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)

A-4 JULY 13, 1974

'Poor Housekeeping'

The city stinks

Young and adult workers in the AFRO annual Clean Block Drive can sympathize with their neighbors who have not labored along with them for the past 40 years.

They are getting a taste of what the AFRO's Clean Block is all about and what they have been trying to achieve not only in their own block but in other sections of the city.

Today, because of the disagreement between sanitation employees and Mayor Schaefer and his administration, the whole city stinks.

Uncollected trash, garbage and other litter have accumulated on street, in back alleys and in public areas wherever one goes, something AFRO Clean Blockers have been fighting for four decades.

The strike by trash and garbage collectors, members of Local 44, now in its twelfth day, has gained the support of other city employees who seek increased wages and better working conditions.

Union spokesmen assert that in addition to a 50 cent wage package they want to abolish the point system.

Sanitation workers and others who work in the Department of Public Works, they say, are the only city employees penalized by point — 8 absences or 8 points lead to immediate dismissal.

Union spokesmen contend the city can find money to pay them instead of beautifying parks, enlarging roads and erecting signs.

Mayor Schaefer, on the other hand, is adamant — the city is broke — there are no funds available for increased wages and the 6 per cent increase is all the city can afford, and even if it had money it could not favor garbage collectors over other municipal workers.

As head of our city government, Mayor Schaefer is very much like any other businessman. He can't spend more money than he takes in or has.

At the same time it seems there ought to be a pleasant way to counsel in an unoffensive manner explaining to workers what in particular the city can and can not do before giving a blanket — no money — if you don't go to work — will replace you order.

All the present City Hall standoff position does is encourage the kind of sympathy action by police, jail guards, hospital workers and others in support of trash workers.

Mr. Schaefer defends his angry reactions by saying he wants to see the city move ahead and indicates that he, and he alone is responsible for the city.

In answer to an AFRO reporter's query as to when the walkout would be considered leading the city to a paralysis, the mayor highhandedly answered at a press conference with a quip, "When do YOU think?"

We applaud AFRO reporter Bill Rhoden's rejoinder, "I am not the mayor. You are the mayor."

We would wish Mr. Schaefer had not answered, "You are the reporter," but rather addressed himself to a responsible question in a responsible manner.

Actually that is what is causing all the furran in the first place.

There is entirely too much smart alecky dialogue instead of serious discussion with employees at the bargaining table and at City Hall, so that they can understand the city does care and will work with them to let them know what steps can be taken to improve their working conditions.

Once all people who live in the city and suffer all the time from the dirt and the grime like AFRO Clean Blockers understand they can get help such as that the mayor's office has provided Clean Blockers through the years, ways may be found to pay sanitation workers.

Counseling in good temper on both sides by responsible representatives ought to keep our city free from dirt, disorder and dismay.

A little about a lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

The Cherry Hill dump and an answer to Sloan on Dr. Patterson

Since the ban on burning trash has been lifted until the strike is over, all black public spirited citizens should refrain from going to the dumps, especially the one in Cherry Hill, and should devise ways of safe, supervised burning of their own trash.

The conditions on Reedbird Ave. in Cherry Hill are deplorable. The stench, rats, roaches and disease are rampant. In addition, spontaneous fires burn day and night accompanied by the steady belching bleeps and screeches of fire engines.

Already, the dumping area has become a mountain. Before the strike, dumping was purportedly used as landfill to prepare for a park in 1984.

At this rate, we'll need hiking boots and alpenstocks to reach the summit by then.

At issue are the point system and the 50 cents pay raise.

While accumulating 12 days sick leave a year, a sanitation worker, using them legitimately, is penalized with points — with eight of them he is automatically fired.

The ridiculously callous extent to which this goes is revealed in the case of a man who was in the hospital for a month and when he returned to work, was fired — so as he accumulated sick leave he gained points — a vicious circle.

Another man interviewed makes $101.00 take home pay a week. With a wife and five children, he has to moonlight to make ends meet.

And his is one of the more favorable of the many heartbreaking cases of men "hustling backward".

We should do everything in our power to pressure the Mayor to accede to the union's demands. (During our incinerator fight in 1966, we used to toy with the idea of dumping rats on the Mayor's desk and garbage in front of City Hall — we never did it, but it was a delicious dream!)

But seriously, why is it that thousands of dollars can be laid out for overruns on projects not even begun, while the most needy of our city workers are treated like slave laborers?

Another case of welfare for the rich and free enterprise for the poor?

David E. Sloan in his Sun column on Sunday, suggested that there is a kind of Black tyranny and conspiracy in the tug-of-war between City Council President Walter Orlinsky, Mayor Schaefer and Comptroller Pressman on the one hand, and the black community with Dr. Roland N. Patterson on the other.

He poses the question, "Are blacks uncritically pronouncing that since the Mayor, Mr. Orlinsky and Mr. Pressman are white and are opposed to Dr. Patterson, black, that Dr. Patterson must be right?" He feels that now we've become more unified, less like crabs in a basket, we've become more myopic — that black is right no matter what.

He's darned right. Surely he can't expect, given past experience, that any critical analysis of Dr. Patterson's abilities, goodness, effectiveness would even amount to a Tinker's Dam with that triumvirate, who already know that for the first time Dr. Patterson is seriously interested in educating black folks.

Furthermore, I would be a waste of time to discuss the philosophical virtues of Dr. Patterson, because they will not separate his color from his abilities.

You might say, his color colors their opinion of his abilities, downward! Not to mention $50,000 a yr.—that smarts!

(The fallacious argument that exceptional ability in a black man will override his race went out in the 60's as the Freedom Marchers strode through Montgomery, Ala., singing "We Shall Overcome"!)

In addition, Sloan's comparing Tom Bradley, black Mayor of Los Angeles and his openhandedness to all his constituents, bears no comparison to Baltimore, since the black population here is 51 per cent to his 15 per cent — our majority and his expediency — consequently it is for the black, many common good in Baltimore to define and isolate racism, calling it where he sees it and mobilizing, teaching blacks that it is in their enlightened self-interest to expose and throw the bums out.

Now I will be the first to admit that Dr. Patterson ain't Jesus. But he's the best thing we've seen in this town since 1954, when public education supposedly became equal rather than separate but equal.

It is precisely because he is black in addition to his "outstanding professional abilities," that he is sensitive to and a stern taskmaster with the black majority pupil and personnel population of Baltimore's schools (and because of this latter quality, that's where most of the criticism comes from); that he can, despite the back-sliders, reform, reorganize and revitalize a so-called lost cause; that he is endowed with the unswerving loyalty — call it blind if you will — of a hardcore of grateful black citizens and leaders, who understand the peculiar problems of being both gifted and black in a powerfully ignorant, racist city.

. . . Funny how the rash of sensitivity about calling whites racist is popping up from black quarters here and there — on whose behest, I wonder?

Sweeping under the rug

Dear AFRO:

One does not have to be an astute observer to realize that every effort is being made by Congress and a small minority of middle-class white America, to "sweep under the rug" all of the corruption, violation of public trust, invasion of privacy, and criminal acts of every description by the President and former members of his staff.

These efforts are being made so that the President will not face impeachment in the House and a trial in the Senate.

Members of Congress and a few of the President's loyal supporters are willing to expose and convict a few of the "small fry," send them to a "country club prison" for a year or less, with the hope that the "Big Fish" responsible for this entire mess will go untouched and continue to practice deception upon all Americans.

There are those who would have Mr. Nixon get credit for all of the successes in foreign policy and domestic affairs but not be blamed or held responsible for Watergate and its related crimes. They cannot have it both ways.

Average Americans, both black and white, are watching with jaundice eyes and the events now unfolding in Congress and are not willing to accept "business as usual" where the President is concerned.

The feeling is mounting that justice and obedience to the law in America are only for poor ordinary citizens, while those in high places can commit criminal acts and go free.

Those in power who determine the destiny of all Americans should understand that respect for laws and the courts by the masses will be destroyed if all the facts are not presented.

There must be no doubts in the minds of the American people about the President's innocence or guilt.

Nothing less will regain the faith of the majority in our laws, our government and our institutions.

Democrats and Republicans should give serious thought to this point because this is not the time "to play politics" with the future of our nation.

During these last eighteen months we have seen a sharp division among the American people, a crippled President, a breakdown in our moral fiber by young and old, and an increase in crime by everyday citizens who feel they should not be punished.

Most of these can be traced to the President and a Congress who lacks the courage to do what must be done.

This nation, nor we her people, can reach the two hundredth anniversary with a healthy hope of survival until the cancerous effects of Watergate have been removed.

We should demand that Congress do this now so that there can be a return to those virtues which made this nation great.

We should demand it for ourselves, children and for posterity. —

ISAIAH E. WHITE

(Editor's note: Mr. White is principal of Baltimore City's Gwynns Falls Junior High School.)

New Provident board

Congratulations to George L. Russell Jr., the former city solicitor, who for the past 14 months has served as the receiver for new Provident Hospital.

When he took over management of the 300-bed hospital, the city's pride and joy because the $16 million facility is the only all electric bed hospital of its kind in the East, it was overwhelmed with debt and faced bankruptcy.

Under his direction the hospital is now on sound financial footing and last week saw the creation of a new board composed of 36 persons.

Still to come under the reorganization plan are additional members to represent business, industry and the grass roots community.

The community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Russell for his leadership in this endeavor

We would hope, however, that the Provident reconstruction would not be his last venture in public service, because certainly we need men of his stature in such roles of leadership.

We wish the same kind of success to Kenneth O. Wilson, the new board president, as he works with the new structure.

One of the things which has been a thorn in the side of newspaper people is the fact that Provident in the past had some difficulty with the public image.

For example, this newspaper, which serves basically the same clientele as does the hospital, has had a difficult time getting fair play in the timing of releases from Provident. The hospital seems oblivious to the importance of making releases timed to accommodate the AFRO's twice-weekly deadlines as well as those of dailies. Most on-the-ball organizations even recognize the different deadlines of morning and evening papers.

We have had a difficult time getting this across to the Provident public relations people and would hope that under this new administration, they would be sensitive to the importance of equal sharing of news releases about the hospital.

We hope also that the new Provident Board will take into consideration another important aspect, open the trustee meetings to the public. Many other hospitals have done just that.

Public institutions to insure credibility to the public should open their meetings and give interested persons an opportunity to express their interest or simply to listen and see how their hospital, which their monies helped build, operates.

Now and then — by G. James Fleming

Thoughts after a killing

I was in the Caribbean when Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr. was shot and killed, while playing the organ in what was once the safest of all places — a church. I was in a board meeting, (just 23-or 15 people), when the word was whispered to the chairman.

Everyone was silently shocked for what appeared to be minutes. We could not believe; we could not understand.

"Is this part of a conspiracy?" someone asked, "or is this the work of just one crazy man?"

"Why do these killers pick only on the good people?" a female board member queried half-sighingly. Then she continued: "Lincoln, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King."

When the meeting was over, at day's end, everyone wanted to know "What is the latest?" Outside the meeting, in the city, everyone else was just as concerned.

For this writer, Mrs. King was more than "the mother of Martin Luther King." We had been at Hampton Institute at the same time.

And, those of us who came to know her, knew her as a friendly, warm-hearted person, always ready to give more than she received.

Some of us were talking about Alberta Williams King a little more than a week before she died. One of the group, (a former coed) was planning to visit Atlanta. Alberta had written: "Don't stay in a hotel; stay with us."

We, like so many others, came to honor Mrs. King later as "the mother of Martin Luther King," stalwart and resourceful with a flair for anonymity. She was a kind of Rock of Gibraltar.

Of her it may be said, "She walked quietly in her integrity."

But there is another thought about Mrs. King's slaying, and of the intended killing of her husband. It is this: Those who kill, premediatedly or otherwise, will kill "a brother," blood-kin or ideological, as easily as they kill anyone else.

When they run out of pink men or green men, they will turn on their own kind. That explains why so many white bank of telephones in Dallas, received a pledge that was entirely out of context with the mood of the crass begging.

A caller pledged an eye for a transplant. It was an offer of one little candle for her world of darkness. Miss McCook is blind.

Is it because of drugs alone?

Is it because of the eminence of war during their entire lives which has placed a premium on killing, even awarding medals for the same?

Is it because of our age of permissiveness, where anything and everything goes?

Or, must we settle for the fact that evil is a part of human existence, just as real as good, and that, seemingly, the Devil also reigns?

Lest we sound hypocritical, we are forced to face the fact that killings in greater number than one Mrs. King have been participated in by "the best people" and condoned by them down the years.

Not only have the civilized nations killed in declared wars, but they have murdered neighbors, slaves and oppressed peoples in the name of Christ. Priests, bishops and popes have blessed flags and regiments as they took off to war.

Here in the United States, the buying, selling and brutalization of black human beings were part of the social order — an order of which the Christian church was an important key.

And when human slavery was abolished legally, such abolition did not stop the church from continuing segregation and discrimination before its altar, in Jesus' name.

The blood is on the hands of all of us, individuals and the society, for what happened to Mrs. King, and for all the things we have done to our fellowman which we ought not to have done, and all the things we have not done which we ought to have done.

One kind-of-happy note: The hundreds of people in Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church and those who subdued the killer did not maul him or kill him. There was no lynching. They behaved like Christians!

Speak out!!

This is an open letter to the black community: — Our teachers could eat chalk, our sanitation workers cannot eat garbage. Will our black leaders, elected officials and political hopefuls speak out this time?

BEVERLY BRUCE HAVARD

81 YEARS AGO — "The Interest of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical with 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)

Candle in the dark

Monotony is the root, stem and blossom of boredom.

Too much of anything — Bach, caviar, Puccini, ice cream, dope or hot dogs — wears thin eventually.

So it was recently. That was when Democratic brains conducted the party's fund-raising telethon.

Politicians from every joint of the donkey's anatomy appeared to emphasize just how sick are the people of the country of life under the Republican administration, and how ready all patriotic citizens must be to pledge money to rid themselves of the catastrophe of 1972.

Whether the response turned out to be a source of satisfaction or disappointment is of little consequence. The monotony of solicitation, undoubtedly, leaves many people cold.

But at least one caller was moved beyond the call of political response.

Not by the smile of the politician. Not by the blast of the Establishment musical group. Not by the counterfeit charisma of emcee Jackie Cooper. Not by exasperation over Republican shenanigans in Washington, nor by the plight of the Democrats.

He was moved by compassion for an uncomplaining third party.

Twenty-two-year-old Karen McCook, working at the side of her father at a bank of telephones in Dallas, received a pledge that was entirely out of context with the mood of the crass begging.

A caller pledged an eye for a transplant. It was an offer of one little candle for her world of darkness. Miss McCook is blind.

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).

It's not a man's world — by Bernice S. White

For some time in 1970-71, non-governmental organizations of women in several countries had been suggesting the United Nations should designate a year for women, just as the UN had set aside years for human rights, population, international cooperation, etc.

The formal initiative for International Women's Year was taken at the UN Commission on the Status of Women when it met in Geneva in 1972.

A resolution asking that 1975 be designated by the UN as a year to focus attention throughtut the world on the status of women was approved unanimously.

After approval by the Commission, the resolution had to make its way through the UN system, going first to the Economic and Social Council for approval and finally to the General Assembly which gave its approval in December 1972.

The UN resolution designating 1975 as IWY lists three main objectives:

(1) to promote equality between men and women;

(2) to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of national and international life (the UN calls it "integration in development");

(3) to recognize the contributions of women to the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among nations and to world peace.

At its January 1974 meeting in New York the Commission suggested these objectives might be stated briefly as: equality, development, peace.

On January 30, 1974 President Nixon proclaimed 1975 as IWY for the United States.

The proclamation refers to women's contributions to the national life, progress in removing the inequities which women face, and states: "even when legal equality is achieved, however, traditional discriminatory attitudes, beliefs, and practices may persist, preventing women from enjoying the full and equal rights that they deserve."

Further, the proclamation suggests that a fitting tribute to America's women would be to complete the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution by 1975.

The President calls upon the Congress, interested groups and organizations, officials of the Federal government, and of State and local governments, educational institutions, and all others who can be of help, to begin work now to provide for the observance of IWY with practical and constructive measures for the advancement of women, and also to cooperate with the activities to be arranged by the United States.

As the interest of organizations and groups differ widely, a number of suggestions have been compiled with the thought that each organization or group would work within the area of its special knowledge, and would also cooperate with others in those cases in which interests overlap.

Copies of these program suggestions can be obtained by writing to this column at P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

The 1963 kind of July day it was recalled

500 FREEDOM FIGHTERS were on hand in Baltimore eleven Julys ago. This AFRO file photo shows police arresting residents of both races because they dared protest that left the all-white park reeling.

VETERAN PRELATE — The Rev. H. Octavius Graham, minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in East Baltimore, was among ministers arrested in July 1963 demonstration at Gwynn Oak, as shown in this AFRO file photo. Long identified with civil rights causes and an outspoken advocate of justice, the Rev. Mr. Graham now 74, retired last week after 48 years in the ministry.

AFRO LINE is an effective 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.

QUESTION: In your very fine editorial, "Gwynn Oak Park Quits," (June 29, 1974), you took many of us down memory lane. We need you, AFRO, to continue to remind us what a struggle it has been to get our equal rights and how the fight must still go on.

You would do your younger readers a service if you give them some further idea of the kind of day it was in July 1963, when the 500 Freedom Fighters your editorial referred to came here to Baltimore and joined our ministers and other citizens in non-violent demonstrations demanding the opening of Gwynn Oak Park to all. Let's let the youngsters of today know how it was. — MRS. F. G.

ANSWER: This reader's suggestion prompts our reprinting of this July 1963 Article by then AFRO City Editor George W. Collins entitled, "A Struggle for Human Dignity":

By George W. Collins

While the rest of America toiled bells Thursday, July 4, to "Let Freedom Ring" in observance of 187 years of freedom and independence, 500 Freedom Riders stormed Gwynn Oak Park, the major outpost of segregation remaining in metropolitan Baltimore.

In an effort to make freedom for all a reality for all Americans, Freedom Riders from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York staged a massive call-to-action demonstration that left the all-white park reeling.

During the two-hour assault on the racially segregated amusement center, one mile beyond the city line, 310 persons — including high ranking churchmen and community leaders of both races — were jailed.

Some were charged with trespassing on private property and others were accused of disorderly conduct.

Friday evening, Magistrate C. John Serio, of the Woodlawn Police Court, released 163 demonstrators on their own recognizance and in the custody of their lawyers, Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell and Robert B. Watts.

Spiro Agnew (R.), executive of Baltimore county, had appealed to Judge Serio to release the defendants without imposing bail upon them.

During the courtroom proceedings, the defendants waived preliminary hearing and requested a jury trial in the Baltimore County Circuit Court.

A total of 283 persons had been arrested during the demonstrations, Thursday.

Of that number, 39 persons had been released from custody on $103 bonds. They appeared in court, also for arraignment.

They prayed jury trials and their bonds were continued.

One demonstrator, Dale E. Whitt, 26, of New York City, was held for action of the county's grand jury in $3,000 bond.

Police testified that they found a codeine compound on him.

Another demonstrator is accused of conspiracy.

James E. Dingle, 18, of the 3600 block of Harlem Ave., is accused of conspiracy with Walter Carter, 40, a former chairman of Baltimore CORE, which organized and sponsored the demonstration, to trespass at Gwynn Oak.

Mr. Dingle, who is also charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct, is being held in $409 bail.

Many others were released on $103 bail and others chose to remain in jail including:

The Rev. Marion C. Bascom, pastor, Douglas Memorial Community church and prominent local civil rights leader; the Rev. Frank Williams, pastor of Metropolitan Methodist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance;

The Rev. William T. Mango, Vernon N. Dobson, David Andrews, and Clinton R. Coleman.

Also Edward Chance, chairman, Baltimore Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which sponsored the massive protest with the cooperation of other religious and civil rights organizations.

All of the 44 women jailed are at Middle River. Ninety-two other persons remained in Towson jail, at AFRO presstime.

Despite the massive jailings which marred the nation's independence celebration, there was not a single incident of violence or police brutality, a stark contrast to previous July 4 demonstrations at Gwynn Oak, dating back to 1952.

Responsible for this is Baltimore county's new police chief, Robert Lally, former assistant chief of the Baltimore FBI office.

"We are here to protect the rights of everyone. We will enforce the law as it exists — fairly and impartially," he declared as the last bus load of demonstrators were hauled from the park.

Freedom Riders entered the park, were asked to leave and read the trespassing statute then jailed when they refused to leave.

Those who chose to, walked to waiting patrol wagons and school buses. Others who refused to walk were bodily carried to the shouting, screeching and applauding approval of some white spectators.

Spectators, who deserted all amusement devices and refreshment stands in the sprawling park were also under strict control, on orders from chief Lally. They were forbidden from hurling vile insults and racial epithets.

A few rough necks started a chant of insults and heckling, sprinkled with vulgarity and profanity. Chief Inspector Kerle E. Zinham stopped them cold with this warning.

Using buses, private cars, transit vehicles and walking, the demonstrators launched the massive assault on Gwynn Oak exactly 100 years and a day after the Union army sounded the death knell for the cause of the South and segregation at Gettysburg.

The Civil War fighters, 1963-style, using deployment strategy that would have reflected credit on Union Gen. George G. Meade at the height of the bloodiest battle in the history of the country, refused to be denied entrance to the park.

Few of the caravan buses and autos came near the main entrance of the park.

Instead, they drove directly to predesignated entrances and unloaded its human cargo which quickly vanished into the park only to encounter several of the approximate 100 county police posted throughout the park.

(Mr. Lally declined to release the exact number of officers on duty, but it wasn't possible to walk more than a few yards anywhere in the area without bumping into county policemen.)

To foil detection before they entered, several bus loads of the demonstrators waded across a stream of water three feet deep carrying shoes in their hands. The waders included men, women and children of all ages of both races.

Amusement and recreation activities were paralyzed during the two-hour protest and only moved at snails pace while police, spectators and owners awaited the arrival of demonstrators.

While the park literally buzzed with excitement internally, nearly 100 demonstrators walked the picket line in the center strip which divides the dual-lane Gwynn Oak Ave.

They were banished to the middle of the busy thorough fare when the owners claimed their property rights extended to the middle of the west-bound lane of Gwynn Oak Ave.

The pickets included several Catholic priests, local and out-of-town who carried signs proclaiming us, messages of equality jus nd freedom. Among them were:

"Free State Isn't Free," "Free in '63," "Public Means Negro and White," "All Men Are Created Equal," "With Independence Came Freedom," "Give Me Justice Or Give Me Jail," "Eyes of America Is On Gwynn Oak," "Wake Up White Man," et. cetera, et cetera.

Among early arrivals were some of the top churchmen in the country. They included:

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.;

The Rt. Rev. David Carrigan, National Council of Protestant and Episcopal Churches; Austin Healy, representing the Baltimore Archdiocese.

For the first time in the history of Baltimore demonstrations clergymen from all faiths and denominations took an active role in anti-segregation protest.

Among those jailed and released or remained in prison are some of the most prominent names in the local Catholic, Hebrew and Protestant churches.

Dr. Blake, who is also vice chairman of the National Council of Churches Committee on Religion and Race, gave this reason for heavy outpouring of white clergymen:

"Both the National Council of Churches and the United Presbyterian Churches of the U.S.A want to take action which would identify white religious leaders with colored religious leaders in the struggle for human dignity."

The demonstrators were denied the pleasure of most Americans on this 4th of July — a typical holiday dinner.

As late as 11 p.m. Lt. Eckenrod said they had not been fed. However, he declared that "they are eating like they are crazy."

"They bought it themselves," he laughed.

Long past midnight, police labored under the unwanted burden of booking, releasing or jailing outstanding Americans — both prominent and obscure.

This burden was imposed by a sickness that is eating at the very heart of America — segregation.

This was July 4th, 1963, in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American

A-5. JULY 13, 1974

Readers Rap On Many Issues

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.

AFRO visitors

Dear AFRO:

May I thank you and the other officers of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers for giving us so generously of your time and for meeting with us this morning. (Tuesday.)

The enrollees of the Bryn Mawr Summer Program for Adults found visiting the office of a newspaper and learning about the history of the AFRO family and organization an exciting and interesting experience.

(MRS.) LEAH S. FREEDLANDER
(Guide-Director.)

Reach out and help

Dear AFRO:

I am terribly proud of the many black people, who in spite of a national policy of bias and oppression in our country, sidestepped every obstacle and left behind a trail of glory and achievement.

People like Ethel Waters, Bert Williams, Duke Ellington, Henry Armstrong are a sample of the many names we will remember.

These people couldn't get a hotel room or eat at a Broadway restaurant. Unless they owned their own bus, they were required to ride in the back of the bus. What's done is done. I am not bitter, but I have not forgotten.

I often think of the ethnic groups who escaped to America to freedom and to escape persecution, and I wonder why then am I persecuted by people who fled slavery and starvation and instituted barriers of stigma subjugation and bigotry to the innocent black people.

President Andrew Johnson, who had been a slave himself, turned his back on our new freedom; and all of the following Presidents and Supreme Courts.

We had a hell of an uphill struggle, but slowly we came, slowly the sands of time began to shift in our favor.

Perhaps the most talented of time was Duke Ellington. He had the greatest jazz band, was the greatest jazz arranger, and held copyright to over 4,000 songs and compositions.

Had I been Mr. Ellington I would have constructed the Ellington Building on the campus of some college or major school, to remind all the world that my presence would be forever felt, and that my work would be a perpetual effort to inspire any of those who would come after me.

But it is not just Mr. Ellington. I am addressing myself to all of the super stars who have made millions, and should have reached out and grasped an armful of black brothers and sisters to make their endeavors possible.

We could all use a little encouragement, and we could all enjoy a little success. But if our successful brothers take on an air of indifference or take on the attitude of Andrew Johnson, then how will we be ever able to contribute to the culture or progress of this land of ours? PAUL D. McALLISTER

Crime

Dear AFRO:

A policeman has the authority to maintain order and enforce the law. There are times when he may be in a position to prevent crimes but these must be the exceptions rather than the rule.

In cases of violence out in the open (muggings, holdups, robberies, rapings, killings, etc.) if he happens to be on the spot, he might be able to prevent the crime. But it is unfair, in a general broad way, to expect police to prevent crime.

Those hollering "Where were the police?" must look to eradication of the causes of crime) — that would be crime prevention!

Our crime problem will not be solved by fiddling with the effects and ignoring the causes. Baltimore, like most big cities, will continue to deteriorate because things are out of control, because we're running scared, we're looking for scapegoats, we're obsessed with buildings, but not building the industry, etc. vitally necessary to sustain its people.

Big city crime is spilling over its boundary lines and affecting outlying sections. For the moment it is gratifying to know there's a small city not far from Baltimore which doesn't even have a police department. If a policeman is needed, he comes from a large city about 10 miles away!

P.J. led

Dear AFRO:

The Housing Assistance Council has a deep concern about the housing problems of poor people in rural America. It was with no small interest then that we watched the progress of the Housing and Urban Development bill as it moved through the House to adoption.

While our primary concern is about rural people we are convinced that the rural problem will only be solved in concert with those of our urban brothers.

In every struggle to advance the cause of the poor and downtrodden, people emerge to provide leadership.

The effort to humanize the housing bill was such a struggle and Maryland's Seventh District Rep. Parren J. Mitchell emerged as an eloquent spokesman for the poor of America, both urban and rural.

He provided a conscience for the Congress which is so desperately needed in these times.

As a result of his efforts the House bill is better than when it was brought to the Banking and Currency Committee.

On behalf of those unable to speak for themselves may I extend heartfelt thanks and urge him to continue the struggle.

GORDON CAVANAUGH,
(Executive Director,
Housing Assistance
Council, Inc.
Washington, D.C.)

Jewish mother's views

Dear AFRO:

I was born and raised in this "great" country of America, brought up in the faith of Judaism in a Christian neighborhood. Prejudice was never taught us. I watched my parents work 10-12 hours a day, 6½ days a week.

While my friends' fathers had Saturday and Sunday off and 2 weeks vacation, we got 2 hours on Sunday.

I watched my mother wear the same dress so we could get shoes that wouldn't hurt our feet. The other kids got bikes and dolls while we got jacks and balls. My father had a book with what customers owed us meanwhile we had to pay for the merchandise. Then I'd hear someone yell "Look at the rich Jews who have the store!"

How do you teach people not to be prejudiced?

How do you tell four children whose father has been shot and killed by two black people for no reason not to hate?

How do you tell a boy who has worked since he was nine to save for college that he can't get in because of the so-called non-segregation policy that there must be so many females and non-whites, before a white male can go?

How do you tell a woman who can't have children and adopts them to love and care for only to watch so many unwanted children being born to become 3rd and 4th generation welfare?

I could go on and on.

My children have Jewish, Christian, white, black friends and I hope it's always this way. But, they are bright and they read about the Ku Klux Klan, their friends' fathers being killed by blacks, stores being burned by "bored" people. Idle brains and idle hands cause trouble.

The Jewish people keep their brains educated and their hands busy so they only build and not destroy. For, this, if not for a thousand other reasons, I am proud of my heritage.

I only hope that those around us learn this one lesson "to build America and stop destroying it." Educate your brain and give your hands work.

MRS. G. X. S.

(Editor's note: The writer's name is deleted upon request.)

REGISTER to VOTE

1974 Election Dates to Remember

Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidacy and Party Primary Candidates — 9 p.m., July 26.

Deadline for Verification of Petitions by Boards of Supervisors of Elections — 9 p.m., Aug. 5

LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE PRIMARY ELECTION, AUG. 12

Deadline for Certification of Candidates to Local Boards (Sat.) Aug. 10.

Deadline for Receipt of Absentee Voting Applications for Primary Election, Sept. 3.

Deadline for Pre-Primary Financial Reports by Candidates and Political Committees — not later than noon Sept. 3.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS SEPT. 10

Reportint of Official Primary election Results by Local Boards of Canvassers, Sept. 19.

Registration Books Remain closed 10 days after Primary. Reopen for Registration and other Transactions Sept. 23.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidacy Before General Election. Candidates nominated by Petition or Winners of Party Primary — 9 p.m. Sept. 30.

Deadline for Certification of Nominees to Local Boards (Saturday Oct. 5.

Last Day to Register Before General Election Oct. 7.

WHERE AND HOW TO REGISTER: At the Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Fridays. You may also register by mail Forms are available at all branches of Enoch Pratt Library, all Baltimore City department stores; all secondary public schools and at the office of the League of Women Voters, 2318 N. Charles St. Also at the following 23 Community Action Agency Centers: 1131 Harford Ave.; 1517 N. Gay; 706 N. Gay; 1809 Ashland; 125 Colvin; 1500 E. Baltimore; 211 Broadway; 109 Albermarle; 1411 Gough; 1309 Bunsen Way; 2500 Woodbrook; 1816 W. North; 1125 N. Fulton; 1031 N. Calhoun; 758 Dolphin; 1619 Druid Hill; 310 N. Arlington; 740 W. Saratoga; 1401 Hollins; 2000 Wilkins; 700 Washington Blvd.; 2416 Annor Ct.; 807 Cherry Hill Rd.

SPECIAL NOTE: Register to vote mail envelopes are available at the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw St., in downtown Baltimore, and may be picked up during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Monday-Friday and until noon on Saturdays.

Vet reps on campuses

Dear AFRO:

Recent announcement reveals the Veterans Administration's plan to place a "Vet Rep" on campuses throughout the country. It is evident from materials being dispersed that the job function of the "Vet Rep" would be a duplication of the job that is already being accomplished by the veterans' coordinators.

Most coordinators presently on college campuses across the country, are employed by institutions of higher learning via the Veterans Cost-of Instruction Program.

A need is apparent for a better system for the processing of veterans' forms and payments. But, that need will not be met with a duplication of money, time and effort.

By suggesting that a VA "Vet. Rep," be placed on college campuses to do the job that is being carried out already, is an insult to those who are presently doing the job.

In one short year it has become apparent that problems with VA payments are rarely due to lack of efficiency on the part of institutions of higher learning, but rather due to the inefficiency of the Veterans Administration.

Instead of placing a Vet. Rep. on college campuses, the Veterans Administration should place "Vet. Reps." at the VA. Their function should be to solve problems and to keep an open line of communications going between the VA and educational institutions, veterans, and Federal, State, and local governments.

One of the largest problems faced by coordinators this year was the lack of accurate information. On many occasions, contradictory information was passed by the VA to Coordinators of Veterans Affairs. This in turn led to misinformed veterans, a great deal of delay, and mistrust on the part of the veterans. If the VA is allowed to proceed with the plan to put a man on campuses it will be a great waste of tax dollars.

In an attempt to head off this waste of time, money, and effort the Veterans Administration should meet with veterans coordinators and other officials from institutions of higher learning before plans for "Vet. Rep." are finalized. ROBERT SCHWEICHER,
Arnold, Md.