OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

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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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Schools Must Comply Now

The AFRO considers itself among the firmest of School Supt. Ronald Patterson's supporters in Baltimore but this newspaper cannot condone the foot-dragging on school desegregation by him and the Board of School Commissioners.

It is exceedingly disappointing to hear Dr. Patterson and other school officials reply to demands from Washington that a plan be drawn up in 30 days and made ready in time for September execution in the same fashion as do Dixie supporters of segregation.

Dr. Patterson and School Board President John Walton say that's not enough time. The AFRO does not imagine that the civil rights office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is going to get extremely uptight if it takes a little longer than 30 days for a suitable plan to be drawn up.

But as the AFRO repeatedly has said of Dixie and northern recalcitrants on school desegregation, they've had since the Supreme Court's 1954-55 rulings to do a better job than has been accomplished here in Baltimore.

The open enrollment policy that Peter Holmes, HEW civil rights director, termed a failure as far as desegregating schools is concerned, never offered any real possibility in that direction. White students, as a general rule, will not choose to attend predominantly black schools, and their parents, if they can prevent it, will see to it that they enroll in majority-white schools.

We are mindful of the fact that a majority of the children enrolled in public schools here is increasingly black. We also are keenly aware of the fact that further desegregation poses the threat of even greater flight of whites from the inner city.

Neither of these things, nor other arguments which have been raised, cut any legal mustard in the federal courts, nor with HEW.

The question of teacher assignments to bring about a better racial mix is another touchy area because many teachers don't want to be assigned to predominantly black schools. Worse than that, some of their union or professional organizations seek to support them in their reluctance to be assigned on a basis that would eliminate the intolerable degree of segregation existing in school staffing.

When former Chief Justice Earl Warren and a unanimous Supreme Court ruled that segregated public schooling must be ended in the United States, including Baltimore, it was understood there would be problems.

But the court understood that education in large measure has to do with Americans learning to live together. When the courts and HEW insist now that desegregation be carried out immediately — after two decades of dilly-dallying — they are saying that the laws must be upheld. That, too, is part of an educational responsibility.

At the same time, Baltimore, along with other major cities, cannot expect to continue to get federal assistance for education if the schools are racially segregated. From what we've been hearing about money during the school strike, Baltimore can't afford to lose one penny on federal school funds.

The AFRO suggests that school officials stop huffing and puffing about the 30-day requirement and get on with the business of the long-overdue desegregation of pupils and staffs. All HEW wants to know, and reasonably soon by way of a specific plan, is that come September, Baltimore won't have all these one-race student bodies and teaching staffs that leave us blatantly in violation of the law.

Take Heart, Diogenes

Within the past year, captive Americans have looked on helplessly as millions of their tax dollars were spent in the development and prosecution of criminal charges against public officials they trusted to lead them in a promised return to law and order.

Long investigations have been, and are being, conducted to determine the degree of involvement by the nation's President in a series of the most dastardly schemes ever perpetrated in the sordid world of politics.

Earlier, a similarly long and intense probe led to the eventual revelation of countless wrongdoings by a Vice President, who all the while was traveling the world proclaiming innocence.

In Maryland, a public defender in the state's most influential county was convicted of multiple crimes following a month-long trial. And the chief public officer in that same jurisdiction is even now enmeshed in a growing assortment of charges of bribery, corruption and general misconduct.

In every instance, the government has been relentless in its endeavor to prove that thievery, burglarism, blackmail, coercion, hypocrisy and deception have run rampant through the ranks of its trustees.

In order to accomplish this, the government has been compelled to form an alliance with confessed thieves, burglars, gougers, flim-flammers and deceivers.

Often it has been on the testimony of convicted felons that the cases have been built against the kid-gloved hoodlums in office.

If the legendary Diogenes was frustrated in his search for an honest man, he could find solace in the fact that today, in this state alone, there are millions who are equally distraught.

2 Kinds Of Justice

The white community's stereotypes of black people as the "bad guys," and policemen as the "good guys," is bound to unfavorably affect almost any trial in this country in which a black man is in any way on the scene when a policeman is killed.

That being the case, it is no wonder that the call for a trial by a jury of peers (persons with similar backgrounds and experiences), is now gaining recognition in many places.

But James C. Laws had no such jury of peers.

There was no stopping of a car, no quarrel between persons, no charge of abuse, no confrontation, no search, no previous conviction, no unregistered weapon.

But Mr. Laws was found guilty anyway—guilty of murder—and if he loses his appeal which comes to court this week, he faces imprisonment as absurdly as it sounds, for attempting to defend his wife and himself.

Look at what happened from Mr. Laws' standpoint.

He and his wife had recently purchased a home in a white area of Montgomery County, Md.

Past incidents in the neighborhood had already made them suspicious.

Not only that, only a few days earlier, their home had been broken into and burglarized.

By this time, literally scared, the Laws purchased and registered a shotgun for their protection.

Little did they realize that they would have to use it a few days later.

But it happened. Late at night, in bed nearly asleep, the couple heard noises.

It sounded like a burglar again. Laws grabbed his gun, jumped out of bed, and went downstairs.

By this time the back door window pane was broken, and the door being forced open.

His wife in shock, and he himself undressed and defenseless except for the new shotgun, fired away at the door.

His second shot killed the man at the door — a man, later discovered to be a policeman.

All the facts, point to an innocent man defending his life and his home. Nothing in the story suggest otherwise.

Even a similar case occurred a few weeks later when another Md. suburban resident innocently shot and killed an old neighbor man attempting to enter the wrong house by mistake.

He was declared innocent.

But then, that Montgomery County man was white. Mr. Laws is black.

And in this society where juries as well as laws favor white men, one barely even hopes for justice. Mr. Laws, however, still hopes.

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 the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892)

WASHINGTON REPORT

There May Be Hope At Justice Dept.

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

Black Americans have little reason for optimism today. President Nixon's involvement in Watergate is so mind boggling even to him that he simply cannot consider the plight of black Americans (of course, he really never did).

The Congress is so caught up in the energy crisis, impeachment and anti-recession matters that concerns of our black citizens are given short shrift.

In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, there is a ray of light, a faint reason for optimism. John Mitchell, former attorney general, now on trial for obstruction of justice, gave scant consideration to civil rights enforcement while he was in office. Since John's departure, there are signs that the Justice Departments is once again becoming interested in justice not political power seeking. Consider the following:

Two years ago, two black students were shot to death by "Agent of law enforcement" at Southern University. The killings were quietly forgotten after a farce of an investigation by Louisiana authorities. On Feb. 14, the Justice Department re-entered the case by seeking permission to inspect the transcripts of a state grand jury investigation of the killings.

Parren J. Mitchell

A motion seeking permission to inspect the minutes of the East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury was filed in the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge.

Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, head of the Civil Rights Division, said the transcript is necessary "for a full and complete investigation by the Justice Department."

Also on Feb. 14, the Department of Justice initiated action against the "private club gimmick" which perpetuates segregation. The Department of Justice filed a civil suit charging that black persons are excluded from a recreational home development and its tennis and golf clubs near Palmdale, Calif. The suit charged that the defendants have discriminated against blacks by refusing to sell home sites to them and excluding them from membership in the ranch and golf clubs.

The suit said the defendants have misrepresented to blacks that the recreational facilities are private clubs, while allowing white members of the general public to become members.

The following day, Feb. 15, Justice took similar action in Virginia. Attorney General William B. Saxbe said the housing discrimination suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Richmond against Crestview Corporation.

The suit charged that the management firm has pursued a policy and practice of racial discrimination by refusing to rent apartments to blacks and misrepresenting to blacks that there were no vacancies.

The suit asked for a court order enjoining the firm from violating the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and requiring it to correct the effects of its alleged past discriminatory practices.

Also on Feb. 15, the Department acted against Louisiana style apartheid.

The Department of Justice obtained a consent decree forbidding the owner and operator of a bar in Boyce, Louisiana, from racially segregating patrons.

A Justice Department suit filed on June 29, 1973, charged the defendants with refusing to serve black persons in their establishment and maintaining a service area in the rear for blacks.

The consent decree enjoins the defendants from engaging in any racially discriminatory conduct and requires them to close the rear service area in 10 days and to serve all patrons from the front service area.

There was a time when black Americans looked on the Justice Department as an advocate and a protecting friend. We could count on Ramsey Clark, or Robert Kennedy, or John Doar to see the law for what it is and to really enforce the law.

Perhaps that same kind of trust can never come about again, but the actions taken by the U.S. Department of Justice on Feb. 14 and Feb. 15 suggest, at least, that we should not abandon hope.

80 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)

A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SPEAKS

If I Had My Way Each Teacher Would Be A Reading Specialist

By T. J. Sellers

(Mr. Sellers is a special assistant to a community superintendent of New York City Public Schools. The following is condensed from the December, 1973 issue of Education Digest).

If I had my way, teachers being trained for service in inner-city schools would be encouraged to forget all that they had learned about "the disadvantaged child," "the culturally deprived," "the economically impoverished" and "white middle-class values."

Most of the rhetoric spelled out in the body of professional literature which utilizes these terms presupposes a wide cultural gap that separates the "Middle-class teacher" from the ghetto pupil.

We just don't find this sort of nonsense stressed in any other profession but classroom teaching.

No one assumes that the medical doctor cannot successfully cope with illness in the inner-city because he was not actually born there, and the record is filled with stories of successful clergymen of all faiths and social workers who made impressive contributions in depressed areas despite original roots in more favorable surroundings.

The "cultural gap" theory becomes even more ludicrous when it is realized that a large number of urban school teachers are products of the big city slums themselves.

Instead of the "see how different we are" approach, young men and women entering teaching would be taught that nobody can hope to succeed in it who does not throw his whole heart into it.

Teaching in the ghetto requires freshness and vigor of mind. It is not an easy thing and it requires a special personality trait.

The job implies the ability to draw out the intelligence and fashion the character of young human beings in the process of development.

Would be teachers in inner-city schools would be urged to understand that nothing can influence the character of a young person like character.

Somewhere along the way seminars would be held that would stress the importance of patience, forbearance and the conviction that every child who comes to school has the right to be taught by a sincere and capable teacher who really believes that all children can learns.

Teachers getting ready to work in the inner-city schools would have ample knowledge of teaching machines, educational television and laboratories for foreign language teaching, and they would be familiar with the underlying concepts of team teaching, the open classroom and nongraded programs, but their prime concern, their constant objective, would be to make certain that all of the pupils in their classes could read, write and speak the English language with some fluency.

They would also accept it as a professional responsibility to see that physically and mentally handicapped youngsters are referred to appropriate supportive services for the extra assistance that might be required.

If I had my way, each teacher would be her own reading specialist because she would have been taught how to use the basic reading skills, and she would have been taught to know that there is no great mystery involved in teaching those skills.

She would have been taught that phonics is certainly not the only successful method that can be used in teaching reading, but she also would realize that the skillful utilization of phonetic analysis, structural analysis and comparative analysis tend to make word recognition easier for most youngsters.

There would be no more special corrective reading sessions on every Wednesday morning when the "dumb-dumbs" would be required to leave the class for the purpose of joining the slow readers group in the library.

Every hour in every day would be devoted to corrective reading regardless of the subject area being considered by the class.

Reading is the basic function of the school program and the teaching of effective reading skills is the one most important contribution that any teacher can make to an inner-city school at this time in our history.

Teachers about to start work in inner-city schools would most definitely be helped to understand that mini-courses or demonstrations in black English, jive talk, street dialect, and even Swahili, are not acceptable substitutes for competent performance in oral and written English.

The acquisition of skills in intricate ancient tribal dances and mastery of drum, cymbals, wood blocks and tambourines, are leegitimate uses of leisure time, but these activites should never take precedence over the fundamental skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

If I had my way, young prospective teachers anticipating careers in the inner-city schools would be given numerous opportunities to meet and know the mothers, fathers, aunts and grandparents of the kind of children they will be expected to teach.

This would give them a chance to know the aspirations and the dreams of those adults at first hand.

They would come to realize that most poor parents want the best for their children.

They want them to become educated, they want them to make the advances that were denied to them. In brief, they want "progress" and "upward mobility" for their offspring.

This kind of orientation would be a great help to young teachers who often come to the schools in the slums actually believing that all of the good things associated with life in America are distant white, middle-class values that the poor, ignorant, nonwhite parents simply will never understand or appreciate.

This opportunity for prior contact with parents and grandparents might also help the young teacher unlearn some of the cliches she has read or heard about the poor self-image of inner-city school pupils.

Many honest and experienced observers who are not engaged in "research" that must be published are ready to concede that much of the hogwash on "poor self-image" could stand another look.

All too often, as a casual review of the pertinent literature will indicate, the poor self-image is actually the author's faulty assessment of the situation.

The case of a serious young researcher comes to mind. The gifted doctoral candidate visited an inner-city school and interviewed a small group of black boys during recess.

After he had "established a working rapport with his subjects," he produced a small, compact mirror and asked each youngster to look at the mirror and tell him what he saw.

One boy said: "A monkey." Another: "An ape." A third puckered his lips to the interviewer and answered: "I sees King Kong."

On the basis of this "scientific" feedback, the doctoral candidate went back to his office and wrote on "The Poor Self-Image of Young Black Boys in a Harlem School." He simply had no way of knowing that these boys were playing a game with the mirror that black boys have played with mirrors since the reconstruction period!

Several "findings" in published studies have been based on field evidence as ridiculous as that in this incident.

If I had my way, new methods would be devised to determine the fitness of candidates for the teaching profession because it is a waste of time to have people in such sensitive and essential positions who cannot carry out the requirements of the job.

Whenever I hear a teacher say, "I don't know how to teach them, because I was never taught how," or "The things that have always worked in my classroom for me just don't work now, so it can't be my fault," I know I am listening to a well-meaning person of possible goodwill and integrity, but I also know that the person has missed his calling.

Education is not a fixed, but a changing thing.

Educators who deserve the title must always keep the action moving forward to meet the challenges of the times.

If I had my way, all of the teachers assigned to the inner-city schools would be dynamic, transforming agents of change, sensitive to the problems of the here and now and determined to help find some of the answers.

NOW and THEN

Using Strike To Split Black Community

By G. James Fleming

It is good and laudatory that Senator Clarence Blount has made it clear that he will not be "used" by anyone in guerrilla warfare against the incumbent superintendent of Baltimore's public schools, Dr. Roland N. Patterson.

Senator Blount has declared that he will not be a "disunifying" instrument in the black community, supporting blacks against blacks in a self-interest struggle.

In a sentence, Mr. Blount has said that he is not a candidate to replace Dr. Patterson and that he will not accept an invitation to do so.

This is the high ground that so many public school teachers have not taken. They have converted a struggle for higher salary into a campaign against their superintendent and this has been marked by blacks turning against a fellow-black — and unfairly so, we believe.

One might ask "Who is trying to disunite the black community? What is their real purpose?"

Dr. Patterson does not carry millions of dollars around in his pockets, free to use as he pleases. Money for teachers' raises must come from the city and/or the state.

The city (Mayor William Donald Schaefer) has declared its inability to meet the demands of the teachers: 3 or 5 per cent increase this fiscal year and 11 per cent the following year. It, therefore, seems up to the state to bail the city out.

It is more than "bailing," however. First of all, we must all recognize that Baltimore City's teachers are underpaid, compared to the teachers of the nearby suburban counties.

Secondly, city teachers must meet higher prices and expenses for housing, mortgages and many other goods and services. Most onerous of all, the real estate tax of the city is higher than that of any of the nearby counties.

Let us repeat: Baltimore City's teachers deserve the equalization of their salaries with those of their county neighbors.

This fight for higher pay, it appears to this column, has nothing to do with the program of Dr. Patterson or the superintendent's effectiveness as an educator or an administrator.

He has been made the scapegoat by disgruntled teachers and ex-teachers, by two competing unions, and by those who resent his own annual salary of $50,000, as this column has stated before.

In a real sense it may be said that the teachers' strike might have been resolved sooner, if the Public School Teachers Association (PSTA) and the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU) were not using the walkout as a battlefront for union advantage: the PSTA wants to continue as the bargaining agent for the teachers, down the years, and the recently deposed BTU wants to recoup its place and fortunes as the official spokesman for the teachers.

Individual teachers are caught between the claws of the two union giants.

Teachers must eat; teachers must save for junior's college education; teachers must meet necessary financial obligations of several kinds.

But, somehow, in our most sober moments, we like to think of teachers as among the world's noble people, with a special mission, sharers in creation as they help to mold young minds. How teachers do what they do is, therefore, very important.

But, politicians must also recognize the special role of teachers and reward them with more than words. "Dedication" will not pay bills. Teaching the large classes of Baltimore city and the special problems of any big city deserve as high priority as teaching in the suburbs.

A VISION OF AMERICA

Toward A View Of Social Justice

(Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from the speech the Morgan State College president gave Sunday at the annual awards dinner of Iota Chapter, Chi Delta Mu Fraternity).

Profound speech by educator charts new course for Seventies .... calls for end to sexism ..., urges prison reform and reaffirmation of respect for all human beings ....

By King V. Cheek

In a few short years, America will commemorate its two hundredth birthday. Voices will be raised in song and verse echoing the spirit of liberty which this country so proudly proclaims.

Unless the cancer of social injustice is removed from the flesh of our nation, we will bear witness on July 4, 1976, to our most hypocritical, rather than to our finest hour.

We have seen the steady and determined quest of black Americans and other minorities to equalize opportunities, benefits and records within the American system.

We could describe our protests in the past in terms of a struggle for civil rights — to have our fundamental rights as citizens enshrined into law.

Now, however, in 1974, we face a sterner and more difficult task. The issue we now confront is largely the issue of social justice.

SUBTLE, ELUSIVE

The forces of injustice we now face are not so visible, but more subtle and elusive. They are in a real sense deeply embedded in our culture, our socialization and attitude structure.

Though we have opened public facilities to all our citizens, we have not guaranteed the economic security which enables them to enjoy this freedom.

We have forced open the doors to greater employment opportunity. But, we have yet to cure the problem of educational disadvantage to enable our citizens to enter these portals.

Even where the problem of access to the corporate world has been solved, the opportunity for upward mobility is shrewdly denied.

We have secured the right to the ballot, only to discover that the forces in control of government retain the power to manipulate and pervert the democratic process.

The conscience of our nation has responded to the cry for justice in the courts only to continue ignoring the injustices behind the prison walls — unexposed to public view.

In our zeal to guarantee the rights of citizenship, we failed to openly expose and attack the socially engrained attitudes which oppress our women and rob them of their right to personhood.

Yes, the battle is not yet over. It can not be won in the streets or even in the courts. It will require a candid critique of our society's priorities — its attitudes and vested interests.

As the struggle for civil rights grew out of consciousness of being Americans, our struggle for social justice grows out of our consciousness of being human.

We no longer confront the question of the rights of citizenship but rather the question of the privilege of humanity.

REQUIREMENTS

Justice requires us to give to all men and women the opportunity to make or break their futures on the basis of their own individual abilities without the un-American handicaps of race, sex, social or economic standing.

It requires us to respect one's dignity as a human being whose rights derive, not from the benevolence of his government, but rather from the benediction of God.

— The right as a human being not to go hungry and naked in a land of plenty and abundance;

— The right as a human being not to go unemployed when he is willing and able to work;

— The right as a human being not to remain ignorant in a society where knowledge is power;

— The right of a human being to develop his talents to their fullest capacity and to use them for the benefit of himself and society;

— The right to receive fair and equitable economic rewards for the use of his labor;

— The right to participate freely and without manipulation in the decision making process of the government which fashions his destiny;

— The right, if convicted of crime, to serve his penalty and retain his dignity as a human being;

— The right of a woman, as a human being, to honor her sex and to enjoy on an equal basis with men, the benefits and rewards to which she is entitled;

— The right of all people to have adequate health care — regardless of their economic circumstance.

WHAT TO DO

These, the ingredients of social justice create the crisis which we shall face in the seventies as we approach the celebration of our bi-centennial.

The question we must ask is not which laws are necessary, but which priorities and attitudes we must establish to attack the less visible and more subtle and more elusive problems which make social injustices a current way of life — poverty, educational disadvantage, prison dehumanization, racism, sexism, inadequate health care.

Simply stated, these are the evils, which must command our attention in the days, months and years ahead.

We face the challenge of redefining freedom beyond the obvious constitutional guarantees to include the rights of a person to live a full and meaningful life and to realize one's true potential.

Many of us who are economically secure, well educated, well clothed, and well fed, are often oblivious to the impact of these social evils. But, as long as these injustices weigh more heavily upon blacks and other oppressed minorities — so long as any of our human kind are in economic and social bondage — likewise the rest of us are dehumanized by the conditions which permit their enslavement.

DO NOT CARE

If freedom is to be real, economic security must also be guaranteed. Freedom has a hollow ring, unless it offers hope for a hungry child and employment for his father.

No man will ever understand or worship a freedom he can not enjoy. It means little to him to have the freedom to eat in a restaurant if he can not pay the bill.

If we have the genius in this country to create test tube babies, to send spaceships to go to moon, to spend billions of dollars on wars to secure freedom for others, surely we have the capacity to relieve poverty and to secure freedom at home.

But, we know it is not our capacity. We frankly do not care enough.

Do you know that in the area of public welfare expenditures as a per cent of national income, the United States ranks lower than sixteen Western and European countries, and lower than Canada, Chile, Australia, New Zealand and Israel?

With only six per cent of the world's population, we account for over thirty per cent of the world's income. Yes, we do have the capacity.

But, many people who have serious hang-ups about welfare fail to see that many of this nation's wealthier citizens are on welfare when they receive massive federal farm subsidies, oil depletion allowances and other forms of tax relief.

When our nation's leader can become a millionaire by manipulating the tax laws and other benefits of office, I frankly can not hear the outcry against public support for the poor and the forgotten.

EDUCATION

If freedom is to be a reality, educational opportunity must be available to all our citizens.

In much of our planning, we have missed the critical issues. We have doomed many people to a life of ignorance, illiteracy and personal failure, by ignoring the power and importance of early childhood and pre-college education.

We have assumed without challenge that higher education for all is the key to social justice.

This view is incorrect if we ignore or neglect that young mind at the earlier stages of its development. If choices are made in the use of resources, I prefer greater consideration for that level far below college.

We can not be serious citizens concerned about our children, their future, and their quality of life, unless we also show more support for the current demand to enhance the quality of their education.

This includes raising the level of teachers from the status of second class citizens, and giving them the recognition they deserve for their labors.

If this republic is to survive and its people to be free, education from the cradle to the grave must be of burning concern.

FOR WOMEN

Freedom and social justice also demand that we view seriously the quest for equity for women in our society.

The hand that rocked the cradle is now rocking the boat, and in some instances is even becoming a fist.

We must honestly confront the injustice deeply engrained in our psychology and culture — injustices — which often in an unnoticed way — have oppressed those who truly carry the burden of our immortality.

More than half of the population of the United States is female. Although 30 million women over 16 years of age are in the labor force, most of them work at menial, poorly paid, dead-end jobs.

There are few women in the professions — 9 per cent are professors, 7 per cent of doctors, 3 per cent of lawyers, 1 per cent of engineers and fewer in positions of authority in industry — 2 per cent of managerial positions.

Women are concentrated in the lowest levels in civil service jobs, and almost no women are found in decision-making levels of government — no cabinet officers, two ambassadors, 11 in Congress.

One-third of the women who work are in clerical jobs. Women earn half as much as men for similar jobs, are denied advancement opportunities — yet no women sit on the AFL-CIO council.

The image of justice is always female. Yet, there is no woman on the Supreme Court.

Only one-tenth of one per cent of women make it into the upper brackets, earning more than $10,000 a year.

These facts are startling and shocking. They clearly reflect that women live as a devalued sub group.

HELP FOR MEN

We must consider that the liberation of women may lead to the emancipation of men.

As a result of the roles we have carved out for women, we men have restricted our own choices.

The emotional outlets available to us are limited. We must not fight.

We may not cry, tremble, scream, show weakness or uncertainty. We are encouraged to be aggressive, competitive and independent, whereas women are rewarded for being dependent and passive, and of course, can cry.

They have the outlet to show human emotion — an outlet we men deny ourselves.

I am not a medical expert — but I wonder if this is why men suffer from more disease due to stress, heart attacks, ulcers, a high suicide rate, greater difficulty living alone, less adaptability to change, and in general, a shorter life span than women.

Our male physical problems may not be work itself, but our inability to choose which work. If women change their roles and we eliminate masculine jobs, we might be freer and last longer. At least, it would be worth the experiment.

The quest for humanity and social justice must, therefore, include a frontal attack upon the forces of sexism.

PRISONS

There is a final and often forgotten crusade which we must wage if social justice is to be a reality. I speak now of the lost humanity in our prison systems.

I took a day to visit our maximum security prison. I was struck by the inescapable horror of an environment which must dehumanize all who are a part of it. I say human misery and wasted human resources.

I wonder if our real problem in this area is that no one really cares. We have had the uprisings in Attica and even here in our own state of Maryland. The immediate issue is resolved, peace is restored, and the larger problem is soon forgotten.

Do we really believe that our prisons in their present form can be places of rehabilitation? They are better described as warehouses for defeated humanity where many persons train for a future life of crime.

I do not share the belief that prisoners must be stripped of constitutional rights or their human right to self-development and self-realization.

Many of our prisoners are released with broken feelings, loss of dignity, and it is no small wonder that some of them inflict a harsh revenge upon a society which has practiced upon them our sense of retribution.

A RIP-OFF

Why is it that we have not made available to all inmates who choose and can benefit, the opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate college degree? Oh yes, we provide training.

But, we know this is a great rip-off when we are in training for non-existing jobs. Our vocational training programs are usually for the money making convenences of the state or consist of work or the machinery or in jobs for which there are no counterparts on the outside.

I would suggest that we discover alternatives to incarceration for the less socially dangerous — that we promote wider use of educational parole, public financial support of tuition for ex-offenders released to attend college.

We should even consider the deliverance of educational services to the prison system itself — services which will lead to a degree which is meaningful and useful.

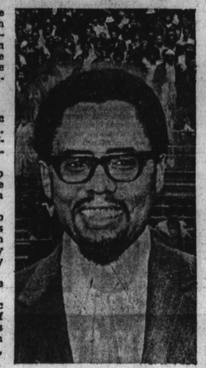
All this and much more will be needed to counter the tendency for us to release people from prison as damaged human beings.

A NEW ERA

If the battle for injustice is to be won, all of us must play our roles. We can ill afford a luxury of isolation and self imposed exclusion.

We have entered a new era of man's search for his lost humanity. Filled with promise and hope, the future stands before us as another chance; another chance to balance the scales of justice and make them equal; another chance to confront the doors of opportunity and make them open; another chance to seize the chains of bondage and break them free.

We have the opportunity to help our country realize its dream and fulfill its promises.


Dr. King V. Cheek

YOU Can Register To Vote NOW

Do so 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 LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post card 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.

HOW IT TURNED OUT! — Last week in this space we ran a photo of a handsome young man holding a ball. The reader who wrote AFRO Line, explained that he had found some very nice family photos, including the one that was published in this space. We asked if AFRO readers could identify the picture.

This week AFRO Line was notified that the photos belonged to a Dolfield Ave. nurse, Mrs. Isabelle Hayes, the youngster's grandmother, who reported:

"I was on my way to a restaurant on a very rainy night, when my umbrella suddenly folded in over my head. While I was attempting to open it again, a young man just that quickly, opened my purse and removed the contents and ran. I have been wishing, hoping and praying that my photos would be returned. Thank God for AFRO Line and for the AFRO. I can't tell you thanks enough."

The youngster, by the way, answers to the name of Marvin. He is the 14-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hayes (Sharon). Mother is a file clerk for a local law firm and dad is an architectural drafter.

Question:—I am confined at the Clifton Perkins State Hospital. I have been here since last. June and I have not received any treatment at all.

I asked the doctor for his help but I have been refined so I don't know what to do about what is going on in this hospital.

I do know that I am not being treated fair because on Tuesday the 5th I was beaten and choked in the bathroom and the patients who did this to me were not punished. So you see how I must feel about a serious matter like this.

I have explained my problem to the doctor in the very best way I possibly can but it seems that I can't make my grievances clear to anyone in this hospital. I get medication two times a day which I am forced to take.

On the 9th of February, I refused to take my medication and the doctor gives me a needle and I didn't get any breakfast. The medication I am taking is poison so now my system is poisoned and I feel bad all of the time.

I don't have the money to get myself a lawyer because I do feel that my life is in a great deal of danger and I also feel if I let this matter go there won't be anything done about this situation.

I need your help and I would be glad if you will consider my request since I do feel I am being mistreated.

W. A. B.

Answer:—Dr. Robert Sauer, superintendent, Clifton T. Perkins told the AFRO Mr. Barksdale's family has agreed he should remain there until his sentence of five years is up Aug. 1, 1974. He states the inmate will then either go home or to a regional hospital, whatever is decided at that point.

Dr. Sauer states he feels Barksdale fears he will be kept at Perkins longer than Aug. 1 but the Perkins has no such intention.

The superintendent admits Barksdale has been assaulted but notes that despite precautions, such incidents do happen to inmates.

He said, "There is some basis for Barksdale's fear that his life is in danger. This is a dangerous place, a tough place, a place for dangerous people. Persons placed here come as a result of pleading murder by reason of insanity and for other serious crimes. Some are here for evaluation at court order. It is a maximum security place."

"We try to keep them apart. We keep them busy, give occupational and other therapy and we have an active treatment program.

"Barksdale's delusion that the medicine is poison, is part of his illness. We are not giving out poison medicine. We try to do the best we can. He is getting proper medication. This is his third admission here."

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 P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Brothers, Unite

Dear AFRO:

Congratulations on becoming one of the greatest crusaders for our oppressed black brothers and sisters I have known.

You have been showing us (black people) that with higher education and a little money that we save, we can become part of that privileged group called the black elite of black society, that is, IF we can find a higher paying job along with the higher education.

This privileged group of which I am speaking is the same one that has its picture in the papers smiling with the Mayor, or giving gala balls.

Well, I believe in living and let live, but, you know and I know that our great black society is nothing but a cloud that can lose its silver lining as soon as the white man says so, and THIS is what poor black people are suppose to be trying to achieve: A foundation built on quicksand? A ladder of success that we can climb? A ladder from which the establishment can remove the next three rungs anytime it feels like it, well, I can understand the people who feel the necessity of great financial security.

I know the depression that comes from being poor and not having the so-called luxuries of life, but let these people (black society) build their security around the own people.

Let these people be the foundation which their black brothers and sisters can build the future for other generations of black brothers and sisters.

Look at the thousands of poor blacks who have committed crimes out of the necessity of feeding their families, people who have paid their debt to society, have gone back to school to get a diploma so they can prove to themselves and others that they can be worthwhile citizens. Take these and other blacks who want to help.

Let those who have influence and resources use them, combine strength and together we will be able to help ourselves overcome the depravity of being poor. UNITE! Think about it!

JOHNNY COOPER

No Sports Complex

Dear AFRO:

In regards to the proposed Sports Complex it is time for us all to be our own heroes and enjoy our own recreational interests and not make the rich man richer.

If the people who propose this structure really want to help the city, let them give their money to the schools and parks and transportation. Let us all work for the bright tomorrow.

KEVIN RESCOTT

Thumbs Down On Quello

Lest doubts arise in anyone's mind, let us say from the onset, that the present argument over the case on the Federal Communications Commission is of strategic importance.

So serious is the matter, in fact, that while we could devote editorial space to the need for the President's resignation or the continuing oil crisis, as example, we instead call this FCC issue to attention.

Not only is this matter of equally state concern, but hopefully, comment at this point may have better results.

We urge that the nomination of James H. Quello to the commission be disapproved, and that the vacant seat of Nicholas Johnson be filled, instead, by a black person, or someone with a commitment to minorities.

Our stance on this regard is taken with no little consideration. And we are not alone.

Several black media groups, together with Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., have also urged that Quello be turned down.

The reasons are not hard to come by. An insidious, programmed effort to control the thought patterns and processes of America's majority — and minority — has been coming to light in recent days with pronounced regularity.

There is a battle for the minds now taking place in this country; and the battle is centered on the various media, as well as on other fronts.

The rights of journalists have been threatened. And God only knows how many "bugs" and "plumbers" are even now at work.

Whoever controls the airwaves and presses will control our people's minds. And it is almost trite, but nevertheless true, that whoever controls our minds, controls our destinies.

The Federal Communications Commission, in this light has never had the reputation of being a friend to black people.

It has through the years consistently approved licenses for stations which brandish half-truths and outright lies to our detriment. In addition, It has made difficult the road for right-of-way to black stations and causes.

The sole black member on the FCC Benjamin Hooks, a man who has done sincere job to make the commission more responsive or at least aware of black rights.

Yet the way, even for him, has been beset by various obstacles because of the backward and prejudicial mental-set of some other FCC members.

At this particular point in communications history, it is vital that another voice supportive of human rights and decency and fair chance for minorities, be placed on this commission.

The record of Quello does not place him in a position to qualify in these areas.

As Conyers says, Quello's record does not indicate "that he is committed to a philosophy of equal rights for all the nation's citizens."

On the contrary, others described his past record with the Detroit Housing Commission and with broadcasting, as "reactionary."

We, therefore, urge that his nomination be rejected, and that the seat be given instead to one whose sense of justice equals that of Johnson and Hooks.

The column, "A Little About A Lot," by Madeline W. Murphy, will resume next week.

Railroads

Dear AFRO:

I am elated to see the railroads revive their passenger service. Most railroads have had a "public be damned" attitude toward the passenger service.

Over the past several years, they have done very little to encourage passenger travel.

The railroads have discontinued over nine-hundred inter-city passenger trains since 1958. This resulted in thousands of railroad workers losing their jobs.

TROY BRAILEY

Dennis Mello

Dear AFRO:

This is dedicated to former police captain, Dennis Mello who has been so much help especially to the residents of east Baltimore. He was and is now a wonderful, sympathetic person:—

Look up and love . . . still love,

Because the East Baltimore Community remembers your help and loves you.

You were, are, and always will be great In the eyes of those kids like me who are now men and women and who love you and the lift you gave them.

So . . . look up and love . . . still love . . . because we still love you.

GLORIA E. PLEASANT

Del. Conaway

Dear AFRO:

It has been brought to our attention that Delegate Frank Conaway was absent on Wednesday, Feb. 6, when the House of Delegates voted on the bill to expunge criminal records.

Delegate Conaway was addressing a group of 225 persons at the First Legislative Information Conference convened by the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women in Annapolis.

He had been invited to explain the bills he introduced relating to marriage, family and divorce.

The panel on which he appeared was scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. that day. When notified that he was needed, he left immediately.

ELAINE L. NEWMAN
Executive Director, Md. Commission On The Status of Women

Statistics

Dear AFRO:

The word only has got to be the dirtiest four-letter word!

There were only 280 homicides in Baltimore in 1973.

There were only 6,000,000 Jews killed in Germany's holocaust.

There were only 15,000,000 cats and dogs destroyed last year.

There are only 25,000,000 poor people in our rich country of 220,000,000.

We average only 50,000 auto fatalities a year.

We are only sick! — we are not yet dead — we only look like it.

B. J. SMALL

Mr. Nixon

Dear AFRO:

Richard M. Nixon was elected in 1968