"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 Kossuth

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., of Baltimore City Inc.

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY
(1889-1967.)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

On police spying

As additional information on police spying in Baltimore, and elsewhere, becomes public, the more certain it appears that getting the scalp of Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau won't settle the civil liberty questions at issue.

The threat to freedom posed by police spying at all levels is real. Police chiefs and commissioners know the law better than the average citizen and when they use their men in illegal ways, they can expect to have the boom lowered on them.

Ultimately though, many of these top men don't go out of business. They move on to some other city, so that a new town gets the old spy chief from another place and so on.

What is most terrifying about the spying that went on in recent years, involving local police departments, the FBI, military intelligence and CIA agents, is the way it developed out of civilian leadership and general public encouragement.

Police, particularly local ones, historically have been used to keep unpopular people in their places and unpopular movements activities under wraps.

In Baltimore, as elsewhere, over the past two decades black people and others who engaged in civil rights activities, blacks who have sought political power, blacks and whites who have fought against the evils of the Vietnam War, people who have espoused ideas not popular with the Establishment view, have been victimized often by police.

The media, in Baltimore and elsewhere, often helped create the mood for these police transgressions with stories and editorials about agitators, wild-eyed militants seeking public office and other inflammatory statements on left-wingers, black extremists, etc.

It is hard to recall when the media have plugged for the dismissal of top police brass for their transgressions in the area of brutalizing blacks and other unpopular groups.

Simply put, we think the police in Baltimore, and elsewhere, have taken their cue once again from the Establishment types they have responded to in the past — and chopping off a few top-level heads won't solve the problem.

That selfish, fearful, ugly, racist, win and profit-at-any-cost, self-righteous and militaristic mood that showed its terrifying face in the general populace — cheering the police on or countenacing their deeds (quite a few non-police leaders shared the so-called supersecret spy reports), is the enemy we had better worry most about getting rid of.

Judge Bundy's 5th

Baltimore District Court Judge James L. Bundy disturbs us when he says, "I think any judge that takes it (the Fifth Amendment) is guilty of what he's been charged with."

It is one thing for judges to say voluntarily that they would not take the "fifth" in case of an investigation of their court, but quite another matter for one of them to equate use of the fully constitutional tactic with guilt.

Under the law, no man, judge nor any other, can be forced to be a witness against himself. Also, imputing sinister meanings to any exercise of constitutional rights, has been frowned on by the Supreme Court.

Judge Bundy's position raises questions about how he would view the failure of defendants to give testimony on advice of their attorneys — or for other reasons.

If a defendant chooses not to plead guilty to a charge then he has no reason to help the prosecutor win a conviction.

Judges are expected to determine the guilt or innocence of defendants on the basis of evidence put before the court, not on a person's height, color or whether or not the Fifth Amendment is employed.

The Senate and others who nominate and approve judges should require Judge Bundy to clarify his position on this crucial constitutional issue. It has significant implications for the court system.

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51 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)

G. James Fleming

Board deserves chance

By G. James Fleming

For all practical purposes, Baltimore City has a new school board. It deserves a chance to prove itself.

It deserves this chance from everyone, but certainly from those who were the loudest in condemning the majority on the old Board of School Commissioners — an attack in which this column joined.

One of the two principal demands made, in reference to the new board, was that it have a majority of black members, since 70 per cent of the city's public school population is black.

This demand has been met by Mayor Schaefer and five of the members of the reconstructed nine-member board are black.

Another "demand," that the president of the board also be black, was not met. Instead, an outstanding, well known white lawyer, one with wide experience in the public service, Norman P. Ramsey, has been appointed.

The mayor had it within his charter powers and his discretion to choose whomsoever he wished, and he used such powers and discretion, mixed with the political niceties of things, as he measured them.

Except that Mr. Ramsey is white, there is little that can be said against him, professionally, as to his character and integrity, as to his knowledge of government, and as to his leadership in the articulate larger community.

Mr. Ramsey's race and color should not be held against him, especially since he has but one vote on the board.

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Gains for the black community, in addition to holding the majority, were also made in the case of two of the persons who were not reappointed by the mayor — Mrs. Maree G. Farring, of South Baltimore, who had maintained a pre-McKinley thrust during her ten years on the board, and Dr. John Walton, the recent past president, who meant well, perhaps, but got caught in the factional cross-fire on the board and became one of its casualties.

A few weeks ago, if any ten articulate blacks had been asked to furnish a list of members for the four vacancies on the school board, each one of the ten would have come up with a different listing, but with some overlapping.

Other citizens also had their lists. The mayor had several suggested to him. Eventually, he forged a panel of persons who would accept appointment.

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The three new black commissioners certainly deserve a chance and should not be judged in advance of their performance, nor should they be blacklisted just because they are the mayor's choices and not the selections of some non-charter-authorized king-makers.

More than that, these new members should not be pilloried for each little action which does not please some one "leader" or other.

Rather, these new members should be viewed in the light of the broad and deep pattern of their positions and their votes.

On paper, and on their past training and experiences, they seem eminently qualified.

Grover L. McCrea Jr. is a consultant to a management recruiting firm, has been an active parent of school children and has been most sharing of his time and energies in his Northeast community.

Howard E. Marshall, who once worked in the Post Office, is now a top-level manager of employee and community relations for one of Baltimore's largest industries.

David F. Sloan is a lawyer, turned newspaperman and more lately civil servant and social worker. All three new members are products of public school systems; all did a great deal of pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps; all have been involved with people problems, mostly without headlines and flash-bulbs.

A plus for the new members has been their reluctance to pontificate about what they are going to do or to blame others in great sweeps and personalities.

In one way or another, they have said that they want to take a good look and to learn, first.

The new Board of School Commissioners, collectively and individually, will not please everyone all the time. Some people it may never satisfy.

There is a real question whether any school board or anybody can operate a present-day big-city school system — just as there is real question whether anyone or any bodies can, in 1975, run a college, a municipality, or a nation.

But the least Baltimore can do is to give the new majority and the new leadership a chance — if not for God's sake, then for our children's sake.

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. 24, 1920)

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

ABOUT the man COLEMAN

Next cabinet officer would operate multi-billion $ agency with 72,000 workers

By John W. Lewis
NNPA Washington Bureau

The Department of Transportation which President Ford has nominated William T. Coleman Jr. to run is a multi-billion operation with 72,638 employees and a civil rights image that could be improved.

It has been spending over $9 billion yearly but Congress has recently sharply increased the amount of funds it will be funneling out.

The 54-year-old Coleman, reported to be making around $200,000 a year, now would become the department's fourth secretary and the nation's second black cabinet member. Dr. Robert Weaver was first.

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Created by Congress on Oct 15, 1966, DOT has been headed by Alan S. Boyd, named by President Johnson in 1966; John A. Volpe, named by President Nixon in 1969 and Claude S. Brinegar, the man Coleman would succeed, appointed by Nixon in 1973.

DOT includes such bodies as the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, National Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Railway Administration, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. and the National Transportation Safety Board.

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The top-ranking black at the Transportation Department now is Lt. General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., assistant secretary for Environment Safety and Consumer Affairs.

Other high-ranking blacks include Quentin Taylor, a New England regional director at the Federal Aviation Administration; Louis W. Roberts, director of the office of technology at the Transportation System Center at Cambridge, Mass., and counsel, Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Although blacks represent approximately 10 per cent of Transportation Department employees, only 17 out of 209 supergrades are black, according to figures supplied by DOT's office of civil rights.

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Outgoing Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar set a goal of increasing minority employment by 2.5 per cent over the next fiscal year, the office said.

Approximately 72 internal complaints of job discrimination were made during the past year, according to the civil rights office.

Of that number, only 3 were unsuccessfully resolved, according to the office.

Nearly 200 cases involving alleged job discrimination were referred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission through the Labor Department's office of contract compliance, according to the Transportation Department's compliance division.

DOT never has filed a court suit against federal grant recipients who discriminate against minorities in the use of public money for transportation projects.

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Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a federal agency can sue such a grant recipient through the Department of Justice.

In only rare cases has the Department of Transportation held up funds from a discriminating recipient. Likewise, only once has a contractor guilty of discrimination been barred from receiving additional contracts from the department.

Black groups have protested that the Transportation Department has been ineffective in protecting minority communities against transportation projects that disrupt black areas.

These are Title VI cases under which the Transportation Department can withhold funds.

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN JR.
He'll be a first cabinet officer in a Republican administration.

Coleman has been involved in numerous litigations involving transportation matters in Philadelphia.

As a special transportation counsel to the city, Coleman fought Philadelphia Transportation Company fare increases before the Public Utility Commission and in the courts.

About the man: — Coleman is a Republican whose law practice has frequently included transit matters.

Residents in his native Philadelphia are saying Coleman is a "tough man" in a "tough job" and "a natural choice."

Coleman is a senior partner in the prestigious Philadelphia law firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish, Levy & Coleman.

He is the first black ever to hold a cabinet-level post in a Republican administration. Dr. Robert Weaver, first black ever in the cabinet, was President Lyndon B. Johnson's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

He later served as the city's counsel in negotiations leading to the purchase of the PTA by SEPTA and represented SEPTA in contract talks with the Transport Workers Union. He is special counsel to SEPTA's board of directors.

Coleman is president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Although not known as a militant, it was Coleman's legal work that led to the desegregation of Girard College.

He played an important role in drafting the briefs leading to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools.

In 1955, he successfully pleaded a case before the U.S. Supreme Court which overturned a Florida law that made it illegal for persons of different races and sexes to occupy the same room overnight.

Born in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, Coleman is a graduate of the Germantown High School, where he won distinction both as a swimmer and a student.

In 1941, he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, then entered the Army Air Force for three years. He was graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University Law School in 1946.

Coleman began his legal career as a law secretary to Judge Herbert Goodrich of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and served in 1948 and 1949 as a law secretary to Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

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In addition to distinguished public service in the local arena, Coleman has served four other Presidents and was appointed by President Ford three weeks ago to a directorship of the new Legal Services Corp.

He served as a member of President Kennedy's Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and of a consulting group for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

He was appointed by President Johnson to co-chair a White House Conference of Negro Rights.

He has also served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

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Coleman is director of Pan American Airways, First Pennsylvania Corp.; the American Stock Exchange, Philadelphia Electric Co., Rand Corporation, Brookings Institute, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., and Western Savings Bank.

If confirmed he will resign all but Rand Corp. and the Brookings, non-profit organizations.

He is married and lives at 12 W. Hortter St., with his wife, the former Lovida Hardin.

They have three children, William, a graduate of Yale Law School; Lovida, a senior at Yale Law School, and Harden, a student at Williams College.

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

What's with the men?

Dear AFRO:

We are employed at Bethlehem and I would like to know just what it is with men? Why is it that men, mostly black, downgrade a woman just because she does a job considered to be a man's job?

Why down a woman trying to take care of her family? Don't men realize that the average woman doing what they consider a man's job, has a family and sometimes the sole support of that family?

A woman is branded as an immoral person if she does give in or if she doesn't give in. What do men want?

We feel a man would be proud to support a woman in any way they could to make a decent living. Don't they know it was a man's job when women pulled sacks of cotton on their backs in the fields, plowed and hoed fields from sunup to sundown?

Men, get yourselves together. Look back to your mothers and grandmothers and think before you set out to brand a woman. Give us black women a chance. Don't you know we deserve it?

There is much to be said about women trying to make a decent living. Please consider the whys.

(Editor's Note): This letter was signed by women welders from the third shift, Mesdames Gwendolyn Jones, Catherine Moore, D. Kammett and Alberta Buckson.

City lacks concern

Dear AFRO:

I am shocked to find the city's rising unconcern for the residents of the black community. This has been found to exist in all parts of the city.

The latest area is that of northwest Baltimore, particularly surrounding Wabash Ave.

This section has been the target of the proposed transfer station which residents have labeled, "the dump" and now is to be the site of the MTA rapid transit phase one station, approved in Nov., 1972.

This station is to be located at Cold Spring Lane and Wabash Ave., and is to be one of the twelve that will pass other selected sites in the black communities extending from Reisterstown Plaza to Charles Center (8½ miles).

Although there are a lot of advantages to the system, in this particular community there are disadvantages that must be weighed: —

1. The noise level, with trains running 20 hours daily.

2. Traffic congestion near a site where a school is proposed.

3. Cost of $70 million — the City will not clean up a lot at Dolfield and Garrison Blvd., where residents have requested a square for the elderly and a covered bus stop on the No. 51 lines.

The city should be concerned about members of the black community, as well as other communities, and it should be concerned as to respect the wishes of those who live there. — WILLIAM McGLOCKLIN III.

Two wrongs

Dear AFRO:

In the incident involving the young godson of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who was arrested for having his car motor running — what I fail to understand is why he didn't display his license and registration when the policeman asked him.

How can you win when you break the law technically (leaving an attended car with motor running is a misdemeanor), and then run when asked to do a simple thing — show your license? Thousands of drivers get such requests in any given week in all sections of the United States.

Now as to the police invading Congressman Mitchell's apartment house to pursue the motorist, arrest and manhandle him, that's wrong too, and the police are just as by law violators as anybody else. Two wrongs don't make a right. — JAMES NEWIS

Thoughts of founder

If it is true that the meek shall inherit the earth, then a good part of the globe will one day belong to Liberia.

June, 1918.
JOHN H. MURPHY

AFRO AT WHITE HOUSE — President Ford addresses members of National Newspaper Publishers' Association who visited White House last week. This marked first time black publishers have had such an audience with a President since days of Lyndon Johnson. Seated behind the President are his black administrative assistant, Stan Scott and Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, one of several Cabinet members who briefed the newspaper publishers. Arrow in right photo points to AFRO's Elizabeth Murphy Moss who tells what happened in accompanying article. (AFRO Staff Photos by John H. Murphy 3rd)

If YOU ask ME goes to White House — by Bettye Moss

'Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States'

Afro Line

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 the 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 of 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 have heard that the Regal Empire Associates (laundry-dry cleaning business), has been sold. A lot of black people are employed. Can AFRO Line find out what is happening? — J.R.

ANSWER: Charles Mitchell, owner and president of the Regal Empire Associates told AFRO Line:

"We are closing our plant (at Gilmor and Mosher), and transferring our business to another plant here on Frederick Ave.

"We are going to be able to transfer many of our people but we are not going to be able to transfer all of them.

"Yes, 95 per cent of our employees are black. We have always been a very large minority employer. Black people serve in all capacities, supervision, management, clerical, sales, production. Our firm is 65 years.

"We are not going out of business at all. It is just that we are moving into a plant that is more capable of handling our work and a little bit smaller, but a little more efficient.

"As you know this big building is on eight different levels and over the years business has gotten more and more competitive and costs have gone up and things have gotten tighter all around. It has just become necessary to move our facilities.

"We are in the process of moving now. It will not be closed down for some time yet because our sales department will continue to operate here.

"Customers may be assured that we will still be doing the hand work and the same salesmen. There will be no change as far as they are concerned.

"I just don't want the customers to think that Regal Empire has gone out of business. I have been getting this feedback because of the way things get twisted around. Thanks for calling."

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QUESTION: I believe I have a talent for writing poems a variety but I don't know to whom or where to write to get them published. I don't know the first thing about making money for poems. Can you help me? — G. L. H.

ANSWER: Go to your Central Enoch Pratt Library on Cathedral St. They have a book, "Writer's Market 1975," which tells you how to submit poems for pay.

It lists publishers, how much they pay and how to type. Go to Reference Room. If you want to take courses in creative writing, go to the Social Science and History Room and look up courses in poetry and creative writing in college catalogues.

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QUESTION: I read an article in your January 25 edition urging readers to have their heating systems checked. Would you be kind enough to give me the number? — MRS. S.

ANSWER: Call the Industrial Hygiene Department, 396-4428. Last week Dr. Dahl, director of Bureau of Industrial Hygiene urged residents who burn oil to have a free furnace check by the Baltimore City Health Department.

Place: Second floor briefing room of the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

Date: Thursday, Jan. 23, 1975

Time: 4:39 p.m.

Occasion: National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) midwinter workshop gathered to discuss theme, "The Black Press: Catalyst for Black Unity."

In attendance: Some 175 representatives of the 134-member newspaper association.

At 4:38 p.m., James T. Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, one of several key cabinet members to address the publishers, was on the podium. He was in the process of explaining housing loans, noting that "for the first time banks are requiring people who come in for loans to make out preliminary forms, and . . ."

That is as far as he got — a side door on the rostrum opened, out walked a man announcing, "ladies and gentlemen, the President of the YOU-knighted States." And there was President Gerald Ford.

Although this writer had no real advance notice the Chief Executive would appear at that hour to address our publisher group, a tip-off was the appearance five minutes earlier of a horde of television cameramen and daily news reporters.

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Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter and president of the NNPA, remained standing to address the President.

Here is a portion which we recorded:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are certainly pleased that the most powerful officeholder in the world has found time to come and to share this occasion with us.

"I want to say to the President that there are times that you have to pause and give due recognition to the activities of good men who hold public office and we are extremely pleased with the historic announcement that attorney William Coleman will be the second man of our race to serve on the cabinet of the President of the U.S. (Applause)

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"Also, Mr. President, the positive action that you took two days ago, at the beginning of the celebration of the late Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and you said to Mrs. King, and she announced it to us in Atlanta, that you were putting the full weight of your Administration behind the 1965 and 1967 Voting Rights Act. (Applause)

"And before I take my seat, let me say . . . . . Stan Scott (Special Assistant to the President), is one of us, and he has been doing very well because we haven't been writing any bad editorials about him. (Laughter)

"We want you to know we are going to stand behind you and your Administration in your efforts to solve all the various problems that beset us and at times when you are so busy . . . . . we will speak to Stan. We are going to keep in touch with him and let him know what our problems are.

"Finally, a few years ago, we had a very helpful operation between the black press and the government liaison under former Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Every four months we were allowed, by invitation, to come to Washington and have a series of meetings with members of the Cabinet.

"It was one of these meetings that led to the elevation and appointment of a number of black people . . . . . it is good for you to come to us with a busy schedule and speak to us . . . ." (Applause)

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Then President Ford addressed us: —

"Thank you very much, Dr. Goodlett, members of the Cabinet, members of the Administration, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to Washington and to the White House.

"May I say, Dr. Goodlett that our new Vice President who has had an outstanding record in state government, I am sure will undertake the same kind of liaison one of his predecessors had.

"I will personally speak to Vice President Rockefeller urging such a similar relationship be developed if that is the wish and desire of this organization. (Applause)

"I'd like to make a comment or two about the weeklies. I think the records will show that when I was campaigning 13 times for the Congress of the United States, 12 times for re-election, I put the abnormal percentage of my advertising budget into weeklies. (Applause)

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"I thought then, and I still believe, that weeklies are an outstanding means of communication between the publishers and the individuals who subscribe.

"And I always felt, as I traveled around my own Congressional district, that I could learn more about my Congressional district from those editors than I could from almost any other segment of my constituents. (applause)

"I think your visit here today is particularly well-timed. You are in the midst of many important developments affecting you and all of your leaders.

"I just came from a meeting with eleven governors of the northeastern part of the U.S. where I spent a considerable amount of time to explain to them the problems that they were concerned about, and I am too, how we are going to equitably distribute the problems that are resulting from energy conservation and an energy development program.

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"But this is only one of the many problems that we face here in the U.S. now, problems that will require considerable sacrifice; problems that will undoubtedly present some hardships.

"But because of your role, I would like to share some of the Administration's plans with you and I obviously have heard that some of the members of the Administration are trying to, not only listen, but to explain some of the problems.

"As newspaper publishers, serving the black press, you play a unique role in the communications industry; you have very special insights and very special responsibilities.

"Sometimes, in Washington, it is possible to forget the press is much more than the very limited number of newspapers, magazines and national networks which cover the White House on a daily basis.

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"As I tried to say a moment ago, you represent the hundreds of newspapers that look outward, not only for Washington and the world, but inward to the cities, the towns and the various neighborhoods.

"In my 25 plus years in the Congress, I think I understand, on an intimate basis, the paved streets and the garbage collections, that they are just as important to our country and your readers as oil imports.

"You are there where it counts channeling local news to your communities and challenging them to solve some of the mutual problems.

"In my judgement, one of the most exciting trends in recent years has been the increasing participation of Americans in their local affairs. This has been seen in everything from the formation of black associations to th revision of city chargers.

"This increased interest reinforces my great, great faith in democracy.

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"This renewed concern for community problems would not have been possible without the good work of news organizations such as those that you individually and collectively represent.

"Local newspapers, as well as television and radio stations, are vehicles to community conversation, for community conversation even when there are disagreements, are vitally important if we are to mobilize the kind of action that's essential to solve our problems.

"This group, the publishers specifically from the black communities which were neglected for too many years, has had to assume some very special and greater responsibilities long before the Civil Rights movement became a national cause.

"You were communicating to your readers the difficultiss faced by blacks. I know this. Several black newspapers are published in my own Congressional district.

"Now with your greater national awareness of black problems, your role is even more important than ever before. You're on the case today, in and out, in this continued attention that's vitally needed.

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"Blacks in our society have too often been mentally segregated by some thinkers and planners who acted as if blacks did not have the same expectations and problems as other Americans.

"I promised, at the very beginning of my Administration, to be President of all of the people. I am keeping that pledge. (Applause) I assure you I intend to do so.

"This Administration will not slice off a small portion of the pie, saying this is enough for the 25 millions of Americans who are black.

"We know that many of the serious problems facing America, unemployment, unsafe streets, unequal education, too often press more heavily on blacks and other minorities.

"In drafting the tax rebate proposal, one of the major concerns was to see that the burden of the recession did not fall on those least able to pay or to afford it, our low income citizens.

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"At the same time, millions of middle class Americans, black as well as white, have been caught between inflation and recession. We can not penalize those who have worked their way up because of their success.

"I know that you share with me a very deep belief in preserving the upward mobility of our society. In recent years, blacks have made economic and educational gains that must not be wiped out by leaving the middle class out of tax relief.

"There are other areas, of course, of black progress that we will not ignore because of the economy. One of the continuing commitments that must be honored is full political equality for all Americans. (Applause)

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"As Dr. Goodlett indicated, I told Congress last week that I plan to ask for another five year extension of the Voting Rights Act first passed in 1965, renewed in 1970 and up for renewal at this time. This law must not be allowed to expire in August, 1975. (applause)

"Voting rights laws have helped to open the way of election of blacks in all parts of the nation. That movement must be continued.

"As I look back over the past 25 years, much progress has been made, but as we look ahead, I know how much work remains so that every child born in America has the same opportunity for long life, economic security and educational achievement.

"Much has been done. Much remains, but together we can make that necessary progress. Thank you." (Applause)

Cuff note: After his talk, President Ford remained in the briefing room to shake hands with publishers and to pose with some of them.

This was the first visit black publishers have had with the man in the White House since the days of Lyndon Johnson. Former President Nixon did not greet us.

President Ford seemed quite at ease and friendly. There was no stuffiness about him.

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More cuff notes: He's quite a dresser too. He was wearing sharp pink and grey double-knit plaid, double vented in the back. His tie was maroon, shirt was pink.

Security to enter the White House area upstairs is restrained, but very much present. For example, there were four persons at the end of the first floor entrance door to check credentials.

Among them, a black security officer who barked "line up in two lines . . . two lines!", as though he was talking to animals.

On the other side of the coin, President Ford's black special assistant, Stan Scott (mentioned above), was cordial and most efficient and a good speaker, too. His real name is Stanley S. Scott of the Atlanta Daily World Scott family.)

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More cuff notes: On either side of the podium where the President stood were the one-way mirrors, where security could see every person in the room—much like the mirrors in stores and banks.

The three-day NNPA sessions were headquartered at the Mayflower Hotel. . .and that's a long way to walk if you leave the White House at rush hour and try to get a cab.

Scallions to some of those daily press and television men who covered our meeting with the President.

You know how some of them talk while you're trying to hear ('cause what do they care!), and how they practically knock you down rushing to get to their cameras or locations. . .

And for what? I scanned the mass media and saw no coverage of our session with the President. They could have stayed home. Who needs 'em!

—

Old home week note: At convention saw for first time in 20 years—Mrs. James Hicks (Daisy). She's the social worker and wife of the editor of the N.Y. Amsterdam News. We had not met since our children were tots. John Procope, another former Baltimore AFRO staffer, is publisher.

Baltimore's Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., director of the Washington Bureau, NAACP and veteran civil rights leader, got a standing ovation when he rose to extend greetings to the group at the Friday luncheon.

Handsome and saying something with his delivery—the Rev. Jerry A. Moore, pastor of famed 19th St. Baptist Church, and a member of the D.C. City Council.

Ditto for Basil Paterson, vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Hear him: "The enemies of our community are more subtle, more innovative, more threatened and determined, and still no less vicious and invidious!

"As watchers upon the political wall, as defenders of the people's rights, you, as newspaper editors and publishers, must reaffirm your attention to stand by the poor and the powerless. . .you, above all, must endure as the continual advocates of equal justice to us in the black community and to the entire nation. . ."

Smile

Names of some perfumes we've seen on the shelves suggest that virtue doesn't make scents.

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WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP

HOT LINE — 539-5151 for abandoned vehicles; dirty yards; garbage collections; street lights; street repairs.

POLICE — Emergency, 222-3333; community relations, 396-2710.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-3411; bad food, 396-4424; animal removal, 396-0218; fire, 685-1313; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; rats, 396-4418; food stamps, 234-2751; oil furnace check, 396-4429.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating or light, 234-2412; after 6 p.m. and weekends, 234-2172.

BALTIMORE ANSWERS YOU (BAY) — For help in problems with city agencies, 396-1234 (10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5211; transit and traffic, 396-3831; drug abuse counseling, 396-2720; job, 383-5468; legal aid, 539-5340; rumor control, 837-1188; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reform, 963-3914.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0024; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

Mr. Bumble prayer

I'm thankful for the right to pray at the close of every day; when darkness falls upon the earth, I understand what prayer is worth. While kneeling quietly in the night, I thank my God I have the right to pray.

This week's prayer to the AFRO's Mr. Bumble is submitted by Mrs. Doris L. Jackson of W. Mulberry St.

Share your favorite prayer with Mr. Bumble, c-o AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203

Mandel and death chair

Dear AFRO:

While there were a number of worthwhile programs proposed by Gov. Mandel in his State of the State address, I am disturbed that he has included the restoration of capital punishment in his legislative package.

Capital punishment has never been proven to be a deterrent to crime.

It costs the state money — money which I believe could better be spent on rehabilitative services or even to maintain people without jobs so that they are not forced into a life of crime to sustain themselves and their loved ones.

The cost to the state of a capital punishment law is not just the cost of maintaining the electric chair with its staff trained for the job, it is the cost of almost interminable legal defense as attorneys use every avenue of appeal to save their clients from death.

Over and above this argument is the clear realization today that our justice system is not fair.

It makes mistakes. Many of the mistakes made serve to penalize black people and the poor. Black people and poor people are more apt to receive the death sentence.

To support restoration of the death penalty before we have substantially improved the system by which it is determined who shall die, simply places the state back in the position of arguing appeals for each and every person who is sentenced to death.

Under Maryland law, the Governor has the right to pardon, even in the eleventh hour, those condemned and scheduled for execution.

The Maryland death chair has not been used for twelve years. Does the Governor of this state really want the responsibility for taking a human life?

VERDA F. WELCOME

..(Ed's Note: The writer is state senator from Baltimore city's 40th District).

The AFRO stands for

- Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.
- Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.
- Extensive and meaningful black political power.
- Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.
- Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.
- Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.
- A black owned and operated taxicab company.
- A black owned and operated bank.
- A black president of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.
- Black cabinet officers with meaningful responsibility on the staff of the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland.
- University status for Morgan State College.