I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

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 who is in Heaven.

CARL MURPHY (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

A-4 FEBRUARY 21, 1976

The police spy report

In so many words, Baltimore's police department has called the Maryland Senate Investigating Committee that probed charges of illegal police spying a bunch of lying, mudslinging dupes who have sought in McCarthy style to undermine public faith in the force.

Until the inept Senate probers are willing and able to support their serious charges against the police and others with solid evidence, they deserve to stand severely discredited.

Nothing could be more dangerous to the society than to permit a group of elected officials, backed by a staff paid from public funds, to make the kind of serious charges hurled against Police Commissioner Donald Pomereau, judges, the telephone company and others, without the need to produce supportive evidence.

It is a strange and shocking development to observe that Baltimore's media have generally stood in comparatorial silence or nitpicking condonation as the Senate probers hurl unproved charges with contemptuous disregard for the rights of others.

Major Bernard F. Norton, head of the controversial Investigational Services Division, summed up the department's reaction to the Senate probers' Report:

"I find the report is one of conclusions alone and those conclusions apparently not based on any discernible evidence. . .I find it shocking that documentation and sources for their conclusions are not listed. . .(it) contained not a shred of evidence, that we have received, to indicate any legal or moral culpability on the part of the ISD, or for that matter, any other unit of this department. . . .

"The witnesses that they must have heard have obviously been wildly imaginative persons who must have personal reasons for wanting to destroy us."

That's heavy stuff.

And it's important. For there are those who feel most of the charges of illegal and abusive actions came from disgruntled policemen and labor people who tore their pants in the police strike, from excitable politicians and so-called militants who still have to show where what police termed defensive intelligence work became illegal or abusive.

Charges against the police department have been investigated by numerous bodies now and the only one to sharply condemn the police offer no proof at all. That is unsatisfactory.

Gov. Mandel and the General Assembly owe it to the people of Maryland to find out once and for all if the Senate probers have facts to back their charges or if they are what they look like—a group of inept, mudslinging amateurs not above corrupting the reputation of the legislature.

If they haven't had an achy feeling in your legs, arms and across the shoulders and you haven't had a bad cold which has made you feel miserable, you are mighty lucky.

A number of Baltimoreans have had these and similar symptoms which are characteristic of influenza or what is commonly called the "flu".

The 1976 version is described as the "Victorian" flu. By whatever name it is called, the strangest thing about the ailment is that it knocks you out before you know it.

No matter how much you may want to go somewhere or do something, your body will not permit you. The bed is a welcome retreat.

We were bound there this week and barely had strength to raise our head and admire the balmy 70 degree weather outside.

We asked the City Health Department what to do about flu symptoms. The response was:

"Don't try to stand on your feet and fight it. Go home and get in the bed. Aspirin may relieve, occasionally, but it is best to let your doctor make a judgment about what you have because it is an individual thing."

The Health Department spokesman warns: — "Most of all, do not leave yourself wide open for further infection and endanger others with the germ."

Meantime, as we write this from our bed, we are mighty jealous of those who do not have to "ka-choo" every two minutes.

Ka-choooooo!

OTHER VOICES SAY

Our '101st Senator'

"There have been many black leaders more visible. There have been black leaders more vocal. There have been black leaders more brilliant, but none who has been more effective than Clarence Mitchell. . ."

These were the words of Senator Edward W. Brooke, R., Mass., the only black senator in the United States Congress, as he praised Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., who is affectionately called America's "101st Senator."

Senator Brooke's comments highlighted the many commendations given the NAACP-Washington Bureau chief on the day designated by Mayor Walter E. Washington as "Clarence Mitchell Day" at a luncheon testimonial held recently in the nation's capital.

Many other good things were said about Clarence Mitchell, and numerous awards and certificates presented as speaker after speaker showered words of praise on the veteran lobbyist for his legislative achievements and outstanding success as a fighter for rights down through the years.

At the AFRO, we remember Clarence Mitchell as an investigator and reporter of top talent back in the thirties when the Scottsboro case of Alabama was in the limelight.

We knew him well then, and we have watched him and his family grow, progress and move into the national political and civic spotlight with phenomenal success, but we hesitate to add to Senator Brooke's remarks.

Frankly, there is little that can be added. We think Senator Brooke said it all, and said it best. Long live Clarence Mitchell!

(Reprinted from the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.)

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).

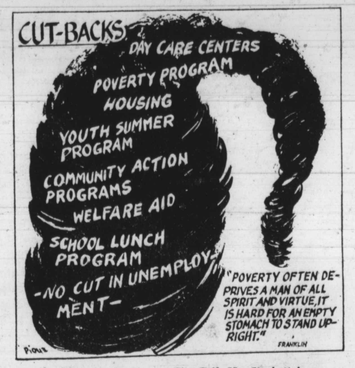
Quiet, please

The Xerox Corporation has just sponsored one of those sessions at which, in this case, 120 Americans talked for three days to define the nation's knowledge needs for the next 25 years.

There are cynics among us, however, who will say that what the country really needs is less talk and more thought.

(From the Arkansas Gazette.)

Time to take a firm stand for human rights, Mr. President



(by Pious in the Kansas City Call. Mr. Stockett is on vacation.)

Now and then — by g. james fleming

In Africa they call it "dash"

"Greasing the palm" to obtain favorable consideration for one project or the other is as old as the USA. Indeed, it is older. It goes back to the colonies. To be more exact, "greasing the palm" or bribing, seems to be as old as mankind.

In the old cliche, it is "winning friends and influencing people."

No one should be surprised, therefore, on learning that some of America's prestigious corporations have been pouring out millions to very important government officials, in all parts of the world, in order to insure that these foreign governments will decide to buy American goods, such as Boeing or Lockheed airplanes, but not limited to Boeing and Lockheed.

Even in our several states, this kind of thing goes on as part of regular business. One very well known company owns an island, off Bermuda, where it entertains VIP's from the government every weekend, mostly persons in charge of letting lucrative contracts.

Not a barren island, but an island with clubhouse, private cottages, and "entertainment", including "name" models from New York City. Other corporations, as newspapers have revealed from time to time, place their jets and yachts at the disposal of key people who can make decisions favorable to the owners and their business interests.

Perle Mesta, "the Besta," long famed for her lavish social affairs for decision-makers in Washington, was subsidized in order to bring "the right people" in contact with those who could do them favors.

In Africa this "taking care" of governments officials is called "dash." In fact, greasing any palm in order to get a favorable action goes by that term. It is not unusual to hear even a street urchin demand "Dash me," in order for one to take picture of a nature scene, tumbledestedly.

U.S. government officials in Africa complain that American technical assistance and other aid are often over warted or delayed because they must provide "dash", or its equivalent (or fight "dash") before they can get the cooperation of certain high officials.

"Dash," by whatever name, is also prevalent all over the Middle East, we have been told.

When Americans react as if taking bribes is a strictly a foreign practice, however, they demonstrate that they are behind in their homework.

Every American city, and many counties, have their officials and favor-seekers who have indulged in bribes and kickbacks, and they have included some of "the leading citizens," some pillars of the church and synagogue. Some of these payers and recipients of bribes have included presidents and vice-presidents, the political bosses, great and small, and all levels of other politicians figures. Abroad, they have included princes, prime ministers and generals.

If it is good for your moral posture or your psyche, feel free to blush and be ashamed over Lockheed and Boeing, but the passing of "dash" is as old as civilization and as commonplace as bacon and eggs—almost.

Perhaps society should be honest about paying to get what one wants in world of buying and selling, and openly include in all cost of goods a certain percentage for buying influence, for buying the extras. Some people call it bribing, others call it "dash."

Perhaps, too, "dash" should be limited to big deals. In that way, the widow and the wage earner would not be held up on government services until they can bribe some petty official (Certainly, "dash" should be off-limits in schools and colleges, or is it?).

If "dash" were legalized, there would not be the sense of shame, or surprise or sin, when, as part of international competition, American firms "grease palms" in order to win business—business that keeps American factories going.

Incidentally, the little man and woman may be learning how "big business" gets to be big; how the successful people get to be successful; how superior peoples get to be superior.

A little about a lot — by madeline murphy

Absolutely corrupt power

Lord Acton wrote, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

And it is deplorable that those in power positions who have the opportunity to chastise the power of a rogue elephant police force do not deal with the central issue of those in the black community who were and are still victims and targets of the illegal tactics of the ISD.

Because it is this runaway power, similar to that of the CIA and FBI, now sanctioned by heads of state, cities and the nation, which in the long run, leaves the common man a zombie to be manipulated, to be repressed and frightened into perpetuating absolutely this corrupt power.

Archbald Cox remarked recently that "public trust is destroyed by administrations or law enforcement agencies which lie, and snoop, and conceal acts in the name of security."

Speaking of the public trust, another example of power is the subway controversy where one side (Schaefer) believes what's good for Baltimore is an 8 mile stretch of underground rails that won't be in use until the late 1980's, servicing commuters from suburbia at dawn into the heart of the city then whisking them back at dusk unblemished, unsullied by city living, where 60 per cent, incidentally, of the population is black.

In addition, one suspects that after dark the schedule will be curtailed because the subway was meant to facilitate the entrance and exodus of suburban workers only, while our city taxes will support this hypocrisy.

However, the opposing Orlinsky view supporting surface and monorail, develops a group of adherents in Annapolis who now aren't too sure that the best interests of taxpayers will be served by the gloom of cost overruns that will make the short experiment an Albatross around the necks of our children and grandchildren. But leaning toward surface rail and monorail, will not resolve the ultimate uncertainty of how much mass or rapid transit will finally cost.

All the while, we, the common people, the inarticulate zombies gawk and fume, while the powerful with their hidden agendas of influence peddling, political expediency, possible patronage from the cement and steel kings, pat us on the heads vaguely reassuring us that the other side is the real liar.

In spite of the promise of jobs in a subway system, the track record of black employment in public projects has been dismal, non-existent. Rumors are abroad that out-of-state and foreign construction companies and labor have wrested most of this potential job market from the bulk of the black laborers in the inner city.

And if this is so, it is in direct violation of HUD act of 1968, Section III.

Already we can witness the watering down of enforcement powers, with Article 49B in re: the Human Relations Commission and the HEW case and the State of Maryland that looks like a grand plan to perpetuate the racism that undergirds the Ford administration; where the poor and black inner city residents are so much expendable fodder.

What must we do to change all of this?

In recalling that during the Saturday night massacre, only 8,000 telegrams impelled Congress to move toward impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, we must realize that the voice of the people is still the most effective tool against runaway dictatorship and absolute corrupting power.

Bicentennial celebrations avoid highlighting that this country was founded upon a revolution, that provides in its Bill of Rights, Constitution and Preamble, the on-going encouragement and tools for the continuation of mass action by the people.

Representatives all too often are elected and controlled by special interest groups who subvert the rights of the common man not only to be heard, but to be reckoned with.

Therefore, we should not depend upon them to act alone, for a little prodding from us through telegrams, letters, phone calls, appearances at their offices will prolong the revolution and perhaps reawaken the public's trust.

Register to VOTE

Register now so you can vote in the Primary Election on May 18, 1976 to nominate candidates for president, U.S. Senate, congressmen, judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and the Circuit Court of Baltimore County and delegates to the National Convention.

April 19, 1976 is last day to register before the Primary.

General Election is November 2, 1976.

You may register by mail by using the form in the AFRO to apply for Application to Register, or at the Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts., Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Washington — by parren j. mitchell

No minority participation no support by me

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

In my Column for Nov. 14, 1975, I warned that blacks faced the possibility of not sharing in the billions of dollars soon to be spent in a government effort to reorganize and revitalize railroads in the northeast and midwest United States.

As you may recall, at the time of the November column, final systems plans had been adopted, implementing legislation was in the final drafting stages, various funding figures were being tossed about, dates for consideration by the full House and Senate were being tentatively scheduled; and, most importantly, minority involvement was being ignored.

I further indicated that the National Business League, through its Booker T. Washington Foundation, had developed a program to ensure the involvement of the minority business community in the final division of rail reorganization dollars.

But, I quickly added that some of my colleagues here in the Congress as well as Ford Administration officials would surely be less than receptive about the entire idea.

Now, almost exactly three months later, I am happy to report to you that the chances for meaningful minority involvement in the national rail program are significantly greater. Part of the battle has been won!

On Jan. 28 the Congress passed the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976. The legislation is now Public Law 94-210. This act authorizes $6.3 billion to be spent to salvage and restructure numerous failing and bankrupt railroads.

The most significant landmark, however, is that Title IX, Section 906, of the Act creates a Minority Resource Center within the Department of Transportation. Under the authority granted to the secretary of transportation the center will among other actions:

1) Establish and maintain, and disseminate information; from a national information clearing house for minority entrepreneurs and businesses, for purposes of furnishing to such entrepreneurs and businesses, information with respect to business opportunities.

2) Assist minority entrepreneurs and businesses in obtaining investment capital and debt financing;

3) Conduct market research, planning, economic and business analysis, and feasibility studies to identify such opportunities;

4) Design and conduct programs to encourage, promote and assist minority entrepreneurs and businesses to secure contracts, subcontracts and projects related to the maintenance, rehabilitation, restructuring, improvement and revitalization of the nation's railroads;

Because of the original threat of a veto of this rail legislation by President Ford back in December, 1975, the bill was actually presented to the House for a vote on two occasions.

On the first occasion the conference report on the bill was brought before the House, I voted against it. Why? The Minority Resource Center language had been mistakenly omitted from the conference report.

My action stunned many of my colleagues as well as incurred the wrath of several of the rail unions, particularly since the conference report did include several anti-discrimination provisions centered around Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Unfortunately, the record shows that no longer is the presence of anti-discrimination language sufficient to ensure minority participation in a federal program, especially in the economic development aspects of such a program.

The effort necessary to attempt and guarantee a minimum of minority involvement in the multi-billion dollar Alaskan Pipeline project is a prime example.

Therefore, in good faith, I could not — and in the future will not — vote in favor of any legislation which ignores minority contractors, consultants and other related businesses.

Through the untiring efforts of Clarence Bishop, my legislative assistant, the Booker T. Washington Foundation personnel, and others, the Center creation language was in the bill the second time it was presented the House. Therefore, my vote on passage was affirmative.

The first victory has been won. The battle now moves on to ensuring that implementation of the Minority Resource Center at a funding level adequate to do the job.

82 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.)

Smile

A young doctor had really wanted to be a comedian but his mother had forced him to study medicine. He never forgot his first love, however. A patient came in complaining of pain in the knee. He examined it and quipped, "Pretty swell joint you have here!."

Salute of the week

(Editor's note: AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons to be featured in this column. Write Salute of the Week Baltimore AFRO American, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203).

Twenty seven year old (will be 28 February 26) Joseph Haskins, Jr. is in the spotlight this week.

Mr. Haskins was recently appointed vice president of Business and Financial Affairs at Coppin State College. He succeeds Alvin B. Watson.

A native of Baltimore he holds a BA in Economics from Morgan State College and a Masters of Business Administration from New York University, with a major in Finance.

Mr. Haskins formerly worked as credit analyst and branch administrator in a bank in New York and most recently as an assistant manager in a bank in New Jersey.

This week's honoree and his wife Cassandra formerly lived in East Orange, New Jersey. She worked there as a teacher consultant, dealing with students of various disabilities.

He is the son of Joseph and Cleora Sullivan Haskins.

Mr. Haskins has five sisters, Miss Yvonne Haskins, a senior teacher in the Baltimore schools; Miss Barbara Haskins, a senior at Morgan State University; Miss Patricia Haskins, a junior at Coppin; Miss Sharon Haskins, student at Western High; and Miss Kim Haskins, a Cecil Community College student.

He also has a brother, Anthony who is a student at Northwestern High.

The family attends Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

MR. HASKINS

"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

A-5 FEBRUARY 21, 1976

CORE and Angola

Dear AFRO:

As the saying goes, "You can't tell a book by its cover;" so does it apply to Roy E. A. Innis — national director of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), also the saying, "A wolf in sheep's clothing;" wouldn't be too far off the mark either.

For today, he has turned an organization which has fought long and hard for the democratic rights and freedom of black people in America into an arm of the CIA by recruiting black mercenaries to suppress the democratic rights and freedom of black people in Angola.

Innis and CORE hide behind the cloak of black nationalism to justify his mercenaries fighting alongside racist South Africa's troops and CIA — U.S. government financed UNITA and FNLA.

CORE, which calls itself "a principled black nationalist organization," quoted Innis in the AFRO-AMERICAN (Dec. 30th issue,) "We have seen how the American Irish respond to Ireland; the Italian-American to Italy; the Jew wherever he may be — to Israel.

"But, where, we asked, is the black man's response to Africa and to this tragic Angolan situation in particular."

So Innis and CORE's response is to recruit, pay the airfare, and pay the salaries of 200 black mercenaries so that they can deny the Angolan people's right to independence and their right to choose a particular form of government.

Still, today CORE and Innis are recruiting black veterans to go to Angola through what they call the "veterans' opportunity project" in Baltimore.

Is this CORE's solution to the unemployment among black people?

It sounds very much like Jessie Jackson asking the FBI for more black agents, when it is has been shown such agents have been used to infiltrate progressive black organizations and cause them to have shoot-outs with each other and that the FBI has been used to discredit prominent civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We, members, of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Independence of Angola strongly urge the black community and all other communities to condemn Innis and CORE in aiding in making war abroad and not concentrating on making war on unemployment and racism at home.

We are asking people to write newspapers, visit, picket, and write local CORE offices and show your disgust and disapproval of the recruitment of these mercenaries as an act against humanity and peace.

One clerk

Dear AFRO:

It was with interest and general agreement that I read your editorial and the letter of James Arnold, Jr. on the elevation of Honorable Milton B. Allen to Associate Justice of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore.

I agree that 5 Blacks out of 21 judges "is but a drop in the bucket"; but I find that I disagree with you that "there were no black clerks or other officers in the courtroom." I was there. One only had to look up front sitting with the other five clerks of Baltimore to see me.

When I became acting Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas the Sun reported that I was 37 (four years older than I am); the AFRO now reports that I am non-black. I cringe to think what the Jewish Times might report.

J. RANDALL CARROLL
Acting Clerk

City Charter revisions

Dear AFRO:

The proposed revisions to the City Charter, prepared by the City Charter Revision Commission at Mayor Schaefer's request, and presented to him in September, 1975, are apparently in limbo.

If these revisions are not reviewed by City Council and adopted this spring, they will not appear on the ballot in November. And, since 1977 is a non-election year, the revisions could not be presented to the voters before 1978. This effectively means they will quietly expire.

The League of Women Voters is concerned that these charter revision proposals be given a proper airing. The Revision Commission worked diligently examining the present provisions of the Charter, interviewing city officials for their views, and holding public hearings.

These citizen volunteers, appointed by Mayor Schaefer, have executed the charge which the Mayor gave to each member at the time of appointment. They now see their proposals being ignored, and their many hours of effort being negated.

The League urges Mayor Schaefer and City Council President Orlinsky to introduce the City Charter Revision Commission's proposals as ordinances to the Council.

We further urge that the City Council act on them promptly.

The League, along with other civic groups, has examined the proposed revisions and believes that they merit consideration by the voters of Baltimore.

The voters will be denied this opportunity if immediate action by the Mayor and City Council is not forthcoming.

CAROLYN GUASE,
(President)

MTA hike

Dear AFRO:

Let me make my feelings known to you and AFRO readers on the proposed fare increases asked by MTA! I'm opposed to any fare increases! It is a state agency and it should be run for the public convience at a sensible cost!

If fare increases should be allowed, there should be one cost at all times for all people! There should be unlimited transfer privileges! Those who pay more should get more!

In addition, such a policy would prevent disagreements as to transfer privileges and rates! Depending on fastness of watches and temperment of individual drivers, some arguments could ensure as to payment of rush-hour fares vs. regular-time fares.

In addition the inconvenience to riders due to arbitrary hikes in fare, according to time, or in not riding due to lack of unexpected fare increase, there is the danger of violence between drivers and passengers due to differences of opinion as to what fare should be paid, etc. or what transfer is good.

Recently, due to an allegedly "bad" transfer we had a senior citizen arrested and fined in court. The public might not tolerate such actions in the future.

ANTHONY C. CHERRY JR.

Make it official

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

Those which contain printed or typed name and initials will not be considered.

All letters MUST be signed. Names will be omitted if requested.

The AFRO reserves the right to edit all letters.

tell it to Jan

Dear Jan:

I have been reading your column in both the Tuesday and Friday editions. Do you make these problems up or do people really have all those questions you answer?

Some of the things they ask sound so dumb. Don't the writers go to school? Don't they get sex education? Don't they talk to their parents?

PUZZLED

Dear Puzzled:

The AFRO's Jan is oladed with letters from young and not-so-young readers who have problems. Letters to this column average 25 a week. Honest!

The fact that the writers address Jan, instead of their teachers, parents and others with whom they are in daily contact, may be an indication that they feel assured their letters will be kept in confidence and that the answers will be objective because Jan does not know them personally.

Many people — young and old — feel relieved if they can 'get it off their chest', so to speak, with somebody who does not know them personally.

Dear Jan: I am 13 years old and I love to listen to records but I have to go to bed early. Therefore I am unable to listen to my favorite disc jockey. In addition, when I am up, my sister turns off the radio to listen to the TV. What can I do?

MUSIC LOVER

Dear Music Lover:

Why don't you try to save your money to ask your parents to give you a transistor with ear plug attachments. At least you will be able to listen to your radio while you are up and not disturb anyone else.

Young beat — by larry young

New options for the late 70's

(Mr. Young, 26, is the youngest member of the Md. House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore city's 38th District, which encompasses the inner city.)

Criteria should be developed for the measurement of the "quality of life" for both individuals and the general society and mechanisms should be developed for the collection, interpretation and presentation of information pertaining to this criteria. The criteria should include the following areas of social and individual concern:

General health — Basic sanitation and safety maintenance, ample, available health care and intensive medical services for all people; natural environment; income and basic economic security; individualism; employment and productivity; training, education and culture;

Productive employment areas — study of the variations from the mean which exist within minority groups regarding educational attainment in relation to earning power.

Performance indices should be developed and reports should be released in a way which provides a highly visible and simple indication of how our nation is functioning in each of the above categories.

Social index reports should be publicly released on a regular basis in much the same way as current unemployment and price figures. Information concerning the means of calculating these indices and background data should also be publicly available.

Implementation: There is no clear cost data concerning the development and maintenance social report system. The 1971 federal government allottment for statistical programs is approximately $161 million. It does not seem unlikely that a vastly expanded statistical program would cost twice as much as existing mechanisms.

Although raw data concerning the unions categories for an overall "quality of life" report might be collected by agencies and organizations concerned with the subject of measurement, it is undesirable that the nature of the overall report be unduly influenced by a particular interest or perspective.

It is, therefore, suggested that the final accumulation, interpretation and presentation of "quality of life" data be undertaken by an expanded version of the Council of Economic Advisors.

The title of the existing council should be changed to the Council of Economic and Social Advisors. The existing staff and resources of this body should be broadened and plans should be made and implemented which will allow a fully balanced regular report on the overall "quality of life.

This writer receives at least six to ten letters a week from inmates seeking assistance for one matter or another. The General Assembly should establish in the office of the public defender the Office of Inmate Advocacy (OIA).

OIA would represent the interest of inmate in such grievances, disputes, litigation, as will, in the discretion of the Public Defender, best advance.

The interest of inmates is a class on an issue of general application to them, and may act as representative of inmates with any principal department or other instrumentality of state, country, or local government.

The Joint Center for Political Studies — Focus Magazine, December 1975 issue, reports that in 1973 the City Council of Portland Oregon passed an ordinance legally recognizing the neighborhood associations, which proceed to authorized agencies of citizen participation in city government.

The council instituted and appropriated funds to an office of neighborhood associations, which proceed to help the associations determine their boundaries and strengthen their internal structure.

More about this innoviate municipal approach in a few weeks.

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO communt service to help you solve problem: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complain and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a post-card to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, MD. 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address and telephone number.

You may also call 728-8200, extension 64 or 50, between the hours 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and speak directly to AFRO-Line.

QUESTION: The apartments in the 2700 block of Gwynn Falls Parkway are owned by the American Realty Co. I am talking particularly about the block between Dukeland and Koko Lane.

Our association has gotten in contact with the health department, with the realtor, and we have even gone as far as to call the people to the meetings. We got American Realty to do work on the inside of the houses and also make some corrections on the outside appearance of the homes.

However it is the tenants' responsibility to keep the area clean. We have had nothing but problems. It is becoming a rat haven. All the homeowners here are doing their best to keep the area clean. This area is beautiful but this block is an eyesore.

Some of the residents clean their areas, put their trash in proper containers and do not put them out until trash day.

Others are not so cooperative even though they have been told that the trash men will not walk up to the house, they just put it in the alley. Can the AFRO appeal to them for cooperation?

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Northwestern Sanitation office told AFRO-Line that you are correct, trash men are not required to come to the house to pick up trash when there is an alley in which the trash should be placed. AFRO-Line is therefore appealing to the residents in this area to please cooperate and help maintain the beauty of this area.

Typical of the complaints that come across the AFRO-Line desk was the case of a woman who was very confused about her account at a local store. There may not be "an easy credit rip off" in this case, but it surely is a good example of how it can be done.

The receipt book and a copy of the ledger sheet at the store were contradictory. After checking the figures carefully, AFRO-Line came up with a $41.48 difference in favor of the store. When this was revealed to the lawyer for the company, he said, "That's why I have an eraser on my pencil. Have her come down and we'll straighten it out."

ADVICE: When you have door-to-door collectors, check behind them carefully. Yours may not have an eraser.

Where to call

SPECIAL NOTE: This column has been running numbers supplied by various agencies. The AFRO has learned that there have been some changes. Here is a revised list.

AFRO readers who fail to get help at these numbers are urged to let AFRO-Line know. Call 728-8200.

CONSUMER PROTECTION—for questionable business practices—383-3700.

DISASTERS — Fires, floods, hurricanes—467-9905.

EMERGENCY — housing, heating, light—234-2172 or 234-2412; after 6 p.m. and weekends, 234-2172, answering service will direct you.

FOOD STAMPS—234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763.

FIRES—685-1313.

HOT LINE—539-5151—for abandoned motor vehicles, bulk trash pickup, clogged sewers, dirty alleys and yards, garbage collection, muddy water or water leaks, street lights.

INFORMATION—city jail, 396-5121; drug abuse counseling center, 383-2720; legal aid, 539-5340; pension reform, 962-3914; transit and traffic, 396-3049.

POLICE — emergency day, night, weekends; 222-3333; community relations, 396-2110; homicide, 396-2721.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — for complaints about phones or gas and electric services—383-2374.

RAPE CENTER — 366-7273.

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SERVICE — ambulance, 396-2111; animal removal, 396-0218; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; furnace check, 396-4429; rats, 396-4418.

If YOU ask ME — by bettye mos

It was party time at the Hot Shoppes in Reisterstown Plaza on Friday evening when Jean and Curtis Adams and Delores and Bill Sykes invited friends to join them to dance and dine at a Valentine's party.

The delightfully different affair began at 9:30 and lasted past 1 a.m. The Hot Shoppes—ordinarily an eatery—had been transformed into a pretty party room, complete with dance floor and appropriate decorations.

Came supper time, guests lined up, cafeteria-style, to partake of the laden smorgasbord which ran the gamut from meatballs and fried chicken to chef-carved roast beef.

Music was by The Forecast group and featured special numbers by their soloist whose style was reminiscent of Joe Williams and enhanced the congenial, gay atmosphere of the affair.

Many guests asked Dr. and Mrs. Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Sykes how come they conceived of the Hot Shoppes idea for such an extraordinary party.

They explained that they were looking for an easily accessible location for a party and HS fit the bill. Nice idea!

Back in 1941, a group of Baltimore women organized a club and called themselves the 'We Wives.' Periodically, they observe their anniversary with a Valentine party.

This year, their celebration was special—what with it being their 35th anniversary—so they made a week-end of it.

Festivities opened Friday evening with a club cruise party at the home of anniversary chairperson, Vernelice Reynolds, continued Saturday afternoon with luncheon and card party.

On Sunday at 9, they worshipped at St. James Episcopal Church.

Cuff note: The rector, Father Donald O. Wilson, was ill on Sunday. His doctor had ordered him to bed for a complete rest. He is up and about now.

Associate rector, Father Joseph Forrester conducted services. Mrs. Forrester's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Schuster, were here from Waterbury, Conn., along with a nephew, Gregory Schuster of St. Croix, V.I., who is in the States attending school.

Later they hosted a gala dinner dance at Blue Crest North, beginning at 5 in the afternoon.

Club proxy Agnes Reaves and other members of the group were a sight to behold as they greeted guests who came from far and near.

And, of course, there were the usual beautiful ladies in breathtaking gowns. This column's pick for the loveliest ball gown was the one worn by club secretary, Margaret Hythe (Mrs. Theodore).

Her black Princess-line frock was of quiana. It was highlighted by five rows of seed pearls around the neckline and at the cuffs.

And get this—the gown was a copy of an original she had seen in an exclusive shop. She made it herself!

She put her long tresses in a high chignon and dotted it with the seed pearls. Very original.

Among the out-of-towners here for the event—Washington, D.C.'s Mayor Walter Washington and Mrs. Washington (Dr. Bennetta Bullock.)

Out of the hospital and making plans to return to his post on Monday is Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard. He was in Provident for tests.

Helen Gattis had many friends. They filled Trinity Presbyterian Church for her 7 p.m. Monday wake and the half hour funeral services which followed.

The Rev. C. Andre Kearns was right when he recalled that "she was one who for many years had devoted herself in the service of the community as a teacher, church worker, and a homemaker."

Mrs. Gattis was for 17 years an English teacher at the Atholton Senior High in Columbia where she was assigned when she was stricken three months ago. She had cancer of the pancreas.

Oddity — Mrs. Gattis had never been ill before and at one point during her illness confided to friends that because this was her first serious illness it will "probably take me away from here."

She was a teetotaller and a non-smoker.

The full choir was present for the service. Particularly moving was the rendition of "Just A Closer Walk With Thee." The soloist was Frederick Hicks.

Burial was atop a hill the next morning at Arbutus Memorial Park, as she wished.

In the obituary were printed excerpts selected by Helen from one of her favorite poems, by an unknown author who wrote, "Bury me in the morning and let me have light of one bright day on my grave ere I am alone in the night. Bury me where the birds will come each spring and sing my love song. Bury me while the people are gazing at the flowers I so dearly love.

Those of us who knew Helen and her husband, Clifton, will remember them as a devoted couple who found great joy with other people, entertaining their friends at their Tulsa Road home.

On many a summer day they opened their backyard to friends who gathered around the pool. They and their friends took particular joy here because Helen and Clif did their own decorating and cared for the outdoor pool. It was absolutely beautiful.

She loved poetry, flowers, painting and above all people. The obituary noted that her "bright and shiny spirit touched the lives of all she met."

Here for the funeral were her sister, Mrs. Calista Jones; aunt, Mrs. Alethea Lewis; neice, Miss Sheila Jones; cousin, Mrs. Gladys Logan, all of Philadelphia; and Dr. James Wise of Virginia Beach, Va., also a cousin.

Also here were longtime friends from Washington D.C., Dr. Zelda Bowie Elder and her husband John. She is a professor of medical psychology and neurology at Howard University. He is a D.C. school principal.

Also heartwarming was the presence of over a dozen Continentals from Washington, and Philadelphia who joined members of their Baltimore Chapter in paying tribute to Helen and participated in the group's memorial services which were held during the family hour. Helen was a charter member of the Baltimore Chapter.

Active pallbearers were Dr. William Birt, Dr. Joel Carrington, Marvin Davis, Dr. Lionel Desbordes, Dr. Robert Phillips and Alfred Woolridge.

Honorary pallbears were Sen. Clarence Blount, Dr. Thomas Jones, Dr. Vernon Pennington, Dr. Roland Smoot, Yancey Whittaker and Dr. George Woodland all of whom are husbands of members of her club, The Carats.

Also, honorary pallbearers were members of the Continental Society, Inc.

Ernest F. Williams who was buried February 2, was a longtime resident of Monteberlo Terrace in Morgan Park. He and his late wife had resided there for many years.

She was the sister to the late W. Llewellyn Wilson, the longtime music teacher at Douglass High School.

Mr. Williams was employed for a number of years at Baltimore College of Commerce and later at an apartment house on Charles and 33rd Sts.

NOWADAYS — by bill riley

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) Congratulations you have discovered you are attractive. A Gemini could be in the picture.

TAURUS "The Bull" (Apr. 21-May 21) Your home seems more important now. A Libra might be involved.

GEMINI — "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) Don't promise what you can't deliver. The accent is on Pisces.

CANCER — "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) Accept more responsibility. A Virgo wants you to undertake a project.

LEO — "The Lions" (July 24-Aug. 23) Let bygones be bygones. Aries will help you look into the future.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) Be ready to pay the price, nothing is halfway. Don't play games with Cancer's emotions.

LIBRA "The Scale" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Restrict your movements. The family may have to give the "go" sign on your Taurus.

SCORPIO — "The Scorpion" (Oct 24-Nov. 22) Be willing to concede. Aquarius figures prominently in travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS — "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have have an uncanny ability to deal with young people. A Leo can attend to the details.

CAPRICORN — "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Don't be impatient. You may have to retrace your steps but a Saggitarian will aid you in the complicated situation.

AQUARIUS — "The Waterbearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Capricorn has a hint for you. Be receptive because there is a great deal to gain.

PISCES — "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) You get nothing for nothing. Tell your Scorpion just enough but not all.