Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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

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President Nixon's State Of The Union

It should not have been so, but for some reason we got the feeling we were watching the Academy Awards Wednesday night when President Nixon delivered his State of the Union address before a joint congressional gathering.

What concerns us though is that instead of a new entry, too much of what President Nixon said bordered on re-runs of old positions — some of which we don't like — and optimistic statements of the kind which have fallen flat after previous offerings.

President Nixon deserves credit for his efforts in the area of world peace. We hope he will be able to stabilize the situation in the Mid-East so that long-term peace will result and the oil embargo will be lifted.

We are hopeful Mr. Nixon's promises that there will be no recession, that he will prevent high unemployment, that inflation will be slowed and that a real effort will be made to bring good health care down to where all can afford it, will become realities.

The record suggests wariness.

Among the areas where the President disturbed us are those dealing with welfare and education. The President seems to agree with us that it's time to do something about welfare but he keeps harping on his divisive "work ethic" theme.

He seems at last ready to make a solid contribution to education at various levels, but he came down hard in his detailed budget message against busing to improve desegregation. We think he continues to promote racial division and hatred in the country by his statements and efforts.

On Watergate, there was no question but that the President was playing to the galleries, using the same tactics he employed years ago in his tear-jerking Checkers appeal in asking the public to stick its head in the sand and ignore all the dirt and corruption.

Maybe a year of Watergate is enough. Maybe the President has provided sufficient information to somebody to completely clear him. But he and his supporters should at least get together on this. Senator Hugh Scott and others say the President has information that would for once and all time clear his name. Credible?

On showmanship, we have to concede the Oscar to Mr. Nixon. On his promises and proposals, and especially on those we feel create racial problems and handicap poor people, he'll have to show us a lot more.

Hail, The Young Hero

This week, the AFRO salutes 14-year-old Arnell Samples. He is the Clifton Park Junior High School eighth grader who rescued a neighbor's children from a burning E. 27th St. home.

Anyone who has been involved in a crisis — fire, sudden death, fatal accident — knows it is not easy to keep one's head and behave rationally.

But young Mr. Samples did. In an exclusive interview with an AFRO reporter published in our Tuesday edition, he told how he did it:

"I heard Robert (Lyles, age 5) crying and screaming,' my brother is burning up. They live across the street from me. I ran over and he told me to help his little baby brother.

"I ran through the thick black smoke but I was almost chocked.

"I ran back out and entered the bathroom, where I saw some shirts handing up. I took one of them, wet it and covered my face with it.

"Then I ran upstairs and got the little baby who was crying on the burning mattress. When I got to the first floor, was when I told the other children, Robert 8, and Belvin, 2, who were standing there to follow me, but they were overcome with smoke, and could not move.

"I ran out with the baby and gave him to my sister, Theresa, and ran back into the thick smoke to get the other children."

We think young Arnell Samples deserves our hero of the week award. We join his school mates and the community in saluting a brave teenager who has shown at an early age he can keep his head at a time of stress, and that he cared so much about his fellow man he was willing to endanger his own life to save another's.

He Showed Great Courage

A little About a LOT

That Dunbar Team

A Dunbar High School basketball team won for the 47th consecutive time yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at Carver. But, while most of the city is lauding the achievement as remarkable, older and wiser heads are translating it into something far more important.

Athletic director Sugar Cain and basketball coach Archie Lewis are enjoying this season more than they have enjoyed any year in recent memory. It is because they are able, at long last, to look beyond the scoreboard and discover a much more gratifying reward.

Cain and Lewis sense in every one of their young men a nearly-born desire for college and burning hunger for a worthwhile future. They see every youth maturing in his determination to use his basketball skills as a means to an end rather than as the end itself.

From the biggest star to the smallest sub, there is no sign of swagger, no puff of arrogance, no disrespect for the value of manhood.

Each youngster who is contributing to the team's success seems aware that, fantastic as the record may be, his role in it is merely temporary. Permanence lies down the road, on the ground, and that is where he must keep his feet.

Increase Tax Rate?

It's school budget time again. Community groups all over Baltimore city are talking about the proposed $240.9 million budget Superintendent Patterson and the School Board have proposed.

A large outpouring of citizens at two January board meetings charged the request to the city fathers is inadequate. Some said it should be increased 10 per cent so that all the necessary programs could be implemented and teachers salaries raised.

And, as usual, there were some who suggested they would be willing to pay increased taxes to achieve these goals. This aspect intrigues us. How significant is the view of those who say rather than cut the budget they would favor an increase in their taxes so that schools and teachers could benefit?

We think it would be interesting to find out, and so here is an opportunity for AFRO readers to make their wishes known.

Would Mayor William Donald Schaefer and the City Council be acting in the best interests of the total city if they increased the tax rate by a dollar or more in order to maintain the schools and provide salary increments for teachers as well as other public employees? Is this politically expedient?

We invite AFRO readers to share their thoughts with us. Mayor Schaefer's administration is already on record as saying the city cannot afford a substantial increase in budget or in salary if it is to remain on a sound financial basis.

What do YOU think? Address letters to: Tax Question — Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland, 21203.

Ambulance Drivers, Too

Just by chance this week we had an opportunity to chat with Fire Battalion Chief Martin McMahon, who is in charge of the Baltimore City Ambulance Service.

The AFRO had called to congratulate firefighters Roy Richardson and James Burnham, assigned to Ambulance Company No. 15, (Lafayette and Carey). They had given a helping hand to two senior citizens involved in an accident. An AFRO staff photo of them appeared on the front page of this newspaper on Tuesday.

As we discussed the qualifications of firefighters assigned to ambulance crews, Chief McMahon volunteered this startling information when we asked about the racial composition of the department:

All ambulance men are previous firefighters. They take performance and written exams to fill vacancies, in a department which answered 66,000 calls last year. The city has 16 vehicles, and each vehicle has 6 attendants, a total of 96 men. But only 18 of them are black. There are 3 lieutenants, only one of whom is black, (John Johnson in the communications setup). There is one captain, white.

When we suggested the number of black employees was disproportionate to the Baltimore city population, which is half black, Chief McMahon volunteered that, "It is a pretty rough job and not too many qualify and want it," the usual jargon we hear when public agencies fail to represent the total city.

Firefighters won a court decision recently requiring the department to promote, upgrade and give a fair deal to minority employees.

The ambulance division is another area which needs close examination and improvement.

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 Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Energy Crisis A Hoax

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

I was afraid that I might not be able to drive to Washington this week because I would not be able to get any gasoline. Fortunately, I was able to do so.

An independent black cab driver in Washington told me he was able to get gasoline in sufficient amounts but at 65 cents a gallon.

A constituent called to complain that the increase in home heating oil is creating disaster for her because as a retired senior citizen, her income is fixed. She added, "thank God for giving us so many mild days."

All of these experiences and others caused me to think hard about the energy crisis and I want to share those thoughts with you.

First of all, I believe that the energy crisis is a hoax, but regrettably, all of us have to act as if it is real.

I believe it is a contrived crisis because the corporate oil interests stand to gain most of the things they have wanted in terms of legislation.

Out of this crisis, Senate and House energy bills have been prepared but not acted on. Both the Senate and House bills proposed would give sweeping, broad powers to the President, but surely this President should not be given more powers.

Under both bills, the President would have so much power (power to restrict the energy use of the news media for example), that he could drastically regulate the life of every single American if he chose to use those powers.

Further, the Federal Energy Office, (FEO) is issuing regulations each day. But, there are no black citizens in policy-making positions in the FEO.

Throughout America, there is common agreement that black citizens are being battered by the energy crisis.

The Committee for National Policy Review has stated our threatened position and has issued a call for action.

By unanimous vote, the Committee passed the following Resolution on January 17, 1974:

"We recognize that the national energy crisis with a projected unemployment rate of between 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent presents a catastrophic dilemma for black America.

the CNPR today issues a call to the national black leadership to convene in a national economic emergency meeting to voice our concern for black economic survival.

"That the NBL president, Berkeley G. Burrell, working in conjunction with Congressman Parren Mitchell, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus's Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs, convene within the next two weeks a select committee of organizational leaders.

"Their responsibility is to plan and call for such a national conclave so that out of that meeting might come black support for a national governmental policy for a guaranteed annual income or an economic floor below which no American would fall."

I am preparing the ground work for such a national meeting now, but I should not have to do this. If the Watergate Administration had one iota of concern about black people, it would be moving to address itself to these problems.

In this "crisis," we cannot lay sole blame on the Administration.

The Congress has failed to meet its responsibility.

The U.S. House of Representatives cruelly assessed the plight of black citizens in the energy crisis by passing an Amendment "to prohibit allocation of scarce fuel for busing children beyond their neighborhood schools." That is the kind of "statesmanship" one associated with Adolf Hitler.

Out of these thoughts, an unmistakably clear message comes forth. In the "energy crisis," as in all national matters, the special considerations which ought to be given to black Americans are, if even thought about, quickly put on the back burner of the stove.

Perhaps out of this crisis, we black Americans will tear the veil of illusion from our eyes, realize that we are not yet a viable force in this country, and heed the call issued by Dr. Carlton Goodlett, National Newspaper Publishers Association president, who said, "we must demonstrate unity for the struggle for survival. We must stand in the market place and demand the power that is ours, not the permissive power that they relinquish by true absolute power.

"It is the business of this government to provide when no other opportunity is available in the private sector of our economy, for every able-bodied-person — a job, a guaranteed income."

To Orlinsky: We Have The Power To Revamp Baltimore Political System

By Madeline W. Murphy

The theme of City Council President Walter Orlinsky's message to the Me-De-So open forum last Sunday, was that education is getting too expensive; that autonomy of the school board should be abolished; that school board members should be elected and raise their own money for schools; that just like any other city department — his unfortunate comparison, the Department of Public Works — the school budget should be controlled by the City Council and Board of Estimates.

He came close, but didn't accuse the school board of mismanagement and book-juggling.

It is clear to this writer that the sudden great concern about an expensive school system in Baltimore City is directly related to the fact that the school population is almost totally black; that the schools are being radically changed toward a regional community concept closer to parents; that they are more equitably administered for the first time by a black superintendent, Dr. Roland N. Patterson, who happens to be the highest paid person in the state.

This rankles white racists, and most lesser paid public officials!

No longer do we have the mystique of a dual system of education — one, white upper middle class, quasi-private, like Poly-Western, City-Eastern; and one, black under-funded and under staffed, like Dunbar or Douglass.

Both are now equitably supported from the public till.

No matter how much Wally Orlinsky protests about how he would like to see black kids get a good education, his desire to take autonomy away from the school board, his desire to have closer control by City Council and the Board of Estimates, means that white people are concerned that too much money is being spent on black people in Baltimore, period.

It means that with City Council and Board of Estimates oversight, we will revert to colonial status to be told what we shall learn, how we shall learn it, and what jobs we train for. Maree Farring's recent excursion into book-banning should tell the bell!

With his additional appeal for abolition of all boards and commissions, he would hasten colonial status for the city, where citizen participation would be taken away and the city could then be run by unseen, uncontrolled power blocks, with no checks or balances — by remote control.

If the boards are ineffective, then maybe it's because not enough grass roots people have had the opportunity to steer decisions away from vested interests.

But Orlinsky would rather throw the baby out with the bath water, especially when we will soon become an all black city.

Watergate should warn him that taking power away from the people, acting in secret, has led to near anarchy, fascism. This, however, is the length to which racism will go.

Control by the Board of Estimates over the Department of Public Works has not made it less impervious to political hanky-panky, rather, because 3,000 jobs are not filled by civil service, politicians can use these jobs as political patronage, and keep the system controlled by bigotry.

On the other hand, the Police Department, which serves the city and is run by the Governor, should head Mr. Orlinsky's list of priorities, when he speaks of gaining control over autonomous monstrosities.

This is the ideal department where greater accountability to Baltimore City Council and Board of Estimates might cut down on corruption, mismanagement which has been rife in the Police Department.

But, no, the police department, being mainly white and a willing partner in remote control government, is the likely partner in the domestic army, well-suited to colonize Baltimore's blacks.

Experience has shown us that racists, once backed into the losing corner, will give up their own constitutional rights to keep blacks from gaining political power. Fools that they are!

Obviously, this is a fishing expedition into the school board, a smoke screen, a last ditch stand, to build a platform for Orlinsky's mayoral campaign, geared to suit the racist idiot fringe of Baltimore who want to hold on to power and business as usual.

Dr. Patterson is personification of black power: Dr. Patterson is a scapegoat for the ills of a debt-ridden system he inherited; therefore to the wites in this city, Dr. Patterson is expendable.

If the Me-De-So meeting last Sunday has any meaning, it should galvanize and coalesce participants to keep this from happening, to work for black candidacies, first for Mayor, for President of City Council and additional black councilmen, and women in 1975.

We need to stop complaining, and woofing.

We need to take the positive view, that we have the power to revamp Baltimore's political system. A system where we'll know how to read a simple school budget, where we will be able to view it in light of rising costs of living, where we will be able to evaluate it in relation to quality education for poor kids, black and white.

Then, maybe, figures won't lie so much, and liars won't figure anymore. The choice is still ours.

Join Hands

Dear AFRO:

People are growing restless with bought and sold' leadership and the compromised, unprincipled circumstances that are their plight.

The daily news stays crammed with examples of down-spiraling trends — pitiful backwardness, deliberate larceny, personal greed and other destructive acts — man against man.

The laws of God are unpracticed. The laws of the jungle prevail.

It behooves all of us "who care" to join hands across color, class, religious, political and other so-called lines of separation to work effectively and together. . .to save our children, our communities, our universe.

MARCIA BODDIE CUMMINGS

NOW and THEN

Only Cowards Kill

By G. James Fleming

It has been said before, but it is good to repeat: "Only cowards kill."

Some would say this assertion is too general but, at least, we can all agree that most killers are cowards.

They are men and women who are afraid to face their problems by discussion, give-and-take, and other non-violent means.

Several investigators have found that killers, at the time of a killing, believe they are brave, that they are heroes, that "I'll show him." They boast of the desire to kill as part of their "masculinity."

If killers really understood that there is nothing heroic about knifing or shooting a man, they might turn away from their disgraceful pathetic life-taking.

Anyone can be a bully for a moment. Soon after, he wilts before police might, he starts crying; he calls on parents, or relatives and friends, to save him. This is especially true of young killers.

Instead of killing being a sign of bravery, the really courageous man is the one who, as the Bible suggests, can turn the other cheek; he who can "talk things over;" he who can walk away; he who can take a "rain-check" on violence.

Turning the other cheek really means taking the time to think over whether or not one should kill; whether or not one should strike back; whether or not one should react on his most primitive level. Killing is primitive.

We write in this tone because most killings are not between enemies, or between black and white.

They are between realtives and between friends of the same race.

They are emotional killings. In addition, they are over very small offenses or imagined offenses and insults.

Wilful killings, such as those of the Mafia and deliberate burglaries and holdups are in another category.

These are planned and must be dealt with by the police as organized crime or open warfare against the society.

This column, this time, is concerned about those killers who would not think of holding up a bank or robbing a supermarket but who, at the merest "insult" or least opposition will kill a wife, cousin, neighbor or fellow-drinker.

It is still a mystery to this writer why 11-year-olds and young people in their teens should want to spend their weekly allowances to buy a handgun or a killer-knife.

Psychologists suggest an answer: It is because these youngsters are so bored with home and school; because life has so few rewards for them, or because they enjoy so few favorable headlines.

The experts add that young killers are starved for recognition and eccomiums. So they act big, they play bullies; they beat up the weak; finally they kill.

If they are not captured soon, they go to their usual jaunts and boast, both about their killing and their "putting it over on the police." Then the police catches up with them.

It takes courage to live with boredom and to live without the praise of family and neighbors.

It takes courage to overlook or forgive an "enemy."

It is easy to kill one's self or to kill others. The real heroes are those who grow or save life; not those who destroy it.

The new science holds that most killers are psychologically sick; that they need psychiatric help, not punishment.

We have no quarrel with this position. But this help should include an attempt to reach those who are drawn to killing because they want to show off as strong, brave and heroic — including those who, because of poor achievement, in school or on the job, want to show they can achieve in something!

When the urge to kill overtakes any of us, let us remember that "Only Cowards Kill."

YOU Can Register To Vote NOW

Go to TODAY at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. You can also register by mail. Forms available at all branches of Enoch Pratt Library, Community Action Agency centers and Supervisors of Elections. Next primary election for Governor and state legislators is September 10, 1974, August 12, 1974 is the last day to register.

AFRO Readers Rap

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

Deserves A Fair Shake

Dear AFRO:

There seems to have surfaced an underground movement in this city to oust the black superintendent of public schools, Dr. Roland Patterson, under the guise of interest in better education which, at best, is a subterfuge.

The real matter smacks of more racism because the city fathers and others cannot stand to see this black man, well-equipped as he is, hold his position, this high level, top-echelon job.

Without reiterating what I believe to be meritorious innovative programs and restructuring of the system I defend Dr. Patterson's incumbency without any reservations.

I speak as an educator of some seventeen years, and though I am not now in the public school system, I am in the state college system which receives the products of the public schools.

I am tired of hearing the mouthing of such phrases as "quality education," a kind of lip service to deceive the public, while at the same time the city fathers — none other than Walter Orlinsky and some of the School Board members, as well as some, (a small minority of teachers), condemn the superintendent and resist any effort to change the status quo.

For years, the public schools have been feeding the colleges with students who have inferior backgrounds due to poor educational practices in our schools.

Here we must institute compensatory programs to bring these students to a level of achievement sufficient to enable them to deal with the academia of the college programs.

Now Dr. Patterson has rocked the boat. He has instituted measures, programs and procedures that consider not only the majority black population, but all children under the jurisdiction of the city system.

His programs have not had time to succeed fully yet.

"Rome," to use a time-worn cliche, "was not built in a day."

Neither will the Baltimore school system become the Utopian dream of public education in a few months, or even in a year or two.

Dr. Roland Patterson needs several kinds of considerations — time for one; cooperation on the part of faculty and administration, for another; budgetary increases and allocations to meet today's increased costs, and finally, the support of every citizen, every politician, every business interest, every parent to rally behind him and to try — whatever our limitations — to comprehend what he is about.

It is obvious that much of what goes on its incomprehensible to many of us — especially to lay people.

What we all do know is that we should like to see our children get a better education than they have gotten over the past several years, prior to Dr. Patterson's coming to the superintendency.

I, for one, am tired of the Orlinskys, the Farrings, the Fitzpatricks and critics who offer resistence and adverse criticism, rather than support and who themselves have no concepts of what a good modern day system ought to be.

But one thing I know is that Baltimore must have a black superintendent. We will not permit this man to be persecuted on trumped-up charges of whatever kind.

We recognize his ability, his preparedness, his sincerity and his dedication. We demand, as black citizens, that he be given a fair shake.

Remember, Baltimore, we can get on the move for justice in this matter, if indeed we must. And now seems to be that time!

(MRS.) EVELYN L. P. BURRELL

Pioneer Eleven

Dear AFRO:

It would be good if the federal government would plan Pioneer Eleven as an earth probe rather than a space probe.

Millions of man-hours and billions of dollars would be spent not to find out what might be happening in outer space but what is going on here on Earth.

Pioneer Eleven would fly over Mississippi and bean back to Washington superb pictures of children who still get only few months of schooling each year and who are a disgrace to the 20th century.

Pioneer Eleven would pass over the West side of Chicago and send back to Washington pictures of areas where unemployment among young black adults is as high 32 per cent, and where acres of abandoned homes prove the deterioration of what once were well-kept neighborhoods.

Pioneer Eleven would over big business where it wilp show that black professionals are discriminated against in promotions and are underemployed and underpaid.

Pioneer Eleven would pass over Pittsburgh and California and show that many black children are undernourished, that black mothers do not receive proper penatal care, that black babies are often born with birth defects because of this lack of prenatal care. Once born blacks do not receive equal consideration as children, in education, in employment, under the law, or in any other sistuation.

Pioneer Eleven would show black Americans are still the last hired and the first fired, that black neighborhoods receive inferior police protection, garbage collection, street lighting and bus service. Pioneer Eleven would show that blacks and poor whites are still America's pariahs.

And, hopefully, Pioneer Eleven would be so successful with its superb pictures that millions of man hours and billions of dollars will be spent to make the United States of America the kind of nation its leaders profess it already is.

OLIVER F. HOLMES

Obscenity Or Love?

The following excerpts are from remarks made at a Dec. 10, 1973 Baltimore City school board meeting by Mrs. Omenta Owens, an interested citizen, discussing the film on "Manchild In the Promised Land," by Claude Brown, which was subsequently restored to school library bookshelves. Requests by AFRO readers present who called Mrs. Owens clever prompt this excerpt from her presentation:

"I would like to talk to you tonight about morals, obscenity, filth, garbage and all the things described tonight.

"After listening to the various things that you said tonight about 'Manchild In the Promised Land,' I began to look at myself and begin to think, 'What should we do? What is really moral and what is immoral?'

"So I turned to the thing that we all could believe in, and that's the television. I began to look at it to determine, this must be right, this is the moral way to live or it wouldn't be on television.

"I looked at 'Secret Storm' on Monday, saw three women in the bed, two of them in the bed with men that were not their husbands and they making out — really making love.

"And, you see the thing that justified was the fact that it was love — L O V E."

One woman said, "Sure I am not married to you now, but I feel like I am." So, this justified it.

The other one said, "I don't love you. I love Dan, but you will be all right until I can get him." (laughter)

"All right, we get to another program. Here are two sisters by blood, not half sisters. They are whole sisters. Both are pregnant.

"And would you believe, one is pregnant by her sister's husband? Oh yes, I know you see the program. Honey, if you miss it, you get juicy and get over the fence and say, 'What happened?' See, that's juicy when you get over the fence when you miss the program, because you see this is teaching us how we should live.

"But, you know something, I really learned. Because the married sister found out that her sister was pregnant by her husband.

"Let me teach you something. This is how they act. This is culture see, because they are real cultured people.

"You have got to see them as the Columbia City type; because everybody is a doctor, — oh this woman is so elite and she dresses so well and speaks so well — no profanity.

"So the sister went to her house to find out, well, let's discuss this. They sat down over tea (laughter), and the sister said, How did this — tell me about this man that you are pregnant by. Do you really love him?' "

Love, Love, Love, justifies everything. "I though I loved him."

The sister said, "What is everybody going to say? You will have to get married! It doesn't matter if it is not the man's baby. You don't have to love him, just get married."

"And then I go right on down on TV, Thursday of last week. But, guess what I saw? 'In Cold Blood,' where people just kill everybody and kill without feeling. That's the thing we got to talk about. We are too emotional.

"Maybe it's all right to look at TV. It's all right to kill if you do it without emotion.

"We have to stop being emtoional. We have to learn by our majority from these nationwide programs, . . . the doctors, lawyers, you people who never use the vernacular of the streets. . . .

"So I question you, what is moral, what is immoral, what is obscenity, what is garbage, what is filth? You tell me."

A Column Of CHOICE

By Marion Banfield

What is relevant to the education of Baltimore public school students? That is what more of us tax-paying citizens need to decide. This past Sunday, over 50 persons participated in a discussion with Walter Orlinsky, president of the Baltimore City Council. He was guest speaker for the Me-De-So Club, a group of black physicians and dentists.

The invitation had been sent to Mr. Orlinsky because of his powerful position in the City Council when a decision must be made about appropriating money for the Department of Education.

As citizens, we need to become more aware of the political implications of that budget. The Department of Education gets the largest appropriation of any city agency.

While the Public School Teachers Association officials stir up animosity to show how powerful they are, we can all remember that $5 per cent of that education budget goes to salaries.

The City Council has more control over that appropriation than does the School Board or Dr. Patterson.

Mr. Orlinsky expressed dissatisfaction with Dr. Patterson's not presenting answers to City Council questions about how funds in this over $240.9 million budget had been spent. While dissatisfied with failure to account, Mr. Orlinsky assured the audience that he was not implying any individual misappropriation of funds.

Rather, what happens is that the Department of Education moves money from one place as written and agreed upon with the City Council, to other persons or programs without consulting the City Council.

Then because there is lack of specific details of interest to a councilman, there is frustration and resentment.

Mr. Orlinsky and some other members of the City Council are dissatisfied with the way money is used by the Department of Education.

The political reality is that city councilmen have less chance than they wish to influence who they think should be hired and to what the Department of Education should give priority.

Members of the Board of School Commissioners are responsible for preparing and administering the budget of the Department of Education. They are the most politically independent board of any agency getting city tax money.

Therefore, politicians have resented the autonomy of this group of appointed citizens for years.

Mr Orlinsky is one of the most candid members of the City Council in declaring that he thinks the Board of School Commissioners should be abolished. He favors an elected Board, if there is a board. He says he opposes the use of any unpaid boards for city agencies.

At Sunday's meeting, some interesting facts were brought out. James Griffin, vice-chairman of the Board of School Commissioners, pointed out that although the Board of School Commissioners is responsible for the budget, the City Council does not ask them to give an account, but prefers to pressure and harrass Dr. Roland Patterson, our first black superintendent of schools.

Judge Joseph Howard, eloquently and clearly presented the facts of the way the establishment changes the rules of the game. The rules get changed when there is clear evidence of potential black power.

He reminded us of the planned change to stop electing judges and states attorneys after he and Millon Allen won. The germandering after Parren Mitchell was elected was to make sure there was only one black member of Congress from Maryland.

Now that there is a black superintendent we need to be alert to changes

Politicians love power. We had better make sure that they never get a chance to return to the corrupt, racist power politics of the early part of this century before decent citizens got disgusted and set up the present system.

This system was not set up primarily for blacks. It was set for a more efficient and less politically manuevered institution.

Our choice is to remind members of the Council that if Mr. Orlinsky and his associates want Baltimore not to explode into the "shell" of a city that he described, that an education budget is a decisive factor.

Our choice is to remind the City Council that our students are not expendable in their battle with the Board and superintendent Patterson.

A choice for citizens, including teachers, is to get more facts and develop more concern for pupils by attending the meeting in the auditorium of Provident Hospital, at noon on Sunday, February 3. That is when the Chi Delta Mu Medical Fraternity is sponsoring an educational meeting to get more facts before the public.

That will be the third such meeting sponsored by the black medical profession in less than two months.

This choice is known as "getting together."

If YOU Ask ME

By Bettye Moss

Smile, you are in Baltimore . . . a pretty good town considering how other large urban cities fare. You'd smile, too, if you had the experience this writer had on Tuesday afternoon.

We accepted an invitation to visit a neighbor and gained the inspiration and stamina to face the difficult and ugly problems in our city because our neighbors are setting an example of real leadership and commitment.

Our neighbors are at the Joseph C. Briscoe Junior High School No. 451, Druid Hill Ave., and Biddle St., just two blocks up from our AFRO office, where we were invited to attend the afternoon PTA meeting.

It was thrilling to walk through the spanking new building (it opened April, 1973, at a cost of $2,760,000 million.)

When we reached the library, the meeting was in session. Present were some 30 parents and 20 teachers as well as the principal, John M. Wood. ('Junky' to intimates)

It was inspiring to watch and listen as the PTA president, Mrs. Delores Duckett, moved the meeting along and gave some sage advice

For example to fellow parents, she said, "It's not who you are that counts here, but what talent you have to give."

And, the parent liaison officer, Mrs. Mildred Jefferson, who cautioned parents about their responsibility to see that little Johnny conforms to school regulations and to question him and mean it. ("Let him know you'll get on his case. It's better to do something for Johnny now, than have that heartache later when he gets in trouble').

It was thrilling to see how earnest the parents were and how they responded to questions and volunteered to serve in positions of leadership.

Like, Mrs. Agnes Johnson, PTA vice president, who readily consented to serve on the by-law committee headed by Mrs. Ruth Fisher and Mrs. Margaret Prout, who raised her hand to help.

Teachers did too. Mrs. Joyce Kellum was one.

This writer was seated at the table with Celestine Johnson, who raised her hand quickly when they asked who would assume the treasurer's responsibility.

And, so it went. The meeting moved with dispatch and was over in an hour.

And, get this — Principal Wood announced that teachers would "be glad" to have parent conferences, and at the end of the hour-long joint session they did!!

Others gathered at a table set for coffee and cookies.

Cuff notes: If Joseph C. Briscoe School can have a successful daytime, PTA meeting like this other schools can too. And remember, Tuesday afternoon was a balmy day, but Briscoe parents and teachers were there!

More pleasant people met at the PTA meeting: the treasurer, Mrs. Celestine Johnson mentioned above is the wife of Charles D. Johnson, a merchant seaman. They live on N. Washington St.

Their son, Leo, is 12 and a 7th grader at Briscoe. Other children are Barbara, 18, senior, and Charles Tyrone, 17, junior, both at Fairmount Hill Junior-Senior High.

Other children are Christine and Charlotte, both last year's Dunbar High grads, now employed in nursing departments at Hopkins and Mt. Sinai.

Also at the table, Mrs. Rebecca Canty of N. Payson St. She and her husband Leroy Canty Jr., have daughter, Vivian, in Briscoe tenth grade.

Son, Ellis, 15, is a ninth grader at Tallahassee, Fla.'s Leon Heights School.

Small world department: Briscoe's PTA vice president, Mrs. Agnes Johnson, is no stranger to us at the AFRO. She is a most pleasant lady who is employed by the new black-owned cleaning firm which keeps our building tidy. (John McClary is owner)

And get this, she serves on the PTA advisory board at well and has eight children. The family lives on N. Schroeder St., plus she is a widow. Her husband was the late Louis Johnson.

Children include, Melvin, 13, 7th grader at Briscoe; two sets of twins, Arlene and Darlene, 14, who are seventh graders at Francis M. Wood School N. 176. Marba, 13, is Melvin's twin, also at No. 176; and Alfonso, 8, in 3rd grade at School No. 30.

Older children are Ronald, 24; Louis, 22, a Vietnam vet; and Clinton, 22.

More cuff note: To show you how earnest these parents are: Mrs. Celestine Johnson, the treasurer, brought her seven-month-old grandchild, Donta, with her

P.S. This writer is glad that A. Jacob Reese accompanied a group of children to the AFRO building to see the completion of the outside painting which led to the invitation to attend PTA meeting.

Thanks to him for inviting us to this meeting. You would have been inspired too.

Congrats: — Dr. and Mrs. T. Henderson Kerr, (Geneva), marked 60 years of marriage on January 28, in the same Division St., house where all the children were born.

By choice, they elected a quiet observance of this day with family and friends.

Dr. Thomas H. Kerr, III, a grandson, came down from Winchester, Mass., where he holds an electronics engineering post.

Judy, a daughter of Thomas H. Kerr, Jr. was from New York, where she works with a TV station.

Present also were another son, Judson, Baltimore city realtor and his wife, Delores, an administrative officer at Fort Meade and their son, David, a McDonogh student.

Also daughter, Louise, and her husband, Morsell Hines, and Miss Pam Chilton of Philadelphia, a friend of the younger Dr. Kerr.

Dr. Kerr, age 85, closed his drug store in 1960 when the city took over the Myrtle Ave.-George St. area for the George B. Murphy homes.

This retired pharmacist, still alert and active, scoffs at riding buses and walks downtown on business trips.

Isn't that grand!

AFRO LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

Rosewood Hospital

QUESTION — Many articles have been written about the conditions and treatment of the patients at Rosewood State Hospital, but no one has ever mentioned about employees' conditions.

True, there are some, (very few), who have mistreated the patients, but how many employees have been mistreated by patients? They have been hit with chairs, bedrails, and baseball bats (we had a doctor hit on the head but I never read about that in the paper).

But that's not really my point, because every job has its hazards. What I really want to know is why in a hospital that has 50 per cent or more black employees we are so poorly represented in administration?

This hospital is one of the lowest paid in the State but I do think that after so many years of service there should be a few black persons here that qualify for administrative positions.

This hospital is run almost entirely by whites and politics. It really looks bad for the colleges of Maryland when Dr. Solomon has to pull two people from out of the state to be the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

And these two men Dr. Malcotti and Mr. Carlson have appointed all white people from out of state.

They assign people to jobs where patients are violent and you're not allowed to defend yourself and if you do, you are accused of child abuse.

They have their appointed people in positions, and some hold two different job classifications which is supposedly unfair. I wish we could get some outside help, like from the NAACP or CORE. This job is the lowest paying and hardest working job in the world.

We haven't had a raise in a year, and most of the people who work here live in the city. With the cost of living, I wonder how they make ends meet. Thank God for overtime.

This place reminds you of an oldtime plantation with two white overseers. — What can we do?

MRS. X. Z.

(Editor's Note: Rosewood State Hospital, which is maintained by the state of Maryland for the care of retarded children, is located in Owings Mills, Baltimore County. AFRO Line suggests writer might contact NAACP office as suggested in her letter, but more importantly, file documented complaints with Governor Mandel and members of the State Legislature now in session.)

Following response to AFRO Line complainant comes from Dr. Marvin Malcotti, Rosewood superintendent:

ANSWER — "The first part of the comment there that says that nothing is ever done for employees is just not true. I could tell you honestly that I have stated that the residents here come first.

"There is no question about that. It is a statement that I have made publicly. But, I always followed that up with that my other responsibility, not second, but other responsibility, is to the employee.

"For instance we have a problem in one of the buildings called Blasell. When I am downtown trying to make a case for more staff or more money, the thing that I always add into the whole pitch is that the employees out here deserve something better.

"I couldn't agree more with the person who wrote (AFRO Line) in that employees are abused by residents. Those instances outnumber those where employees abuse residents. There is no question about that.

"You should understand that when you deal with the retarded, there is a group that is incapable of understanding what they are doing when they go after the employees. There are some others who simply do not understand and they just lash out.

"With regard, to what I see is the second major point, "Why aren't there more blacks in the upper administration.

"The third person in the chain of command under administrative and support services — the second person in the chain of command under administrative and support services is Abraham Moore, who is black.

The assistant superintendent is white, Edward Carlson. Abe reports to him. Abe is in charge of all the physical plant here, which is an extremely important job. His title is Physical Plant Engineer, 6 or 7, I really don't know which grade it is. He's recently gotten upgraded."

"We have recently hired as Coordinator of Out-Service Training, (which means training that goes on outside the facility), Harry Miller, who is black.

"In Social Service, the director of Social Service is white, but she has, and this is the important part, three black supervisors — the supervisor of Foster Care (Mrs. Tucker), is black, the supervisor of Admissions (Mrs. Ellen Lee), is black and the supervisor of the Human Development Group is black. (Mrs. Ruth Bland). "Charlie W. Grant is director of Rehabilitation Services. He is black.

"In addition to being supervisors of these important programs, Mrs. Bland will supervise a move of 90 residents from our place to Victor Cullen. Mrs. Lee will supervise from the social service point of view a move from here to Great Oaks, which is a center down near Silver Spring and that will be 200 people.

"Now I am not black, the medical director is not black. The assist. superintendent is not black. These are three top positions, but as you move do they become more and more blacks.

"Now that fact I am not black and medical director is not black is . . . I know . . . that's out of my hands."

The writer (to AFRO Line), complain about appointment of all whites from . of state.

Dr. Malcotti told AFRO Line — "Unfortunately, it may look that way but feeling is that it is not that way. I instituted a policy out here that I h called the weekend duty officer. Actua it is not a policy it is an operation.

"And what that means is that there is someone on duty at the hospital from 5 o'clock Friday to 8 o'clock Monday morning. Now, they spend on the grounds a regular working day on Saturday and a regular working day on Sunday. Dur the off hours, they must be immediat available by phone.

"When I first got here I appointe people and this was effective March last year. Two of them were black. T were not selected because they were black in a token fashion.

"They were selected because they were responsible people. One of them by the way, happened to be Abe Moore. The other was the school principal, Sylvia Staples, who is also black.

"When you pick someone to speak act for the superintendent during t period of time, this means handl parents, emergencies etc. This is a h level, highly visible position. I can't ma them superintendent but I can make th superintendent for 2½ days. This is what they are.

"I can appreciate this lady's concern but there are some things that I just can't help.

"We were the first hospital, and by hospital I mean the group of mental hospitals and mental retardation hospitals to hire a Pu