OPINION

Baltimore Afro American

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

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven. CARL MURPHY (1893-1967.) Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967.)

A-4 DECEMBER 7, 1974

Garbage site

Residents of the Ashburton community in Northwest Baltimore are understandably disturbed about plans to construct a sanitary transfer station at the intersection of Garrison Boulevard and Reisterstown Road.

City Council Bill No. 1599, introduced by Council President Walter Orlinsky, would permit acquisition of land to construct a $1 million facility bordering the heart of a black residential area and across the street from a proposed new school.

Proponents say the garbage dump is badly needed to transport waste to an incinerator at Russell and Bush Streets in southwest Baltimore.

The site would also be a storage place for all sanitation equipment used to clean up that section of the city.

But residents view this with alarm. They claim that this expenditure is not feasible, that it would lower the tax base in the area, that there are no main arteries to the site. They fear that the nearby residential areas will be threatened.

In discussing the matter with an AFRO reporter last week, Director of Finance Charles Benton, coordinator for the project, gave a helpful hint to protesting residents.

He said, "We explored six alternative sites. The one that meets with the least amount of opposition is the one at Garrison Boulevard and Reisterstown Road."

There's no question the Northwest Baltimore area needs to modernize the manner in which it disposes of its trash and garbage, but we hasten to point out, as Mr. Benton did, that it will go where there is "the least amount of opposition."

Ashburton residents who plan to carry their protest to the City Council next week and to other city agencies should remember Mr. Benton's tip.

If they are sincere in wanting to keep what they call a dump out of their neighborhood, it is up to them to convince their councilmen that Mr. Orlinsky's bill should be defeated.

On the other hand if Mr. Orlinsky and city officials, like Director of Consumer Services George Parrish, can prove to residents that such a facility will "benefit the neighborhood," then it is up to them to sit down and prove it to Ashburton residents.

Senate president

Prince George's County Steny H. Hoyer is the new president of the Maryland Senate.

Democrats elected him by a 22-16 vote over James Clark Jr. of Howard County on Wednesday. It is expected he will win easy confirmation when the full Senate meets in January.

Politicians in the know claim the crucial element in Mr. Hoyer's close victory was the support he received from Governor Mandel.

AFRO readers, however, should note that the vote of the five black senators could have swung the election either way.

Four of them, Baltimore City's Clarence Blount, Robert Douglass, Clarence Mitchell, and Prince George's County Tommie Broadwater, supported the Hoyer candidacy. Only Baltimore City's Verda Welcome backed Mr. Clark.

We congratulate Mr. Hoyer and hope he will provide the kind of leadership that was evidenced in the Senate under his predecessor, William L. James, who has retired to run for State treasurer.

Voters in AFRO precincts will be watching with a great deal of interest when the General Assembly opens. They will want to determine whether Mr. Hoyer is the kind of conservative he seemed to be two years ago when he supported anti-busing legislation.

The same Jim Clark whom he defeated for the Senate presidency was he one who has been outspoken in the cause of civil rights.

Supporters note it was Jim Clark who voted to break the anti-busing filibuster, who has spoken out for fair housing and in general, proved to be a friend of the little people.

Since Senate President Hoyer received the vote of three of the four of Baltimore city's black senators, it is presumed they have word he will change his posture on matters of great interest to them and their constituents.

We hope our city senators will have no cause to regret their support of Mr. Hoyer.

Mr. Swisher

Dear Bill!

Fourteen days ago in our editorial column we suggested it was time to forget the recent write-in election staged by State's Attorney Milton Allen and for Mr. Allen and you to get together and have an orderly change of office. You are the state's attorney-elect.

We suggested then and we repeat here, you owe it to the total community to explain your campaign stance, the inferences you made that Baltimore is "a jungle" and that there should be law and order methods employed in our city.

In this space at that time we invited you to use the AFRO columns to tell your plans for the state's attorney's office, and to meet with a group of citizens representing all spectrums of the community.

We said then and we repeat here, AFRO columns are open and so is the publisher's door. The invitation still stands.

Juvenile crime

Somebody says that figures can say anything you want them to say.

The thought comes to mind this week as we review the ongoing hassle over whether there has been an increase in major juvenile crimes in Baltimore this year and if so, who is to blame?

The debate was triggered when Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau claimed that half of the persons arrested for major crimes were juveniles and charged the Department of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Court have failed to deal with the problems.

Unfortunately, we cannot give too much credence to statistics prepared by a Police Department whose own credibility is tarnished because of recent illegal activities by police officers themselves.

But over and above this, the fact is juvenile crime has been with us for years. The law and order guys, and the politicians seeking an ax to grind, are expected to come up with generalities and charges and counter-charges.

As to who is responsible for juvenile criminals, we recommend the answer supplied by our correspondent, George Jude, which appears on this page. We agree, too, with Juvenile Court Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman, who won a place on the AFRO's 1971 Honor Roll for his sensitivity to the problems of young people.

He correctly observes that too little time has been spent on correcting the ills which cause the crimes and not enough on effective prevention.

We would like to see all of the politicians, including City Comptroller Hyman Pressman, who is noted for making rash statements, keep quiet about juvenile crime and let the experts talk about it.

We would suggest that he and they follow the example set by Governor Mandel at his December 3d press conference:

Asked to comment on reports that Police Commissioner Pomerleau feels the juvenile court system is to blame and whether he will support or sponsor a revision of the juvenile court system the Governor succinctly said:

"I am not going to venture an opinion until I get all the facts in hand, but I don't question at all that something has to be done. What that is, I think, is a difficult question."

To that we say, AMEN.

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.

(December 24, 1920)

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

Solution offered those who debate about juvenile crime problem

By George L. Jude

(Mr. Jude, well-known Baltimore City businessman and civic worker, is chairman of the City Planning Commission and represents that body on the Regional Planning Council).

The most unfortunate thing that is happening in regards to the current debate on JUVENILE CRIME is that persons in positions of high authority seem to address themselves, primarily, to punitive measures as the way of coping with this very serious problem.

Most of the answers they are giving to solve problems are: increase incarceration, longer sentences, expand the penal facilities, build detention camps (once known as concentration camps), more police, more helicopters and various other kinds of punitive measures.

There appears to be very little inclination to discuss objectively the basic causes and the conditions that spawn juvenile criminals.

Our serious lack of objectivety regarding this problem is a form of criminal neglect unto itself and as we "duck" and pass the problems on to our children and grandchildren, the situation will continue to grow many times worse.

The unfortunate victims of our neglect, in spite of what some believe, are our young people. Obviously, when the basic institutions of our social order, such as our religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, business and industry, become less responsive to the real needs of our society, the youths of this period will become the primary victims.

This neglect creates a kind of mentality that, when this kind of mind gets to the teenage level, it becomes very difficult to deal with.

The truth of the matter is, we cannot "buy up enough guns," (a million dollars wasted), build enough jails, keep enough helicopters in the air and implement enough other kinds of punitive measures, (curfews), to offset the damaging effects caused by the lack of meaningful "human renewal" programs to reverse the mental decay of large numbers of our young people.

This juvenile crime problem did not "just happen." It was predicted six to eight years ago.

Some of us have been trying to do something about the appalling "idiness" and anti-social activities among our young people, especially in the high density, low-income areas of the city, for several years.

About seven years ago, a group of us formed an organization, later known as Concerned Citizens for Cultural and Educational Development. We made an effort to examine the effectiveness, (or lack of effectiveness), of many of the cultural and recreational youth programs, primarily, those in the economically deprived and disadcantaged urban communities.

Our findings, even with our limited resources, were disheartening but not unexpected.

We proceeded to get an audience with every public and private agency whose responsibility was in the area of educational and cultural development in the city and in state government.

We made presentations to the Board of the Department of Parks and Recreation. We met with the director and the superintendent.

We also met with the City Council Committee on Recreation, the mayor, president of City Council-Board of Estimates, and even had a breakfast meeting with the governor.

In addition, we met with CPHA's Committee on Cultural and Recreational programs and many times with various neighborhood groups.

In essence, the main roadblock was always the same, "MONEY."

The irony is we can find money for physical developments (nothing wrong with that), but we are guilty of "false economy" when we need to find funds for human development.

Our priorities are not programmed to our needs. The problems of human decay should be at a high priority "now."

I would recommend that the most effective response we can make to the present "juvenile crime" problems is to appoint a commission for human (or social) renewal.

Its membership should be the very top people from the basic components of our life support system and organizations, such as religious, education, cultural, recreation, business-industry, housing and community development, municipal government and the communities.

This commission should be charged with the responsibility of developing a two phase, ten-year (five years each) HUMAN RENEWAL PLAN.

This I believe would be a better approach to solving the present problem than the purely punitive response that is being advocated by so many people in some very high places.

> "The most unfortunate thing that is happening in regards to the current debate on juvenile crime is that persons in positions of high authority seem to address themselves, primarily, to punitive measures. . . ."

GEORGE L. JUDE
He has a solution

They say

Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau:

"It is time to lock those up who commit violent crimes and keep them there removed from society. We have had enough."

City Comptroller Hyman Pressman, whose committee recommended detention camps to house young offenders:

"These barracks can be built quickly and inexpensively so as to remove the excuse of some judges that there is no room in existing facilities for detention periods."

Harry D. Kaufman, vice chairman of the Pressman Crime Commission Panel:

"These would not be concentration camps. Concentration camps were used to exterminate people. We offer a plan to rehabilitate them."

Former Police Captain Wade Poole, chairman of the Pressman Committee:

"If Holabird was good enough for Watergate offenders, it is good enough for the city. We should get tough." —

Juvenile Court Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman:

"It is a myth to believe that we know just what to do in each case (juvenile case) and we have much to learn and much to try . . .

"The path to effective treatment is long. It will not be achieved through rhetoric, bombast or dramatic strokes, but only through long range programs and by using the political process wisely."

Best place for garbage dump?

Now and then — by G. James Fleming

Worse before better in Ethiopia

It may very well get worse before it gets better in Ethiopia, but what has happened already is enough to bring tears — even more tears than when Haile Selassie was only deposed as emperor.

As stated here some weeks ago, this writer was brought up on the oration that "Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands unto God . . ."

We shared the nation's sorrows when Mussolini invaded it; we were stirred by the Emperor's historic speech before the United Nations; we contributed to the "Save Ethiopia" appeals. Ethiopia, independent for centuries, represented the dreams of people of African background all over the world.

Now, those who deposed Haile Selassie have turned against themselves, as might have been expected, sooner or later. They have assassinated 60 of the past leaders of Ethiopia.

That might be shocking; but they have also gunned down their own former revolutionary leader, Lt. Gen. Aman Andom, former head of the ruling military council. Haile Selassie himself may be next.

Swooping down on 60 of the best trained and best educated of Ethiopians is a loss the country can scarcely afford. Ethiopia needs its best minds, its best trained people.

If these men were ideologically out of step, they might have been imprisoned, or banished to some island; or left under house arrest. Death by machine guns is too complete, too irreversible.

Besides, violence is too repetitive. Those who gunned down Aman Andom last week may themselves be assassinated in a few weeks or a few months. The pendulum always swings in both directions.

What has happened in Ethiopia is a reminder, also, that power can get out of hand, regardless of whether those who wield power are white, brown or black.

Just as some black Africans sold other black Africans into slavery, so will blacks kill blacks, whether in Africa, in the United States as a nation, or in Baltimore city.

There is no magic in behavior just by a change of the color of the "top-dogs," unless there is an unusual commitment of the power-holders to do better than, and differently from, their predecessors.

In Ethiopia, it is Ethiopians killing other Ethiopians — non-whites killing non-whites, Africans killing Africans.

We weep and grieve for Ethiopia.

SUPPORTING IN-CITY. Now nearer to home. Some of us live in Baltimore city because we love city life. Others are in the city because they cannot leave it, economically.

Whatever the reason, both groups are here; most of us, to stay.

If the city is to be an exciting, self-supporting locality, those of use who live here, must support it, must help to build it, must not hurt it or refuse to do business in it.

We have said all this, because so many Baltimoreans like to boast of "doing all our shopping in the county," of "having all our social affairs in the county."

If we do not support in-city institutions and businesses, they will be compelled to close down in the city or leave downtown and other Baltimore city areas.

The city, thereby, will lose places that employ without racial discrimination ("fair employment practices"), and that pay city taxes.

In-city and downtown have some of the finest outlets in every line of merchandising and other businesses. You name it, they have it — from the most simple to the most exquisite; from the least expensive to the most expensive; from the most humble in quality to the highest quality. Even some Marcus-Neiman items can be found in-city.

In-city businesses include black-owned businesses. These, too, can be found in all the areas of service to the community: Milady's custom-made costumes, household furnishings, autos, gourmet groceries, savings and loans, etc.

There will be little to govern in Baltimore or any other city, if there is left only the shell of a city, while all the economic and business strengths of the city wither away or leave the city proper.

A little about a lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

Fight to retain Gibson and Griffin

If this were another day or another time, this kind of plea wouldn't be necessary.

Just imagine a city where all people would be willing to work together, to not fear change, to experiment, no matter what the color of their skin.

Then it would not be necessary to send telegrams demanding that Mayor Schaefer retain Larry Gibson and James Griffin, two strong community advocates, on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Now, however, it is not the time to daydream or wool-gather, but to be explicit and forceful in our demands. The Mayor is very vulnerable at this time, especially when he has begun running again for his second term. He needs you and me to get him elected. More so, if there are other candidates.

Therefore, all citizens must rally around the experience, the fearlessness, and intelligence of the two black school board members who will help us and Superintendent Roland Patterson over a difficult hurdle, for meaningful change in our system of education.

We must fight to retain Larry Gibson and James Griffin with all the community pressure we can muster.

We have seen that they have been the perfect fulcrum, the support for you and me, when we realize how many now jobs are yet to come to get rid of Dr. Patterson, to replace him with a more pliable black man or woman.

Remember their success in preventing the "Saturday night massacre" before, and they must be there, be vigilant to do it again!

(Any Mayor with a grain of sense, who has the myriad problems of this city to solve, with any foresight, would welcome them, would appreciate them, would use them, looking ahead to '75!)

And it is against this background, that we can no longer bear types like School Commissioner Maree Farring, who would hold us back, would separate us further, would encourage the stereotypes and the prejudice.

And while the Mayor must use a new broom to sweep her out, he must also have the wisdom to replace her not with a mirror image, of backwardness, but with a person of strong convictions for upholding the law, believing it or not, that requires not separate, but equal education for all, no matter in what part of the city.

I am convinced that it is Maree Farring's kind of lawlessness that has caused some of the upsurge in juvenile delinquency. For what examples have she of the Mayor, the Comptroller the Commissioner of Police, or any elected leader given?

Because of their inability or cowardice to face the problems of busing as equal justice under the law; by their reluctance to enforce the law; she at this same time disrespecting the rights of half the population of Baltimore; they are the principal culprits who foster and undergird the criminal elements in this city.

Now, however, the trumpet blasts for concentration camps; for stringent control of the courts; for inflicting a hindsighted punishment upon the products of racial rebellion they have encouraged, based upon half-truths and slanted statistics.

We must be angry enough to place the blame where it should go.

We must refuse to be penalized for conditions running out of control.

We must, most of all, demand that Mayor Schaefer respect our wishes and retain James Griffin and Larry Gibson on the Board of School Commissioners.

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

The Pratt disagrees

Dear AFRO:

Madeline W. Murphy's column of November 16 discusses the College Learners' Advisory Service (CLAS) and the Cherry Hill Library. Some of the statements made about these matters should be clarified.

•First CLAS: — This program, to help adult citizens of Baltimore study independently for their own satisfaction or toward a degree, was planned by a staff group which included members of both races.

The branches selected for an experimental beginning were chosen because of the known presence of sizable adult population likely to include a good many potential CLAS participants. And attention was given both to multi-ethnic participation and location.

The decision on what branches to include was not purely subjective by any means.

While it is true no inner-city libraries were included among the first group, Edmondson Ave. and Northwood branches serve substantial numbers of black citizens. And at Govans branch, black use is increasing.

It should not be overlooked that at all libraries, including those in the inner city, information is available about the CLAS program. Advice on reading for the CLAS program is being given by telephone or mail, and books sent to any city residents through our Books-by-Mail Service.

Assistance will be given in every possible way to encourage participation. And it should be noted that most of the inner-city branches have among their collections materials selected to serve the citizens of the neighborhood both in achieving their educational objectives and in every day living.

At the Pennsylvania Ave. branch, for several years, there has been a program to assist the citizens through special television programs and reading in qualifying for high school equivalency certificates.

As to the Cherry Hill situation, a library center is now under plan in the new multi-purpose center there.

Our intention of building a single major branch for Southwest Baltimore proved impractical as the area has several small clusters of population but no one location convenient to all.

Under these circumstances, library centers, of which Cherry Hill is one, and bookmobiles, provide a solution which brings service close to the greatest number of people.

In the beginning, Enoch Pratt said "My library shall be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color . . ." Since that time the Board of Trustees has been successful, I believe, in providing citywide library service without discrimination.

The readers of the AFRO-AMERICAN will remember that the recently built Broadway and Hollins-Payson branches, and Walbrook opened in 1967, are in neighborhoods which serve a broad cross section of black Baltimoreans.

Earlier branches, among the best and largest built by the library, include Pennsylvania Ave. and Edmondson Ave. And recently completed library centers at Kirk Avenue and Lafayette Square serve a predominantly black clientele.

We have undoubtedly made mistakes, but I don't think it can be fairly said the Pratt Library has deliberately discriminated against any of Baltimore's citizens.

EDWIN CASTAGNA
(Director.)

Mrs. Shirley Hayes

Dear AFRO:

After reading about the different crimes and trouble our teenagers get into, I had to write to you about Ms. Shirley Hayes of Pimlico Road. I don't know the qualifications for mother of the year, but I am sure she has them all.

She has always had an interest in youngsters and their welfare. Because of this unselfish interest, she has counged some of the children in our area to become aware of their own talent and potential.

I, myself, have seen a change in the children she has taken under her wing.

Though there is only a few years difference in our ages, I am one of those people she has helped.

If only we could have more women with the interest and determination to help others as Shirley Hayes does.

I think I speak for all of those who really know her, she is a beautiful and thoughtful person.

IRIS FLOWERS,
(Pimlico Area.)

We need Milton

Dear AFRO:

It made me real mad during the election in November how Milton B. Allen was defeated in that so-called game that should be called POLITRICS instead of POLITICS.

This is especially so with all of the dirt that he had to face, such as the voting machine failures, crooked election officials, ineligible votes and of course, those so-called political bosses that get away with all kinds of dirt during every election year. The State's Attorney's election should be held over again and done fair and square.

And if Milton loses again he shouldn't feel bad at all because with the knowledge of law that he has he could always become a mayor, judge, or lt. governor right here in Maryland.

We need good black leaders like Milton Allen in Maryland, one who has the guts to stand up and fight off those political bosses and machines.

Because Milton Allen is one of Baltimore's greatest, election or not, I support him and his efforts 100 per cent.

KARL S. CROSBY.

Coverage

Dear AFRO:

We, the members of the Rhoadston Family, want to express our thanks for the coverage we received in the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers for the Golden Anniversary of Guidance and Counseling in Baltimore City.

We appreciate the time and space given us for this activity that had great importance to us.

RUPERTA Z. WATERS
(Counselor)

Mr. Bumble's prayer

"O God, grant us the Serenity to accept the things we cannot change, Courage to change the things we can and Wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Submitted by Mrs. Evelyn Gray of Lake Drive, who adds this postscript. —

P.S. I thank you for having printed the prayer from the papers of Dr. Carl Murphy (1889-1967). It will be said by me, along with my many daily prayers as, "keep on believing," and the "Lord is My Shepherd."

Share your favorite prayer with the AFRO's Mr. Bumble.

Beam for many

Dear AFRO:

The enclosed poem is a tribute of my appreciation of the AFRO, publishing my two articles in last week's AFRO, relating to Dr. Fleming's column, and the poem, "Thank God for America."

I was in hopes of getting some response from the public. I notice that my address was omitted.

The AFRO-AMERICAN; A Lighthouse
May It continue to shine.
Its fuel is founded upon Truth
And Truth . . . May it never decline.

You've come a long ways
Others have faltered, aplenty.
But no! the AFRO-AMERICAN,
Is a 'beam' for many.

ALBERT T. VLOR
2910 Reisterstown Rd.

You're welcome

Dear AFRO:

The Consultation and Education Department of the Provident Community Mental Health Center wishes to extend to you, on behalf of the Mental Health Center our gratitude and appreciation for printing the announcement of our Adult Foster Care Seminar in your November 5 edition.

The seminar was well attended and most successful. Thank you.

PATRICIA FIELDS, M.S.W.
Director of Consultation and Education

Good neighbor officer takes new job

MAJ. JAMES H. WATKINS
'New assignment seen as 'challenge'

'Call Major Watkins, he'll take care of the problem . . . let Major Watkins know, his department will help you . . .'

These are familiar words to many AFRO readers who have called this newspaper's city desk seeking help with neighborhood problems involving city services and law enforcement.

For the past three and a half years, Major James Henry Watkins has directed the Baltimore City Police Department's Community Relations Department.

In addition to helping people resolve problems, he has been much in evidence at public functions as advisor, lecturer, friend, and liaison person to handle incidents involving citizens and police officers.

As of this month, Major Watkins moves to a new post — that of Deputy Chief of Area 2 of the city police department. He has under his command three districts — the Northern, Western and Northwestern.

He sees his new assignment as 'a challenge.' In an AFRO interview this week, he said he expects to be able to continue his work as advisor and to encourage goodwill between people and the police.

His successor as community relations chief is Major Clarence E. Roy, who joined the force 24 years ago, along with Major Watkins.

Of him, Major Watkins predicted: "He will be an asset to the department . . . he's well known . . . I'm sure he'll find ways to improve things."

As to his own contributions to the community relations department, Major Watkins points with pride to the creation of what he terms the 'Tension Department.'

He explained: "The grass roots community has been able to get in touch with the hierarchy in the police department on a 24-hour basis. If they had a problem of any kind, Community Relations was dispatched and they usually resolved it."

Baltimore-born and bred, Major Watkins was 49 this past April 26. He stands six-feet tall, weighs 236-pounds and looks impressive in his uniform which he tops with a white cap.

In his new job, he is directly responsible to the city's No. 1 black officer, Major Bishop Robinson, who is chief of patrol, in charge of all of Baltimore city's foot patrolmen.

Cuff note: The area Maj. Watkins supervises covers 22.45 square miles. In that area reside 312,871 persons.

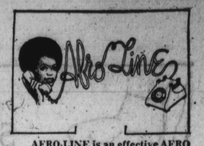
Captain at Northern is Frances Hayes; Western is Walter Jasper; and Northwestern, Harry Allender.

Still associated with Major Watkins in his new assignemtn is Officer William Braxton who was a part of his Community Relations staff.

Both men were among members of the division cited on the AFRO's 1971 Honor Roll for superior public service to the community without thought of personal gain.

In addition to his police duties, Major Watkins has edited a column for the AFRO, providing answers to readers' questions as to how to proceed to process complaints, get police protection and other related matters.

Major Watkins' new phone number is 396-2599. The phone numbers for districts he commands are as follows: Northern, 396-2454; Western, 396-2474; Northwestern, 396-2464. — E. M. MOSS



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, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. in addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections, complain or inquire about AFRO news stories and policies by contacting AFRO-Line by phone or letter.

Weekdays call 728-8200, Extensions 64 or 50, between hours of 9:30 and 4 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service.

Your report will get prompt attention by top management or the AFRO news department.

Or write, AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203 or drop in to see AFRO-Line at 628 N. Eutaw St.

QUESTION: I ordered a cabinet from a large retail chain store in July which I did not receive. However, each month I have received a bill for it, plus the carrying charge. I have spoken to several persons with promises that this will be corrected. But to, this month the charge is still on my statement. Can you help me? — MRS. E. I.

ANSWER: Our AFRO Line reporter spoke to the manager of the store. He explained: "We have the copy where she should have been billed. We know what she ordered. The only thing is we can't see where it wasn't delivered and where it should have been cancelled.

"I can't explain why it's like that I have talked to your reader before.

"I understand that she wants the charge removed from her bill. We don't know what happened to it and we don't know what the problem is.

"I know we can correct it and we will correct it with your reader. We will contact her. We try to satisfy all our customers.

Editor's note: Please let AFRO Line know how this turns out.

QUESTION: During the period before the Nov. 5 General Election, I wrote the Supervisors of Elections and asked for an absentee ballot. I did not get one. I am confined to the Md. Correctional Institution for Women. I understand that I was qualified to vote but I did not get my ballot. I do not get my ballot.—MS. F. G. X.

ANSWER: AFRO Line checked with Supervisors of Elections. Your request for absentee ballot came after the deadline for application. Supervisors of Elections office advises AFRO Line that prison inmates who are not disqualified from voting may vote by absentee ballot if they are registered.

The elections office says a person who is jailed is qualified to vote if the crime does not disqualify him. The fact that one is jailed does not disqualify the voter. The crime is actually what it is.

(Editor's note to writer—books are now open for registration of voters. Next election is Sept. 2, 1975, when the mayor and city council members seek elections).

Note to all voters: Registration books are open now at Supervisors of Election, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. You can register Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

QUESTION: I am writing concerning a chair that was bought for my girlfriend at a downtown furniture store.

My girlfriend called me and told me the chair wasn't new, and I should not pay $130 for a secondhand chair.

I called the store and told them to come and look at the chair. No one came so I went to the store and told them I didn't want the chair they could keep the $14.75 I paid down on it. All I wanted them to do was to pick it up.

That has been seven weeks ago. I would like to know what am I supose to do about it. All they do is send me a bill every two weeks saying I am late with my payments.

I have been buying from these people a long time and didn't think they would do me like this. All of my previous accounts have been paid out.

Please let me hear your advice as soon as possible. My girlfriend needs the space for another chair.—E. O. R.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line spoke to the manager who admits your complaint is a case of sheer neglet due to the manpower shortage.

he asks that you give him a call.

Let AFRO-Line know what happens.

WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP

HOT LINE — 235-5151 for abandoned vehicle; dirty yards; garbage collection; street lights, street repairs.

POLICE — Emergency, 322-3333; community relations, 396-2715.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-1111; bad food, 396-4424; animal removal, 396-0218; fire, 685-1312; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; rats, 396-4418.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5211; transit and traffic, 396-0849; drug abuse counseling, 383-2729; job, 383-5485; legal aid, 539-5349; rumor control, 837-4455; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reform bill, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S STATION — Govans, 396-6884; Greater Homewood, 396-4400; Northwest, 396-0024; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

REGISTER TO VOTE—Now is the time to get on the books so you can vote for the next mayor and city council persons to represent YOU. Register to VOTE now at Supervisors of Election, People's Court Building Fayette and Gay Sts. Office open Mondays through Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Next primary election for mayor and city council is Sept. 2, 1975. Get ready to VOTE now.

If YOU Ask ME — by Bettye Moss

New faces in new jobs: Baltimore Housing Authority has recently appointed new managers.

Mrs. Elaine Howard, formerly at Perkins Homes, assumes her new duties as Housing Manager, II, of the Lexington Terrace-Poe Homes, succeeding Clark Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell moves to Hollander-Ridge, a new development on the Eastern city line.

Mrs. Howard is the first woman housing executive to manage such a large project which encompasses 975 dwelling units and approximately 2,500 inhabitants. This is the largest all-family complex in the inner city.

She was also the first woman manager of Gilmor and Perkins Homes.

CUFF NOTE: Many know Mrs. Howard as the hardworking and dedicated member of St. James Episcopal Church, where she sings on the choir (and does she have a melodious voice!) Plus, she is always volunteering her services. She is an associate vestry member and serves on the board of St. James Terrace, the church's home for the elderly.

Missing out lots: You never really know how beautiful your home town can look until you view it from 23 stories up.

It happened to this writer this past weekend. We were on a much needed vacation last Thanksgiving week and spent the last three days at the downtown Hilton.

From our 22nd floor room in the new tower section, the sight was as breathtaking as the ones we've admired from high atop Chicago's Top of the Rock, the San Francisco Fairmount, and Atlanta's Regency Hyatt et al. The lights intrigue you.

Any number of Baltimoreans were among Hilton guests over the weekend. They included local members of Guardsmen that prestigious men's club with chapters along the Eastern Seaboard, and members from out of town here for the national conclave.

Baltimore German Joel Newton, who just loves to masterminded events of this magnitude, did it again — he was the chief greeter for out of towners. Along with other hosts, he moved with dignity and dispatch to see that things went 'just right' for the visitors.

Friday evening reception saw the conclave honor five charter members of the group from Baltimore, Ed Williams, Robert Diggs, Clift Morley and Richard Cummings, and John Wood.

Other Baltimore members Dr. Raymond Gray, president; William (Box) Harris, vice president; and City Solicitor Ben Brown, Charles E. Brown, Dr. Sidney Burnett, Dr. Guy M. Bragg, Howard G. Collins, Walter Edmonds, Dr. William Garner, Harold J. Jennifer, Judge David T. Mason, Dr. Marcus Moore and his brother, Steve Moore Jr., Charles G. Tildon, George L. Russell, and Warren Weaver.

Most famous guests here for the weekend—Washington, D.C.'s newly elected mayor-Walter Washington and his wife, Burnetta (she was a picture in a black fitted gown with symmetrical designs of gold) at the Saturday evening dinner dance).

We asked friend Bea Wright (who is a designer as well as educator), to look around the room and select the most elegant gowns:

Among those she picked. Mrs. Washington's mentioned above, and Catherine Smith, whose off shoulder aztec gown had unique diagonal inserts of turquoise, orange and bronze, which was striking."

And, Frances Dennis, who selected a sleek V-necked burnt orange with matching floor length cape.

She was, by the way, guest of Baltimore businessman Charles Tighman.

Speaking of new couples, G-Man Warren Weaver escorted Ms. Iris Williams of N.Y., Dr. Tyson Tildon's charmer was Anna Waddell of Scotland; and Judge David Mason, who is national president of Guardsmen, had pretty Merle Hayes of Washington on his arm.

More new couples seen about over the weekend at the Archie Robinsons' 'out-of-sight' Sunday cocktailer, Dr. Bernard Harris and Dr. Greta Henry. Also there, Dr. Oakley Saunders and Barb Taylor.

And, still later are the weekend wanied, Alice Pinderhughes and the area's newest Army biggie — Lt. Col. Zack Taylor of Silver Spring, occupying a booth in that cozy Randallstown spot.

Life do go on!

Good news about the sick: Mrs. Lillian R. Bell, the retired teacher, is doing well, thank goodness. She had surgery at Provident, should be home by the time you read this.

Mrs. Terry Gilmore, the retired teacher, improved after dental surgery at Provident.

Feeling better at Md. General Hospital is J. Hiram Butler, retired detective turned businessman.

And Mrs. William Gosnell (Verna), who was in Md. General, is home, and doing "just fine."

Also, Dr. Harold Derry, the retired pharmacist, had surgery at Hopkins, is at home and much improved.

People being especially kind to to others: At the Kenneth Law Funeral Home on Thanksgiving evening, friends and relatives packed the chapel to pay respects to the family of Andrew F. Wicks, Sr. He was the longtime member of St. Katherine Episcopal Church choir and long P.O. supervisor.

And, earlier in the week, relatives and friends gathered at Grace United Presbyterian to memorialize Dr. A. A. Smith, our town's oldest practicing dentist, who died at the age of 82. Remember how he practiced for years on Monument St. in East Baltimore?

Baby note: Father and Mrs. William Lowery (Faye), expect their first born in May. He's the Episcopal rector (Holy Nativity), who is deeply involved in self-help programs. She's on the Pratt library staff.

Baltimore women in politics came in for nationwide television mention on the Double Jeopardy Monday show.

One of the questions was, In what state did two women run for top office in the November election?

"Maryland, of course," said the announcer, "Mikulski for U.S. Senate against Mathias, and Gore against Mandel."

See what you learn when you're home on vacation!

81 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.)

> "I am a man of peace: God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
> — Hungarian Freedom Fighter

Thoughts on Pressman crime views

Dear AFRO:

I have serious concerns about the make-up of Comptroller Hyman Pressman's Crime Commission. It is composed of the old style conservatives who maintain their traditional, parental, authoritarian attitude concerning black people.

It is mostly white, yet they are making the decisions for the city where the majority of the inhabitants are black.

The black members are powerless against this mostly all white Commission.

Do the few black members truly represent black community or the ones they are calling juvenile delinquents, who are in the majority black?

Nobody is trying to dig at the root causes of what they call crime. The real crimes are unemployment, poor housing, drugs, alcohol, racism, exploitation, etc.

With a corrupt police department, (drugs stolen, money missing, mass arrests of peaceful black protesors in clear violation of their civil rights), how can Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's ideas be so readily acceptable by the so-called crime commission when he hasn't straightened out the problem of crime and corruption within the police department?

Are these policemen the best examples for our youth to emulate?

Then we have Comptroller Pressman, who is constantly complaining against black officials and office holders.

His blatant disregard for the judicial process was evident when he tried to intimidate District Court Judge William Murphy by announcing in advance that he was going to see how Judge Murphy was dispensing justice because he said he didn't like the way he was protecting the civil rights of the citizens who appeared before him.

And then there was Mr. Pressman's harassment of State's Attorney Milton Allen, another black man. I am surprised because he is a member of a minority group too.

Once the Maryland Training School For Boys was all white and Boys Village was all black and now they are both virtually all black. I want to ask Hyman Pressman, what cured criminal tendencies of white youth? What happened to all the white boys who formerly went to the all-white Md. Training School For Boys?

Did the white community use concentration camps to rid the Maryland Training School of white youth who committed crimes?

Did they change the procedures, the methods, or did they stop arresting white juveniles?

Let the black middle class remember this also. Before they start crying for the blood of the youth, of their future, these questions must be answered.

We all remember Wade Poole, the former commander of Northwestern Police Station, then on Pennsylvania Ave. He is the chairman of the Crime Commission. He is one of the problems.

We're seeing some of the repercussions from the conservative attitude that he perpetrated on our black youth. How could we or our youth forget his administration of Northwestern District?

It is time for the black community to investigate these committees that are formed to stifle the progress of our black youth and to kill their dissent against the oppressive, repressive and racist, discriminative society. — MRS. JERITA SKATES.

(Editor's note: Mrs. Skates, a Baltimore city teacher and mother, was among community spokespersons who voiced opposition to some of the proposals—notably detention centers—as outlined at a public meeting in City Hall on Wednesday. The suggestions were first made in a 1972 report by Comptroller Pressman's Crime Study and Action Commission, and revised by a portion of the committee last week. Mrs. Skates has been active in a number of civil rights groups and works as volunteer with a number of community organizations, including the Providence Community Mental Health Center where she serves on the board of directors.)

FULL MICRO SAFETY