"I am an American, and as an American, I would speak to America... Frederick Douglass-1817-1895

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John B. 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

(1892-1967)
Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

Important document

The 88-page report complete with charts, presented to Governor Mandel on Wednesday, May 7, will likely go down in history as a landmark study.

It represents the work of 27 members on what has been called the Rosenberg Commission, named for the chairman, Leonard Rosenberg and 26 other persons representing a cross-section of the state's citizens.

They were charged with 'Studying the structure of public education in the state from early childhood through graduate school,' and, 'to suggest changes needed to assure quality educational opportunities for all Marylanders.'

Since their appointment in January, 1973, records show the commissioners met at least two days a month, some days for 12-hour stretches, studying the system, listening to experts and community leaders.

What they have put together is a thoughtful document which would suggest ways to improve accountability and quality education.

Some of the panel's key recommendations would: —

Put all the state's colleges under a new State Board for Higher Education, eliminating the cumbersome Board of Trustees of State Colleges and Community College Board (These schools, however, will have their small governing boards.)

Place all of the state's elementary and secondary schools under a new board. The city system would get special help and cooperation if the panel's recommendations are adopted.

In its Tuesday edition, the AFRO published a chart showing how the new structure will work and outlining details of the two-year study.

Of special interest to Morgan supporters is the commission's expected approval of university status for the college.

Eastern Shore residents have yet to react to the report's suggested merger of University of Md., and Salisbury State.

Not everyone will agree with all of the recommendations and conclusions reached in this long-awaited study.

AFRO readers will want to begin their appraisal by reading the full account in last Tuesday's edition. Gov. Mandel plans to hold a special conference in June, when citizens may have input and suggest refinements before the plans are implemented.

It is apparent that members of the Rosenberg Commission gave dedicated study to complex educational problems in our state. Their very fine section entitled, 'Principles of Equality,' indicates their keen sensitivity.

At the Wednesday State House ceremony Mr. Mandel presented 'distinguished citizenship certificates' to all members in 'acknowledgement of their work ... which will have tremendous impact on spectrum of education in Maryland in years to come.'

The AFRO feels the community, should join Governor Mandel in congratulating the Rosenberg Commissioners for a job well done.

Every day for mother

..A mother is a mother still, the holiest thing alive — Coleridge Taylor

All over this land on Sunday, mothers will get special attention at church services, family reunions and other events.

It's the annual observance of Mother's Day, set aside to honor those who have given birth, sacrificed and reared their own children and often worked long hours to help fathers make ends meet.

For the many the day will be a happy one, their mothers are still able to share their joys and sorrows with them.

For others, it will be a time of reminiscence about their mothers, foster mothers, favorite aunts and guardians who have died.

Whether one's mother is living or not — on this coming Sunday, the important thing to do is remember and do something kind for somebody's mother.

And wouldn't it be marvelous if the time would come when we'd have not one special day to honor mothers — but make such pomp and ceremony a part of each week's activities.

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.— Thackeray.

Picketing the mayor

Because the writers failed to sign their names, the AFRO is not printing two anonymous letters complaining that it was "poor taste" to picket Mayor Schaefer at the Arena Playhouse ceremony on Sunday.

However, on our Page Opposite, we have published a letter about the incident from Mrs. Claudette Chandler, a parent with children in public schools and a member of a concerned citizens' group.

Peaceful demonstrations to focus on alleged injustices are a redress which is perfectly legal, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled. The 1960's Martin Luther King Montgomery bus boycott, the March on Washington are memorable demonstrations our youthful correspondents may remember.

We can recall historic ones here in our state: —

The 1930's picketing of Pennsylvania Ave. stores which compelled them to hire their black neighbors who were their main customers;

The 1942 March on Annapolis which secured uniformed black policemen; investigation of police brutality and jobs in war plants; a black magistrate and school board members.

And the 1960's student demonstrations in Northwood near Morgan College, sit-down demonstrations in downtown Baltimore and Route 40 which opened public places to all citizens.

Essentially, what we're saying is — concerned citizens have the constitutional right to protest, picket, speak out if they are convinced their freedoms are abridged.

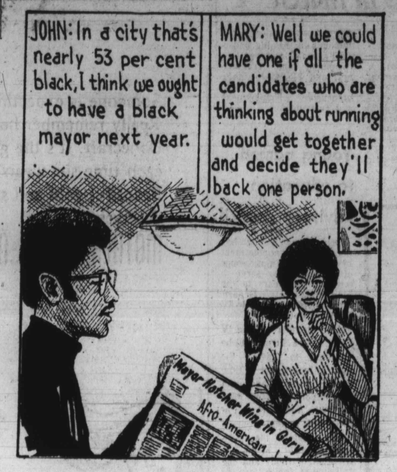
To the letter writer who called the Sunday incident 'insulting' to Mayor Schaefer we can only conclude that what may seem rude to some people, may be in good taste to others. It depends on how much you feel aggrieved and how insulted you are by continued racial injustices.

Mayor Schaefer who says he is for a peaceful, prosperous city is open to criticism in the vital area of public education.

He handpicked his own School Board members who meet secretly to discuss how they plan to rate School Superintendent Patterson. The talk of plans for his replacement adds fuel to the fire.

Mr. Schaefer should expect criticism and have the stamina to face it. We'd like to see him display the statesmanship which is needed now — a forthright statement that he will not tolerate secret meetings, public utterances of veiled charges against the superintendent and that he will use his good office to see that there is public input as the board evaluates the work of Dr. Patterson.

Registering and voting will help too



Washington Report——by parren j. mitchell

Sizemore, Patterson

(Mr. Mitchell represents Md.'s Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives)

Barbara Sizemore, the talented capable black superintendent of the District of Columbia public schools, stands embattled. The School Board seeks to fire her.

The vague "charges" against Ms. Sizemore are that the School Board has assessed her as a poor manager who refused to carry out board policy.

The move to oust Barbara Sizemore gained momentum since she made a speech describing the present D.C. public school system as a "structure that is geared to a white Protestant Anglo Saxon norm despite the predominantly black school population here."

Ms. Sizemore, who has impeccable credentials, was hired because far too many school children in D.C. were simply not learning; because "an outdated inefficient school system needed to be reorganized, and because "a strong person," was needed to implement the reorganization of this system.

The black superintendent of schools has been under attack since she took the position, with initially whites on the board being her chief critics and now with some black board members having become vocal critics.

At a rally on Sunday, May 4th, one speaker argued that the superintendent was the target of those who control the power structure.

Another said, "if the lady is doing what they say she is doing, I'm behind her 150 per cent ...all I heard about her before in the media was derogatory."

Roland Patterson, the black superintendent of Baltimore's school system, stands embattled.

He is now to be evaluated by a School Board which will use only selected portions of a California evaluation test.

He has been "charged, "with failure to carry out board policy and there are also the rumors that he is "too black in his orientation."

Prior to the time Dr. Patterson accepted the position, there appeared to be a consensus that our children were not learning in accordance with their potential and that the structure of the school system, which had remained pretty much the same since the early 1950's, needed to be reorganized.

Previous attempts to fire Dr. Patterson were thwarted by the community. Now the School Board seeks to use a modified evaluation test as the means to oust him.

Citizens in Washington, D.C. and in Baltimore should analyze the Sizemore case and the Patterson case.

Of course our public schools are in trouble.

Children are not learning up to their potential and there are severe (but not extensive) behavioral problems in some schools.

Is this due to any failure of Dr. Patterson or is it due, in part, to the fact that Baltimore ranks 17th of the 24 school districts in money spent on each student.

How does Baltimore compare with the other school systems in terms of Administrator-Teacher ratio; in terms of teacher pupil ratio?

Schools in every teeming urban center which has a heavy concentration of, black people are in trouble.

The gut question is do you solve those troubles, by shooting down black superintendents, or by using the revolving door practice on non-black superintendents?

Or do you attempt to end the gross disparities that exist between schools in affluent areas (Montgomery County) and the orphan school districts such as Baltimore?

Now and then——by g. james fleming

Maryland's human relations commission

A real vote of confidence has come to the Maryland Commission on Human Relations, in its being chosen by the U.S. Treasury Department to hear complaints against the expenditures of revenue sharing funds in the state.

The first selected of 35 human rights agencies, the Maryland Commission, (MCHR) recently signed a "cooperative agreement" with Treasury which empowers it to move against any local Maryland government or secondary recipients and contractors.

The Commission is authorized to conduct compliance reviews in cases alleging discrimination.

Where "probable cause" is found, MCHR will advise the Office of Revenue Sharing, which will take steps to resolve the problem.

The Revenue Sharing Act of 1972 provides that "no person in the United States shall on grounds of race, color, national origin or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with ... (revenue sharing funds)."

The Maryland commission's findings will de given "substantial weight," according to the Office of Revenue Sharing.

Since the signing of this law on October 20, 1972, nearly $19 billion have been distributed to some 39,000 states and local governments throughout the United States.

The law authorizes the distribution of $30.2 billion over a five-year period that ends with December, 1976.

Predominantly black and poor communities and agencies serving such groups should be on the alert, to insure that revenue sharing funds received in their states, cities, and counties are distributed and spent without racial, nationality or sex discrimination.

Politically sharp Chicagoans have shown that the revenue sharing law can be enforced.

Following the period of compliance reviews in that city, Chicago had all of its revenue sharing monies cut off because of discrimination within its police department.

To date, in Maryland, three jurisdictions are in the early stages of investigation.

While the national government has been recognizing the Maryland commission for its professionalism and for its high quality of investigation, the MCHR agency is not faring as well in its home state.

The attempt of MCHR to improve its operating tools was beaten down by the last General Assembly.

The commission sought power to:

(1) award monetary damages against litigants who were found to have discriminated, in violation of the state laws and,

(2) to establish a hearing examiner system for public hearings.

The commission once exercised the power to award monetary damages, but this was taken away by the state Court of Appeals last year.

Only the State Legislature can restore monetary damages, much of MCHR's teeth is extracted.

Without this authority to assess monetary damages, much of MCHR's teeth is extracted.

A human relations commission without teeth becomes a little more than a forum for airing grievances.

As to a hearing examiner system, all administrative agencies have found that a one-man, well trained, expert examiner is more efficient than a hearing committee of laymen.

He acts like a "master" in juvenile and domestic relations cases or as the examiners of FCC, ICC and other such federal bodies.

The examiner system, to MCHR, would mean that the agency could reduce its mountain of cases in reasonable time.

Right now, according to MCHR, a case filed in February, 1975, will not be brought to a hearing until the close of fiscal year 1981.

Cases certified for public hearing in the next six months will not be brought to public hearing until 1984.

The Maryland Legislative Council, during its interim sessions, should give MCHR a vote of confidence similar to that extended by the U.S. Treasury, by giving its approval to legislation empowering the commission to levy monetary damages and to use examiners in first instance hearings.

REVENUE SHARING EXPERT — The Maryland authority on revenue sharing is Professor Clifton Vincent (history and political science), of Morgan State College.

For the past two years he has been studying the ins and outs, the ups and downs of the administration of revenue sharing, utilizing five counties in Maryland and Baltimore City as his laboratory.

Under the auspices of the Brookings Institution, of Washington, Vincent and 25 other social scientists also meet periodically for cross-sharing of experiences and to report on their projects.

Professor Vincent is one of the corroborating "associates" in a volume recently published by Brookings, under the title, "Monitoring Revenue Sharing."

Salute of the week

(Editor's note: — Persons featured in this new AFRO columnn are nominated by readers. Send your nomination to Salute of the Week, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1837, Baltimore, Md., 21203.)

Hats off this week to an educator whom associates call a 'beautiful,' wrilliant woman with the capabilities to inspire others'.

She is Mrs. Edmonia T. Yates, principal of Baltimore's renowned Forest Park High School, the first top female black administrator in the school's 51-year history.

She is the second woman to head the school where once Vice President Spiro Agnew and other Maryland lawmakers attended when it was predominatly white.

Today, Forest Park, with a predominantly black enrollment, is moving great strides ahead, associates assert, "because Mrs. Yates has infused the school with the spark of her own mind and personality."

'Charming ... outstanding ... capable' are the words used to describe Mrs. Yates in the nominating letter, which also says of her, "she is in love with excellence."

Born 56 years ago in Blackstone, Va., Mrs. Yates was reared by her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams (Edna. He is a retired smelting firm employee. They reside on Braddish Ave. Her natural father, Richard Townes, died when she was two.

She moved to Baltimore while still in junior high. She finished second in her 1948 graduating class at Dunbar High..

Four years later, she was graduated from Morgan State College, where she majored in mathematics.

She holds the equivalent of a master's degree from the University of Michigan and an earned master's in education from the University of Md. She has done further study at Johns Hopkins.

Prairie View College in Texas was where she had her first teaching experience. Then she moved back to Maryland.

For two years she taught at Banneker High in Baltimore County. She transferred to Baltimore City because, "I wanted an all-math schedule."

Southern High School was her placement for four years. Then she headed the math department at Douglass High for eight years, a period she recalls gave her time to enjoy and develop her scientific side.

The high standards for herself and others took her out of the field of math into administration. She returned to Dunbar as assistant principal. Later she was assistant principal at Northwestern High.

In 1973-74, Mrs. Yates was principal of School No. 1 for pregnant adolescents. There, her special assignment was to conclude the writing of specifications for a new building.

A whole new world of understanding youth and the intricacies of life were her rewards from the students there.

She feels that the richness of such an experience should be helpful to many more educators.

Mrs. Yates views her assignment to principalship of Forest Park as "an exciting challenge." She remembers the prestigious past of the school and visualizes the school can be rejuvenated.

After her August, 1974 debut in the halls of the old building, one of her first acts was to gather a group of parents to help get the school renovated physically and spiritually. She knows that faculty and students need parental support.

A prime goal she has set is to raise the self image of her students. The respect and affection which have come have been rewarding.

Mrs. Yates' family includes, daughter, Patrice, age 5½, and Joseph Jr., age 8½. She is the wife of Joseph Yates, coach of Parkville Senior High.

The Yates family attends Forest Park Presbyterian Church. She belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Baltimore chapter of Tots and Teens and the National Association for Secondary School Principals.

MRS. EDMONIA YATES—Setting precedent at Forest Park

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).

A little about a lot——by madeline w. murphy

Back to a bankrupt school system?

The efforts of school boards in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, to fire highly competent, strong-willed, intelligent black superintendents, indicates the trend all over the country to knock off articulate black leadership.

And here in Baltimore, it is now being done with the help of benighted black board members, tools of a deceitful mayor, whose arrogant appointments were made despite the vehement objections of the black citizenry, throwing in our face the apparent impotency of the black political power brokers.

Both school systems were in chaotic conditions, bogged down by self-perpetuating bureaucrats — unimaginative racist people — who had no concept of innovative methods of education or administration.

In addition, to bring the schools up to date and relevant for poor and black people, many administrators and teachers in the old bankrupt system, had to be demoted or fired (the old saw about old dogs not learning new tricks is quite apropos here.)

Because of radical surgery in the system, deep seated resentment and insecurity were the end result.

In an effort to survive, the old hands fall to cooperate, drag their feet, spread false rumors and even a few lies to undercut the work of Dr. Roland N. Patterson.

And at the same time, counterpoint on the theme is played by new school board appointees and Councilman Dr. Emerson Julian, who ignore their accountability to the black community.

They are peeved about extraneous matters that have nothing to do with the quality of education — mostly personal recognition — and are willingly spreading the sickness of racism.

A fair appraisal of the performances of Dr. Patterson indicates that his efforts are beginning to pay off in terms of a better school system for our children.

And against this background, one must ask, how does Dr. Julian, with all four of his children products of private schools, have the gall to gripe about heresay ills of the system or of the performance of Dr. Patterson?

What yardstick does he use to measure the difference between his superintendency and that of former superintendent Dr. Thomas Sheldon or any of his forerunners?

It is indeed, in this election year, that we had better re-examine the principles of incumbent black elected officials to see if their duty to us is not being prostituted.

Dr. Julian's latest public outburst negates all that we have fought for in our struggle for equal representation.

He destroys the work of thousands of black public school parents, (and I can proudly be counted as one), who have struggled to support and improve our schools.

He attempts to destroy the rank and file belief and participation in the school system — in what we perceive it to be, and hope it will become.

It is on the fraudulence of this kind of elitism that the jackals willingly gnaw, for in this arrogance, these half-truths, it becomes easier for all black elected officials to become pawns of the status quo, and for us to despair of ever electing a black mayor.

We must therefore, be mindful that this private evaluation of Dr, Roland N. Patterson without proper community input, has all the earmarks of a kangaroo court, and if successful, portends dark days in our future political struggles.

The question remains, will we sit back and allow these Quislings in our midst to take us back to the good ole days of bankruptcy in our public school system?

"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

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

Make it official

The writer's name and address must be included in all Letters to the AFRO.

Those with printed or typed names and initials will not be considered.

The AFRO reserves right to edit all letters.

AFRO readers RAP about . . .

School commissioner McCrea

Dear AFRO:

Mayor William Donald Schaefer made one of his sweeeet political appointments in the selection of Grover McCrea to the Baltimore City school board.

McCrea impressed the Mayor last year when he was a member of the parent group which fought for the Chinquapin Middle School.

But Mr. McCrea betrayed the children and parents of Winston Elementary School, (closer to Chinquapin than Northwood), by leaving them out at the last minute from being one of the feeder schools there.

In making the appointment of a black man Mayor Schaefer needed someone whose behavior he could control on the school board. Mr. McCrea is supposedly working for a consultant firm to recruit blacks.

Is it really a consultant firm? Is Mr. McCrea on the Mayor's secret payroll?

Before becoming a school board member, Mr. McCrea made it known in many quarters that he disliked Dr. Patterson and wanted him fired. Mayor Schaefer made certain that his selection of Grover McCrea was a safe one.

Mr. McCrea has already started his campaign by blocking Dr. Patterson's critical administrative appointments and publicly criticizing the superintendent's administrative handling of Lombard Junior High's problems.

The black community should not sit by and allow Mr. McCrea to continue this.

B. M. WILLIAMSON

(Editor's note: The AFRO offered School Commissioner McCrea an opportunity to comment on statements in the above letter. He declined to address specifics, except on the matter of his employment. His statement:

"This firm (BF and M Recruiters) has nothing whatsoever to do with blackness, absolutely nothing. I am out in Lutherville. This is not a consultant firm.

"It's an employment agency where we recruit for industry. I doubt seriously during the course of a month if I see three or four blacks.

"I wouldn't be concerned about that letter. Go ahead and roll it. I don't even bother refuting those kinds of things . . . but I appreciate the call. Okay? Have a good day. Bye-bye.")

Picketing Mayor Schaefer explained

The following letter from Mrs. Claudette Chandler, activist mother is occasioned because to explain why she demonstrated with signs (see photo) when Mayor Schaefer appeared at ceremony at Arena Playhouse.:—

Dear AFRO:

The interruption of the Mayor's speech Sunday was to alert members of the community to the tricky manner in which the mayor deals with black people.

Nothing was intended to impact unfavorably on the Arena Players as we endorse the aims of this group. However, the ceremony was attended on behalf of Concerned Citizens because we wanted the Mayor to understand that there is no longer a guarantee of smooth sailing when he comes to a black community group offering one-hand friendship and using the other hand to knife us in the back. Beware of false generosity.

At the same time that the Mayor is making provisions for the Arena Players to get $321,000 for renovations, he went along with the School Board's desegregation plan that was designed to please white parents, but that is losing the city $23 million in federal money. He gave $321,000 and took away $23 million.

At the same time he is encouraging the performance of actors, he is discouraging the performance of young people by trying to disorient the school system, retard progress and turn back the educational clock and having the puppet School Board to remove a superintendent whose first priority is the educational welfare of children along with community involvement.

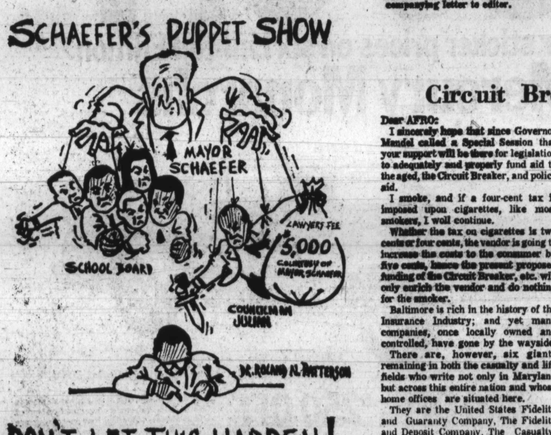
We want the Mayor to publicly take a position regarding the shabby treatment of Superintendent Dr. Patterson, board president Ramsey and other board members, and to call off his puppets.

We also wanted to serve notice than principles and values are inextricably connected with the Dr. Patterson case that supercede personality.

This is a vital political issue. We expect Mayor Schaefer to act like a man and come out front on human rights and not act like a little boy and hide behind his mother's skirt or the School Board.

CLAUDETTE CHANDLER

EXPLAINS — Mrs. Claudette Chandler, with picket sign, explains concerns of herself and other parents, in accompanying letter to editor.



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

WHAT SIGN SAYS — Closeup of sign held by picketers mentioned in accompanying letter to editor.

Caucus hits Lally move

Dear AFRO:

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus have addressed the following letter to Robert J. Lally, secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services:

"Dear Colonel Lally:

"The members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus are extremely disappointed by your demonstration of a lack of sensitivity regarding the appointment of a qualified black person to the position of Commissioner of Corrections.

"We are of the opinion that, with full knowledge of our endorsement and recommendation of J. Brown Hardy for that position, you offered him the job of deputy without making him aware of our endorsement and without conferring with us.

"Since we represent the black residents of the State of Maryland, and in view of the fact that the greater percentage of the State's prison population is black, you should have given our recommendation strong consideration and met with us before making your selection.

"Your action is but another example of a decision made by officials of our government which has deprived the black community of representation at a high level of government. We hope that you and other administrators in State Government will keep this fact in mind when future appointments are made.

LLOYAL RANDOLPH,
(Chairman, Maryland Legislative Black Caucus)
By: ARTHUR G. MURPHY SR.,
(Secretary)

'S AND YOU

Aries (March 21-19) — You are called upon to represent special group. This is no time for a secret meeting. The shouting would give away the location.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Friend is aggressive, speaks frankly and lets you know where you stand. The game-playing is over and the stakes are for keeps. Know it and act accordingly.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — You could find your self in the midst of a lively debate. Don't pull punches. Say what you mean in a meaningful manner.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)— One you though was limited shows new sides of character. You get chance to exhibit creative abilities. You also receive confidence of person who is attracted to you.

Leo (July 23-August 22) — Money as it affects partner, mate is spotlighted. Tax matters, insurance, leases dominate. Nobody is going to give you something for nothing. Be mature enough to realize it.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) — Lie low where longrange commitments are concerned. Someone may be misrepresenting financial position. Don't point finger. Be a shrewd, keen, skeptical observer.

Libra (September 23-October 22) — You get lowdown on working conditions, costs, reasonable expectations. You may do some reviewing, revising and rebutting. Hard facts may contradict fantasies.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) — Love, physical attraction, impulse, speculation are emphasized. Change travel, variety and a unique investigation.

Sagittarius (Novemeber 22-December 21) — Your home, family, domestic relations are more important than usual. Security, basic operations are activated. You find what is real, what is flimsy. Shakeup is due. Be preapred.

Capicorn (December 22-January 19) — Relatives, neighbors visits, messages dominate. Older family members could be insistent. Be patien. You many not have complete story.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) — Money, possessions, ability to distinguish between come on and genuine bargain are highlighted. Key is willingness to accept responsibility.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)— Watch out for excessive speed. There's danger in carelessness. Know it and avoid it. Give logic a chance — don't be carried away by impulse.

Circuit Breaker an aid?

Dear AFRO:

I sincerely hope that since Governor Mandel called a Special Session that your support will be there for legislation to adequately and properly fund aid to the aged, the Circuit Breaker, and police aid.

I smoke, and if a four-cent tax is imposed upon cigarettes, like most smokers, I will continue.

Whether the tax on cigarettes is two cents or four cents, the vendor is going to increase the costs to the consumer by five cents, hence the present proposed funding of the Circuit Breaker, etc. will only enrich the vendor and do nothing for the smoker.

Baltimore is rich in the history of the Insurance Industry; and yet many companies, once locally owned and controlled, have gone by the wayside.

There are, however, six giants remaining in both the casualty and life fields who write not only in Maryland but across this entire nation and whose home offices are situated here.

They are the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, The Fidelity and Deposit Company, The Casualty, Monumental Life, Sun Life, and Baltimore Life, all of which have demonstrated their faith in Baltimore.

Think for a minute what the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company did for the Inner Harbor; Sun life for the Charles Center, Monumental Life for North Charles Street; and Baltimoe Life for the Mount Royal Renewal.

The Fidelity and Deposit and the Maryland Casualty own impressive, high tax-paying structures that anchor and stablize the area in which they stand.

Think beyond the terms of just the real property tax they eadh pay and consider the home office pay-rolls they fund, their many other expenditures that enhance our economy, and the corporate taxes they pay.

It all adds up to one substantial contribution to our local economy that we are lose or diminish.

There are, of course, many small local and state based companies who will suffer proportionately and who, at their own level, or do their share for our economy.

In fact if the premium tax becomes law, the reciprocal actions of the 44 other states may cause our one locally black-owned life company to go out of business.

If the premium tax is enacted, 44 states will retaliate; and the taxes imposed by these states orn our local companies will be $13,000,000, and amoung that cannot be recouped.

So to gain a million for this state, we are giving $13,000,000 to the other states.

To pass the state onto the buyers of insurance means that locally owned companies cannot compete rate wise in other states and hence must suffer in the volume of business written.

All of this adds up the shrinkage of payrolls and expenditures at local levels and a loss to our local economy.

It is probable that at least two of the companies involved could move their home office from this area to avoid the tax in the other 44 states and, as a result, do untold damage to our economy.

When the state mandates incurance coverage, when a father buys insurance for the protection of his widow and children, and when we employee buys a pension annuity, these are not the purchases of luxury items that should be taxed.

As of 1970 the state abolished the 1 per cent tax on annities; and in all probability, the Bill, as passed, reimposes that tax, which is in essence a tax on thrift and at tax on the desire to be selfsufficient in one's later years.

Hence, on one hand our intention is help the aged, and yet the present Bill will tax those who are providing for their approach to that period of their life.

In this category are our many state, city, and county employees; the self-employed and the many corporate employees who through their own funds sek to meet the financial strain of later years.

The intentions of the Senate and House are admired, but the method of funding lacks foresight.

I am not critical for in the closing, hectic days of the Legislature Session, the intention to meet a public promise had to be paramount; and there was no time left for a full and complete analysis of the import of the method of funding.

When the Special Session is called, all of the ramifications should be considered.

FRANK X. GALLAGHER

Money TALKS but VOTES count too

Dear AFRO:

Money talks. Money buys and sells. Money is power and there is no doubt about it.

Your May 3, 1975 editorial, "Empty Law Day Words," was superb. I hope that you will allow me to condense its message in the lead paragraph.

In mirroring Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard, you point directly at the black community's biggest problem, not enough spigots.

Explanation: If you have a good spigot, you can control the flow of anything. Money flows and lawyers control the flow of money. Your figures clearly show that there are very few black lawyers in Maryland or anywhere else. Hence, no spigots.

Of some 75 persons who passed the Maryland Bar exam last year, only (7) were black. Only 10 of 178 judges in Maryland are black. Just 73, of 5,500 lawyers in Maryland are black.

Contrary to public belief, Baltimore and all points north, south, east and west, run on money — some of which is spent to pass favorable laws to produce more money.

Your editorial states, "Since black people make up a substantial portion of the citizenry, they deserve, must have and must demand an equitable share of the jobs which determine their destiny."

However, in reviewing the local history, it becomes apparent that blacks do not, can not, and must not deserve anything. Blacks in Baltimore do not vote. Jews do, and they have more lawyers, judges and everything else.

Before the black community can complain about the paucity of black lawyers, it needs to see if it can go to the polls this September.

A good indicator of whether this reservoir of potential black power will wake up will be the Fifth District Councilmatic race between Norman Reeves and the vulnerable incumbant, Reuben Caplan.

DENNIS SHCATZMAN

Mother At 15

Dear Jan:

Being a mother at the age of 15 is a real responsibility. You have to get on your knees to people in order to feed and clothe your baby.

When the baby's father isn't in the picture, you're always alone and depressed because there is no one there to love you, need you, respect you or understand you.

You sit around feeling sorry for yourself, which isn't getting you anywhere.

The opposite sex thinks that just because you've got a baby and no boyfriend, they can put things over on you.

Your mother talks to you like you're a dog and your father tells you he does not have time. So here is a word of advice to all young girls: — Don't have a baby until you are old enough to be on your own and old enough to accept the responsibility.

And, make sure the guy you have the baby by is good and has a job and is willing to take care of the baby.

NAY NAY

Dear Nay Nay:

Thanks for writing. You've said it all. Good luck and God bless.

Dear Jan:

I am 16 and this dude I like is 22. He loves me as much as I love him. He's supposed to get married next month and I don't want him to get married, but he is going to do it anyway.

So what can I do? He has another girlfriend and I have another boyfriend but I don't want him to get married. So could you give me some advice?

Loves and Hurts

Dear Loves:

There is nothing you can do. Forget him. He's using you for a good thing, a last fling before he settles down. He's not marrying the other girl out of pity, so get your head together and best out.

Have a problem? Write Jan, care of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. No phone calls, please and do be patient. Jan's desk is loaded, but she will answer your letter in print as soon as possible.

Where to call

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, 396-0218; 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 5 p.m. and weekends, 234-2172.

CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION — 383-5700.

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

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-3231; transit and traffic, 396-3049; drug abuse counseling, 396-2726; job, 383-5466; legal aid, 539-5340; rumor control, 837-1188; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reforms, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S STATION — Govans, 396-6054; Greater Homewood, 396-6050; Northwest, 396-0024; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

DISASTERS — 467-8005.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — 539-5545.

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 54 or 56, between the hours 9 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service.

Your report will get prompt attention by top management of the AFRO 'it' 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 purchased lunch at one of the delicatessens in Lexington Market this week. When the young man started making my sandwiches, he lit a cigarette and smoked it.

While he was making my second sandwich, I asked him wasn't it against Health Department regulations to smoke while handling food. He put the cigarette out promptly.

But isn't it illegal for people to smoke while they're fixing food in public places? Doesn't this delicatessen require employees to obey health regulations? — E. M. P.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Food Service Division of the Health Department told AFRO-Line, "Smoking is prohibited while preparing or handling food."

AFRO-Line also talked with the manager of this delicatessen and he was very grateful to the reader for bringing the incident to our attention.

He said it is indeed against health rules and against his rules. He is sure that this was done in his absence but he can assure you that it will not happen again.

QUESTION: Last December the house next to me caught fire and nothing has been done to repair this house.

Because it is in the middle of row house, it is ruining the appearance of the block. In addition, we fear vandalism and twice fire because it has happened twice to the same house.

Can you advise me what to do or how to go about having this house repaired.

D.C.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line would like to help but the reader gave no address nor did he sign the letter. All letters must be signed and contain addresses. Please write AFRO-Line again.

Mr. Bumble prayer

Our God and Father, Search our lives, our thoughts and our motives and help us cast out all evil. For Jesus sake, we pray. Amen.

(This week's prayer suggested by Mr. James of W. Fairmount Ave.)

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

Smile

Despite jets, heart transplants, and such, the research-and-development experts have yet to invent something that goes faster than a week's vacation.

Register now

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 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Applications are also available at all Enoch Pratt Libraries, all Urban Services Agency offices and all major department stores downtown and in the outlying areas.

Next primary election is Sept. 9, 1975. Deadline for new voters to register is August 11, 1975.

MAY