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)

Easter 1973

There is a great similarity between the kind of treatment suffered by the recently returned American prisoners of war in Vietnam and what Jesus underwent during His last days on earth.

If we substitute in the Bible story the words "Viet Cong" for "Pilate" and realize that Jesus was subjected to the same kind of inhuman treatment our returning servicemen report while in prison, we get an understanding of the Easter message.

There is further similarity in that while many of our servicemen did not survive the barbaric treatment, those who did live through it for five and six years have returned home, reborn again. In a way, it's like the Resurrection of Jesus.

Baltimore's Sgt. Donald J. Rander, who was captured in Feburary, 1968, and Washington area's Air Force Captain Marion A. Marshall, shot down in June, 1972, do not use the same words but there is no doubt they had crosses to bear.

As you listen to the stories of these returning servicemen, it is a miracle that they now live to tell of their experiences.

But if we look around us right here at home, we can understand that persons who suffer indignities and mistreatment must be those who have unlimited courage and faith.

We are surrounded by poverty, racism, unemployment, and dishonesty in high places, coupled with the Nixon administration's threatened cuts of services to the poor — enough to try men's souls.

Many of us all over this nation, particularly in large urban cities like Baltimore and Washington, can point to these distressing crosses caused by irresponsible actions, judgments and statements by those in high places who seem to have total disregard for the needs of those who elected them.

And at the same time, we have the modern day Judases who daily betray the cause of freedom for a gift or political position for a few rather than stand for right and support the causes which would benefit the many.

We interpret Easter as a joyous occasion, a time for rebirth, a time to renew our hopes and to restore our faith.

Today's crosses are nothing compared to those carried by our parents and grandparents, but they bore them and broke the chains.

This Easter 1973, which sees a world still shaken by war, hate, racism and poverty will not make us lose faith, if we understand the Easter story.

Rather, we will work to develop the stamina, the faith and the courage to fight for right and to overcome the burdensome crosses we bear.

Aw, Stop That!

Donald E. L. Patterson, the Greenspring Junior High principal, is entirely right.

He is a lifelong Baltimorean who has grown up in the ranks of the Baltimore City public schools and has to his credit at age 39 responsible service to his city not only in the classroom but in a variety of community organizations.

Opponents of his appointment to the Baltimore City Human Relations Commission by Mayor Schaefer ignore his record and note simply that he is a cousin to School Superintendent Roland N. Patterson.

We agree with Mr. Patterson that his relationship to the school chief is only incidental.

What is more important is that in his selection of both Mr. Patterson and George J. Bereska, the insurance executive, to fill the vacancies on the CRC commission, Mayor Schaefer selected competent individuals

AFRO's Had Women's Lib

When the White House news photographers held their 62nd Annual Awards Dinner Meeting in Washington last week a precedent was set.

Mrs. Frances Murphy, chief executive officer of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, was among those seated at the head table for what has traditionally been a stag affair.

In all editions of this newspaper this week the AFRO chairman observed that this first caused no consternation, the program went on as usual and there was warm welcome and lively conversation throughout the historic evening. Nobody referred to the fact that she was a woman.

The AFRO women have always been first in setting precedents. During World War II, Ruth Jenkins, then Baltimore AFRO City Editor, now holding a similar spot at the Washington AFRO, was first to witness an execution at the Maryland Penitentiary.

At that point in history, the men were slow to realize women could perform creditably. It took threat of a suit and an affidavit that all male reporters were at war before she was admitted.

During that same period, AFRO's Elizabeth Murphy Moss, (then Phillips), was the first accredited woman war correspondent and served in the ETO, (the European Theatre).

During this same period, women-like Mrs. Bertha Montague, (now Mrs. Bertha Jordan), presently president of this newspaper's composing room union, was a linotype operator and Miss Mae Morris (now Medders), headed the downtown courtroom reporters assigned to the City Desk of the Baltimore AFRO, which was composed entirely of women.

The AFRO has had women's lib for a long time.

Spiked Seafood?

Earl Weaver was arrested Monday night by the State Highway Patrol and charged with operating his car while under the influence of alcohol.

Upon being apprehended, the cocky little manager of the Orioles is said to have reacted as though the arresting officer were a baseball umpire. He reportedly heaped verbal abuse on the trooper and damaged the door to the scout car while angrily denying that he was intoxicated.

While this is not meant to presume guilt or innocence, it must be admitted that there is a similarity here to the ingredients of a boxing story that is as old as the sport itself.

It tells of the fighter who returned to his corner and asked his manager to toss in the towel because he couldn't win. The manager refused, asserting that he was doing great.

"That guy hasn't laid a hand on you," he admonished his fighter. Whereupon the latter replied, "If that is the case, you had better keep an eye on that referee, because somebody in that ring is whipping the hell outa me."

If Weaver's claim is true — that all he had consumed prior to the incident was a beer and six oysters at a nearby cafe — something should be done about restaurants that spike their seafood.

AFRO CREDO

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.

(Dec. 25, 1920.)

(From The Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded AFRO Aug. 13, 1892).

And Now He Lives Again

A little About a LOT

Invisible Tax Dodgers

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

The unfortunate publicity, politically motivated, against State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell, III (D-4th, Baltimore City), highlights the inequities of the American tax system.

Members of Local 2101 of the Communication Workers of America (CWA), in designating April 16, as Tax Equity Day, are only the beginning of activists who have become disenchanted with the system of taxation in the U.S.A.

This system provides a welfare state for millionaires, big corporations, so that poor and middle incomed are doubly taxed, thus paying for benefits and needed services of the total American population, including the wealthy.

In his book, The Rape of the Taxpayer, Phillip Stern exposes these millionaires, corporations, that live the legal life of invisible tax dodgers.

Because of tax shelters, capital gains, loopholes in tax laws, which are specifically designed to keep them wallowing in money (indirectly provided by the working poor and middle class of this country), many pay no taxes and in the case of J. Paul Getty, reputed to the wealthiest man in the world, with a reported income of $300.00 a day, pay 1-100th of one per cent in taxes.

Mr. Stern rejects, out of hand, the idea that the poor are tax eaters and the rich, taxpayers. In fact, he says its the other way around.

We are paying double the amount of taxes to provide a welfare state for the rich.

He suggests that taxpayers ought to revolt; to begin by writing letters to their Congressmen, to the President, demanding that loopholes in taxes, for the rich, be closed; that the tax system as now constructed, should be scrapped; that a new progressive scale on the basis of ability to pay, should be devised.

The special legislation that has benefitted corporations and even individuals has far reaching political benefits for unscrupulous politicians.

It is these corporations and individuals who provide the contributions to committees to elect presidents.

In addition to tax reform, therefore, the system of contributing to campaigns to elect public officials should be overhauled.

On the state level, we have seen the taint of conflict of interest by high ranking politicians. We have also seen how legislation requiring disclosure of personal property and assets on the part of politicians is laughed at by the culprits who benefit from secret land deals.

One said that a dishonest politician will just be more dishonest in disclosing what he has in property and assets. Wh is to police him? Presently, there is cynical complacency and arrogance displayed on the part of those who are controlled by the moneyed interests of this State.

Nationally, the International Telephone and Telegraph Compamy (ITT) case should indicate to us how money can be diverted to benefit the Committee to Re-Elect the President, so that interference in foreign governments, control of Central Intelligence, can make ITT more powerful in international politics; in controlling the destiny of impoverished peoples; in becoming more wealthy through manipulation of our government.

It is ridiculous, ludicrous, unfair that Senator Mitchell gets publicly pilloried while the J. Paul Getty's, ITT's, Texaco's, Gulf and Sun Oil's go unpunished, while they suck the life blood from this country's economy, at the same time, profiteering from wars in the Middle East, in Vietnam, regardless of the cost in lives.

Thus, we not only pay in lost loved ones, the maimed and imprisoned, but also in higher taxes to rebuild the countries, they have helped to destroy and that will profit them in the rebuilding.

Emphasis on welfare reform, on "reliance" on local government, by the Nixon Administration has diverted attention from the wealthy culprits who get away with irresponsibility, greed, lack of financial or social commitment to the country that grants them their affluence—no questions asked.

Instead the Nixon Administration punishes and points it finger at the helpless poor, at people like Sen. Mitchell, so that we fight among ourselves, over who's paying his way, over the idea of black political representation, over programs what will or won't be cut, like dogs fighting over a bone.

Rather we should be organizing with those already in the tax resistance movement, investigating the wealthy criminals, the invisible tax dodgers, who pay no taxes or few taxes in relation to the double-triple taxes we are forced to pay to support them.

As the CWA says: "In this age of budget cutting, federal revenue could be greatly increased if wealthy individuals and large corporations were made to pay a fair share of federal taxes which they now escape through many loopholes written into tax laws."

Our only answer, at this juncture, to the punitive dictatorial stance of King Richard, is to begin to control green power, to write and demand from Congress and the President that loopholes in taxation be closed, that we won't pay the freight in this country, until a fairer formula of taxing all citizens is developed.

The President has been known to respond to pressure. You'd be surprised what even 100,000 letters, flooding Congress and the White House, can do!

Commentary on death notices

AN EDITORIAL

Except on rare occasions, most of the black funeral directors in Baltimore City do not insert death notices in this, their community newspaper.

The AFRO-AMERICAN circulates twice weekly into 70,000 homes and is read by an estimated 300,000 persons.

Most black families want notice of their loved ones in the AFRO because they call and supply information for news stories and ask why the funeral director didn't insert the notice.

As a rule, the bereaved family is appalled when it develops the funeral director has failed to do so.

In the past two weeks alone, we have had to explain to inquiring readers that we did not receive the death notification they indicated they had ordered for their family newspaper. 'Our friends read the AFRO to see who died. They'll miss the funeral,' was the comment of one caller.

It is unfortunate that during a most trying period of sorrow AFRO readers and their families should have the additional burden of calling their newspaper to ask why the funeral director failed to place the notice or to ask the AFRO Classified Department to call the mortician.

Judging from the number of such calls to the AFRO offices from AFRO readers and the requests for such notices from families which depend on the AFRO for news of their friends and neighbors, there is a gap between the AFRO and some black funeral directors which shouldn't exist.

Over 40 years ago, there were only a few of our morticians in Baltimore City and a substantial amount of the business of burying and preparing bodies for burial was handled by whites.

This newspaper, writing on that subject as early as 1921, said, "It is important for colored people to understand that their own funeral directors are equipped and trained to provide the kind of understanding service needed in time of sorrow."

So, in a way the black funeral directors of 1973 owe their own existence to the fact that the AFRO has consistently supported them.

In this year 1973, it is hard for the AFRO to understand why its Classified Department, seeking to serve its readers, must call funeral directors each week to ask for death notices.

They do not have to do this for the daily papers. A four-week survey shows the following:

On Tuesday April 3, Friday April 6, Tuesday April 10, and Friday April 13, 15 black undertakers inserted 42 death notices in two Baltimore dailies, but only three of them placed one notice each in the AFRO for the same period!

It is significant to note that the days chosen for the AFRO survey were two Tuesdays and two Fridays, days on which the AFRO is published.

It is also relevant to report that the AFRO accepts such death notices for publication up until two hours before press time, noon Tuesday and noon Friday.

What then is the problem?

To answer the question, the AFRO interviewed Marshall Jones, president of the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of Maryland, Inc.

Mr. Jones explained that while there is no policy of the Association to exclude the AFRO, there are other "traditional" reasons related to horse racing and phobias, including the practice that only funeral directors may place such notices.

How this situation came to be in the year 1973 will be the subject of a series of articles beginning next week in the AFRO.

The first of the series will include the full interview with Mr. Jones.

What The AFRO Stands For

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

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

Extensive and independent 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.

Easter Is For Children

(GUEST EDITORIAL)

Easter is a season of new life, a time when hope is reborn in human hearts. The Easter Seal is a symbol of that hope. That's why the Easter Seal Society makes its annual appeal for crippled children at this time.

A little child should not have to learn the meaning of the word "courage",— that is a word for older children. But some little ones have no choice. Children like those at Easter Seal centers are not old enough to know the word, but they have a lot of courage.

Rehabilitating handicapped youngsters takes time, skilled professional guidance and care.

The first chance you get, pay a visit to your nearest Easter Seal Treatment Center. It's a place of many miracles, not overnight, as miracles are supposed to happen, but after long months, perhaps years of patient effort.

These children have been overcoming tremendous handicaps every day of their young lives, overcoming them step-by-step, through sheer determination.

The child born with an overwhelming birth defect is brought to the Easter Seal Treatment Center and learns to walk with braces and crutches. The little girl with a speech defect learns to speak clearly and normally as everyone else.

The Easter Seal Treatment Center is a busy place, quiet with the concentration of determination, but with an undertone of vibrant hope. It is indeed a place of many miracles.

But these children cannot do it on courage alone. They need a helping hand from you. Share in the miracles of rehabilitation this Easter season. "GIVE TO EASTER SEALS."

Wounded Knee

There's no land of the free at
Wounded Knee,
no Democracy
no equality.
Hypocrisy engulfs each damp tepee,
mirrors, trinkets and beads
no longer fill the needs of Wounded
Knee.
Yet, proudly they hail
their culture and tradition,
the knee will not bend
under any condition.
The twilight's last gleaming
reveals our great shame,
but spirit fires glow
in spite of the pain.
Will the dawn's early light
free the brave from his plight
and the land of the free
from its' infamous blight?
Oh say, can you see.....
Wounded Knee
is you and me
in captivity?
Torn. . .by racial bigotry,
bruised. . . .from hostility,
crippled. . . .by sophistry,
we. . . .are Wounded Knee!
America! America!
will God shed his grace on thee
if thou commit
if thou permit
another massacre at Wounded Knee?

BEVERLY BRUCE HOWARD

An Easter Prayer

Oh, Lord, there was one Simon, the Cyrenian, who was compelled against his will to help Thee bear Thy cross on the way to Calvary.

He must have seen Thee crucified and laid in the tomb.

But he also must have been among those to see Thee rise from the dead and declare, "Because I live, ye too shall live again."

Help us to undertake seemingly unpleasant and burdensome tasks assigned to us against our will, for by Thy grace, there shall come out of them a great privilege of serving Thee and seeing Thee in all Thy glory. AMEN.

(From the papers of Carl Murphy, 1889-1967).

79 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1894)

Baltimore Afro American

AFRO 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 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

More On City Jail

Dear AFRO:

A grave situation exists at the Baltimore City Jail. Various agencies of the City, State, and Federal Governments are constantly making investigations and writing critical reports of the jail.

None of the agencies that have poked their rosy-red pompous noses into jail affairs has offered anything that would constructively aid the jail in establishing a more secure humane facility.

Furthermore, the jail staff has been made the butt of the inquiries, reports, and investigation. Consider the plight of these courageous men who comprise the correctional staff of the City Jail. They are underpaid, shorthanded, underequipped, constantly harassed, and overly criticized.

The fact is City police and firemen are paid more and held in higher esteem by the City officials than the correctional officers. Correctional officers' salaries and sanitation workers' salaries are negotiated at the same time.

Civil service requires the same basic qualifications for correctional officers, firefighters, and policemen. Can a man responsible for upward to one hundred and twenty-five human lives daily be considered the same as a garbage man?

Recently, Robert S. Hillman, Baltimore's Labor Commissioner, made some very critical remarks about jail guards when H. Mebane Turner introduced a proposal to increase the jail officers' salaries.

Hillman was quoted as saying, "those officers haven't demonstrated to me they are willing to accept the higher responsibility that goes with that kind of reward."

Responsibility is the name of the game at the City Jail. Maybe Mr. Hillman would like to "lock-in" a cell block responsible, totally responsible for 100 inmates.

Of course, Mr. Hillman would have to be totally unarmed, improperly uniformed, and without communication as are the correctional officers.

Hillman further criticized the absentee rate among officers which he claims averages twelve days per year. Being a correctional officer is frustrating. Overwork a man six or seven days a week, eight to sixteen hours daily, topped with mental and physical fatigue, and wait for the end result.

Check some of the medical records of correctional officers for heart attacks and nervous breakdowns and the absentee rate can be attributed to relief and not abuse.

Generally, the jail is so understaffed the only way an officer can get time off is to call in sick.

Mr. Hillman further drew a comparison between firefighters and correctional officers. If jail guards could sit around and sleep, eat, watch TV, and just maintain equipment almost daily, their absentee rate would probably be only four days per year like the firefighters.

The management and staff of the jail are to be commendded for their courage and integrity.

There are many unanswered questions about the City Jail. Just ask a jail guard.

WILLIAM H. BRITTON III
(Correctional Officer
Baltimore City Jail

n Provident

Dear AFRO:

There is a ray of hope for Provident to remain a community hospital with public recognition of it's many problems.

With your illustrated editorial of April 7, 1973, I am sure the community is sensitive and will respond to the needs.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter has directed a sizable amount to the mental health division of Provident. Other organizations are perhaps doing the same.

With new management training available, it is hoped such is in effect for this unique new facility to operate courteously, efficiently and economically for a life giving need.

I know one retired teacher who is giving many volunteer hours in one of the professional areas of need at the hospital. It is certain she works at least or close to forty hours a week.

With its competent and recognized medical staffing Baltimore's Provident Hospital can set the pace to show how an inner city hospital can respond to the community needs backed by a caring community.

(MRS.) MIRIAM L. WINBORNE

Watch Out For The Powers That Want To Be . . Forever!

Dear AFRO:

Our black community is currently the subject of an intense, unparalleled attempt to undermine it's credibility, effectiveness and, above all — it's faith in itself.

I believe this siege is politically motivated — a step by step strategy oriented toward diluting any effort we might generate toward significant gain in future elections . . elections that weigh heavily on the minds of many, due to the black majority in Baltimore city and the heightened awareness in the black community, of our pending political potential.

I cite recent events to substantiate my claim, beginning with the Hollywood style "007" arrest of Delegate Turk Scott.

The manner in which Mr. Scott was arrested, in terms of location, was unnecessary, but this fact alone serves to illustrate the hypocrisy to which we are normally exposed.

However, the insidious attempt by the media to infer that The Eastside Democratic Organization is somehow accountable for any alleged wrongdoing of Delegate Scott is an entirely different matter.

It is a smear campaign with a two-pronged goal: to discredit the organization and to instill doubt in the minds of our community . . . a community which is already a fertile breeding ground of suspicion and distrust against the muddy waters of the national political mainstream.

If the Eastside Democratic Organization is responsible for the alleged, private activities of its individual members then our local daily press should make a more concentrated effort to dig into activities envolving some of our national political organizations.

They would undoubtedly uncover enough material to peddle their newspapers for many decades to come . . it would take that long to expose them all.

The second incident to brace my claims is the unusual harassment of an AFRO reporter, Mr. Scott Ponemone, who, while covering a story, was arrested.

Why an AFRO reporter? The circumstances under which the incident occurred, coupled with the particular assignment Mr. Scott was attempting to complete, leaves no doubt in my mind as to the motivating factors for his unwarranted treatment.

An AFRO journalist attempting to seek information or pictures concerning an emotionally provocative, controversial story is apparently a threat.

For an AFRO reporter, in such a situation, is bound to get facts . . which could then be brought to the attention of our community . . facts which could then be brought to the attention of our community . . and there lay the crux of the matter.

I have voiced my opinion on other occasions regarding the extreme effectiveness of the AFRO in alerting and informing our people.

Unjustified attempt to harass, exclude and informing our people.

Unjustified attempt to harass, exclude or denigrate ANY authorized reporter anywhere in our country . . as a means to suppress or prevent information access, is a danger signal.

When it occurs to a Baltimore AFRO reporter, our black community would do well to alert itself to the implications.

The reaction of the local news media to the indictment of State Senator Clarence Mitchell is the third rationale for my charge of political smear tactics aimed at the black community.

With the notable exception of Mr. Jerry Turner, CH 13 anchorman, the initial local news reports of the indictment of Senator Mitchell were replete with narrow-minded, biased, capsulized versions of the Senator's political career . . in one instance — complete with full screen pictures of his parents and other family members.

Subsequently, some of his past financial transactions have been dredged up, with the admitted intent of demonstrating the Senator's so-called "poor financial judgement" . . (just an extra tid-bit for the viewers?

I believe these incidents are only the tip of the ice-berg, but the tip is large enough, obvious enough, to cause us to take steps to protect ourselves.

I do not mean to imply that every time a politically connected black persons stands accused, we must react in a paranoid manner.

What I am saying is that each time a politically aspected situation arises, we must base our reactions upon the known inclinations of the powers that WANT to be . . forever!

I am saying we must realize that an individual black politician or an individual reporter is not the ultimate target.

The ultimate target is the spirit, faith and unity of the black community.

We cannot afford to accept anything affecting our community at face value . . no matter how pious, how reasonable the surface intent is presented.

Instead, in light of an apparent trend toward destructive tactics unleashed against us, we would do well to band together, to unite in a common cause . . survival.

Who shall we look to? To those tried and true black leaders whom we have elected? To those political organizations which have and continue to serve our community?

We must remember that black folk did not enter into a clean, noble political arena, not during the reconstruction and now . . snow white, yes . . but definitely not 99-44 per cent pure.

We need to remember this not as an excuse for any wrong we may do — but in recognition of our position in relation to those who judge us . . from sacred temples of righteous indignation, while cringing from the reflections of an angered society dancing on their glass houses.

BEVERLY BRUCE HAVARD

Philly Mayor Takes Money From Bank

By G. JAMES FLEMING

There is much more to this story than the headline.

Another headline might be: "Philadelphia Public Schools Broke, Can't Get Bank Loan."

Still another would be: "Mayor Withdraws City Deposits From Bank Which Refuses Loan to Philadelphia Schools."

A short headline might be: "Philly Mayor Seeks to Punish Bank."

The mayor is Frank L. Rizzo, Democratic supporter of President Nixon who won office on a platform of abolishing crime from the streets. The bank is the gigantic First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Co., largest in the city of Brotherly Love.

Here is the story:

The Philadelphia school system, short of money, tried to borrow several million dollars from the bank, just as the school board has done from banks in past years.

But, this time, the bank did not consider the school board a good risk. It refused.

This aroused the mayor's ire. At once, he ordered the city treasurer to withdraw all city funds from the bank — in retaliation! And with angry words (Incidentally, it is reported that 10 other banks have said "No" to the city).

The chairman of the bank's board, John R. Bunting Jr., was quick in rebuttal.

His unexpected counter-attack suggested that the Philadelphia and other big city schools are in trouble because they are being neglected and short-changed since these systems have become predominantly black.

One way really to arouse Mayor Rizzo's dander is to accuse him or his administration of racism, as he was accused during his campaign and since.

He is furious.

But, it took a banker to say what others have suspected, that many of the problems of American cities may be due to the fact that the "power structure" is agreed that it just will not support the important public services of substantially black jurisdictions.

Anyway, $17 million has been withdrawn from the First Pennsylvania, on the orders of one man, Mayor Frank Rizzo — leaving the bank, still, with deposits of over $3 billion. The bank should worry!

Chairman Bunting says it is not unusual for bank depositors to close out their accounts whenever the bank can not risk loaning them "other" depositors' money!

"Every day we have borrowers angry with us because we won't make loans we consider to be imprudent," Bunting said when he learned of the mayor's directive.

This writer and nearly 1,000 other persons were in Philadelphia for the 77th annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

Many lectures should have interested us on the topic, "The Future Society: Aspects of America in the Year 2000"; but, we were just as attracted to the headlines in the newspapers, the battle between a topmost bank and Philadelphia's mayor; the story of what's happening to most big city school systems.

THE MITCHELL AFFAIR — "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone," might well have come to our collective minds as we reacted to L'Affair Mitchell — the charges by the Internal Revenue Service that debonnair State Senator Clarence Mitchell III has not filed any income tax returns since 1967.

The first thing to remember is that the charges do not say that the young senator has not paid his income tax, or any income tax at all, during that period, as an AFRO editorial pointed out last week.

There are, nevertheless, many "whys."

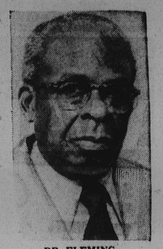
Why did the senator not file? We do not know; but we do know that some people are sloppy about money matters, sloppy, but not dishonest. They defer and postpone until their responsibilities are beyond their reach and their understanding.

Such might have been the case in regard to Senator Mitchell.

There is another "why" which is more difficult to answer.

"Why didn't his family — grandmother, father, mother — undergird him, surround him, save him from himself, in order to avoid these (new) charges."

NOW and THEN



DR. FLEMING

It is over two years since the IRS began its investigations. There was time, it seems, to keep this non-filing out of court. The IRS, really, does not want to imprison people; it only wants the money due it for taxes.

Or, could it be that the senator is too individualistic and independent to accept, or use, help from his family (or anyone else)?

While this column does not see Senator Mitchell's plight as one of political harassment (he's no "political prisoner"), it is also important to remember that, at this moment, the outspoken public servant has not been found guilty of any offense, nor is there any accusation that he has avoided paying his internal revenue taxes.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Revenue Sharing --Citizens Not Welcome

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

Tremendous pressures were exerted last year on the House of Representatives to support President Nixon's Revenue Sharing plans.

Governors and mayors, private and public agencies beseiged us with correspondence and direct lobbying efforts to force a vote in favor of Revenue Sharing.

I did not vote for Revenue Sharing.

Many governors, mayors and private agencies are now having serious second thoughts about Revenue Sharing.

The Nixon Administration, proceeding with its attacks on categorical grant programs, has now launched its massive campaign for support of the special Revenue Sharing legislation.

Before we proceed willy-nilly to accept special Revenue Sharing legislation, it should be important for all of us to take a good hard look at how the money under general Revenue Sharing has been spent.

There are three major developments associated with Revenue Sharing grants to date: —

First, some cities which do not actually need Revenue Sharing are receiving the monies, while large urban centers in desperate financial condition, are unable to "make it" on present Revenue Sharing grants.

Second, Revenue Sharing monies received by States and Cities, are being used to buy things not to provide services needed by the people.

Third, it is now patently obvious that no attempt will be made to involve the people, the citizens, in policy-priority setting decisions in the implementation of the use of Revenue Sharing grants. The citizens — the people will not be permitted to say, "here are our needs, here are our priorities, here are our recommendations as to how these funds should be spent."

Let us deal with each of these developments in more detail.

The Gannett News Service reports that Revenue Sharing has saved some Cities and Counties from financial ruins.

It "has also shoveled out millions to localities that didn't need the money and haven't the haziest idea what they ought to do with it."

The report cites among other Cities: Burlington, Vermont, which will use a part of its Revenue Sharing money to build an ice rink and a bath house; Dewitt, a small city in Michigan, spent a portion of its Revenue Sharing funds to buy a $3700 alarm system for its Volunteer Fire Department.

The Gannett report concludes: For smaller Cities and Rural towns, their shares of the first years Revenue Sharing grant will "not buy meat and potatoes, but hollandaise sauce for their asparagus."

What are the states and cities doing with general Revenue Sharing funds? The answer is abundantly clear.

Monies are used for things, hardware, not services to people. We are buying police cruisers and police helicopters; new city halls and new jails; the criminal justice and fire protection systems are getting about 11 per cent of the total of funds for pensions.

These funds are used for street improvements, and the repair of government buildings.

So far general Revenue Sharing funds have not been used to hire visiting nurses, to provide job training programs, to shore up drug addiction programs, nor for day care.

To his everlasting credit, Delegate Walter R. Dean Jr., (D-5th District, Baltimore City), filed a resolution requesting Gov. Marvin Mandel to place revenue sharing funds into a new human service delivery organization.

The resolution also calls for adherence to civil rights laws and set-aside monies for the black population, also to establish a community, political and business alliance by executive order to study fair and equitable distribution of revenue sharing

Funds from special revenue funds should be placed into social services rather than to reduce property taxes.

Delegate Dean said that "the Federal Government has drastically cut spending in social service programs, housing, the elderly, employment for the poor and minorities.

"Drastic cuts promise to wreak havoc with the attempts of Baltimore and other urban areas to grapple with severe social problems. Many observers in the city believe that unless funds are found to refund social welfare, and manpower programs, a hot summer may be in the offing."

The great hope of real citizen participation first found in OEO and Model Cities programs appears to be dead.

The Revenue Sharing programs make no real provisions for

(1) Citizens hearings on Revenue Sharing;

(2) Citizens involvement in setting priorities for the spending of Revenue Sharing funds; and

(3) A citizens veto mechanism (or any veto mechanism for that matter) for "bad decisions" made by governors and mayors. While it is true that some mayors plan to use City Hall contacts in the community i. e. Mayor's station personnel or Mayor's Councils, as sounding boards on Revenue Sharing policies, this action is meaningful only to the extent that such persons in Mayor's stations or Mayor's Councils are truly representative of the people.

I am inclined to believe that they are not so representative in most cities.

Revenue Sharing, general or special, seems to be based on the notions that the people can't make decisions, the people should be excluded from the decision making process and that Pappa knows best paternalism is firmly entrenched in the Revenue Sharing saddle.

A Column Of CHOICE

Summer Project

By MARION BANFIELD

According to some news reports Baltimore City Schools will have to account for racial isolation in our schools.

Like it or not, that Fallstaff Middle School is an integrated school arrangement done by pressure of parents, not by school administrators.

There is to be a public hearing on April 25, 7:30 p.m., Poly High School, Coldspring Lane and Falls Rd.) to consider a special summer project which will be paid for through Federal funds.

The purpose of the planned project is to "help students overcome their reading and language skills disabilities and at the same time bring pupils with varied backgrounds together to share certain remedial instructions and cultural enrichment activities."

This is a lot better than just busing for racial balance.

A language Arts Center will be of service to reading centers which will be in 25 selected schools.

It is important for parents to be aware of this project and to take the trouble to see if their children are in any of these schools: Nos. 31, 47, 50, 54, 59, 68, 71, 73, 83, 84, 85, 86, 124, 160, 202, 207, 215, 217, 227, 229, 230, 237, 243, 248, 254.

A previous public hearing was held and because nobody was angry with somebody, there was very little interest and very few in attendance.

Eleven of these schools serve predominantly black student populations. Ten have a predominantly white student population.

Four schools are integrated.

Not only will there be teachers, librarians and other professionals, there are 152 aides being requested.

With all the worry about jobs, some parents had better be on hand to find out what jobs and training will be requested.

The Board of School Commissioners approved a resolution supporting this proposal for funding under the Emergency School Aid Act on February 22, 1973.

In my opinion, this was a valid way for the commissioners to live up to the "Equality of Educational Opportunity" adopted by the Board on September 5, 1963.

Here are some important excerpts:

"The Board recognizes intergroup understanding as an important school objective.

"All policies and practices bearing on this objective must be educationally sound . .

"Insofar as racially imbalanced schools may lead to educational, psychological and sociological problems, the Board will do all it possibly can to remedy this situation

This proposal which attends to two serious problems in Baltimore is of prime concern.

Reading and ethnic problems are to be dealt with in a way that is geared to increasing self-respect and group respect.

Daily, I pass school No. 59 and I have spoken with some of the parents.

Reading scores do some going up and down on charts which suggest that there is a lot of learning and a lot of not learning.

Parents in that Reisterstown Road corridor really need to get together and clean up those lawns.

There is a tendency for dirty lawns and poor reading scores to go together.

Our choice is to be alert to the various educational proposals that are being developed.

Our choice is to attend hearings because we care about our children, not because someone has gotten us emotionally upset over a person or a specific issue.

Channel 67 is holding a series of programs on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. These are some relevant programs needing public attention.