Baltimore Afro American

Founded Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy, Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

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, (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher, 1922-1967

The Week That Was

Those of us who live long enough may one day be asked by our children and grandchildren to describe our reactions to the events of the historic week we have just experienced.

It will be difficult to translate for them the concerns, the frustrations, the joys and the sadnesses of these unusual eight days.

Never before in history have we experienced the death of a beloved President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, whose untimely passing came in the midst of the inaugural festivities for Richard M. Nixon, assuming the mantle of the nation's highest office for a second four year term.

Never in this seventh decade of the 20th century have we had long, anxious days of peace negotiations, ultimately resulting in agreement of a halt to the Vietnam bombing and announcement by President Nixon of the signing of the peace treaty to end the nation's longest war.

In Four Days

What kind of week was it?

Unseasonably warm in many sections of the country, like Baltimore and Washington, where temperatures were in the 40's and 50's as crowds gathered to watch the inaugural parade on Saturday and the funeral procession along Pennsylvania Ave. for President Johnson four days later.

All this just 27 days since simple funeral rites were held in Independence, Missouri, for still another beloved President, Harry S. Truman.

Even though he mastered the art of bringing about meaningful social change at home, Lyndon Johnson, the great civil rights President, did not live to see the end of the war he fought so long to abridge.

But his successor, Richard Nixon, assuming his second term, has to his credit this week's pact for the end of the war and peace at last.

Pastor's Words

The words of the Rev. Dr. E. V. Hill, minister of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, as he gave the inaugural invocation, appropriately expressed the feelings of many who have too long lived through uncertain days not knowing when and if the war would ever end, suffering poverty, discrimination, injustice every step of the way.

He said: "Father, we acknowledge and confess our sins against You and against one another. Help us to become more sensitive to that which offends Thee and hurts us. Father, our dependence upon Thee is evident;

"Though we have sought peace, we have wars. Though we have plenty, there is hunger. And though we are children of one Father we have seen hatred, malice, envy, and strife. Thus we plead for Your spiritual healing of the land."

If "grands" would ask us some years hence what kind of week it was in the period from January 20 to January 27, 1973, we would tell them it was a week in which we bowed our heads and joined prayerfully in a vow as we inaugurated a new President and expressed hope for the future.

In the words of the Rev. Dr. Hill in the week-that-was, we prayed with him:—

"Our prayers today, Father, are especially for our Nation's President, President Richard Nixon and his family. Protect and bless them, we pray. Reveal by Your spirit in his mind Your will for this hour;

"Give to him the vision to see and discern, ears to hear, a heart to feel, a courage to take a stand;

"As we join him today in victory and joy, may we as a people also commit ourselves to join him in the more difficult days of the future, so that as President he will not stand alone."

The Dissidents

What kind of week was it?

It was one in which a depressed nation saw a handful of dissidents move to ignore the law of the land and fight to preserve segregation in little old Prince George's County, Md. which borders Baltimore and the Nation's Capital;

A week in which some Baltimoreans took extra pains to protect the culprits responsible for the theft of confiscated heroin from police custody and moved to protect police lawbreakers when they were exposed;

A week in which the average black citizen still suffered under the foot of oppression which wears the tag of job discrimination on account of race, unfair imprisonment on account of race, denial of housing on account of race;

A week in which unnecessary crimes caused by a conglomerate of these inequities still subject the masses to racism in its worst form;

And it was a week that witnessed the assassination of Amilcar Cabral, the brilliant freedom fighter who was on the verge of liberating his people from the oppression inflicted by Portugual. Cabral, who had planned to announce this month the independence of Guinea-Bissau, was cut down outside his home in Conarky, Guinea.

Two Singers

What kind of week was it?

It was a week in which two magnificent singers brought tears to the eyes of millions who watched or heard them on television and radio.

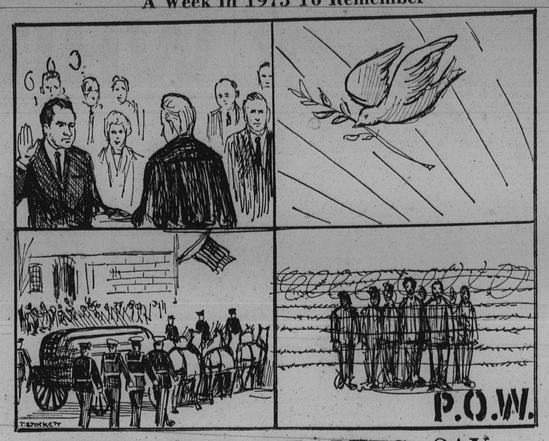
First was Baltimore-born singer Ethel Ennis who gave the "Star Spangled Banner" real soul when she opened inaugural ceremonies.

Second was world-famed opera star Leontyne Price performing the spiritual, "Precious Lord Take My Hand" at the Thursday funeral for President Johnson;

And a week in which many of us recall that except for men of courage like Lyndon Johnson and John F. Kennedy and Harry Truman and Martin Luther King and Maryland's own Eastern Shore pioneer educator, Masonic and civic leader, Elmer T. Hawkins, who was buried this week, we would not have had the stamina to reach the point which would preserve us to suffer through this week-that-was.

Like Pastor Hill, we too pray that our present chief executive will remember that he is indeed the President of all the people and that in his second term he will remember the "certainty of his accountability to God and to his fellow men."

A Week In 1973 To Remember



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 more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Election Board Change

Dear AFRO:

As an organization that has worked closely with the Board of Elections for many years, the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City deplores the proposed removal of the present chairman for no apparent reason.

The operation of this office was moving in the direction of becoming open and responsive to the public, and conducted in the interests of the voters of Baltimore City rather than in the interests of various political factions.

Baltimore suffered a serious setback in the disastrous election of 1970, but I believe the public was regaining its confidence in the entire election process during these last two years.

The polling places were being moved to public places, registration sites were fixed and voters given notice of their locations and a beginning line of communication was setup between the Board and various community groups to discuss sites and use of volunteers to expedite the entire registration process.

A purge of the voter rolls has finally been conducted.

There are still many areas left for improvement but the present leadership was making a sincere and dedicated effort to improve this very vital service and right of all citizens to vote.

I would hope that our Governor will take all these achievements in to consideration before he submits his nomination for this office to our State Senators.

MIMI WAXTER
(President)

Coldsprings

Dear AFRO:

Current home construction of plywood and non-plaster (sheetrock) walls, and also not insulated, has shown that the low and middle income family can't expect a fair deal in the rebuilding of Baltimore's inner city.

A poor planning situation prevails in three segments.

The pathetic East-West Expressway area is blighted before homes are built to accommodate the displaced families.

Relocation centers were set up and most of these people sent to Pimlico, to overcrowd everything involved, schools etc.

A number of foolishly city-purchased homes in Rosemont were rebuilt with poor workmanship and sell for an inflated $15,000.

A few more hundred city projects with the glorified name of townhouses are constructed in East Baltimore with the same sheetrock wall where you can hear a person sleeping in the next room or lower floor.

So now comes the city within a city, Coldspring, which I believe to be constructed on only vacant property near Sinai Hospital. But a wealthy architect whom a neighbor of mine works for informed her not to make any major improvements, meaning more homes will come down.

Why does Mr. Embry play cat and mouse with honest citizens who try to live and prosper and grow with Baltimore?

These projects have no tax base, therefore every year they cause taxes to increase, because the tax-paying properties are demolished.

What we will come to is the situation of New Jersey where the tax for a $10,000 house is $1,000.

Now the President's moratorium will leave Baltimore with more vacant lots instead of neighborhoods.

Everywhere you look you see a dirt area that was once a neighborhood, and the city with a beautiful sign to cover up, like: Rosemont now, Reservoir Hill now, Washington Hill now. How about letting the people have their houses that have plaster walls NOW?

JOHN T. BAILEY

FBI Head

Dear AFRO:

I read recently that Patrick Gray, the "acting" FBI director, is being criticized by some of the old Hoover men, who are seeking his ouster. I have also read that most of the agents like him. Actually it doesn't matter what the FBI agents want. It should be what the people want . . .

Patrick Gray seems to be a good and decent man. We can stand every good and decent man in government that we can muster.

Write to President Nixon and your congressmen urging them to make Pat Gray "permanent" head of the FBI. Do it today!

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON
(Columbia, Md.)

For WEBB

Dear AFRO:

I honestly think that the black community of Baltimore needs to say "thank you" to radio station WEBB (a James Brown station) for the effort it is making to unify the black community. No other "black station," dedicated its air time to help the Shaw Family, in their time of need.

No other black station dedicated its air time to the memory of our black leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. No other black station is forming an organizatign to help families that are in need of food or clothing.

We, the black citizens of Baltimore must say "thank you WEBB" for being concerned.

RICARDO D. TURNER

Animals, Not Men

Dear AFRO:

I have noted with interest the flurry of protests by concerned citizens in regard to the decision of Judge Robert J. Gerstung in acquitting a citizen of a cruelty-to-animals charge.

My fellow legislators and I have been deluged with letters from various humane societies and outraged citizens protesting this action.

I agree that the act and the decision were deplorable, but where are the protests of the community concerning the news that over 300 of your fellow citizens were killed on the streets of Baltimore?

Where are the letters to legislators demanding that action be taken to stop this slaughter of human beings?

And, finally, why doesn't this anger over senseless violence manifest itself in the area of human dignity and the right-to-life of all citizens of Baltimore?

WALTER R. DEAN JR.

Please, Help

I have been asked by the half way house and Maryland Crime Investigation Commission to assist in the placement of paroles and rehabilitate persons. I am to secure jobs for these persons, with your help. Their occupations vary.

They are ready for society again. They are willing and ready for work and a chance again. I personally will meet them and talk with them.

After reviewing my request, interested firms and citizens may call 728-5981, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and night 945-1311, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Help me to help someone help themselves. All of us have asked for just another chance, at one time. Let's give them one.

SERENA V. WHITE

In Annapolis

Dear AFRO:

A committee of citizens of African Decent recently appeared before the Board of Election of Supervisors in Annapolis and requesting appointment of judges and machine attendants in the eighth ward in Annapolis, Md. in the coming April 16th or 17th Primary Election.

The Board of Election of Supervisors agreed to integrate all eight wards of the city. The president of the Annapolis Urban Renewal Authority and also ex-member of the City Council acted as spokesmen.

FRANCES DIGGS

78 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."

(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

WASHINGTON REPORT—Aspirin And Laxatives For Us

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

In 1968, Judge Joseph C. Howard, Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, spoke clearly about the danger of the abandonment of Baltimore City.

Few believed what he said then. Few believe him now. The disbelievers point to the Inner Harbor Project, the proposed new town and other developments and then ask, "Is this the abandonment which will leave Baltimoreans, especially those on the West side without adequate hospital facilities.

Bon Secours Hospital and Lutheran Hospital have submitted proposals to the Regional Planning Council, seeking to move their facilities to Howard County.

Lutheran Hospital has made vague promise to West Baltimore Associations that some sort of health facility would be maintained at its present in-town site.

If either of these hospitals leave the area, then the residents will not have adequate hospital facilities. Let us look at the real picture.

In recent years, service was given by University Hospital, Provident Hospital, Franklin Square, Lutheran and Bon Secours Hospitals. However, even more recently, Franklin Square Hospital has re-located out of the area, Provident Hospital has moved to a new site in West Baltimore and University Hospital has been forced to absorb an additional patient load caused by the relocating of the other two hospitals.

It is reliably reported that the administration of University Hospital has stated that its presently strained resources could not absorb another patient overload . . . and that is precisely what will happen if either of the two hospitals are allowed to move to Howard County.

The Southwest section of Baltimore has suffered from a faulty health delivery system for years, and any further reduction in health care institutions can only make the matter worse.

Given this situation, we face ironic problems.

Citizens can be given medicare and medicaid benefits but the giving of them is meaningless unless the health institutions are available to provide the services.

Isn't it ironic that there is a good chance Congress will now pass a National Health Insurance Bill, but, with its passage, we shall see fewer health care institutions in our city where health care needs are the greatest.

It's almost as if someone had made a decision in which full health care will be given to Countians, but City residents should take aspirin and laxatives for their appendicitis or whatever other ailment they have.

It is almost as if the powers that be have decided to use the old military practice "Paint it with Iodine and return him to duty."

I think the citizens must protest the threat to West Baltimore Hospital Services.

I applaud the community leadership being provided by Louise Keely, Legal Aid Inc.; Horace Davis, First Maryland Health Services; Myrtle Bailey, Martin Luther King Center; Frances McDowell, WATCO Inc.; Albert Williams, Model Cities Policy Steering Board and Bill Kristofco, Southwest Outreach Center. These citizens are fighting to safeguard Hospital Services in West Baltimore.

My office has become actively involved in this effort, and a progress report will be made to the citizens in the next two weeks.

A little About a LOT

Evil Power

By MADELINE W. MURPHY.

It is interesting to note that the morning daily's recent editorial talked about protocol in the well publicized clash between State's Atty. Milton Allen and Commissioner Donald Pomerleau over the missing $8,000 (?), $10,000 (?), $100,000 (?) dope theft from the PD's storeroom, held for evidence.

The most serious implications regarding withheld evidence are lightly glossed over, including a rationale for what the Commissioner did in allegedly hiding such evidence. But the greater question of who bosses Pomerleau is never mentioned.

Maybe it's because it's within the best interests of the Establishment — the working press — to have favored reception in the PD, so that hysterical crime reporting will continue, headlines reeking with implied complaints that there is lack of support for the police, this placing the PD in the "injured innocent' role of being beseiged by a criminal public without!

The gentlemen's agreement between all institutions of the Establishment, that "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours," keeps the public ignorant and enslaved, while the PD develops the power of a domestic militia.

Proven experience in the black and poor white communities gives credence to the fact that property rights are always favored over human rights by the Establishment, of which the PD is a powerful facet.

The power vested in the Baltimore PD, in the meanwhile, becomes reinforced by a silent Mayor, a supportive Governor, who, despite evidence to the contrary, give silent consent to what Pomerleau does. Consequently, when he is shown in an unfavorable light, no one has the power to clip his wings.

And so, two police officers have gotten caught, allegedly lying about their involvement, two lieutenants, over-anxious to be law abiding, are sent to the boon-docks, and white collar crime, in cahoots with violent crime, lends an aura of incredulity to the operations of the PD.

Raising the question to protocol beclouds the issue, for had the State's Attorney not done an independent investigation, would we have known the extent and depth to which misuse of authority would have gone in the case of the missing dope, and perhaps other withheld evidence within the hallowed, well guarded citadel of the PD?

The question is, was Commissioner Pomerleau all that concerned about "public relations," or more to the point was he concerned that this was the tip of an iceberg in the misuse of authority, in his role as chief administrator of the PD?

His actions alone raise that suspicion.

With very few checks and balances over the PD, with the dual responsibilities as to line of power and authority in that department, it has become evident that Commissioner Pomerleau is a law unto himself.

What more sinister maneuvering within that fortress should be investigated is the question Mayor Schaefer and Gov. Mandel should ask, otherwise they abdicate their serious responsibility to forestall the development of a police state.

The legislature should also reconsider putting the Baltimore City PD, the Police Commissioner, back under the control of the Mayor and the City of Baltimore, so that this kind of runaway power will not paralyze the fair, judicial, administration of justice.

Will the voice of the people prevail or the voice of runaway raw power impede justice, and which one holds the most believability at this point in history?

"Who knows what evil power lurks in the hearts of men?"

"Do" the shadow or the Commissioner? and at this juncture who's telling?

The public, as "the Shadow," better answer these questions promptly and in the open!

AFRO Credo

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

NOW and THEN

Compassion Marked Life Of Lyndon Johnson

By G. JAMES FLEMING

"He had capacity for growth."

This could well be the epitaph on the tombstone of Lyndon Baines Johnson, the "civil rights" President who was buried this week.

Starting out like any other white Texan of his generation, he rose and expanded, racially speaking, so that he was the champion of every civil rights bill passed by Congress, from 1957 on.

He did more than change his attitude; he did more than take the right side. He spoke out; he acted, he took leadership.

The world was sure of where he stood. He epitomized the fact that this nation could not really win the war in Vietnam or really win the peace, if it did not also win its racial war at home.

If he were weakest in international affairs, as many "experts" hold, he was certainly a "mighty fortress" in domestic affairs.

He used all his in-born strong will and his developed political skill to put through Congress the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, making possible the terrific registration of black voters in the South and the companion election of hundreds of black officials.

Lyndon Johnson, 36th President of the United States, did not shut himself off from blacks.

He was close to their spokesmen. He knew Martin Luther King and the leaders of the NAACP intimately. He was "at home" with blacks, whether around the conference table or at state social affairs.

He appreciated the asperations of black Americans and named the first black justice to the U.S. Supreme Court — Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall. He also appointed the first black cabinet member — Robert C. Weaver.

He set the tone for the Federal establishment, that blacks were first class citizens, that they belonged, that they had an "inside track" and an "open line" to him.

Growing as he did in his value of his fellow-man, it is not surprising that everyone knowing him has also alluded, this week, to his compassion.

He was compassionate. He could see underfed children of Appalachia and understand; he could visit city slums and know what was happening to their occupants; he could read statistics on health and feel the plight of those who could not afford adequate medical care; he had a special closeness to Mexican-Americans.

He could, also, recall his own early childhood when the larder was not always overflowing, when he had to go to a spare country school, and when he had to settle for a non-prestigious normal school.

It is no wonder that out of all this, he led the fight for medicare and against poverty with such gusto. It is no wonder that he championed and believed in "The Great Society."

Turn in any direction — before it is too late — and you will find the Johnson imprint: Model Cities, Upward Bound, Headstart, the Job Corps and a thousand local uplift programs, all helping all those farthest down.

When it comes to social legislation, no President, except Lincoln and F. D. Roosevelt, steered and sponsored so much into law.

For many, many thousands, Johnson has always been a great, people-serving President. Others have been discovering his stature as death has caused them to review his life.

It is no wonder that next to noting his capacity for growth and his compassion, that he must be compared to the Great Emancipator. A. Philip Randolph, veteran and respected civil rights leader, in mourning, said: "He stands beside Lincoln, and history and the nation will have to give him that place, sooner or later."

PEACE: Peace in Vietnam "eluded" Lyndon Johnson, and his failure in being able to de-escalate that undeclared war has tended to becloud his other achievements.

In this week when President Nixon has declared peace at last, the question is "Will there be peace?"

Is it peace or only American non-involvement?

Is it total withdrawal from Indo-China or only withdrawal from South Vietnam, still making it possible for American military presence to continue in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand?

Let us hope that the leaders of the super powers are as anxious to "turn off the heat" in Indo-China as the people of the USA are.

Let us pray that the indigenous people see, by now, that their way to progress lies in peace and industry.

JAMES FLEMING

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Down Memory Lane: It seems only yesterday but AFRO files show our most memorable visits to the White House came during the presidency of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

In this space on Sept. 30, 1967, we wrote a piece entitled "A Visit To The White House."

It said in part, "Do you get a special glow when someone you know wins a high honor, is appointed to high position?

"Of course you do. It was so for this reporter Thursday at the White House.

"We were among 300 guests who crowded in the East Room to watch President Johnson install Walter Washington as first mayor of Washington, D.C.

"President Johnson looks oh so much younger than he looks when those big television lights are trained on him.

"What does a President say at a ceremony such as the one on Thursday:

"To Walter Washington and his deputy, Art Fletcher, he noted:—

"More than ceremony summons us here to the East this morning. We celebrate a new era in the capital city as we meet here to swear in Walter Washington as Washington's first mayor and Art Fletcher as his deputy.

"The citizens of the District who have waited almost a century for this day to come and all that it symbolizes.

"And this is the day, and this is the year . . . and the District emerges into the world of 20th Century government."

And then again in December, 1967. This column wrote an article entitled, 'White House, Dinner at 8.'

Excerpts follow:

'The President and Mrs. Johnson request the pleasure of your company at dinner on Wednesday evening, November 1, 1967, at eight o'clock. . .

"So read the invitation which arrived at our house about ten days ago.

"Thus we were among the 140 guests from 19 states, D.C., and abroad, who dined in the State Dining Room at the President's House.

"Guests from 19 states, D.C., and abroad, who dined in the State Dining Room at the President's House.

"Guests of honor were their Majesties, the King and Queen of Nepal.

Guests-men in black tie, ladies in elegant ball gowns, began arriving at the White House Southwest Gate about a half hour ahead of time.

"There they were met by handsome uniformed officers. The lady guests were escorted by one of them to the reception room (husbands walked behind),

"At the door of the reception room, another officer intoned our names and we were escorted to a spot where we joined other guests, sipped cocktails and awaited the arrival of President and Mrs. Johnson and their guests.

"Other early arrivals in the crowd — Marian Anderson, the famed singer; the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia; and the Joseph Lockridges of Dallas, Tex.

"It was not too long before the President's song was heard and through the door came the Honor Guard, the President and Mrs. Johnson and the Nepal visitors, in colorful costumes.

"They were followed by other dignitaries from Nepal and members of the President's cabinet and other government officials.

"Then, guests passed through the receiving line (an officer quietly advised ladies that men were to walk in front and they would remove or leave on their gloves, many did).

"Both President and Mrs. Johnson (she looked beautiful in gold), are the quintessance of cordiality. His 'my how pretty you look,' brought smiles to ladies' faces (at least to mine), and her 'oh thank you so much' when admired her gown was so genuine.

"Flitting here and there, acting like any other excited bride-to-be was the Johnson's daughter, Lynda Byrd.

"Much in evidence was her fiance, Marine Capt. Charles G. Robb.

After greeting the hosts, guests were escorted to the candle-lit State Dining Room where round tables were set up — with exquisite appointments.

MRS. MOSS

"Husbands and wives were separated at the door, directed to the table number on the small card handed them when they arrived.

"The President's table was so arranged that he was in full view of all the guests. At his table, Singer Marian Anderson was among guests at his table.

"If you get an invitation to the White House, don't worry too much about what to wear as long as your gown is long if it is dinner at 8.

"Some Wednesday evening guests wore jackets, others had off shoulder gowns, still others had long coats.

"White House waiters all soul-were handsome in their black tie.

"Most excited couple met: Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Alanson of San Francisco, who flew East just for the dinner, and were rushing to catch a flight as we left shortly after midnight."

More good news: — This Sunday afternoon at 3 Father and Mrs. Donald O. Wilson will be at Wesley College in Dover, Del. to see their daughter, Millie, a freshmen, inducted into the honor society. She made the dean's list the first marking period.

This is of particular interest because just nine years ago she didn't know the first word of English, spoke only the Spanish she laarned in her native Dominican Republic.

Mrs. Evon Lee Thompson, resident of Oakland, Calif. returned to Baltimore, escorted by Ralston Maxie, visited Mom (Mrs. Altia E. Lee, AFRO Employee); attended the Inaugural Ball, Kennedy Center, dined Sunday at grandma's (Mrs. Voyd A. Nixon), then departed for Acapulco.

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Women are becoming increasingly conscious of the great influence of mass communication media in the determination of cultural patterns which affect the full development of women.

A national effort has begun to call attention to the role of magazines, newspapers, radio and television in forming attitudes which tend to perpetuate stereotyped sex roles which result in discriminatory practices against women.

Many organizations and individuals have conducted surveys, opinion polls, day-to-day monitoring activities which would be useful in formulating suggestions and recommendations regarding changes to promote new attitudes about women which should be adopted by mass communications media.

Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, made these comments in a speech to American Women in Radio and Television members:

"I am not only concerned with misleading advertising . . . , I am equally bothered about advertising's total, cumulative effect.

Women are constantly being portrayed in advertising as beloved infantiles. Will we ever overcome the message? . . . How many women do we see on television entertainment in real professional roles? . . . It shouldn't only be on public service programs where women are shown to be rational creatures, we can encourage advertisers to upgrade their appeal to give more information to the public rather than the old ballyhoo. As women, as editorial writers, as consumers, and as purchasers, we can get the message to advertisers that we women are tired of being treated like nincompoops."

She also commented on a study by the Journal of Marketing Research showing that women are generally portrayed in advertising as stooges; she mentioned these negative attitudes which the Journal found consistently reinforced:

"1. A woman's place is in the home."

BERNICE S. WHITE

"2. Women do not make important decisions or do important things."

"3. Women are dependent and need men's protection."

"4. Men regard women primarily as sexual objects; they are not interested in women as people. . . .

Sunday School Materials — Women are wicked or weak in mind: A study of Sunday school material of several denominations reveals sex role stereotyping to be pervasive in every aspect of these curriculum materials," reported Diana Beach, research associate for the Joint Educational Development Task Force on Family Life and Human Sexuality.

Her study covered material from the Christian, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Churches, the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church of America.

"Girls are consistently shown as passive, waiting, weak, needing help, timid, alone, sick and unhappy; while boys are shown as active, powerful, working in groups, brave, protective of women, adventurous and shaping their environment," Ms. Beach said.

Women presented from the Bible are either wicked (Jezebel, Delilah, Bathsheba) or passive, humble and acted upon (Ruth, Mary, Jarius' daughter), she found.

Other, strong and able women were rarely shown in curriculum materials, such as Joan of Arc and St. Theresa.

Death Penalty

Dear AFRO:

Governor Mandell will soon propose a bill for "Mandatory Death Penalty" to the general assembly. He has stated that he believes that a mandatory death penalty for hijacking, killin a prison guard and killing a police officer would be a deterrent for these crimes.

This "eye for an eye" concept is the same that has prevailed since medieval times. It seems that so many of us have progressed very little in our thinking and in our relationship with our fellowman.

I believe the death penalty will not deter any crime, no matter what it might be. It has not in the past, and it will not in the future. I also believe it is immoral to willfully take a life no matter if it is a criminal taking it, or society. If the Governor proposes this bill to general assembly and it is passed and in the future a hijacker or a convicted murderer of a prison guard or police officer is executed due to the passing of such a bill, it will be pre-meditated murder.

There has been enough killin, let us strive diligently to preserve life instead. Otherwise we are no different in our attitudes and in our values then the criminals we in carcerate or propose to murder, by legal execution.

Mr. Wenige, the man who attempted to hijack an airplane at Friendship Airport is also a mental patient. He no doubt has had problems and circumstances in his past that caused his mental condition and led him to commit thisdeviant act. I ask, will the passing of this bill be a deterrent for the mentally ill in the future?

The biggest problem that exists in any effort to deter crime is the indifference, the apathy, the self-righteousness, and prejudices attitudes of the community. If crime is going to be deterred, we must stop the hyproclsy and make an all out effort to stop putting the value of the dollar ahead of human life. I believe a sincere effort toward obtaining these goals would do much toward deterring crime. A mandatory death penalty would not.

AMERICUS M. ROY
St. Ambrose Church

A Column of CHOICE

Inmates' Human Demands

By MARION BANFIELD

Recently, I received a copy of demands of the Inmate Humane Rights Committee from the Maryland House of Correction.

Prisoners throughout this country have made us all much more aware of problems of imprisonment.

Realization of the preponderance of black men makes it necessary for us to be more sharply concerned with prison systems.

There are those who see prisons purely for punishment. Those same people even prefer the revenge of punishment and are not interested in building good citizens.

Prison, in my opinion, should combine punishment to fit the crime along with rehabilitation.

It is for this reason that I am selecting certain portions of the prisoner demands hoping to get public support.

The men request:

1. A 24-hour medical coverage in a hospital rather than an infirmary.
2. A mass vocational and academic training program.
3. An inmate grievance committee.
4. Restoration of family visiting privileges.
5. Minimum wages for industrial work with union leadership.
6. A rehabilitation program which includes physical and mental therapy.

The six out of fifteen requests which I am stressing show the sophistication of the inmates.

They have asked for training in a most practical sense.

In a way they are asking for what Superintendent Roland Patterson has instituted in the Baltimore public schools, the right to read!

If the next warden wants to really make prisons worth our taxes, compulsory education ought to be the first requirement of all inmates who cannot read at 9th grade level.

The money with which prisoners are provided when they are released can't support a man for a week.

Minimum wages for work would afford cash for survival without committing crime.

Vocational Rehabilitation Service has just opened a large residency near Montebello State Hospital. That service receives federal funds.

Men of the Maryland House of Correction are asking that they receive professional treatment and training to enable them to function with self-respect and economic stability in the community. Vocational Rehabilitation Services should be part of prison life.

Federal funds for rehabilitation will be a superior use of taxes. Family visiting keeps these men close to the warmth of personal caring. Without that they die emotionally.

Somehow, we have to get our clubs and churches, our professional associations, our government officials to give support to the self-respecting demands of these men.

They have asked that they be given the choice of good citizenship.

We have the choice to help them get their civil rights or to continue to waste our taxes on demoralizing human beings.

There is a seventh demand that is perhaps more important than 1 or 2 other listings. It is:

"To have all staff personnel required and mandated to undergo a series of psychiatric and physical examinations before being permitted employment at this institution."

To which I say, "Amen, Brothers! Would you settle on a training program for staff until you can get the above listed examinations?"

I hope to hear that groups in this city have chosen to write to Governor Mandel, Mayor Schaefer and our other governmental officials supporting most of the demands of the Inmate Humane Rights Committee of the Maryland House of Correction.

MRS. BANFIELD

Happy, Conscientious Provident Hospital

Dear AFRO:

Here is an open letter I sent to Henry J. Whyte, director, Provident Hospital.

I was a patient at Provident Hospital November 12-19, 1972. Surgery was performed on Monday morning, November 13th.

Recuperating progressively here at home is my opportunity to share God's blessings with this expression of deep appreciation to all of the people who helped to make my hospitalization a most impressive and satisfying experience.

I was impressed with many aspects of Provident Hospital:—

The competence with which details of admittance were executed on my morning of November 12th.

The lovely hospital room (6006A) with its convenient and apparently costly facilities — The striking panoramic window view of Downtown Baltimore — The Harbor and Federal Hill in the distance. . . .

The meticulous maintenance of rooms and hallways . . . The meals: well-planned and prepared, attractive and tasty (with a courtesy of food services: daily menu lists, a variety of choices for the regular diets).

The essential preparatory and post-operative care services and the effective equipment . . . The Professional Follow-Through (Dr. Banfield came in to check upon any after-effects of the anaesthesia—Mine very minor for the first time!)

(Dr. Briscoe talked with me about my reactions to the Inhalation Therapy Machine — apparently a very effective Pneumonia preventive.)

(Mrs. Gray, the Patient Advocate, visited for information.)

(Even the Recovery Room Nurse stopped in to find out how well I was recovering.)

The sanitary practices and the numerous disposable supplies-to include those given the patient upon release and very useful at home during recuperation.

But most impressive were the friendly pervading atmosphere and the happy, conscientious people who work at Provident. To borrow words from the auxiliary's "Prayer for Hospital Auxiliaries:" your staff seemed dedicated in efforts to ". . . bring comfort and hope to all who are distressed of mind and body. . ." and numerous kindnesses reflected" . . .Gentleness, Discretion and Generosity. . ."

Every heart-warming smile of compassion, cheer and good will each one brought to my hospital room contributed as much to my recovery as the expert care administered.

I did manage to get signatures of many who cared for and conversed with me in 6006A. There must have been so many others whom I did not see (for instance: In Surgery when I was "out like a light!") To all whom I did see and talk with and to others "behind the scene" who may never know their positive influences upon my recovery—extending into recuperation here at home: I am most grateful.

It is a revelation for me to recall my other hospital experience in 1943 at "old Provident" where my daughter, June, was born: 65 new mothers at that time—beds in the hallways, everywhere: Nursery accommodations for 25 infants. . .June's bassinet: a Brer Rabbit Molasses Cardboard carton. (We often laugh, but it served the purpose!) Provident has come such a long way in my life span!

Mr. Whyte, it is a great feeling for me to be in this position to "Tell it like it is" about Baltimore's newest Health Care Center of which I am really very proud.

I am not financially able to give individually to so many who were nice to me. Perhaps there is a fund the Hospital uses to recognize Skill and Professionalism of the "Second Miler: those who go above and beyond the call of Duty" to insure the best of care and comfort for the Patients — whatever the job. To any use in this direction, please accept the enclosed modest contribution with my best wishes for a continuing-Patient-Centered, Productive and Growing New Provident Hospital Complex.

(Mrs.) GRACE WOOLRIDGE BURKETT