Baltimore Afro American
SEPTEMBER 16, 1972
OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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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. — CARL MURPHY, Editor-Publisher 1889-1967.

Rep. Mitchell Is Right

"We must join together to stop this senseless killing."

These nine words are the title of an open letter to the Baltimore community written and published in the Tuesday edition of our newspaper.

The author, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th), calls upon the entire community to reduce violent crimes in their neighborhoods.

He notes that human life is so cheap in our times that over 240 persons had been murdered, many without provocation.

Not only does he urge the community to heed his words, Congressman Mitchell gives this sound advice to his brothers and sisters.

Listen to his wise words.

"As we kill and hurt each other we become the instruments of genocide. The senseless killing must stop.

"We need jobs desperately. Men without work lose their manhood and act out their desperation. We must demand jobs for all. We shall do this. But the senseless killing must stop.

"Dope has been let loose in our community. We must drive the pushers, suppliers and peddlers out. We must deal with them as real enemies.

"Those who poison our minds and bodies, driving us to acts of violence, must be driven out of our community. While we fight against drugs, the senseless killing must stop.

"Our community is flooded with liquor joints, taverns, bars and the like. We must end this saturation. We must not let our minds and bodies be ravaged to the point that we are driven to acts of violence. We shall fight the liquor saturation; but while we do, the senseless killing must be stopped.

"Each day our government continues the killing in Vietnam.

"I believe our government is acting immorally. We as strong men and women, must not imitate the immorality of the war. We must show the moral strength that is within each and everyone of us. The senseless killing must stop.

"This is an appeal to the brothers on the streets, the ministers who can do so much, the young men and women in our high schools, colleges and universities, to all who care to join together in a massive community effort to stop the killing."

The John Mackay Story

It appears that all parties concerned are happy that the divorce of John Mackey and the Baltimore Colts was consumated last weekend by the signing of Mackey by the San Diego Chargers.

The former All-Pro tight end had reached an impasse with the Colts after having become involved in an untenable situation that was created by lack of wisdom on both sides.

Mackey elected to dictate to the coach and said he would not play if he were not allowed to do so.

On the other hand, the coach ignored the player's warning that, if he were not traded, he would refuse to play.

When Mackey did quit, and when the Colts did put him on waivers, it was not surprising that he was passed up by the other 25 teams. They were, understandably, unwilling to gamble on a $50,000-a-year dissident at a time when it would cost them talent or money, or both, as compensation to the Colts.

Moreover, it is generally conceded that any man is easier to deal with when he is out of a job, which Mackey was after becoming a free agent.

Last Sunday, when he was acquired by San Diego, the latter could afford to give him a raise in salary and immediate assistance in finding a home for his family.

As stated earlier, the estrangement in Baltimore worked to the benefit of everyone who was directly involved.

The Colts rid themselves of a problem, the Chargers acquired a great player, Mackey obtained a bigger pay check, his family gained a new home and the National Football Players Association retained its black president.

It is only that last fact which may not be totally acceptable to some people.

Help For Skid Row

The slaying of two men on "Skid Row" in the area of the Police Headquarters new building brings the question of how the persons who frequent the area have escaped death, mahem and robbery enmass: up to now.

Passersby have often asked why no help has come to these human beings who consume intoxicants to the extent that they finally stretch out in a corner or fall into the gutter and stay there, hardly doing much more than breathing. Every large city has a Skidrow. Citizens walk by, step over them, say a prayer and travel on.

Now someone has shown some thought and care. The Federal Government has given Baltimore $500,000 for one year in a Comprehensive Public Inebriate Program to provide counseling 24 hours a day to anyone who walks in off the street; a 50 bed shelter and meals, therapeutic meetings and a series of boarding homes.

The grant to be administered by East End Hotel, Inc. a non-profit firm in the first block N. Exeter St., which may get an additional $1 million if the plan is effective and well operated.

Report From Washington

What Celebration? What Bicentennial?

By Congressman
FARREN J. MITCHELL

The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission was established almost four years ago to plan for the 1976 celebration of the Independence of this nation. The Commission has done nothing! It is a huge boondoggle currently being used to promote Nixon's bid for re-election.

It is becoming highly commercialized because companies that benefit from such commercialization of the Commission will be strongly inclined to make political campaign contributions.

There is another major flaw in the Commission. There is no real commitment to involve black Americans. On September 7, 1972, I testified before the ARBC. In my testimony I pointed out that Mr. Buser, Executive Director for the Commission, apparently reflects the attitude of most of the Commission members — an attitude that says:

1) Black Americans must be involved but only peripherally—

2) If there are problems with black involvement then let the black commissioners handle them. (And I must say that we in the Caucus and other blacks are proud of the black Americans who serve on this Commission and applaud their fight against being used as "Deputy Negro Commissioners in Charge of Negro Affairs") and

3) That black Americans are naive enough so that we will be placated by tokenism, soothingly worded paternalism and a monument restored in honor of a carefully selected black man, long interred and therefore not controversial.

I advised the members of the Commission that I had voted against H.R. 13694 (the authorization bill for the Commission) and had voted against similar legislation in June because I considered both bills to be political pork barrel bills, essentially excluding blacks.

On Sept. 14, I received the following message from Vernon E. Jordan Jr., a member of the Commission:

"Just a note to congratulate you on your very eloquent and significant statement made before the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. It was an excellent statement, accurately portraying the difficulty that the Commission faces as it relates to the black community specifically and to the nation generally. I do hope that the Commission understood your plea and will in its subsequent actions heed your call."

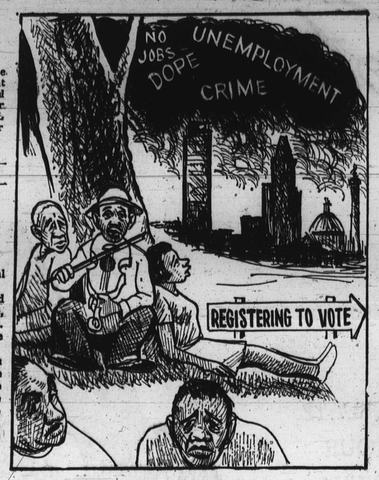
Also on Sept. 14, I received correspondence from David J. Mahoney, Chairman of the Bicentennial Commission, in which he said:

"We have made a determined effort to involve blacks and other minority groups, but we must do better. In this regard we look to you and organizations such as the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation to assist us.

"The day following your appearance at the Commission meeting, on Sept. 8, the Commission took two positive steps in regard to minority participation. Public membership on the Executive Committee was increased to achieve greater representation from ethnic and minority groups, and a resolution was passed in which the Commission reiterated and resolved their intent to involve ethnic and racial minorities in the Bicentennial."

Perhaps now we will see a more significant involvement. If not blacks will have every right to ask "what celebration? — what Bicentennial?"

Don't Fiddle, Register



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.

When Will It End?

Dear AFRO:

The recent wave of deaths resulting from policemen's guns, the so-called protectors of Life and Liberty, should bring the residents of the black communities out of their homes in arms.

From recent "killings" of innocent or guilty persons, it is evident that high officials commanding the police precincts have received their orders to exterminate residents of areas dominated by blacks.

The proper term for mass killing is Genocide: the amount of deaths — black deaths — attests to this fact. Thanks to the alertness of our voice in the black communities, the Afro-American.

If no one has been paying attention to happenings in Congress, Senator Proxmire has sponsored a bill entitled "Genocide Convention Treaty" in the Sept. 7 edition of the Congressional Record that will eliminate these senseless killings and make the violator a criminal.

Too, the gun law that was recently enacted, and some of you reading this voted in favor of it, cleared the way for a Police State.

The end of black communities to protect the children and older relatives of their respective communities has come.

The gun law is stringent; now, you are paying for your entrusted faith in legislators with the lives of your loved ones!

My condolences to the bereaved families. I am truly sorry. But words will not bring these departed individuals back!

The killers in uniform, masquerading as "protectors" by the law, are loose. The ones that shoot first, and ask questions later, are unrestrained.

There is no need to list the young victims; then again, it may help to stir some of the sluggish blacks to action. However, the list is compiled in every edition of the Afro over the past two to three months!

Have you read them? Amazingly, nothing has been done. I sincerely believe, nothing will!

Moreover, blacks should be wary of the Judges and the State's Attorney they cast votes for. For these persons are responsible for the verdicts and the evidence collected in these cases.

And when citizens words are no longer taken as factual reports of eyewitnesses to these shootings, then it is time to hold your votes until the qualified and sincere man runs for that position or office.

It is time to do the right thing about protecting your community: Unite with all the surrounding communities and register as many black voters as you possibly can.

And stop voting yourself until assurance is guaranteed that your united strength will put an end to trigger-happy policemen guarding your interests — black interest!

Thank you for reading this article. Now start counter-action in your own behalf to save your youths lives.

CHARLES RANDOLPH,
DARNELL LOGAN,
SAMUEL LETBETTER, and
THOMAS POWELL of
HAGERSTOWN

AFRO Birthday

Dear AFRO:

I want to add my congratulations to the many others which the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers are receiving on the occasion of their 80th birthday.

Since the founding of these newspapers in 1892, they have added an important dimension to the essential task of insuring an informed and enlightened citizenry.

It is my hope that your newspapers will continue to be a vital force in this country in the years ahead. — RITA C. DAVIDSON, Secretary, Dep't. Employment and Social Services.

Please Call Us

Dear AFRO:

Our block is not going to be in Clean Block anymore. You did not treat us fair. You did not come in our block like the Clean Block Lady did. Our block worked hard. We did not get any prize. A whole lot of blocks did not get in.

Fresa

Editor's Note: Please call Mrs. Peters in Clean Block Office, 728-8200 and tell her where your block is and where we can call you. Thank you for your letter. We do not want you to be unhappy.

A little About a LOT

Hunger Haunts Our Children

MRS. MURPHY

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

Whenever any of our five children would push aside a plate full of food at the dinner table, whining, "I don't like it!" or "I can't eat this stuff!" our chorus, as parents, would be: "Eat it anyway, it's good for you."

The other rejoinder, they hated the most, was: "Think of the starving children in the world who will go to bed hungry tonight!"

In all our struggling to get a decent diet into our children, the thought, whenever we had to scrape a plate of good food into the garbage pail, would be: "Someone could really benefit from this."

Sometimes because of that guilt we became human garbage pails and ate the food on their plates ourselves (not recommended for the waistline, however!).

Even though we had both been reared in families where "our daily bread" was always sufficient, even for an occasional visitor, as black kids we were well aware of kids around us who always had gnawing pangs of hunger as their "ghost companions."

Kids who came to school just on sheer grit, who dozed in class, or were listless, were sometimes behavior problems, who were frail, whose clothes were threadbare, thin or practically non-existent.

Kids with constant sniffles, watery eyes, hunched over from cold, hunger and incipient illness.

Today, hunger is not so easily detected from outward appearance. In many cases poor kids do not look poor. Clothing is no longer an indication of financial status.

Poverty is all the more insidious because it is hidden and less obvious.

This was one of the premises of Michael Harrington's book: The Other Americans, 1969.

This premise, however, is not usually understood, otherwise Mayor Schaefer, upon being robbed a few weeks ago, would not have observed that his assailant was well dressed and didn't "look" like he needed the mayor's watch.

Yet need, obvious or not, hunger particularly, is a fact of life among thousands of children, youth and adults in Baltimore.

The Maryland Food Committee, Inc. has spent three years of its time, money and effort to bring home the point that:

"Although the various supplemental food programs are reaching many more people, hunger and undernutrition are still a way of life for most of Maryland's poor who because of the inflation factor are getting poorer."

The Committee warns: "Clearly, 1972 is no year for complacency."

In the introduction to its Third Annual Report, June, 1972, the Maryland Food Committee explains:

"The Maryland Food Committee, Inc., is a citizen's committee dedicated to seeing that the hungry in Maryland are fed. The Committee came into being in 1969 when Baltimore City Health Dept. surveyed children in the first three grades of public school and discovered that 40 per cent of them were anemic.

"At the same time, the public school cafeteria system could provide only 5,000 free school lunches."

Many programs have since been taken for granted which were introduced by the Maryland Food Committee.

They include free school lunches, free breakfast programs, day care food programs, summer lunch programs, iron fortified infant milk programs and migrant farmer food programs.

All these areas are crucial and vital to the survival of poor people, especially in our affluent society, a society where black people — poor people — are seeking self-determination.

Yet, when one is hungry, voting and participating in elections seem irrelevant (no matter how important) for the "ghost companions" dull the senses, distort the values.

The Maryland Food Committee found that 75,000 eligible children in Maryland are still missing out in the school lunch program; that because the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has withheld $90,000 from Maryland, the school breakfast program will not be expanded to include 40,000 more children in 200 schools, who need it desperately.

This cut back has happened in spite of the fact that Congress has authorized breakfast funds for all needy children.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture nevertheless has curtailed the program in Maryland.

Considering the fact that federal monies are also being withheld from public housing, one sees the "strong arm" tactic of an administration desperately buying re-election.

Certainly if this administration can leak tips to big grain dealers to reap profits in wheat sales to the USSR, at the expense of small farmers, it would not blush about illegally spurning the pleas of the State of Maryland for an expanded breakfast program for needy children!

However, where there has been a need for private funding, for dramatizing the need, for lobbying, for granting seed money for equipment to begin day care food programs, the Maryland Food Committee has been in the forefront and for the most part, has been the only group of citizens who have turned need into action.

On Sunday, September 24, all churches will be asked for contributions for the Maryland Food Committee, so that it can continue its great work.

It has been through the past generosity of churches and synagogues that the committee has been able to divide up the "leaves and fishes" and turn "water into "fortified milk,'" beginning in 1969 with 5,000 hungry children whose number has increased to 70,000 in 1972.

If you are not at all convinced that hunger is as bad as it seems in Maryland, contact the Maryland Food Committee, 105 W. Monument St. and ask to show the film "Hunger in Maryland" to your group or organization. The Committee appeals to you by saying:

"Although the Maryland Food Committee was incorporated 'to eradicate hunger' in this state, hunger will never be eradicated without the wholehearted support and sustained interest of the majority of citizens."

It will be up to you to give and give generously to exorcise the "ghost companions" who haunt the thousands or more children and young people in the pockets of poverty throughout the State of Maryland.

"Ghost companions" who bring anemia, malnutrition, underweight and premature births.

"Ghost companions" who bring lethargy, apathy and destroy the desire to bring about change in our society.

Biafra and Bangledesh are simply other names for Maryland and the "Other Americans."

Come home, black Baltimoreans!

On Lemmon Case

Dear AFRO:

Police are really human beings too!!! People ought to stop and give this some thought.

I heard the broadcast of the Lemmon boy's death and I have read the papers. I honor the police both black and white. I am the mother of five sons and two daughters and have four grandsons and five granddaughters. I feel that everybody talked about this officer terribly.

We mothers do not always know just what our children are doing behind our backs. They can be influenced by others, and also they have a mind of their own.

They talk about soul brothers and soul sisters, who are they? Where do they fit in? They rob each other, they shoot and stab each other but yet they swear they are soul brothers and sisters, I have none and need none.

They ride the officers' backs for shooting young Lemmon. I don't recall anyone talking about the rats who shot Officer Alonzo Gray who was responding to a call when he lost his life.

Doesn't this death mean anything to anybody? No! They like to talk, but are not saying anything. I sympathize with the boy's family and friends. But my heart goes out more to the Officer because he, too is human. He too has feelings.

'You see. I had a son to get shot in the arm. "A soul brother" as they say did it. Who went to the bat for him? Two white policemen. Both of them were around my son's age, 24 years.

Instead of calling the police "bad eggs," they were out to salute them when they are justified. After all they do wear uniforms and carry guns. They have a right to protect themselves.

Murder is one thing.

Self defense is still another. Both men and women need to stop and think. Who do they call when in distress? Who takes the risk of responding to their calls? "the police." They are human too!

ERNESTINE BROCKINGTON

THE GREAT 115TH HECHT CO. ANNIVERSARY
sale
20% OFF AND MORE ON ALL SALE ITEMS

It's the Savings Event of the Year featuring savings in every department. Our Anniversary Sale Policy says:

- Each sale price represents a minimum saving of 20% or more.
- Each item is seasonable, quality merchandise
- Anniversary Sale must offer enormous quantities of new seasonable merchandise; the merchandise you need now.
- All items reduced from their selling price, specially purchased, or represent current comparable values.

STARTS TOMORROW—STOREWIDE

SHOP TOMORROW
DOWNTOWN 9:30 am to 5:30 pm
NORTHWOOD EDMONDSON
REISTERSTOWN ROAD
SALISBURY 10 am to 9:30 pm

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