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

Open Letter To W. D. S.

Dear Mayor Schaefer:

In one of your high school graduation addresses this week you said: —

"There is much more good in our system and in our world than there is bad. Sort out the good, give constructive ideas and effort to changing things you think are wrong or bad."

We think this is excellent advice for our young people finishing high school and entering the grown-up world, some to college, others to work and to armed services.

We'd like to suggest that your advice is good for the city administration too. There is more good than bad in our city.

We think you should work with the black community so they can help "sort out the good, give constructive ideas and effort to changing things you think are wrong or bad."

For example, your proposal to provide free summer entertainment downtown at Hopkins Plaza has great promise.

On the bad side of the ledger, we are convinced you are making a disastrous mistake by keeping Warden Hiram Schoonfield at the head of City Jail.

Complaints from inmates, some of whose letters have been published in the AFRO, and the indictment of Warden Schoonfield by your own Citizens' Committee, are reason enough for a change.

We are disturbed that you have not caught the urgency of the situation when your own committee said clearly, "There has been an administrative breakdown at Baltimore City Jail. It is our preliminary impression that security and safety are at a critically low level."

Another way you yourself can change things that are bad is to keep Hyman Pressman busy in his office as the City Comptroller.

Reaction from graduation audiences where Mr. Freeman recited his so-called poems is that he did a great disservice to you and your office. His verse was in poor taste for mixed groups and even worse for high school commencements.

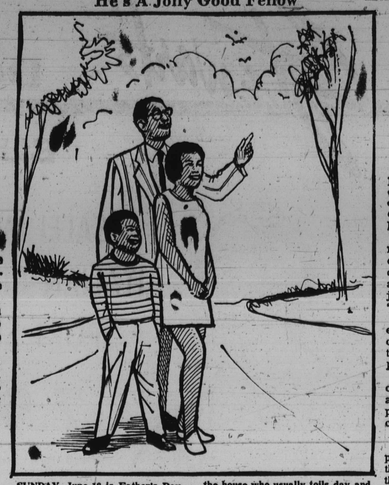
In line with your call for constructive ideas, we would suggest you investigate the exclusive report published in the AFRO last week to the effect that the No. 1 man under consideration to head the city's Fire Department is a deputy living in the suburbs.

Can the city expect this to happen since you have approved guidelines to give city residents preference for city jobs?

In your graduation message you said, "too many people refuse to consider anyone else's ideas or ideals and think everyone else who is different is wrong. Just because you've had an idea for a long time doesn't make it right. Think! Decide! Proceed! But remember your decisions are important, because you are shaping not only your own world but the one we all must live in."

The way we see it, Mr. Mayor, your words apply aptly involving the new Fire Chief and the ineffective warden of City Jail.

He's A Jolly Good Fellow



SUNDAY, June 18 is Father's Day. Don't forget to remember the head of the house who usually toils day and night to keep the family together.

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.

The Northwest Territory

Dear AFRO:

Captain Weintraub, Lt. Col. Frank Battaglia, Chief of Patrol, and Major Clarence E. Roy Jr., Major James A. Watkins and all others in Area II of the Baltimore Police Department should emphatically stress that there is no need to knock on the doors of the residents of northwest Baltimore to get to know the people.

Good public relations and gaining the respect of the community will come as a result of good progressive scientific law enforcement procedure combined with professional attitudes and due respect for the rights and dignity of the individuals no matter what race or status.

The respect and consideration of the police department may be greatly influenced by the approach the police officers use.

The general approach which the police should use should be positive and understanding.

If this approach is not employed, then the reaction of the community will evidently be negative and indifferent. (as experienced, June 3, in the alleged fire bombing of police patrol car on Pimlico Road).

At a meeting held last week I heard Sgt. Melvin Freeman, Northern District say, "The problems don't emanate from police." Perhaps not, but YOU officers certainly can harass the hell out of some people for no apparent reason at all.

You better come up with something quick and decent before the summer months ahead. High temperatures during the summer will have an impact on hot tempers that seek adventure and excitement due to the lack of recreational programs and attitudes toward them.

A change in modus operandi is urgently needed now, but, in the process of this change remember your job is to suppress crime and other criminal acts, not to crush or burden by abuse of power or authority.

There is not one cause for violence and disruption, and no one program can resolve the circumstances, but innovated programs might be an initial step to the resolution of such problems.

It is the primary duty of our elected officials of the Northwest Baltimore area to see that unmet needs are adequately met before this long hot summer which we are about to face.

ALBERT RANEY PAYNE

City Residents On Jobs

Fourth District City Councilman Emerson R. Julian's incessant campaigning for action to do something about giving city residents preference on tax-supported jobs seems on the verge of success.

On Monday, City Council President Walter Orlinsky, Councilman Allen D. Spector of the Fifth District and Dr. Julian dropped bills into the hopper that would give Baltimore residents a better crack at city jobs.

First, there is a bill to amend the charter so that the required job preference changes could become law. This would have to go on the ballot for approval by the voters in November.

The AFRO thinks it will be approved overwhelmingly.

Under provisions of the measure, any city resident who placed in the top five on a test for a Baltimore City Job would be hired over outsiders. If for any reason that applicant did not get the job an immediate hearing would be possible.

Additionally, anyone now living in the city and holding a city job would be taken down two grades or 1 per cent of his salary, whichever is larger, should he move out of Baltimore. The same salary adjustment would be made if someone on the city payroll who already lives in one of the counties moves to another address in that or some other county.

This action is long overdue.

No other subdivision in the state employs such a high ratio of people from other locales.

We think people who are willing to stay here in Baltimore and try to fight to improve the city deserve this kind of support. We think such people have more of an interest in making city agencies work and in serving the people here.

It is true, as some argue, that Baltimore cannot save itself with the millions of dollars it will save through giving preference to city employees. But as important as is the money, there also is the new spirit that goes with this move. Baltimore leaders have a responsibility to show this kind of concern. The city can and must devote greater attention to using what it has in coping with its problems.

The AFRO is pleased to see this significant move by Orlinsky, Julian and Spector.

Angela Stories

Dear AFRO:

I applaud both writer and the AFRO on your article of Tuesday last, re: Angela Davis. It was a refreshing piece of journalistic writing. The writer's thoroughness is to be commended.

"The pen is truly mightier than the sword."

Furthermore, beyond the political-socio-economic beliefs of one — Angela Davis, her educational achievements and academic pursuits should stand as a guiding beacon for our young people and underscore the axiom that—"Knowledge is power."

C. L. KOOUCE

Clean Block Time

It's that time of the year again. Time for the AFRO Annual Clean Block Campaign.

Now in its 38th year, this endeavor attempts to involve young people in cleaning and beautifying their own neighborhoods and encouraging adults to support them in their efforts by supplying funds to purchase paint, brooms, flowers and materials for repairs.

In prior years, the majority of the blocks entered in the AFRO campaign have been located in the core of the city.

A casual drive around any section of our city would indicate there is a need for a clean-up in all areas.

We hope this year that the AFRO Clean Blockers will come from all sections of the city.

Awards Day

Dear AFRO:

We would like to thank you for the coverage given the "Good Citizenship Awards Day" program held recently at our school (Druid Hill Elementary No. 137).

This kind of cooperation will help us to realize our goal of developing good citizens and improving the image of the inner-city school and the community.

LAVERNE A. TURNER
Chairman, Good Citizenship
and Awards Committee
AMY H. WEAVER, Principal

More Clean-Up Needed

There is more to cleaning up than planting flowers, painting houses and removing trash as AFRO Clean Blockers do.

In an urban city like Baltimore there is a need to spruce up in other areas.

Surveys by the city's Human Relations Commission show racial discrimination in hiring and promotion. The new AFRO series 'Look Around You,' has exposed city and state public agencies which perpetuate such inequities.

City and state commissions and boards which control the destiny of all the residents have lopsided membership. Too few of the members represent blacks and other minorities.

Up until last week only 8 of the 176 judges in the entire state of Maryland were black.

The untimely death Saturday of Prince Georges County judge J. Franklyn Bourne at the age of 55 reduces this number to 7.

This disproportionate representation is a dirty mess which Gov. Mandel can clean up.

As a member of a minority himself he knows better than anyone else there is no real justice in a virtually lily-white judicial system.

Clarification

Dear AFRO:

On Friday (6-9-72), there appeared an article in the Afro-American, "Tragic Plight," concerning the problems in Special Home Services, BCHD.

This article was not an attack on Miss Wilzack personally, it was not an attack on her character, (she is not the sole cause of the problems).

It was an attempt to clarify the cause behind Friday's 6-2-72 article, "Home Services Workers Want Director Fired." To the best of my knowledge that cause still exists.

(Mrs.) ETHEL M. JONES
Senior Supervisor H. A.

A little About a LOT

They Owe A Debt To Community

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

For generations, the legal profession in America, had been the exclusive domain of upper middle class and middle class white Christian Anglo-Saxon Americans, better known as Wasps.

Certainly this partiality had nothing to do with ability — only class. For the upper classes were considered to be the rightful heirs apparent to the administration of justice, ever ready to protect the "haves" against the "havenots."

Today, one sees this same snobbish emphasis not so much in regard to class and Christianity, but in regard to the "ins" versus the "outs" in politics.

For as politics becomes more corrupt, judges, lawyers, public attorneys must be counted upon to protect the "ins" — ofttimes the corrupt.

One might say that the sitting judge principle is a natural consequence of this need for self-preservation. Also, this same inside clique must protect itself from the intrusion of radical change agents to the existing order, the blacks, in particular.

If one knows this, it is not surprising that the University of Maryland School of Law, although its acceptance of black students has increased, has systematically put stumbling blocks in the way of black law students, first in their efforts to complete their three year course of study, or if this fails to discourage them, the bar examination could be relied upon to "zap" them.

MRS. MURPHY

This was the case in 1971, when 23 blacks took the exam and one passed.

It is no wonder that the frustration level of black law students rose to the breaking point in the past year.

Last July, the Black American Law Students Association (BALSA), along with the Black Coalition of the University of Maryland, confronted Dean Cunningham, at the School of Law, marshalled community support, and flexed its muscles to force the law school, over Dean Cunningham's objections, to reinstate several students who had been expelled.

On June 2, 1972, I happily witnessed the commencement exercises from which nine black students, who had suffered the rocky road of protest, and who, after successfully completing their courses of studies, received the Juris Doctor degree.

Edward Martin, the taciturn, fiery president of BALSA, was among the students who were graduated.

Howard "Pete" Rawlings and I sat through the ceremonies and talked of the continuing problems of racism in the University of Maryland. The one bright light is that black students are no longer sitting back and taking it.

As president of the Black Coalition, Rawlings has been the consistent irritant, the trail-blazer in trying to change the racist character of that giant complex — the University of Maryland.

He has been able to rally the students, to help them think clearly and factually and has written brilliant position papers which have effected some change.

The appeal of last summer to the community written by BALSA, for support from the black community reads:

"Because our interest in the black community has been focussed on law enforcement, in regard to Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau; on prisoners who have been incorcerated at Patuxent; on legal contracts which have been used against black people in regard to becoming homeowners; we ask you to be concerned about those of us who would be ready, willing, but counted unable by the University law school and Bar Examiners, to afford you competent counsel, because of the blatant racism that black students are presently subjected to."

As we sat watching the degrees being conferred upon some of these same students, we talked of our hope that these nine will not forget the community's concern for and support of them;

That they will continue to be the voice of change;

That they will "pass the torch" to those left behind, so that they might take heart and continue to fight from within as well as outside, against the pervasive poison of racism at the University of Maryland.

They owe a debt to the community; also, which goes beyond "making it." Lest they forget, they must continue to be "ready, willing and able to be the competent counsel" the black community needs, deserves and expects them to be.

Alas, commencement exercises are indeed just the beginning.

Mt. Moriah Story

Dear AFRO:

Reading the AFRO during the week of 6-2-72, to my amazement, words of extreme gallantry rang out, "Deacon assaults secretary."

Being a member of this church was inherited to me, from my parents of very long standings, also family who are still very much involved with church affairs, I was very much surprised.

Is it possible that news around the world has reached "rock bottom" that this newspaper has to pry in affairs of the church?

Has religion of so called Christians become so transparent and modern that members have to resort to the long arms of the law to handle differences.

Anyone reading the article would say to themselves, is this a church of very high standing or a kindergarten? This is a deliberate slap in the face of all members.

THEODORE SMITH

Memo To Thief

Dear AFRO: On Friday about 1 p.m. I had my purse taken from me by a boy at Biddle and Nursery St. Please ask him to return purse and other things in the bag. He is welcome to the money, just the bag and other things I want if he'll put it in a bag addressed and mail. — MRS. E. R.

City Jail Stinks

Dear AFRO: I'm being incarcerated at Baltimore City Jail pending trial. There are a few things that I think should be brought to the public's attention.

I would like to start with things that everybody seems to know and at the same time ignore. Ignore the fact that this filthy jail has everything in it from lice to waterbugs 2" tall and 3" long, all in your bed. As for the name you would give to the rest of these young monsters that are crawling around here, I don't know.

Not to mention the fact that all the guards here want you to play Uncle Tom to them or they are going to see why they can't make life more miserable for you than it already is in here.

I would also like to tell about the way they make us clean up to make it look like it's always that way everytime someone comes to inspect the jail. At those times we have to wash everything from walls to roaches.

And when unexpected company drops in, they have a sly way of letting the guards know by giving the time over the loud speakerm For example, they will say, "Attention, attention all posts, it is now 10:35 a.m."

Now, mostly all of the guards have watches, and even if they didn't, there is a clock in every hall so they can see it.

And there's one more thing: Last April when we were being fed only two meals a day, the warden told newspaper men that we were being fed snacks at night. If you call one cup of juice a snack, then we got a snack sometimes.

For men who are supposed to be innocent until proven guilty, I believe we should be treated a little better. I know for a fact men who have been found guilty of their crimes get treated better than this.

I have been incarcerated in this place since July 30, 1971 and haven't been to court yet, except for a waiver hearing, and that was in August. Now what kind of justice is that? I don't even have a lawyer. I ask for the support of the people to make the changes that should have been made long ago in this jail, and to show me justice.—H.S.

City Jail 'Hell'

Dear AFRO: The conditions of the Baltimore City Jail are definitely dire.

When a man is admitted to Baltimore City Hospitals and put in big irons that is bad enough, but to handcuff him to the bed at the time of visiting hours, to me, is both physical and mental torture.

This is not fictitious, but fact. It should be investigated by the AFRO that has been fighting for the rights of the black man as long as I can remember. This, I guess, is only one of the complaints concerning human bondage of the black man.

If there is compassion for our rights as humans, have this investigated immediately, and may God bless you. I am a prisoner here guilty before trial, a prisoner in hell.—B. M.

A Warning

Dear AFRO:

The Supreme Court's ruling this week prohibiting white members of a white private club from inviting blacks to the club as guests, is only the beginning.

I would like to remind those blacks who are perpetuating segregation in schools and some other places they must keep in mind that it won't stop there.

Next, it will be employment, housing and public accommodations. Those of you who are perpetuating segregation are turning back the clock and giving President Nixon and his Supreme Court the tools they need to work on black people. Private clubs are tax exempt.

Del. TROY BRAILEY (D.-4th)

AFRO Credo

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

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

Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

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

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

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

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

NOW and THEN

High Court's Private Club Decision

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Thousands of new "private clubs, swimming pools and other such facilities will spring up over the nation, as a result of the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in the Harrisburg (Pa.) Moose Lodge Case.

This decision, written by justice William H. Rehnquist, is a giant step backwards in the long civil rights struggle. It will allow almost any group to indulge in discriminatory practices, if the group can prove it is legally private.

The decision, now "the law of the land," also prevents the several states from using their licensing power to correct unfair and bigoted practices against blacks, Mexican-Americans, Orientals, Indians and women.

Most important, as in the celebrated case of Plessy versus Ferguson (1896), the Rehnquist decree is subject to being stretched, and it will be stretched, to cover much more territory than the issue of whether a black guest of a white member can be refused service at the bar of a white Moose Lodge.

DR. FLEMING

The decision should be no surprise. President Nixon has not been secretive about wanting to re-tool the Supreme Court along what he calls "strict constructionist" lines. He has carried the torch to re-make the Court in his own image.

The judges Mr. Nixon has appointed, or tried to appoint, are testimony to his objective. This is part of the Nixon "Southern strategy." In a few years, if Mr. Nixon is re-elected, he will have named a majority of the nine justices. He may even have a 100 per cent Nixon Court, due to retirements and deaths.

Such a Court could then really "turn the clock back," so far as minority groups' gains are concerned.

First reaction to the Rhenquist opinion was explosive. One reader said, "This is an invitation to burn the darn places down."

Others expressed alarm in similar sentiment.

Still others were funereally depressed and just muttered, "What can you expect from Nixon?"

But, there is nothing new in Supreme Courts taking their cue from the ruler in the White House, and nothing new in the White House restructuring the Court.

Thus it has been down the years, most notably recently in the 1930's at the hands of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The nation has also turned backwards in years past, so far as black Americans are concerned — even after what seemed to be some rer' steps foward.

We (the nation) lost ground as the symbol of a new order at the Philadelphia convention when we choked over the question of slavery.

We failed to abolish all slavery through the Emancipation Proclation. We turned Congressional Reconstruction into a "betrayal."

We have made each of our wars "for democracy" a continuation of non-democracy for Blacks, even our black fighting men.

When Blacks dared think that "the North is different," they have been rudely awakened to find that, when it comes to housing, schools and social organizations, white Northerners can act "Just as ugly" as any white deep Southerner.

Nixon ideologues must be gleeful these days. That lucky man is having his way again.

First, lower federal courts were stopped from ordering any further busing to correct segregated schooling.

Now, the highest court kow-tows to his racial ideology (the happy exceptions being Justices Brennan, Douglas and Marshall).

Yet, it is important to recognize what the Rhenquist decision deals with and how far it goes:

It permits only genuinely private social clubs to engage in the privilege of racial discrimination as to its guests, even though such a club benefits from having a state liquor license.

The decision does not protect clubs which are not, in fact, private.

The decision says, also, that the issuing of a liquor license and the regulation of the place to which it is issued, is not the kind of official "state action" which would make the state guilty of violating the 14th amendment, if the licensed facility is, indeed, private.

It also states that private groups and persons do not lose their rights, as private, by accepting a license from the state.

The decision does not touch on the right to membership in certain "closed" organizations.

No Supreme Court decision is final. That is one virtue of the American system. But the 6-3 Rehnquist in a very heart-breaking manner, shows the way in which the nation's winds are blowing. it is an indicator of what to expect.

As this column has said before, the years to come will be those of another Hayes-Tilden Compromise, another Woodrow Wilson regime when blacks lost so much.

There must also be days when blacks and other non-Nixon minorities close ranks and use their numbers, brains and money to wage again the battles some people thought had already been won.

The worst is yet to come, unless . . !

AFRO LINE

AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.

QUESTION:

I have a 15-year-old daughter who wants to work this summer, however, most of the employers told her she was too young and the others claimed they didn't have summer jobs. I have to work summer and winter and don't want to leave this child alone at home during the day. Of course she's too old for a babysitter. What can I do?—MRS. O.S.

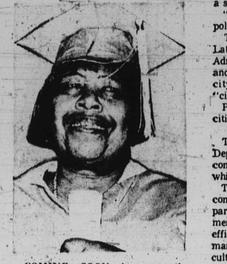
ANSWER:

You have the same problem thousands of other parents are facing this year. The YWCA and Bureau of Recreation have programs designed for teenagers that are not only supervised by skilled counselors but offer loads of summer enjoyment for teens.

QUESTION: An AFRO photographer took my son's picture at his graduation held at the Civic Center last week. I have been looking in each edition for this picture but haven't seen it. Does the AFRO plan to publish it? If so, when?—MRS. W. B.

ANSWER: AFRO cameras were at most area commencements, including ALL public high schools, many colleges and the Naval Academy. In future issues we will publish more Baltimore area college graduates.

Also look for a special supplement on high school graduations coming soon.



COMING SOON—A graduation supplement containing pictures and names of high schools grads. Shown here is Mrs. Doris Holt, a recent graduate of the Douglass High evening division.

Police Major Speaks To The People

By MAJ. JAMES H. WATKINS

(ED'S NOTE: Maj. Watkins, one of Baltimore City's highest ranking police officers, is director of the Department's Community Relations Division, which won a place on the AFRO's 1971 Honor Roll. He is a veteran of 22 years on the force. In his first column, he tells AFRO readers how they can help policemen protect them).

If any AFRO readers have had occasion to come to the office of Police Community Relations Section (Major Watkins Office) you would pass through the Police Commissioners' outer office, and more than likely see a sign with the following words:

"What is the origin of the word, police?"

The word police is derived from the Latin word "Polita" meaning — Administration of the commonwealth and from the Greek words polis "for city" and "polites which means "citizens."

Police means participation by the citizens.

To achieve true success the Police Department must win and retain the confidence and respect of the public which it serves.

This can be accomplished only by constant and earnest endeavor on the part of all members of the department to perform their duties in an efficient, honest and businesslike manner, and by exemplary conduct, cultivating in the public mind the realization that the Police Department is a most vital requisite to public well being.

A police officer knows that in the execution of his duties he acts not for himself but for the public.

He is required to be governed by no feeling, except zeal, to do what the law commands, and should never allow passion to urge him to brutality; or fear, favoritism, or sympathy to persuade him to illegal leniency or neglect of duty.

He should use no unnecessary force, nor should he hesitate to use necessary force when circumstances require it.

The powers and duties of a police officer are many and varied. Among them are to preserve the public peace, prevent crime and arrest offenders, protect the rights of persons and property.

He must guard the public health, preserve order at primary meetings and elections, and at all public places and occasions.

Plus, he must prevent and remove nuisances in all streets and highways, waters and water courses, and all other places, provide protection for firemen and property, protect strangers, emigrants and travelers at all boat landings and railway stations;

And, see that all laws relating to elections, pawnbrokers, gambling, intemperance, lotteries and lottery polices, vagrants, disorderly persons and the public health are enforced.

Also, he must enforce all laws and ordinances of the Mayor and City Council.

Police Officers should remember that in the performance of police duty, as well as in looking to physical care and comfort, sometimes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

They are not bound at all times, under all circumstances, to wait until the guilty party can be apprehended, before taking steps to prevent crime.

For example, if a police officer finds a disorderly crowd, or unlawful assembly on the streets obstructing free passage, or disturbing the public peace, it is his duty to disperse it even though no arrest is made.

It is the duty of every member of the department to promote good public relations by giving assistance when it is required, by the impartial administration of the law, and by clean, sober and orderly habits.

Complaints received:—

(1) Lack of recreation facilities (2 in entire district — rest are playgrounds)

(2) Overcrowding in schools (3 in immediate area)

(3) Housing code violations (landlords do not repair immediately)

(4) Rat infestation (residents have been complaining for three years)

(5) Sanitation (alleys and streets are not kept clean by city or owners)

(6) Inadequate lighting in spaces and lots that could be used.

QUESTION: Two years ago the community of Pimlico requested help in getting rid of rats; you want our cooperation, why haven't you lived up to the promises of two years ago?

M's DISBELIEF

ANSWER: At the community meeting held June 12, 1972, at the Malcolm X Elementary School; P.S. No. 38, the people wanted a second meeting and invited the heads of various city agencies so that complaints can be given directly to the various agencies. There was even talk of a march on City Hall.

MAJ. WATKINS

(WRITER'S NOTE:) — The mere omnipresence of the police causes this reader to believe that police were responsible for the rodent control. Please identify the problem and we will notify the agency in question.

(ED'S NOTE: Maj. Watkins will be glad to answer questions. If you have a police problem, if you do not understand a police action, or if you want to know more about Community Relations Department, write Major Watkins, c-o AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203, and he will answer your questions in his column. You do NOT have to sign your name).

It's Not A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Several months ago, the National Black Women's Conference met in Pittsburgh. The theme was, "The Black Woman Challenges Society."

Those women who developed the conference shared the same opinion that it is time for the black women of America to take a position on some very important issues such as job market and employment opportunities, political reform and prison welfare, abortion, education, housing, family planning and the role of the Black Woman in the community.

A position paper was adopted by the Black Women's Association upon its inception and this column is glad to have the opportunity to share it with you:

It reads as follows:

"The black woman has been denied her freedom, speech, and news, etc. for a long time due to the old adage that a woman's place is in the home.

"As long as the black woman was satisfied to have nothing and also to bring her children into the same existing conditions, all was well.

"But in our changing times, the black woman wants more, such as better schools for her children, better neighborhoods in which to live, and better wages or salaries for the head of the household, even to the extent of going out to work.

"Once in the outside world the black woman has been forced to take a good look around, and the existing conditions have been appalling to her.

"She realizes that many jobs must be tackled wherever and whenever a voice is needed.

"Today, the Black Woman's Association will be that voice. We want the nation to be made aware that the black women are gravely concerned, and no longer are content to sit back and wait."

If one thing is becoming clear to many black women in America, it is that constructive change must be rooted in performance rather than in loud emotional rhetoric!

It is not always those with the loudest voices who can get the job done. It is not always those who shout "black is beautiful," who believe it or live it.

Black women have to substitute reality for fantasy by pursuing real goals. We must forego the costly luxury of talking revolution, in favor of working vigorously for economic equality and social opportunity.

Black women realize that opportunity brings with it the burdens of responsibilities.

With the hardships and suffering permeating our past, and with full understanding of the fight yet to be waged, we realize that the heroic character of Black America is the principle reason we have survived as a people.

Unlike the greater proportion of white society, black women in many families have been and must be heads of the household. Slavery and subsequent limitations on occupational opportunities for black men, compounded by the welfare benefits eligibility system, have solidified the breadwinning role of the black woman.

Because we are necessary for economic survival, we were and are important to our men. Therefore, a very special breed of woman has evolved. We have proved that we are strong and capable.

We have not been able to indulge in the luxury of boredom, if indeed it is a luxury. We have problems unique only to black women. What will we do about it? We must assume leadership in the black and white community. We must stop being apathetic.

As black women we must question our educational system.

We must help guide and direct boys and girls into proper courses of study so that they are prepared to enter schools or positions so that they have the ability to compete.

We will explore the possibilities of more Day Care and Child Development Centers.

MRS. WHITE

We will use our expertise in teaching mothers and foster mothers how to care for their children and where to seek good physical and mental health care for children.

Our children need role models; children should have male and female images.

We must take more interest in the school lunch programs, for we feel they should be initiated and supervised by black women in our communities.

We do not advocate the abolition of the family unit, manless societies, and other far out notions.

We do not want to direct attention from the Black Movement. We are not interested in bra burning and such foolishness.

There is much women can do collectively to effect change. Black Woman Power has the potential of being the greatest weapon developed in the fight for liberation and breakdown of institutionalized oppression.

White women and black women have much in common, we are both victims of sexual stereotypes.

A Column of CHOICE

By MARION BANFIELD

With the growth of interest in the field of social work, we now have a wider selection of what method we will use to try to solve some of our personal problems.

Some of us will have to realize that past experiences with poorly trained "job holders" who got the title social work really were persons carrying out job assignments without any real and sensitive comprehension of what social work is all about.

Social work can be understood as a way of helping people to manage their lives within the complications of America's economic system.

Social work can be accepted as a professional means of helping people to find strengths within themselves to develop more satisfying ways of handling relationships within families and with fellow-workers.

As a profession concerned with our relationships with others in our lives, social work continues to explore and develop skills enabling us to be more understanding of human feelings and behavior.

Training in social work is geared toward persons becoming more sensitive as to how each of us responds to others in our lives and to be more aware of how others respond to our behavior.

To be a social worker requires some inner feelings of respect for others.

Such feelings do not necessarily come from books.

However, some persons could overcome their tendency to look down on certain groups of people if they were exposed to enough knowledge of themselves and others. "Common sense" is not always enough to help the troubled among us.

Training in social work requires understanding of economic, political and cultural systems upon which we build our human relationships. Education for this service requires understanding of conscious and unconscious behavior.

There must be awareness of normal and abnormal child growth and adult behavior.

Professional social workers know when a psychologist or psychiatrist, with their own expertise in understanding the human mind, have to be called upon to interpret human behavior.

Some social workers have an unchanging faith in the ability of humans to change their environment.

These are the believers who cannot be convinced that a man is worthless, that "nothing can be done." These are the believers who keep on trying to find ways of changing and making life a more beautiful experience for us all.

In our community we can have more access to social work services as we become more aware of this helping process.

As we gain understanding of the best use of social work skills, then we can learn to demand more trained social workers to help make Baltimore a more satisfying city in which to live.

In considering what is available today, there are the many community mental health agencies with a variety of helping persons and professions, including nurses, nutritionists, psychologists and psychiatrists.

Then there are agencies which have been around a long, long time like Family and Children's Society for which I work.

There are Associated Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services.

These are just three of what we call, private social agencies.

They are private because they get money from private contributions of citizens through campaigns which appeal to all of us for money.

MARION BANFIELD

The public agency receives money from government sources, our taxes.

Our best known public agency set up to give social service is the Department of Social Services, known to many of us as the welfare department.

The new name, Department of Social Services, is a new effort to respond to community needs more in the spirit of superior professional social service.

Next week, this column will discuss social services which individuals, families, schools, churches and other groups can use.

As we become more aware of choice of service, we can begin to take more effective means of changing attitudes and behavior.

Social work is only one means of bringing about change, but it is the one I know most about.

We have choice in how we can heal our inner hurts and how we can make a little change in human behavior.

79 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.