that whites in the counties will be begging to be bussed into the cities.

Until this is accomplished anti-bussing rhetoric is merely "sound and fury" signifying nothing.

Carrington Murder Story

Dear AFRO:

You are not living up to the great standards of the late Carl Murphy — 1889-1967.

Do you know what he meant when he said, "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."

Many times you have displayed RUDENESS, especially to the family of the late Dr. Russell H. Carrington Jr.

Your journalistic element, style in reporting all those facts which are unnecessary and unprofessional.

I would hate to compare you with other newspapers, you are the only news media that report the complete picture, especially about our great people in the black community.

At times this is quite degrading, and your readers seldom look at the elements which causes situations like this, but they will look at only what you have printed.

Do you ever print anything about your hardships of your family life or family members?

I am sure if you would kindly look into your dossier you will find many things that is unpleasant and not only you but other "so-called" black leaders who claimed to be the pillar of society.

If you are going to let the public know about the black doctor, then the public should know about the black publisher, the black politician, and the black educator.

Your recent report about Dr. R. H. Carrington Jr. was not GOOD, BEAUTIFUL, but it was RUDE and UNNECESSARY.

If you don't learn to edit your material in the interest of the black community you will soon find that your newspaper will never be a TRI-WEEKLY, nor a DAILY NEWSPAPER, as John H. Murphy Sr., December 25, 1920 said in his AFRO Credo.

Who can we turn to, for good reporting or shall we turn away from harsh treatment in the field of journalism as you have done to Dr. Carrington. When you go to bed at night ask yourself did I do justice or injustice to the many patients and friends of Dr. Carrington.

Please slack up or you will find yourself falling back.

ALBERT RANEY PAYNE

Stop And Frisk Widely Misunderstood

State's Attorneys Explain Meaning

By MILTON B. ALLEN
G. DENMEAD LEVINESS

After appearing before the Legislative Committee hearings on the Governor's Gun Bill, and talking and listening to the press and the public for the last several weeks, it occurs to me that the stop and frisk proposal in the bill is widely misunderstood.

In the first place, this limited search provision is not new with the Governor's Bill.

A roughly similar statute has been on the books in New York for some years and was the basis of the Sibron and Peters v. State of New York cases decided by the United States Supreme Court on June 10, 1968—the same day the decision in Terry v. Ohio was handed down.

These three cases in a space of about 50 pages give about as comprehensive an explanation of stop and frisk using the three different factual situations as could be asked for.

Sibron and Peters got to the Supreme Court on the New York stop and frisk statute, both defendants having challenged its constitutionality.

Terry got to the Supreme Court solely by its application of the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Ohio having no stop and frisk statute.

The Supreme Court in rather nimble fashion in deciding Sibron and Peters refused to comment precisely on the semantics of the New York statute.

The Court more or less ignored the statute and decided the two cases on their merits, insofaras the rights of the parties concerned the broader and more precious guarantees of the 4th Amendment.

The Supreme Court said that the proposed scope of search and seizure which comprises the heart of the 4th Amendment transcends any "abstract and unproductive exercise of laying the extraordinary elastic categories" of any state statute purporting to establish police guidelines for stop and frisk—and concluded that any stop and frisk, whether under the auspices of a state statute or not, comes squarely before the Court only if, by its application to a particular set of facts, it may be in derrogation of the 4th Amendment.

The Supreme Court in its landmark decisions on June 10, 1968 reversed the conviction of Sibron and upheld the conviction of Peters, basing its ruling not on the New York stop and frisk statute, but following its own guidelines as annunciated the same day in the Terry v. Ohio opinion, 392 U.S. 1.

The Supreme Court in Sibron and Peters said, "...The constitutional validity of a warrantless search is pre-eminently the sort of question which can only be decided in the concrete factual context of the individual case.

"In this respect it is quite different from the question of the adequacy of the procedural safeguards written into a statute which purports to authorize the issuance of search warrants in certain circumstances."

The inference to be gathered from the Sibron-Peters decisions is that, should Maryland or any other state pass a stop and frisk statute, and a stop, frisk, arrest and conviction result therefrom, the Court will not concern itself with the wording of the statute from a constitutional standpoint, but will pass upon the legality of the arrest only as being violative of, or in conformity with the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as interpreted in the Terry decision.

With this judicial background in mind, it would greatly simplify matters for the Maryland Courts not to mention the police and the public who must live with this proposed law, if the Maryland Legislature would follow the exact wording of Terry regarding stop and frisk in the Governor's Gun Control Bill.

This sub-section of the bill as currently amended by myself and others, now closely parallels Terry and is probably constitutional.

However, the precise wording and the reasons behind the particular wording necessary to achieve this conformity, are widely misunderstood.

The difficulty arises because Chief Justice Warren, in the Terry opinion sets out one standard of conduct for stopping a suspect and a slightly different standard for frisking the suspect.

To stop a suspect the police officer "must observe unusual conduct which leads him to conclude in light of his experience that criminal activity may be afoot and that the person or persons with whom he is dealing may be armed and presently dangerous" etc.

In this connection, the Governor's Bill uses the words "may have a reasonable belief," that a man may be armed and dangerous; which is probably close enough to justify an officer's stopping a person.

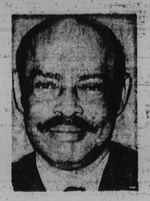
To frisk a person, after first stopping him and through his questions, observations, and in light of his experience, etc., believe him to be dangerous, the officer is limited in his search to a patting down of outer clothing for weapons that may be used to kill or injure.

If such weapons or comparable instruments are uncovered, he can then arrest.

If, on the other hand, upon stopping and questioning a suspect, he receives answers that dispel his fear for his own safety, or from his face-to-face observations, his fear of bodily harm is dispelled, he may not frisk and must let the man go on his way.

The test for a policeman's frisk, therefore, is more stringent than his test for initially stopping a suspect.

When he first stops, he knows little and is following little more than a hunch based on his observations and experience.



MR. ALLEN

However, before he can frisk the suspect's outer clothing, he must, by utilizing the guidelines set out in Terry, be put in actual fear of bodily harm.

To a policeman the word stop means to accost a citizen on the street, to temporarily detain him, i.e., to walk up to him, identify himself and question him.

Frisk means to "pat down" his outer clothing for weapons (the Governor's Bill uses the word "handguns").

Seizure, as defined in Terry combines stop and frisk, but leans more to the stop or the initial confrontation, or the initial detention, as it were.

Arrest is the final act, the taking of the suspect into custody after weapons are found.

Also, it should be added by way of conclusion, that the Sibron case was reversed because the frisk uncovered heroin, not weapons, which made the seizure illegal.

Peters was upheld because burglar tools were uncovered and conceivably, such tools could be used as a weapon.

And a handgun was found on Terry during the frisk which, of course, initiated the whole syndrome in the first place. — MILTON B. ALLEN, State's Attorney for Baltimore City; G. DENMEAD LEVINESS, Assistant State's Attorney.

NOW and THEN

P. J. Mitchell Best Bet For Congress

By G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

No one is surprised that Congressman Parren J. Mitchell has announced his candidacy for reelection.

No one should be surprised, either, if other candidates enter the race. That's politics, too (as this piece is being written, no other candidate has announced).

But, it seems that political practicality, smartness and political sophistication call for returning Congressman Mitchell for a second term, to start building up seniority.

Politically, there is nothing in the two-year record of the congressman—as congressman—which dictates his recall, his unseating. He has won good committee appointments, he has been outspoken on important issues, and he has been a bright image of his constituency.

Most of all, Congressman Mitchell has an outstanding voting record, and he has been on the liberal, progressive side of all significant issues — those black-oriented and those generally-oriented, those domestic and those international. He has been given a 100 per cent rating by Americans for Democratic Action.

A community stands to gain when it political representative earns seniority. Seniority is power — in experience, in committee appointments, in opportunity for chairmanships.

Serious opposition to Mr. Mitchell might help to sharpen the issues of the campaign, but thoughtless or nuisance opposition will be divisive of the Seventh District and may so split the black community that, again, the community will lose a recent gain.

Everything seems to say that when the primary election comes around, on May 16, 1972, it should be Parren Mitchell again.

Dr. Emerson R. Julian is serving a useful purpose by putting Baltimoreans on guard against any escalation in the appointment of non-city dwellers to public positions of trust, honor, prestige, and policy-making.

Dr. Julian is saying that city residents and taxpayers should be given first choice; that those who have run away from the city can't have it both ways; that those who hate the noises and the smells of crowded places should not be rewarded for their leaving.

The Fourth District councilman is not saying that every employee of the city must be a resident here. He knows that a place may stagnate if it does not have injections of new blood.

He knows also that Baltimore has benefited from outsiders who have come in as scientists, technicians, social workers, educators and consultants.

He would not argue, for instance, at surgeons should be chosen on the basis of their place of birth.

By and large, however, the residents of a community cannot be happy over seeing even non-specialist positions and opportunities given to outsiders, often enemies of the city.

In Metropolitan Baltimore we wonder how many positions on county commissions and other boards are held by residents of the city of Baltimore?

Unfortunately, it is forced on black Baltimoreans to sound the alarm. Shut out for nearly 100 years from most high places, they cannot be parties to a scheme which will continue to shut them out. They, including women, want "in," and not only on a "token" basis.

Women—black women, in this case — are also watching their menfolk politicians and how they are behaving as Representative Shirley Chisholm insists on being a candidate for President — no more and no less so that the other seven or ten presidential aspirants now campaigning.

These black men, who have contested and are still fighting, all brands of racial discrimination, do not seem able to "take it" that Mrs. Chisholm, a "soul sister," is galloping away. They are saying to her in one way or another that "The time is not ripe!"

Where have we heard that one before?

Yet, not so long ago some of these same black politicians were threatening to have their own nominating national convention; others were even talking of a "third party," still others of sitting out the next election.

Not so long ago, some of these same BMP's (black male politicians) were up in arms against those, in their cities, who told them "The time is not ripe."

It would make sense for Representative Chisholm and the leading BMP's to set down and find a way to work prductively together. This column resents, however, the knifing being applied to Mrs. Chisholm because she is a woman, or because she does not feel she must wait for the superior male power brokers to give her the green light.

BMP's who are always appealing to others for unity, must remember that they must give a little for unity also.

Or, as the lady (Mrs. Chisholm) said a few days ago, "If you can't help me, get out of the way."

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

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A-5 FEBRUARY 12, 1972

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Note to teachers:—Maryland State Legislatures meeting in Annapolis. Your students ought to have an opportunity to visit this law-making body and see our legislators in action.

Annapolis, the state capitol where sessions are held, is just 30 minutes away. You and your students will benefit from a tour of the chambers and an hour or so visiting the Senate and the House of Delegates.

On Monday evening, this writer saw a number of young people watching the proceedings.

Some were there to observe how the Senate would act on Bill No. 138 sponsored by Baltimore's Fifth District Senator Clarence Blount.

It would allow cosmetology students in public schools to get practical training in private beauty shops so they could qualify to pass the state board.

Other state senators have jumped on the bandwagon, want to see such legislation applicable to their areas, so it will likely become statewide law.

It is true that you have a sense of belonging when you visit the legislature and see your neighbors who look like you helping to make the laws.

Delegates Troy Brailey, Del. Ike Dixon and Lena K. Lee of the 4th were first to greet us.

Also, State Sen. Verda F. Welcome, also of the 4th.

We left the House chamber and went over to the Senate in time to hear Sen. Welcome speak out loud and clear against a proposed statewide lottery, which she said would hurt the poor. And, Robert L. Dalton (D-2nd), who said he favored the measure. Ditto Sen. Clarence Mitchell (D.-4th).

Cuff note: Del. Arthur A. King (Prince Georges), is more handsome in person than in photos. He heads the Black Caucus which met just before Monday evening's session, issued a statement against the proposed gun bill with its stop and frisk provision.

There are 4 black senators and 14 black delegates in the Assembly.

More cuff notes: House Speaker Thomas Hunter Lowe is noted as a man with an engaging personality. He presides with dignity and a sense of humor too.

Like every place else these days, vote in the Assembly is on computer. Your legislator pushes a button at his desk to indicate his vote and you can look up on a scoreboard and see whether he votes Yea or Nay.

There was a steady stream of people going and coming from Nutter Funeral Home on Tuesday evening.

They were out to pay their respects to A. Sinclair Swan, the musician, teacher, choir singer, advisor and friend to many.

Mr. Swan died suddenly. He had been at his desk at Mervo where he was guidance counsellor on Friday.

As we joined his family and friends on Wednesday for requiem mass at St. James Episcopal Church, our mind drifted back through the years.

Mr. Swan and his wife, Charlotte, (the city music teacher) were the ones who were ever ready to lead the groups off for a day of adventure — visits to places of interest or to participate in a meaningful activity.

And, this writer remembers best Mr. Swan's beautiful voice in the church choir and the years when Mrs. Swan was at the organ, and how they enjoyed singing together.

Father Donald O. Wilson, St. James rector, suggested that Sinclair was singing with the choir at the Wednesday rites. There was a special warmth with which the choir sang the familiar numbers, 'Peace, Perfect Peace' one of those we've heard there many a Sunday as we were growing up.

Cuff note: The Swans' only child is now Army Major Sinclair Swan, stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. Remember he was called 'Skip' when he was growing up.

How tall and handsome he looked in his bemedalled uniform as he stood beside his mom and walked with her and his wife down the church aisle!

More people remembering: Vulcan Blazers, that organization of black firefighters has won high praise from the Ralph Young School at 1427 N. Caroline St.

The director, Andrew J. O'Brien writes that they rendered 'a valuable service,' by painting the library of the school.

Cuff note: Douglass High School class of 1952 is planning a reunion.

For info, call Ralph Hudson, 945-6175; or Jerome Burton, 367-5976.

Art note: Charles Biggs, a talented artist, has an exhibit at the Galleries at 2721 N. Howard St. It's on until March 5. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Need help in preparing for a Civil Service job?

The Saturday School of the Calvert Educational Center, North Ave. at Calvert St. is offering a course in CLERICAL TRAINING.

It is designed to help adults prepare for clerical positions in government and also in business and industry. The class will meet at the Calvert Center on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., beginning February 12.

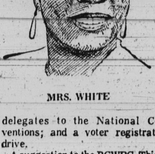
Send a get-well card to these St. James Episcopal Church shut-ins: Mrs. Veronica Anderson—Sinai Hospital; Mrs. Florence G. Allen—5511 Lothian Rd.; Mrs. Myrtle Burgess, Mrs. Augusta Chissell and Stanley C. Franze Jr.—House in the Pines-Belvedere; Mrs. Bertha Byrd—205 S. Amith St.; Mrs. Ruth Croxton—3601 Callaway Ave.; Wilfred Cupee—1908 N. Fulton Ave.;

Also, Mrs. Anna Dixon, 1815 N. Smallwood St.; Mrs. Mabel Frisby, Provident Hospital.

Columns appearing on this page express the opinions of the writers. The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers do not necessarily agree with all opinions expressed.

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE



MRS. WHITE

The Women's Division of the Republican National Committee has issued a very informative report entitled "Women In Public Service."

This report illustrates how this administration is making greater use of women in high level positions, and demonstrates the scope of women's roles in our state governments.

Interesting item contained in the report is that the Republican Party deserves credit for the National Enfranchisement of Women. It pioneered the right of women to vote and was consistent in its support throughout the long campaign for acceptance.

It was the first major party to advocate Equal Rights For Women and the principle of equal pay for equal work regardless of sex.

The report traces the history of the participation of women in the Congress from 1917-1971.

A total of 79 women (32 Republicans and 47 Democrats) have been elected or appointed to Congress since 1916, when the first woman—Mrs. Jeanette Rankin of Montana—was elected.

She served one term and then was again elected in 1940 from the same district for one term. Ten women have served in the U.S. Senate. Of these, Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith is now in her fourth term.

Some 13 women (4 Republicans and 9 Democrats) are members of the present Congress. Twelve of them serve in the House.

Included in that number are the two outspoken advocates of equality of opportunity for all minorities—Mrs. Shirley Chisholm and Mrs. Bella Abzug, both of New York.

This report is recommended to all women actively involved in the political life of our communities and can be secured from the Committee at 310 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

The Baltimore City Women's Political Caucus which was featured in this column last week, adopted the following resolutions at a recent meeting:—

To oppose the Public Assistance Section; Titles 3 and 4 of the Nixon Welfare Reform Bills;

To participate in hearings by the State Welfare Rights Organization before Senators Beall and Mathias on H.R. 1; organization of a City-wide Conference on Quality Day Care;

To support women candidates for delegates to the National Conventions; and a voter registration drive.

A suggestion to the BCWPC. This is a wonderful opportunity to touch bases with Woman Power, Inc., the pioneer women's group that has been in the thick of politics for over 15 years. The expertise and mechanics for conduct of a mammoth and successful voter registration campaign are there in Woman Power. Together—in a unified effort—these two organizations could launch a powerful campaign.

Speaking of Woman Power, please plan to be a part of the Annual Membership Tea scheduled for this Sunday at 3 p.m. For the first time, the affair is being held in East Baltimore so that the sisters over there could join in.

So, let's see a huge turnout for this fine fellowship at Faith Baptist Church, 833 N. Bond St.

Mrs. Ruby Anderson is General Chairwoman of the affair. Dr. Delores C. Hunt is the Executive Director of Woman Power.

A Woman In The White House? Here are a few comments about this as found in the "Liberated Woman's Appointment Calendar for 1972."

"Women outnumber men. They have more money. They are more durable. They have better physiques and, generally speaking, better minds. It'll happen as soon as they put forward a candidate."—Senator J. William Fulbright, 1971.

"Surely a woman in the White House is not an impossible feminist cause. It's only a small step in the humanist revolution."—Gloria Steinem, 1970.

In a 1971 poll, 2,000 young women and men (ages 14-21) were asked if they would vote for a qualified woman for U.S. President. YES, said 68 per cent; NO, said 27 per cent; and 5 per cent had no opinion.

What's your opinion on this question? This column would be interested to hear from you and to publish your comments. Write; "IT'S NOT A MAN'S WORLD," Balto. AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Balto., Md. 21203