Baltimore Afro-American

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.

Who Gets The $$?

As long as black people are not economically involved in the mainstream of the billions of dollars worth of construction jobs now in planning in the large urban centers, they are not truly integrated in the communities where they live.

This is the sense of the call issued this week by Maryland's Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who is planning public hearings to determine how and where federal funds for building programs are distributed.

Baltimore's proposed massive rapid transit system, the Inner Harbor project and other public construction jobs using Federal funds will come under close scrutiny.

Black contractors and would-be contractors as well as subcontractors must be involved in a fair share of the programs which utilize public funds. So must our architects and other skilled workers.

The present lily-white posture of most construction projects indicates the need for strong pressures and direct action if the country-club contractors' circle is to be widened and opportunities provided for all to share in the rebuilding of our city.

Everywhere, Except . . .

Everywhere except in Baltimore last weekend, National Football League games were played with black athletes making major contributions to the competing teams.

Even in Memorial Stadium here, the main thrust was provided by three black San Diego running backs as the Chargers won a 23-20 decision over a Colts team that fielded a lily-white offensive lineup, except in one guard spot that was black only because the white man designated to play was out with injury.

At Washington, both touchdowns were tallied by blacks in the Redskins' 14-0 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles. At Los Angeles, a rushing record was set and the burden of the decisive ground game in a 31-7 win was borne by blacks. And in Dallas, black Cowboys ran, caught, and even passed the ball as the Pittsburgh Steelers were vaniquished, 17-13.

So it went, in Kansas City, in New York, in Atlanta in Cincinnati, and in points East, West, North and South. Every team in every game in every city utilized inter-racial lineups to put points on the scoreboard and smiles on their fans' faces — ALL their fans.

Everywhere, that is, except in Baltimore.

Woman Of Year

The AFRO-AMERICAN Co.-Greyhound Corporation's Annual Woman of the Year Contest enabled Baltimoreans to meet an unusual person.

She is 34-year-old Mrs. Madeline E. McQuay, mother of five youngsters and, herself a student at Morgan State College where she is employed as a secretary.

Mrs. McQuay won out over 50 other outstanding contestants.

Judges had no difficulty in picking her over the others. They were inspired by the devotion and leadership she has given her East Baltimore community where she organized the Little League and helped provide recreational facilities for area youth to whom she is known as a guardian angel.

The AFRO-Greyhound Woman of the Year has demonstrated the kind of concern and understanding so badly needed in this era of generation gaps.

We are happy to join Greyhound in congratulating Mrs. McQuay and hail her as, "Woman of the Year."

Drug Clinic Site

Residents in the neighborhood of Forest Park and Garrison Boulevard are up in arms about a proposed drug abuse clinic in their neighborhood.

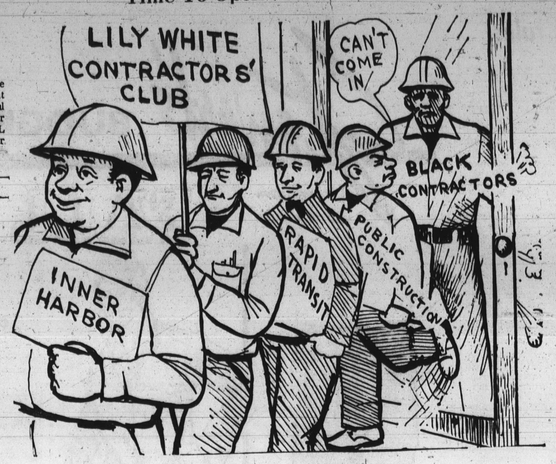
They assert the location is in close proximity to a public school and would endanger the health and welfare of youngsters in that area.

It would appear to us that in seeking the cooperation of the total community, those who are charged with designating drug clinic sites would consult with the community before they make a decision.

Concerned residents want to get the dope out of their neighborhoods, and they need help.

The experts who can help them defeat their own purpose when they don't get the cooperation of the total community they seek to serve.

Time To Open The Closed Doors



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.

Godfather Morality

Dear AFRO:

The present furor over abortion is only a revival of the old American custom of self-righteously condemning other people's morals and conduct.

The type of mind that condemns is analagous to that which conducted the Spanish Inquiaition, hanged Quakers in New England, held the Salem witch trials, supported the Ku Klux Klan, and during Prohibition, searched women's brassieres for contraband liquor.

Private and personal morality, no matter how strict, is very inadequate when dealing with public goods and bads, and in fact is counterproductive.

A people obsessed with their own souls pay little attention to how the public morality of the country is managed by ruthless men at the top.

President Nixon's tame religionist, Billy Graham, can not understand why there are few blacks in the Jesus Freaks and the Campus Crusade for Christ.

Blacks know that this type of religion was especially designed to keep them happily singing in the cotton fields, secure in the knowledge that their souls were saved, while they continued to sweat their guts out for "dear old Massa."

Our country has now become as brutal, ruthless, and materialistic as Rome at her worst. We have slaughtered millions of peaceful peasants in Southeast Asia who posed no threat to us.

For the morality of Thomas Jefferson we have subjituted the morality of the Godfather.

Isn't it about time to stop worrying about our neighbor's morals and conduct, and start worrying about our national morals and conduct? Get out and vote, and turn our country around.

HOWARD H. GREEN

Garden Of Year

Dear AFRO:

I want to extend my personal thanks to the AFRO for the excellent manner in which you gave recognition to the public housing resident families who participated in the 3rd Annual Garden of the Year Contest.

The Resident Advisory Board to Commissioner Robert C. Embry Jr. sponsored the affair and were active throughout the spring and summer in helping their neighbors to beautify the housing developments.

Since its inception the Garden of the Year Contest has been a complementary effort and an extension of the AFRO Annual Clean Block Campaign. Staff continues to encourage our families to enroll and we do have winners.

Recognition for individual effort is the emphasis in the Garden of the Year Contest.

The monetary awards you gave our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and the tickets to the Baltimore City Fair will serve as an inspiration and a source of motivation for all of us.

MARGARET S. COURTNEY
Social Service Coordinator
(Dept. of Housing and Community Development).

Bible Verse

Dear AFRO:

In reference to the Wrights' article on page A-8 of Saturday's AFRO, I beg to differ with them. I looked up the passage stated in the article and saw no mention of anything similar to what they said.

The quote from the Bible states: "If brethren dwell together and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her." Deuteronomy 25:5

I don't know what message they were trying to bring to us. But it certainly couldn't be that of women wearing pants.

In your effort to bring the readers of your paper accurate information, please print a response to this letter. Or, let us know just what the Wrights intended. LaVERNE FOSTER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Wrights' verse published last week stated it is wrong for women to wear trousers. They cited a Bible verse to support the view. They said it was Deuteronomy 22-5).

The Forest Today

The forest today is a Renoir dotted
autumn painting!
Spots of gold, orange, scarlet, inflame the ether with their flamboyant colors—
Too abundant for immature artists' palettes—
Too copious for mortal eyes of men,
who dare to gaze too long!

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON

Driver Fee

Dear AFRO:

I would like to comment on an article in AFRO-AMERICAN dated September 30th, headed "Fee Illegal For Driving Training."

I don't think it is fair to charge students who attend public schools for instruction in driving training and education courses. Many public school students would like to have taken such a course, but owing to the fact that there is a charge, they just forget it, because they realize how difficult it might be on their parents to pay for an additional course.

I can agree with the Court of Appeals of Maryland which has emphatically stated that the schools should be open to one and all without expenses. EDNA BRISSETT

Washington

Blacks Suffer From Squeeze On Housing

By PARREN J. Mitchell
(D-7th District-Maryland
U.S. House of Representatives

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1972 was killed in this session of Congress by the House Rules Committee.

The Bill never came before the House of Representatives for a vote.

The House has merely extended the life of the present Housing Laws for thirty days.

It is expected that the Senate will grant a much longer extension.

The death of the Housing Bill can be considered a disaster from one point of view and a mixed blessing from another point of view.

I have previously written about the regressive, racist, punitive features of the proposed bill.

In any case, the 1973 Congress will have to deal with the controversial issue of housing.

The Congress will ultimately have to resolve basically different strategies to the problem of providing housing for low income families.

There is in this season of the House of Representatives a growing but vague movement to scrap twenty years of housing legislation and start all over again in a new direction to provide more housing and less housing fraud against low and moderate income families.

The situation demands congressional action.

Congressman Ed Boland, in describing the housing crisis said;

"The central city frauds had grown to such an extent that the Department of Housing and Urban Development would come into ownership, through abandonment and defaulted mortgages, of 100,000 units by the end of the current fiscal year on July 1, an increase of 65,000 above the 1971 level."

He added, "If the programs should stop now, the Government would neverless be out $100-billion "just to meet commitments for projects already completed or funded."

Here in Baltimore, another crisis is developing in housing.

The Maryland Housing Fund has changed its original regulations that called for insuring 100 per cent of low and moderate income housing.

The new regulations will provide for only insuring 25 per cent.

The impact of this change will be critical.

Lenders who might have taken the risk in lending in the older areas of the city with a 100 per cent insurance will refuse to do so with only 25 per cent insurance.

In effect, many black citizens, low and moderate income families and the poor will now effectively be denied the chance to own a home.

The change in Maryland Housing Fund regulations could have been predicted. The state of Maryland started Maryland Housing Fund about a year ago, heralding this effort as a method of getting funds into areas where mortgage money was not available.

The Maryland Housing Fund had in back up reserves almost seven million in bonds.

Using a multiplier effect, this bonding reserve could have created approximately 80 million in housing for low and moderate income families.

To date, the Maryland Housing Fund has not placed a single mortgage on a home for low or moderate income families.

'Sitting Out' The Election Not Enough

By G. JAMES FLEMING

There is much talk, here and there, about "sitting out" the coming presidential election on November 7, 1972.

Many who "could never vote for Nixon" are also not enthusiastic about McGovern. Some of these are saying that they "just might not vote this year."

One man in Atlanta told a reporter that "Things are a mess under Nixon, but they may be just as much a mess under McGovern."

Unfortunately, perhaps, there are only two major parties — parties capable of furnishing Presidents to the nation. To have a hand in the selection process, a voter must, somehow, make a choice between the two available candidates.

There will be those precious souls, of course, who cannot somehow, make a choice under such restrictions. For these there are the several "third parties" which have candidates — from the American Party, on the right, to the Communist Party, on the left.

DR. FLEMING

For the rank and file of voters, however, the choice must be between the Democrat, McGovern, and the Republican, Nixon, and their respective vice-presidential candidates.

Only purists can insist that there is no difference between the two candidates, what they stand for, and their style.

Whether it is the question of VietNam, of school-busing, of social welfare, of big business, or of public housing, voters pretty nearly know where the presidential entries stand.

Voters must also have some judgment as to whom they would prefer naming future justices of the Supreme Court and future members of the cabinet.

One could go in. Or, one might suggest that each reader make a list (his own list) of why or why not he would like to see either Nixon or McGovern as Chief Executive.

There is not only the matter of the men. There are also the parties. One must ask himself, "Which party do I prefer to run the country for the next four years?"

Which party is more serviceable to the masses of people?

Which is better for prosperity? Which offers more promise for world peace?

Which will give black people a better "break?"

Questions like these, when answered factually and honestly, should bring the kind of responses that will say to Americans that they cannot afford to "sit out" this election.

They cannot ignore it. They cannot act as if it does not matter who wins.

One additional vote at each polling place can change the outcome of an election.

Refusing to vote may mean electing the least able, or the least good, or the least civil rights-minded candidate.

This year, 1972, there is a choice.

CONGRESS: This is a reminder that the presidential contest is not the only one that is worthy of attention. On November 7, there will also be elections for the U.S. Senate (one-third) and for the House of Representatives (the entire body).

Regardless of who is chosen President, his program can not become meaningful without action of the Congress. Or, if a President sets out on a questionable course, he cannot be stopped, except, again, by action of the Congress.

It is most important, therefore, that all of us study the merits of the several candidates and to vote for "the best man" or woman. This includes voting in such a way as to increase the number of blacks in the Congress.

POSTHUMOUS EQUALITY — "There can be no posthumous equality." These strong, undeniable words were uttered by Thurgood Marshall several years ago, before he was elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Neither can there be posthumous fairness and justice. This is what came to mind as we read of those 167 black U.S. soldiers in Brownsville, Texas, who were legally lynched (or lynched by court martial) in 1906 — 66 years ago.

Led by the NAACP, blacks contended over the years that these men were punished and "drummed" out of the army unfairly only because they were black. But justice remained blind and deaf — until 1972, and an election year.

In the same class is the many years' discrimination against black security guards attached to the Maryland State Department of Employment and Social Service — discrimination costly in dollars to the men involved.

Here is how it went, for years:

If a successful applicant were white, he was employed as a "security guard" and all his work was on the day shift.

If a successful applicant were black, his civil service rank was "night watchman"; he was assigned exclusively to night shifts, and his pay was about $2,000 LESS annually than the pay of a white "guard" doing the self-same work.

Now, everyone is a "guard" (but there is no back pay for those discriminated against for so long).

The six black "watchmen" involved are to be congratulated for putting an end to what is only one example of how black people are shortchanged and discriminated against, more or less instinctively ("We don't know how it all started," was the explanation of the agency"). This kind of not so subtle racial differential is everywhere.

No wonder large numbers of blacks remain instinctively enraged.

It's NOT A Man's World

Alimony And Child Support

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Although the effects of the Equal Rights Amendment on a woman's rights to alimony is receiving its share of attention, we think it necessary to report some facts on child support.

Usually not raised as an issue by opponents of the ERA, child support is covered here since the amendment could have an influence on level of payments.

Also it is impractical to separate alimony and child support. For tax reasons, what are in fact child support payments may be labeled alimony, and in some states alimony and child support are awarded without distinction.

With respect to child support, the data available indicates that payments are less than enough to furnish half of the support of the children.

Even then the smallest of payments are frequently not adhered to, because the father sometime has more than one family.

A Florida judge replied to the question of support: "As a rule of thumb, we in this circuit court, allow $15 per week per child if the husband is able to pay that sum.

"We increase that amount proportionate to the needs and faculties where husband's take home pay exceeds $5,000 per year. In short, . . . in order for a man to remain employed and prouce income he must have for himself something beyond bare necessities."

A Pennsylvania judge commented: "The Support Court usually sets the amount of a support order at the hiehest figure the defendant seems capable of paying. Even then the amount is usually not enough to support the wife and children on a minimal basis."

In a survey made in Maryland and Ohio in the early 30's by Foote, Levy, and Sander, in half the cases the weekly alimony and child support payments were between $5 and $9 per week (equivalent to $11.65 and $20.97 in today's dollars). The median was $33 per month (equivalent to $76.89 today).

MRS. WHITE

Far more facts are needed as to awards of alimony and child suppove awards of alimony and child support, the factors considered by judges in making the awards, and the degree of endorcement of awards made.

More information is needed as to why awards are not better enforced and the efficacy of the means available, particularly the criminal non support statutes.

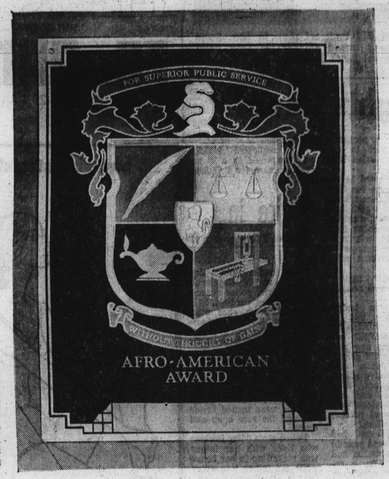
The effects of a Wisconsin statute putting restraints on remarriage of persons not meeting their responsibilities to their lawful dependents need to be studied.

Even small studies in individual communities that could be made by women's groups or law school students might lead to larger representative studies by organizations with larger resources.

In summary, the ERA would in deprice women of any enforceable rights of support and it would not weaken the father's obligation to support the family. Because it would require complete equality of treatment of the sexes, it might be used to require that the spouses in divided families contribute equally within their means to the support of the children so that the spouse with the children is not bearing a larger share of the responsibility for support than the other spouse.

(Note: Information used here digested from a publication of the Citizen's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Washington, D.C.)

NOW and THEN



HONOR ROLL PLAQUE — Here is facsimile of handsome AFRO Honor Roll plaque which will be presented to 1971 winners at a public ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m. at Coppin State College library.

Made of aluminum bronze, mounted on black wood base, the AFRO Honor Roll plaque is 8½ by 10½ inches. Inscribed are the words, 'For Superior Public Service,' and, 'Without Thought of Gain.'

In the parted shield (four sections), there are a quill pen, the scales indicating justice and equality for which we fight eternally; the printing press to symbolize the power of the printed word, the lamp to spread the news and knowledge abroad so that those who see and understand can find the way.

In the center of the seal is the lion rampart indicating that the press is a courageous and fighting institution and at the top is the ornamental helmet indicating that we are ready for action.

The colors are green, silver, gold and black, making a colorful and handsome plaque.

The 1971 Honor Roll winners cited for superior service are: —

William Perkins, president Oxford St. Improvement Association

The Dunbar High School championship basketball team

Miss Ruth White, fencing champ

Echo House

Juvenile Court Chief Judge Robert J. H. Hammerman

Mrs. Eulah M. Parker, East Baltimore Civic leader

Community Health Council of Md.

Police Community Relations Division

Mrs. Clarice Harden, homemaker, community worker

Mrs. Anita K. Henson, longtime public health nurse

Mrs. Janet Woolridge, high school counselor

Miss Harriet Vernon, who aided neighborhood youth

Mrs. Gladys R. Johnson, retired nurse, who helps elderly

The Rev. James B. Gray Jr., pastor of North Point Boulevard Pleasant Zion Baptist Church

Dr. Percy V. Williams, asst. supt., State Dept. of Education.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A Column Of CHOICE

Feelings Involved In Caring

By MARION BANFIELD

A friend has asked that I write about social work as a helping profession in a little more detail. We had been talking about the many para-professionals being employed as counselors.

Having once been very poor and then taking some classes to learn about human behavior is no guarantee of caring about what is really happening to people.

So often has the college-educated social worker failed to respect and understand clients that some folks began to think that the college education had filled heads with facts but without feeling.

Our problem in the mental health field is to be as much aware as to what needs to happen to prevent emotional disorders as it is to develop ways of easing behavior caused by severe mental stress.

Teachers and parents have identified behavior of children as not being normal. What is interesting is that sometimes even a mother and father can't agree as to whether or not a child's behavior is normal.

Those of us who work in the mental health field have a very special responsibility for making a difference in the lives of people.

A real caring for others can not come from books alone. There has to be within the mental health worker a genuine interest and liking for people. It is not the interest and liking that says, "Think the way I do. Feel the way I do, and that will make you good."

It is the interest and liking that says, "In some ways we think alike. In other ways we think quite differently. Some things make us feel the same way, but often we have very different responses. Yet, always, I respect your right to think and feel differently.

"As we talk, I hope I can stimulate your thoughts and feelings to greater depths of understanding yourself and those with whom you must have relationships."

MRS. BANFIELD

Caring for people involves feelings. In this complicated city living, our feelings are not enough. We need to be made aware of the complications of our conscious and unconscious ways of thinking.

We need to be well educated about the wide ranges of normal and abnormal behavior.

Our parents, our associates, our prejudices, our neighborhood, our religious and political beliefs, our work places influence our ideas about normal and abnormal. These also influence our opinions about what is right and what is wrong.

Education, to be effective in the field of mental health, whether with an angry husband, a hostile teenager, or an alcohol or drug addict, means knowing enough facts to handle our own feelings, as well as the feelings of clients.

A well educated mental health worker is familiar enough with the various parts of the profession to know when and to whom to turn for help with the problems of human behavior and feelings.

There is the choice of setting oneself as knowing all.

There is the choice of being so fearful of revealing personal inadequacies that no one else is called on to give needed advice.

There is the choice of being sophisticated enough to use community resources in developing the inner strengths of those who come seeking help in solving their living problems.

Prevent Fires

This week (Oct. 8-14) is Fire Prevention Week. If you have not done your part in ridding your home, office or place of business of any fire hazards, do it without delay. It may save your property, and most importantly it may save a life.

The grim statistics on fire reflect how important it is to prevent fires.

According to data compiled by the Washington, Maryland, Virginia Fire Marshals Association, fires in the metropolitan Baltimore area claimed 39 lives and injured 223 from July, 1971 to June 30, 1972.

During this same period, some 5,512 false alarms were reported.

Fire officials say that many of the injuries and fatalities could have been avoided if the occupants had taken the time before the fire to prepare and practice with an emergency home evacuation plan.

Fire prevention and the men who serve the public in the role of firefighters should be given special attention, not only this week but throughout the rest of the year.

One more point: to some people, false alarms may seem a relatively harmless incident or a prank, but while the fireman is chasing down a false alarm, the defense against real fires is weakened. Remember this!

A little About a LOT What You See Is What You Get

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

In this presidential election, black people are still in a trick bag.

Senator George McGovern is using the old-line politicians to further his election chances in most industrial areas, in which he wishes to gain a large part of the electoral vote and win, since the electoral vote — 270 — not the popular vote gets the presidency.

Having calculated how many electoral votes he can win from industrial northern, mid-western and western states, McGovern must not be as he states "anti-political."

He must woo the Daleys, Mandels, Louise Hickeses and others who might deliver that vote.

The question, considering this cynical outlook, is where must blacks place their allegiance?

There is no place to go but up, since we're at the very bottom of the barrel with Richard Milhous Nixon.

McGovern has had the honesty to speak out on unpopular issues: unemployment, inflation, the war in Vietnam, welfare reform.

His commercials speak to the problems of people that affect all people regardless of race, in the Franklin Roosevelt tradition.

Election year notwithstanding, racism is the underlying problem in the whole fabric of American life.

However, McGovern's studied avoidance of blacks in his Baltimore office, especially in decision making positions, his ignoring our black state Democratic leader, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, is cold, impersonal, practical political strategy.

As a result, McGovern gets the fall-out white voters who are personally affected by unemployment, inflation and the war in Vietnam, without being threatened by a white backlash intent upon painting him a N---- loving ultra liberal.

This is no more cynical than what we have gotten from Nixon-Agnew with lies in the bargain.

Racism for Nixon-Agnew rears its ugly head in the myths around the school busing issue, since only 2 per cent of school children nationwide are bused for the purpose of integration.

Nixon has sold this lie to the ignorant and misinformed.

Unemployment strikes blacks in far greater numbers than whites, but even the average black and white workers, who receive the minimum wage — $1.60 an hour for a 40-hour week, 50 weeks a year — receive $300 less a year, than the poverty level set by the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Thus, the revered "work ethic" touched by Nixon-Agnew is misleading. So what if you work and still starve?

Furthermore, as the cities tighten their belts because of budget problems, professionals also become part of the unemployed, underemployed, and so a guaranteed income or family allowance (not unusual in Sweden, Denmark and England) should look good to people whose obligations have risen in proportion to their employment benefits.

And let us not forget the rank and file labor people, who are earning more and buying less. Though their stickers — "Nixon is through in '72" — have suddenly vanished, the motto should still be imprinted on their pocketbooks.

Yet, the most unbelievable mindset in this campaign is the suspicion people show toward McGovern, when he articulates the problems and offers solutions.

There is a collective national ignorance in this land which in its bullheadedness, creates a strange symbiotic relationship between the haves and have-nots — as if crying: "Beat me, beat me, one more time!"

The Vietnam war has been one of these examples.

Most people confuse a perverted moral obligation with pride — "My Country Right or Wrong" — in the face of hundreds of thousands of lives lost on both sides, of veterans and GI's hooked on dope and being treated indifferently in regard to jobs, housing, training upon their return, of homelessness, poverty and disease in the country we are saving from godless Communism.

Compounding this ignorance is the contradiction between trading wheat with the Soviets, the cordial relationship with the Peoples' Republic of China, all the while shouting the imbecilic dogma that we have to save the Middle East from these same unlikely bed fellows.

Intertwined with contradiction, is corruption in grain deals with fat cat farm conglomerates, subsidies to air plane plants, Penn Central Railroad, the Watergate incident, as well as, the familiar blackmail — "If you don't vote for us, we'll cut off your water" — indigenous to the Nixon-Agnew administration.

Could it be that Secy. of Transportation Volpe (as he did with the last Senatorial race and impending East-West expressway two years ago) exacted a promise from Mayor Schaefer that if he showed righteous indignation toward McGovern's political appearance at the City Fair, he would get funding for the rapid transit system?

Yet black people argue over the presidential campaign as if we were their central issue — after all, regardless of who will be President, it will be another white man — 400 years should have taught us what to expect.

McGovern ain't Jesus, McGovern lacks an understanding of our particular cry in the wilderness, yet McGovern may delay our march to concentration camps and gas ovens.

And finally, even if McGovern gives us little or no visibility in his campaign entourage, in his local offices, in his support of important black Democratic leaders, he is still the lesser of two evils.

After all what you see is what you get, hasn't this always been the case?

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

If YOU Ask ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Down Memory Lane: The handsome new school building at Druid Hill Ave., near Biddle, had the sign installed this week. It reads, (Joseph C. Briscoe Junior High.' It is scheduled to open to students shortly.

Seeing that sign gives this columnist a chance to go down memory lane.

There is a common thread between the death last month of Sumner Orrin Nixon, the longtime postal worker who died at the age of 86, and the opening of the Briscoe School.

Mrs. Ida Nixon Nicholas, the city school principal, tells us that in the following tribute she wrote when her father died on Sept. 22, 1972.

"With the recent passing of Mr. Sumner Orrin Nixon, the last surviving member of an illustrious old Baltimore Family, came the end of an era which all who had the pleasure of knowing him will long remember.

"However, what few people who actually knew about Mr. Nixon and his sister and two brothers was that in spite of the fact that many brilliant careers and outstanding contributions to our community can be traced to these four individuals; all of what has followed was primarily the responsibility of two women, their mother and her sister.

"What a wonderful birthright these two valiant ladies passed on to the generations which followed.

"Mr. Nixon's mother was left a widow with four small children, the oldest being only six years of age at the time of her husband's death.

MRS. MOSS

"Her sister, Miss Louise Briscoe, a teacher in the Baltimore City public schools, came to the assistance of the family and offered to bring the two oldest children, Joseph and Elizabeth, to Baltimore to live with her since she had no children of her own.

"Although she practically raised these two children, they were never legally adopted by her even though they used her surname, Briscoe.

"Consequently, most Baltimoreans knew Mr. Nixon's brother as Joseph C. Briscoe, and his sister as Elizabeth K. Briscoe. After marriage, his sister became Mrs. Elizabeth K. Smith.

"Even though Mr. Briscoe and Mrs. Smith had no children, they served as guiding lights and counselors to their four nieces and four nephews as well as countless others.

"Many a successful citizen today owes his success to the assistance of Mr. Briscoe.

"In our midst today are numerous prominent individuals whom Mr. Briscoe helped. He was then a mechanical drawing teacher at the Benjamin Banneker Elementary School No. 113. He asked to organize and develop the first vocational training program for colored boys and girls in this city, thus Mr. Briscoe became a pioneer in vocational education.

"As a result of his eminent service to the community a new school is to be named for him to replace the old facility which bore his name and since has been demolished at Druid Hill and Lafayette Aves.

"Mr. John W. Nixon Sr., was the youngest of the children and unfortunately was the first to die while still in his forties.

"His wife was Violet Clements Nixon. From this union came three children; two boys and one daughter.

"The daughter, Mrs. (Evelyn) Henry West who taught in the city schools for many years died just last year.

"Mr. L. Clements Nixon is second in command with the Bureau of Recreation having served for many years in the capacity of group leader, center director and supervisor. His brother, John W. Nixon Jr., followed in the footsteps of his father and has worked in the Post Office for over 20 some years."

The late Mr. Orrin Nixon, and his wife Mary Virginia Warren Nixon had seven children. The oldest, Orrin Jr., and the youngest, Benjamin, died in infancy.

"Of the remaining five all entered the teaching profession. Mrs. Alice V. Nixon recently retired after serving many years in the field of home economics as head of the Tea Room at the Fairmount Hill Junior-Senior No. 453.

"Mr. Sumner Warren Nixon is an industrial arts teacher at the Hamilton Junior High School No. 41. Mr. William C. Nixon is a mathematics teacher at William H. Lemmel Junior High School No. 79. Mrs. Ida N. Nicholas is the Principal of the Fannie L. Barbour School No. 161 and Mrs. Rosa N. Lewis is the Senior Teacher at the Edgecombe Circle School No. 62.

"All this is to say, let's never under estimate the power of women or doubt how far their beacon of light will transcend. For here is a living example of the brilliant legacy which resulted from the labors of two women who had faith."

Isn't that a beautiful tribute.

Cuff note: The Mrs. Mildred Blake of North Ave., who was buried on Monday, was the former Mildred Scott (Bell), one of the nicest girls in our Douglass High School class (Feb. 1932). Remember?

Her husband, Robert Blake, and children, Garrison and Bernard Bell Jr., and Robert Blake Jr., and a sister, Mrs. Beatrice Gilmore, survive

People are still talking about the rewarding experiences they had at the very successful Baltimore City Fair.

Members of the Community Action Center No. 26 for example, based at 665 Washington Boulevard.

They write in glowing terms about how they began back in the summer to prepare for the event.

Each member of the Neighborhood Committee contributed in some way.

For example, jewelry was hand made. Flower cuttings, flower pots and potting soil were donated.

Panchos, vests and hats were knitted, candy dolls and moth ball hobbies were made and prepared for sale.

Committee members took turns as "salesladies" at the booth.

"Several of the members have remarked that this has been a rewarding experience because they have realized how successful a project can be when everyone works together," says Mrs. Omara E. Lawson, staff advisor.

Sunshind, please these ailing good neighbors: Mrs. A. L. Lewis (Cora), wife of the veteran AFRO printer and longtime member of Douglas Memorial Church, is in Provident Hospital.

Mrs. Leslie Wood (Hattie), wife of the contractor, is Sinai Hospital.

AFRO Stands For

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and meaningful black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

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

A black-owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.