"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)

Curfew no cure

One of the most disturbing aspects of the proposal for a curfew to affect Baltimore teenagers is the repeated claim that some of its proponents have reinforced their support after looking at the way it works in Philadelphia.

Anyone who looks at teen crime problems in Philadelphia and comes away making proposals to pattern a curfew law after it, should take off the rose-colored blinders.

Opponents of the curfew proposal say it won't be enforced. They can point to Philadelphia as an example an "enforced" curfew law that leaves citizens "petrified" of young hoods.

When opponents insist the proposed curfew law isn't likely to curb juvenile crime, there is something about Philadelphia that can offer support of that position.

Philadelphia has one of the nation's most dangerous and costly teen gang problems. It has been fighting young gang terrorism and killings for years without any major progress observers close to the scene can attribute to the curfew law.

In Philadelphia where they've had the curfew since May 1, 1962 it covers teens 17 and under and "enforcement" is such that an estimated 100 youngsters go through a special court weekly.

Parents of violators picked up a second time can be brought in and fined $5 to $100, and, or, if they appear "disinterested" jailed for up to 10 days.

Some observers fear the curfew became something of a red flag to some youngsters who took to the streets after curfew hours in a direct challenge to police capability to enforce the law. Much of the city's teen violence takes place prior to the 10:30 p.m. or midnight curfew, when more people are out.

Keeping children 16-years-old and under off the streets and out of public places after 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights (until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights) would take a bit of doing — particularly in the summer.

Unless, or until the sponsors of the proposed Baltimore curfew for teenagers can make a realistic case of its working, the City Council would be better off killing the proposal.

Webster's amended bill

Del. Kenneth Webster's amended bill that would permit Baltimore voters to determine if the police commissioner should be named by the city's mayor makes as much sense as any put forward on the question.

In the first place, there is no reason why Baltimore, alone of the state's subdivisions, should have its chief law enforcement officer chosen by the governor. Any reasons that existed for that arrangement have been outlived.

It would have been a simple matter for the state legislature to have changed this arrangement long ago.

But as it has not, and because Gov. Marvin Mandel is not anxious to give up the right to select and control Baltimore's police commissioner, maybe a heavy vote of the citizens of the city will provide an easy means for all sides to accommodate the change.

We are not impressed by arguments including or excluding "politics" in the move to change the authority to name Baltimore's police commissioner from the governor to the mayor.

Approval of Del. Webster's bill by the General Assembly, and support for the change by Baltimore voters, have nothing to do with the kind of politicking politicians should shy away from — nor with the fight against crime in Baltimore.

If the General Assembly starts the ball rolling, and it should, the voters of Baltimore will complete the job.

Washington — by Parren J. Mitchell

Where can poor people live when times get this tight?

(Rep. Parren J. Mitchell is congressman from Maryland's Seventh Congressional District).

The recession-depression is hurting people on all fronts, but its impact is felt most severely in unemployment and in housing.

The House Banking, Currency and Housing Committee on which I serve is, or will be considering several housing bills all of which are designed to give some relief.

The Mitchell Bill, submitted this week, calls for a moratorium on rent increases and utility pass-throughs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development subsidized units. The Bill would leave such a moratorium in effect until the national rate of inflation is reduced to 5 per cent per year and the national rate of unemployment is reduced to 4 per cent.

Congressman Moakley of Massachusetts has introduced a bill which would prevent the Department of Housing and Urban Development from foreclosure on any multifamily property covered by a mortgage which is federally insured.

Congressman Reuss of Wisconsin has a bill cited as the "Emergency Middle Income Housing Act of 1975" which would authorize the secretary of HUD to make periodic homeownership assistance payments similar to those now made in the section 235 program on behalf of middle income families during this period of high interest rates.

The payments (1) could not exceed the difference between the amount of principal and interest due under the mortgage and the amount of principal and interest due if the mortgage were to bear an interest rate of 6 per cent, and (2) may be made up to the full amount authorized for the first 3 years a family occupies a dwelling and up to one-half such amount during the fourth year.

Congressman Ashley of Ohio has introduced the "Emergency Homeowners' Relief Act" which would authorize and direct the secretary of HUD to make emergency mortgage relief payments on behalf of distressed homeowners when he determines such action is necessary to avoid foreclosure and that there is a reasonable prospect that with this assistance the homeowner will be able to make the adjustments necessary for a full resumption of mortgage payments.

Payments may (1) be up to the full amount due under the mortgage but may not exceed $375 per month, (2) be made for a period not to exceed two years and may be adjusted or terminated during that period as the homeowner's income changes and (3) be repayable by the homeowner under such terms and conditions as the secretary determines. No new contracts or arrangements for relief payments may be entered into by the secretary after July 1, 1976.

Several other members of the committee have introduced housing bills, designed to help homeowners or prospective home buyers during these difficult economic times.

All of these bills, which seek to help low and middle income families will face tough opposition. The Ford Administration spokesmen bitterly opposes legislation of this type. James L. Mitchell, under secretary for HUD; Thomas Bomar, chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and Roger Sant, assistant administrator for the Federal Energy Administration have all testified against these bills.

The people must put the pressure on Congress to get needed housing legislation through. The Ford Administration must face up to the fact that crippling unemployment and soaring inflation have hit so hard that many of us cannot meet mortgage payments nor can we pay any more rent increases. The people are broke, there is nothin left in savings.

Now and then — by G. James Fleming

Let's get off George Russell's back

Grossly unfair are the attacks that have been aimed at George L. Russell, well known lawyer, because he has undertaken a lawyer's job of representing a certain client ("The Spokesman," student newspaper of Morgan State College, recently accused him of "selling out").

In this instance, Russell's client is Donald D. Pomerleau, Baltimore City's police commissioner, white, and a man accused of ordering secret surveillance against some key citizens of our community — people considered decent and law-abiding in every way: congressmen, state legislators and civil rights activists, among others.

Most people deplore police spying and the keeping of secret dossiers against law-abiding people, whether the police is the local constable, the FBI, the CIA or the military. This column, in an earlier issue, has pointed out the dangers of such Hitler-type actions, regardless of what is given as their original justification.

But, most people also agree that every person accused of any malfeasance or misfeasance whould have the opportunity to offer defense and, therefore, to be defended or represented by counsel — by the most competent lawyer, or lawyers, available to him.

In Maryland, one of the most knowledgeable and most experienced lawyers is George L. Russell Jr. He has served in both state and local salaried positions; he has been a member of federal and international commissions and, so far as the judiciary is concerned, he has spent years both before and on the bench. Most recently, he has been an outstanding city solicitor of Baltimore.

If you, and you and you, had an important case, what calibre of lawyer would you choose to represent and defend you, if you could afford him?

Would you not want to select a man or woman of former Judge Russell's background?

Better yet, would you not want to hire George Russell, himself, again if you could afford him?

There is no indication that Russell went after this job. He is too professional for that. Commissioner Pomerleau went to him (and he is not the first while in America to turn to an outstanding black lawyer!).

Certainly, blacks who have always contended for fair play and justice cannot afford to deny "due process" to others, even to a police commissioner whom they despise.

Certainly, blacks who have benefitted so much from the best white legal minds would not deny to anyone the best legal assistance he or she can find, even if the embodiment of such legal assistance is a George Russell.

What about all these cries of "Unity, Brother?"

It would be amusing, if not so pitiable and revealing, to find that some of the critics against people like George Russell, some of those who call them "oreos" or "partime Negroes," do a lot of supporting whites without reference to whether they help or hurt the black community.

We buy our alcoholic beverages from many an operator who takes most of his profits out of the city and who would not think of living here.

We dress ourselves up in high heels and high styles, neither designed nor marketed by "brothers" or necessarily by friends.

Our "Afro" combs are mostly made in Japan or Austria, just like most dashikis come from Holland, not Africa.

To cap it all, there are some of us blacks, who call others "oreos," etc., but down the years, have never used a black doctor or a black lawyer.

George Russell, lawyer, has the right and obligation to give his services to those who seek him out.

Commissioner Pomerleau is smart and human enough to employ a lawyer he trusts and one whom he feels can represent him most effectively.

As Delegate Hattie Harrison recently said: "Mr. Pomerleau must have been looking for the best lawyer and George Russell is one of the best in the state."

It's about time we get off lawyer Russell's back.

The Rigbys

How far back can you trace your family tree?

Henry H. Rigby has documentary proof that his relatives fought in the Civil War, both world wars and the Vietnam conflict.

He established these facts after a 1,920-mile bus trip to the National Archives, Washington, D.C., and the National Records Center, St. Louis, Mo.

During his vacation he also visited Baltimore, Chicago and Scranton, Pa., to gather books, busts and portraits of famous people.

All went on display recently in the administration building lobby as part of Tobyhanna Army (Pa.) Depot's observance of National Black History Week.

Rigby, 65, began his collection last year, when he staged a smaller exhibit for Black History Week.

When not on display, his 114-book collection is boxed in his Tobyhanna (Pa.) apartment.

Rigby was born in Chestertown, Md., and has worked as a packer in the depot's storage division since 1968.

He frequently visits Baltimore — "There's nothing like it" — to see his sister and brother.

His sister, Esther Rigby Roberts, 2568 McCulloh St., owns the violin once played professionally by their grandfather, Oscar J. Crosier, who served with the Regular Massachusetts Infantry from 1863 to 1865.

Records show that he sustained an eye injury in 1864, in Florida.

A great-great uncle, William F. Butler, joined the Regular Maryland Infantry on April 10, 1865.

Rigby also has identified two great uncles and two cousins in World War I, 1 brother, 1 nephew and 12 cousins in World War II, and 2 great nephews in Vietnam.

Rigby himself saw duty as a sergeant with the 54th Aviation Squadron in World War II.

In a special citation, the depot command commended Rigby for "his interest in American Black history and his pride of being an American."

A Little About A Lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

Holding power by any means necessary

Greed, deception and half-truths make up the human condition, because there is always that desire by those who have power to keep it by any means necessary. Therefore, the powerless become the pawns, shifted from employment to unemployment, poverty to homelessness, by whim, to fill the coffers of greed and excess profit.

The economists' elation over slowing inflation in recent weeks, during a monumental rise in unemployment, illustrates that prices have to go down when fewer people are buying or working; that the ability to survive in business is in direct proportion to the power to manipulate the work force, and to capitalize on the misery of the unemployed or underemployed.

The oil situation in the Middle East coupled with investment opportunities offered by the Arabs, worldwide, illustrates the interdependencies of Europe, the United States, Japan — shifting the balance of power — that makes strange bedfellows of former enemies.

For, only 30 years ago, Japan attacked the U.S., went to war because we would not allow sufficient exports of oil to Japan. Today, the U.S. is threatening war with the Arabs for the same reasons — at least that's what they want us to think.

But it is no secret that American multinational oil corporations manipulate oil prices on foreign shores (which is only 6 per cent of our oil supply) to inflate retail prices at home; ride the wave of panic over an energy crisis to gain off-shore drilling rights; while at the same time with use of our tax dollars reap the highest profits in history.

Moreover, the Big Lie about the war in Indochina, proclaims the Orwellian theory that "War is Peace." Since the "peace accords" in 1973, more than 350,000 Vietnamese soldiers on both sides have been killed or wounded; more than 85,000 civilians have been killed or wounded; more than one million Vietnamese and Cambodian civilians have become homless refugees.

But we are given the hysterical notion that unless we become more involved in the war in Cambodia, the corrupt government of Thieu, to the tune of $500 million or more, there will be a blood bath!

However, no mention is made of the virgin oil lake that would solve the world's oil crisis, that American moneyed interests wish to control in Indochina. Or, that the war, with the use of helpless pawns, is economic in nature, having nothing to do with the democratic rights of a people to govern themselves.

Part of the process in preventing a people from governing themselves is a police state harassment, like control of the press, infiltration of groups by the FBI, CIA or ISD, provoking fights among them, breaking up coalitions, lying about relationships between diverse groups similar to the present harangue about the police union "using" black legislators to "get" Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau.

These tactics have been used and are being used also in places like Chile and Vietnam, to frighten citizens into submission, so that their efforts to control their own destinies might be frustrated, so that the powerful will continue to control the land, money and resources on the heels of police repression.

Against this background, the State Senate investigation of Pomerleau, has wide ranging ramifications. It is true that blacks and the police union do have a common purpose: to get rid of Commissioner Pomerleau.

To allow rhetoric, smoke screens to divert us from joining together to rid this state of its biggest dictator, only brings us closer to slavery in a system that would destroy our constitutional rights of privacy, of protest against unjust government that would ultimately erode our democratic freedoms.

We must pressure for open hearings so that we will learn how we have allowed this corrupting influence to creep into our lives and how with stricter oversight we can prevent it from happening again.

In addition, we must wrest this dangerous control away from the few who would prostitute it for their own political gain.

J. H. Murphy

'Overkill' perspective

Ralph Hostetter, chairman of the Easton Publishing Co., opposes legislation that would give the Maryland Human Relations Commission authority to impose damages on firms that discriminate — but we think his appearance before the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Public Law proves MHRC needs the power.

Unless it gets the authority to make illegal discrimination costly, people like Hostetter will be able to carry on their unAmerican deeds and thumb their noses at the law. No penalty, no enforcement is the theory adopted by many when the issue is racial discrimination.

In Hostetter's case, his firm fired a white reporter in 1969. MHRC found there had been discrimination, involving the fact the reporter had a black girl friend, and ordered a payment of $557.16 for loss of pay and $50 for moving expenses.

Hostetter claims the commission sought to "extort" money from him.

He won an appeal in the Talbot County Circuit Court but the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld the MHRC finding of discrimination. However, the appeals tribunal said MHRC had no specific authority to impose damages.

Reacting to that claimed shortcoming in the law, the Mandel Administration this year sponsored legislation that would assure MHRC authority to impose damages.

Boasted Hostetter before the Senate committee:

"I don't care if anyone says I discriminate. I chose from three reasons this morning, that's discrimination. But I was not going to have money extorted from me for something I did. That's what it is; pure and simple extortion."

At another point he contended that passing legislation to authorize damages to victims of the kind of discrimination he has been found guilty of committing would be "having an overkill."

The AFRO prefers to think Hostetter was working the "overkill" ploy and that the committee and Senate won't be snowed by his get-away-with-it logic.

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.)

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, 1929

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

Mother and child care information

By Sister Elizabeth Kwofie, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Q. My six year old daughter has a cluster of warts at the back of her left knee. They look rather unsightly and she herself is becoming conscious of it. Are warts dangerous to health? Can they be removed?

A. Ordinary warts are not dangerous to health about half of all warts eventually disappear without treatment. Warts are contagious and can therefore be transmitted from one person to another. Scratching or picking at them sometimes causes them to spread. Usually warts are treated medically only when they are tender or painful, when they interfere with the functions of the body or when they are located so as to be embarrassing cosmetically. Consult your doctor for advice.

Q. Will my baby miss a feeling of closeness and love if I give him a bottle instead of the breast?

A. What counts is your feeling of love for your baby. He will be aware of your love while being held to give him his bottle just as he is when he feeds at the breast. However, try your possible best to breast feed him at least for the first few months.

Q. What accounts for the frequency of micturition in pregnancy. I experienced this discomfort during the first trimester and I must say this that it was most uncomfortable.

A. This can hardly be called a complaint, but you may find that you have to pass water much more frequently during pregnancy than you do normally. In fact, this is one of the early signs of pregnancy.

It is due to the fact that the enlarged womb exerts pressure on the bladder during the second and third months. You will find that it will probably pass off after the third month, when the womb rises into the abdomen, and may return during the last weeks, when the head of the baby may press against the bladder.

Thoughts of the founder

Prayers avail but little unless backed up by action.

March 2, 1907

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 them to "Our Readers Rap," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Traffic law problems

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter to bring to your attention some very serious and prevalent problems existing in the traffic laws of the State of Maryland.

The State of Maryland requires that all drivers be licensed and insured. However there are many motorists who meet neither of these requirements.

This is a serious and costly hazard to the insured and licensed

To state my particular problem, I was involved in an automobile accident in 1974, in which I was not in fault or charged.

In this accident, the driver of the other car was under the influence of alcohol and uninsured.

When an insured person like myself who has uninsured motorist coverage, is faced with a problem as such, he must appeal to the Unsatisfied Claims and Judgement Fund.

He must pay a $100 deductible for repairs to his car, or sue his own insurance company and risk higher insurance premiums or being thrown out of the insurance company.

It is obvious that the Maryland state traffic laws seem to protect the guilty party and leave the innocent unprotected. I adamantly protest such gross unfairness to me and others who become subject to my plight.

With such a law in effect it encourages people not to have automobile insurance, and therefore defeats the purpose of having insurance. One should not be held personally liable for any repairs if he is not charged or is not at fault.

I also want to point out the laxity of insurance companies in reporting expirations and cancellations of motorists insurance.

Maryland laws state that the insurance company must report to the Department of Motor Vehicles when an insured's policy is no longer in effect. In return a representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles is to come and remove the tags from the uninsured's car.

However, because this policy is not enforced, many persons are allowed to drive without insurance. The responsible motorist who pays his premiums should not be left victim to the laxity of the insurance companies and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Not only would I like these problems corrected and considered, but most immediately, I feel my liability for paying $100 be waived since I was neither at fault nor charged.

WAREN D. REDD

Fascination of killing

Dear AFRO:

Human beings like to kill, whether it be each other, a harmless bright-eyed deer in the deep forest or a tiger that has preyed upon cattle. A snake is deliberately run over on the road; a trap is set and a wolf or a coyote is caught.

A boys kills a chattering bluejay with his airgun and the elders around say never a word of pity or scold him; in the country, they say what a good shot he is when killing for so-called sport, for food, for one's country, for peace, out of anger and hate, for the safety of expansion of one nation, another is destroyed.

The soldier exists to kill. Extraordinary progress is being made in the technology of murdering vast numbers of people in a few seconds and from a great distance. Killing is done for a country or an ideology, for a set of economic dogmas or religious beliefs. There is the criminal killer and the cleverer, skillful killer.

Killing is spreading — is there much difference in all this. Justification is not the answer. There is only: do not kill. In the west we think that animals exist for the sake of our stomachs, or for the pleasure of killing or for their fur. In the east it has been taught for centuries and repeated by every parent: do not kill, be pitiful, be compassionate.

Here animals have souls, so consider and let your heart know love. Here we have always killed in the name of God and country, and now it is everywhere, with ruthlessness, efficiency and cunningness. The means of destruction are being carefully nurtured and strengthened, and peace is far from sight.

Peace is not with the politician or the preist, neither is it with the law or the policeman, or the drink or pill.

Peace is a state of mind when there is love, where there is hate, love is not.

Ronald Gregory
221288

Nation's housing patterns being set now

By Dr. Gloria E. A. Toote
Assistant Secretary
HUD-Fair Housing-EO

When our new housing law was passed, it called for citizen participation, and also for returning the power of decision-making as it relates to community development and housing to state and local government.

I know that many minority citizens, and indeed many members of the poor, have great fear of the return of this authority, or the granting of this authority, to state and local governments.

For one thing, both groups have just learned grantsmanship with the federal government, and now there is indeed, another arena. There are new characters for which there must be interplay and new techniques to learn.

It appears that each time the poor, or minorities of this nation learn how to master a given situation, the game changes and the learning process begins anew.

But that has not really deterred our stride in civil rights or civil liberty. At least not as much as those who sit on the side to criticize, like to say.

The principle responsibility of my Office, Title VIII, calls for open housing, which means free access and freedom of housing choice. The housing patterns of this nation are being set now. Within the next 10 years they will be finalized.

If open housing is not a reality by then, the problems of busing and the other civil rights problems will remain.

We have successfully conquered most of the battles of civil rights, but the major one that remains, and the most difficult to get a handle on and to attack, is that of freedom of choice to live where one chooses.

To accomplish open housing, it will require that some minorities be willing to leave the security of living amongst their own and be willing to take the risk of insult and degradation of being turned down by those who refuse to offer them open housing.

Minorities must be willing to use the tools of government to see that there is redress, either administratively or legally when acts of discrimination occur.

It doesn't seem as if we realize how swiftly time is passing. Yet it is. Where best can you have a voice that can be heard relative to the needs of your community, than at home with the people you should know by name?

Where best can your problems be identified than at home? Where best can the mechanism be designed to meet your local needs?

The problems of housing in Chicago are unique and different from the problems of housing in New York; the problems of housing in Raleigh, N.C. are different than in California, and it is foolish to think that you can have one executive fiat that can solve all of the problems of the poor and minorities in this nation emanating from Washington, D.C.

Our tastes are different, we act different, we want different things, we have different desires. There is an obligation at the state and local level to respond to your needs and to be knowledgeable of those needs particularly by your elected officials.

If you listen to some fair housing advocates, they would say, "we want a one-to-one, we want a compliance person from HUD-EO for each American citizen in need of civil rights information."

Do you know what it would cost you in taxpayer's dollars? Do they realize that it would deny you other needed services from the federal government?

There is a role and obligation that every citizen has for himself, for herself, for their children, for their community.

There is a role and obligation that every federal government official has to the citizens of the nation. Yet, the greatest obligation of all, is that of the individual you helped place in office.

We must learn the levels of government; how they operate, and how we should operate them through out voice.

This column is offered as a public service by this newspaper.

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

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: Will you be kind enough to tell me what you should do when harassed by an officer?

Mrs. S. C.

ANSWER: Col. Watkins told AFRO-Line that you should get his name from his coat. If no name is there, get the number from his hat. Or, get the shop number from the car (the large number on the hood and side). This is much more important than the license number because the driver can be traced quicker.

Go to your nearest police station and report the incident to the sergeant or call to have the sergeant come to your home. If an officer comes, he will more than likely send for the sergeant once he hears your complaint.

QUESTION: I am an elderly person, 60 years of age. I would like to have an apartment but do not know where to get the information.

A. E. M.

ANSWER: Call the Housing Application office, 685-7100 and ask that an application be mailed to you. Complete the application and return it as soon as possible.

QUESTION: I have been receiving benefits from my father's social security. I received my last check prior to my 18th birthday. I don't have any money or family and would like to return to school.

I am staying with a friend of mine but she can not supply me with money to buy clothes and books. Can you help?

Miss W. H.

ANSWER A spokesman at the Social Security Administration told AFRO-Line that you can be reinstated as soon as you are enrolled in school. These checks will continue as long as you are in school until you are 22, or up to five months until the end of the semester, whichever comes first.

In the meantime, AFRO-Line suggests that you contact your nearest Social Security Office which is at North and Linden Aves. and get a statement that you have been receiving benefits, your father's social security number and the fact that you can be reinstated once you are enrolled in school. Take this to the Department of Social Services, 1500 Greenmount Ave. and make a request for an emergency grant.

QUESTION: We have been hearing about a lot of fires in the news. We have a potential fire hazard here. I have been trying to get the landlord to listen and do something about it.

We recently moved into this house and the furance hasn't operated properly yet. We can't even move in all our furniture.

The chimney pipe that leads from the fire box to the chimney on the roof is split and gas and soot comes into every room. We have 9 rooms and we are all piled into one room with no heat in the rest of the house because the fire department came and turned off all the possibilities of fuel going into the furnace in general.

Plus there are other problems in the house. The electricity. You turn on the switch in one room and it blows out the fuse. They probably don't have enough house power. Something like that can also lead to a fire. We have one of those switchboxes.

When I wash I have to turn off everything in the house, every light, in order to use a simple washing machine.

Consequently we are here in all this cold. We have an electric heater and we are all piled into one room, five of us.

I have a 13-month-old baby, grandchild and two teenage children. I have to go out and my son just sleeps in this cold room most of the time. I have to go out to work. Things are rough enough without the possibility of a fire. I am really scared. I couldn't stand it if my kids were burnt up.

I pay my rent. I am not on the welfare. He has no reason to complain.

It is not easy to move. It costs so much.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line made contact with your rental office and was promised that your complaint was being processed. They are waiting for a chimney man to come out. You should have heard from them by now.

Please let AFRO-Line know how it turned out.

Then there was the fellow who took his wife surf-casting but the tide kept bringing her back.

Can Ehrlichman really help the Indians?

By Patrick Lamb

PICURIS PUEBLO, N.M. — Before the white man came to the new world, the Pubelo Indians roamed at will over vast expanses of the southwest. Today, they are confined to small pueblos, or villages, scattered across New Mexico.

The Indians feel the federal government has gradually taken from them thousands of square miles of open country. Now they want some of it back.

Could convicted Watergate conspirator John Ehrlichman, who wants to serve poor southwestern Indians as a "personal penance" for his crimes, help?

"We would like someone to do that for us," said Pat Martinez, governor of Picuris Pueblo. "We have been trying for so long to get our land back."

Picuris Pueblo is a collection of sun-baked mud homes in an impoverished mountain area of northern New Mexico. About 100 persons live on a reservation that has dwindled over the years to 23 square miles.

Many residents of Picuris Pueblo are on welfare, but some have government jobs. Others make pottery for a living. There are few farms, but the food produced is not for sale. It is all eaten by the Indians.

Ehrlichman's request to serve the Indians instead of being sentenced to prison was turned down and he drew a term of from 2½ to 8 years. But he has appealed, and he says that between now and the time he must enter prison he will do what he can for the Pueblos.

Ehrlichman contacted them in January and offered his services as an attorney to help Picuris Pueblo and seven other northern villages with land problems.

Response to the idea was generally favorable among Pueblos. The strongest objection came from a Navajo who is a member of the state legislature, and Navajos are not involved in the project.

"I was surprised to hear from," said Herman Agoyo, director of the Pueblo Alliance. "We've got all kinds of problems that someone could help us with."

Agoyo said members of the council want to take a closer look before deciding anything. He said governors of the Pueblos were expected to meet sometime this week

"We'll review the situation and decide whether to accept the offer," Agoyo said.

Martinez says he's sure Ehrlichman can help.

"We had a bigger reservation once, but the government, particularly the Forest Service, kept cutting its size down," Martinez said. "They finally got it down small enough so they felt it was what we needed."

Picuris Pueblo Indians are believed to have first occupied the region they now call home as early as 1200 A.D.

Martinez said that in the 1700's, Spanish colonialists confined the Indians to an area between 250 and 400 square miles. In 1913, he said, the U.S. government established new boundaries for the reservation, trimming its size even more.

Tony Reyna, secretary to Taos Pueblo Gov. Henry Lujan, says use of Ehrlichman's service to clear up land problems could be a great benefit for his people.

Land problems aren't new to the Pueblo Indians of Taos. In 1970, years of frustration for the Indians were resolved when the federal government gave them title to Blue Lake, a tiny body of water high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains they consisered a sacred place.

Reyna says he doesn't think the Pueblo Indians will object to Ehrlichman's serving them.

"We're not interested in personality. We are interested in what he can do for our people," he said.

Not all Indians are enthusiastic about Ehrlichman's plans.

"When I heard about it, I wasn't sure what was coming off" Santa Clara Pueblo Gov. Lucario Padilla said. "We don't have any land problems. I don't know what he'd be doing for us."

New prison riot seen

Dear AFRO:

It now seems very obvious to us (the inmates of the Maryland House of Correction) that the administration and its underlings are set on constructing the ground-work for another riot. If their harassment of us continues, I can foresee nothing but another explosion like the one in 1972.

In 1971 Attica prison exploded into a riot that shook the very foundation of America. That human eruption in Attica was no more than the outgrowth of administrative mistreatment of inmates, of inadequate rehabilitative programs, insufficient food, sub-wages, discriminatory policies in selecting men for parole and a physical brutality of inmates among other primitive forms of barbarity.

These very same practices of mistreatment are prevalent in the Maryland House of Correction, and these very same forms of treatment are serving to usher in another repeat of the 1972 disorder; but this time the devastation, brutality and human waste, will surpass the 1972 riot.

Today, February 18, the prison authorities set in motion a mass shakedown of each inmate's cell. Our clothes were confiscated i.e., pants, belts, coats.

We were deprived of extra sheets, pillow cases. Our lines were torn down (now we have no place to hang our coats or other garments.)

Our curtain that hung across the front of each cell was torn down. This curtain was the only element that afforded us a small degree of privacy in which to read, study, sleep or simply meditate.

This general shake-down gave the sadistic guards an ample opportunity to retaliate against specific inmates that they dislike, and it gave the average ill-educated and misplaced officers full sway in flaunting their administrative given authority to exercise the common no-knock practice in jails and prisons across America.

We, the members of the prison class, have our own FBI, CIA, etc.

In conclusion I would like to make a plea to common people as well as public officials such as: Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, Delegate Walter R. Dean, Councilwoman Barbara A. Mikulski, Delegate Pauline H. Menes, Senator Verda Welcome, Frank Morgan, Legal Aid.

My request is for assistance in forestalling an impending riot!

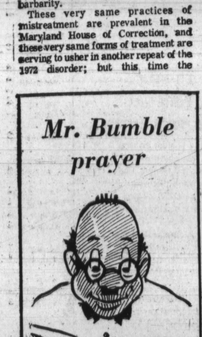
I request that a new approach be taken which is, to negotiate before the riot rather then after!

If action is taken now to compile the many inmates' grievances, and discuss them at the conference table, a great deal can be achieved!

Prevention is the mother of progress!

DANNY N. BROWN

Mr. Bumble prayer



Dear God, Our prayer today is for the young people.

Please, dear God, guide their parents in the right way so that they will set examples for them and be an inspiration to them.

In the name of Thy Son Jesus, I pray Amen.

This week's prayer to the AFRO's Mr. Bumble is submitted by Mrs. Elsie Miller of West Baltimore Street.

Share your favorite prayer with the AFRO's Mr. Bumble, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

Smile

"Hello! Is this Police Headquarters?" came the anguished voice over the telephone.

"This is the Old Maids' Home. Send a riot squad wuick! A burglar has broken in!"

"Okay, okay," shouted the lieutenant at the desk. "Who's this speaking?"

"It's the burglar," answered the terrified voice.

Spain seeks to keep two African colonies

By AFRO Correspondent

Though pressure by Morocco on Spain to return the two enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla goes back many years, this is the first time that Morocco has laid claim formally to them at the UN.

Hitherto, Morocco's claim to Spanish north African possessions had been limited to the phosphate-rich Spanish Sahara, where a referendum is due to be held in the first half of this year to determine the wishes of the people in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution.

In a show of military strength reminiscent of colonial era gun-boat diplomacy, Spain recently sent a naval task force to her two enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan coast following Morocco's claim to them.

Morocco then called on Spain, through the United Nations Decolonization Committee, to hand to her Ceuta, Melilla, Alhucemas, Velez de la Gomera and the Chafarinas Islands, arguing that these enclaves represent the "last vestiges of the colonial occupation" of the Mediterranean coast of Africa.

Spain regards all her overseas territories as provinces of metropolitan Spain rather than as colonies. But Morocco is asking for the return of the enclaves under the UN declaration of 1960 on colonization, the same criterion which she had applied in her claim on Spanish Sahara, where the vast phosphate deposits are the coveted prize being vied for by the claimants.

Although Spain has at last reluctantly agreed to hold a referendum in Spanish Sahara, she is not, at least for now, ready to entertain any further claims by Morocco on her remaining African possessions.

And the gun-boats were dispatched to Ceuta and Melilla to impress on the Moroccans that Spain would resist firmly any Moroccan "pretensions of annexation" of her provinces. The naval units have since been withdrawn following Morocco's protest.

In 1969, Spain returned Ifni to Morocco in exchange for the status quo in Ceuta and Melilla. But the Spaniards have only succeeded in buying time with this exchange and have not stopped the Moroccans from claiming what they regard as their territory.

With a total area of 31 square kilometres and a combined population of about 150,000, which is predominantly Catholic, Ceuta and Melilla are situated in a commanding position over the Strait of Gibraltar.

Ceuta was occupied by the Portuguese in 1415, and following the collapse of the Iberian Union, it chose to remain with Spain in 1668.

Melilla, on the other hand, was conquered by the Spaniards in 1497, and has never reverted to Moroccan control since.

Through both enclaves serve mainly as Spanish garrisons, there is some iron ore mining at Melilla.

For Morocco, the continued presence of an imperial power in her territory is intolerable. The Moroccan ambassador to the UN likened the claim by Morocco to Spain's claim to British-controlled Gibraltar.

"Spain", he said, "seeks to perpetuate its colonial presence in territories which are properly Moroccan and, on the other hand, claims in the international courts the return of Gibraltar, a case which is in all aspects identical to that of the enclaves".

Spain ceded Gibraltar to Britan under the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713, but she has reclaimed it since 1939, and has intensified her demand for the return of Gibraltar to her since 1963.

In the wake of Portuguese decolonization in Africa and the developments in Southern Africa since last April, it has become increasingly difficult for Spain to justify her presence in Africa on mere claim that her African territories are an integral part of mainland Spain.

In addition, so long as Spain lays claim to Gibraltar, she will find it difficult to ward off claims to her African possessions.

In the short term, however, keeping the dispute alive serves the interest of Spain and Morocco, both of which have domestic problems from which they would like to divert attention. In the long term, Spain will have to bow to pressure to decolonize her African territories completely.

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.

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, 396-1111; bad food, 396-4424; animal removal, 396-0718; 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, 396-3049; drug abuse counseling 396-2720; job, 383-3468; legal aid, 539-5340; rumor control, 837-1188; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reform, 962-3014.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6044; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; 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 Elections, 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.