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., 1860-1922. 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)

Adults truants, too

At the Thursday morning ceremony at the B. and O. Railroad Transportation Museum, a 14-year old Calverton Junior High student interrupted the picture-taking. He wanted to pose with Mayor Schaefer and members of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission who were there to receive the state's entry in the Wagon Train pilgrimage.

Even though he was out of school, he talked of his dreams to go to high school and college.

Every day, school officials estimate upwards of 25,000 students hook school for one reason or another. Some, suspended for misconduct, find the streets more inviting and fail to return.

Spurred by complaints from their constituents and businessmen alarmed by idle youth roving around in the daytime, a City Council Committee has set about to study the matter.

We wish them luck but we are amazed at the direction of their investigation.

Absenteeism from school relates to suspension and discipline problems. Poverty, malnutrition, overcrowded facilities, and part-time schedules, insufficient attendance officers and lack of diversified activities also keep restless youngsters home. These have plagued urban school systems for years.

That's why we are just as flabbergasted that a daily newspaper editorial writer would chide acting superintendent John Crew for his frank response to Council queries.

Superintendent Crew is exactly correct when he says schools cannot be blamed for all the social ills of the city and nation and that parents and other adults must shoulder some of the responsibility.

We do not interpret his comments as a "throwing up of official hands in despair."

What worries us is that the same people who would describe the Crew comment as "an easy and cheap answer" have not bothered to support restoration of school budget cuts so that school officials can deal with problems that foster absenteeism.

We support Superintendent Crew's view that schools should do everything they can within budget limitations to let parents know school doors are open and teachers expect their youngsters.

That City Council committee might do a better job if it addressed itself to truant adults, those like the businessmen and neighborhood leaders who complain that idle youngsters are a public nuisance.

Where are their suggestions or positive plans to eliminate the problems?

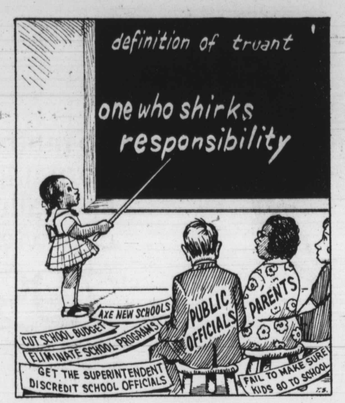
Where are their incentive programs providing after school and weekend jobs for those who live in their neighborhoods?

What are the neighborhood groups doing to work with parents to help them understand they have a responsibility to see that their children are regular in school attendance?

Before we condemn too harshly the school-age truants, critical attention should be paid to adults who are truant too.

Some of them are elected officials and their constituents who shirk their responsibility to support the schools and the parents in their neighborhoods.

Let the real truants stand up



A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Youth jobs bill needs YOU

Mayor William Donald Schaefer gave an impassioned speech the other day upon hearing that Baltimore is number one in the nation in TB cases.

Mass Transit, the Peabody, the Walters Art Gallery, the Academy of Science and Industry, convention and stadium centers, though typical of the Rotarian boosterism that emphasizes cosmetic attractions for suburbia and conventioneers, were dealt a devastating blow when tuberculosis reared its ugly head, for it threatened all those $$ from trickling into a soon-to-be financially beleagured city!

Yet TB has been with us for a long time, quietly and insidiously hiding under the covers.

Schaefer's belated anger at his health department, as if throwing drugs and X-rays at people will make TB go away, illustrates his obstinancy and misplaced priorities in dealing with human problems affecting his constituency.

Ten years ago, a small article hidden in the back pages of the morning paper reported 30,000 cases alone in the 18th and 19th wards of lower West Baltimore.

Without an all-out drive, however, in nutritional education in upgrading economic levels of those residents then, this latest revelation of long-standing benign neglect shouldn't be surprising.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Services Center, operated for the city's destitute, will be phased out on March 1. With an initial $123,000 alloted for services, David Tabler, the center's chief at 1500 Greenmount Ave. reveals they're broke.

Employables have been cut off of welfare.

Unemployment compensation funds are almost exhausted.

Now, the city's destitute won't even have voluntary agencies to help them because financially strapped agencies like the Salvation Army have had to refer most appeals for help to the Emergency Services Center!

Nationally, 22 per cent of all youths and 42 per cent of black youths are unemployed.

Some estimate that 50 per cent black youths between the ages of 16-25 are out of work in Baltimore's inner city.

Moreover, so long as this problem continues to escalate, as a result of short sightedness on the part of city politicians, and as a result of discrimination in hiring in business, industry, city and state agencies, no matter how much money is invested in a larger, repressive police force, in drugs and X-rays, people will resort to crime, while TB flourishes.

This underlines the real inopia of state and city administrations--cockeyed priorities.

It is noteworthy that we see the mayor, president of the City Council, housing administrator, converge upon the governor with Mass Transit plans in their pockets to blithely uncaring about the most pressing problem of unemployment.

Given their low level of interest about basic needs of the urban poor, in concert with this mania for construction, the city administration, like so many Neros, rather than solve the problem, might just as soon fence or wall-in the destitute amidst the spread of TB; keep them away from downtown; entice the conventioneers with their fiddles; and bow to the line that when the problems are out of sight, they're out of mind also.

But hark, what blaze westerly and now easterly lights the sky?

Destitute shopping centers? Fire insurance claims their only succor?

Now, however, there is an excellent opportunity for them to show a rearrangement of their priorities (especially since the Federal Jobs bill has been soundly defeated) by getting behind House of Delegates Bill No. 837--Public Employment for Youths--sponsored by Del. Kenneth Webster.

This bill will provide not less than 30,000 jobs yearly at prevailing wages, rates or union wages, whichever is higher, with a permanent on-the-job training program, where youth will be trained in highly skilled long term occupations.

Jobs will be created in professional and para-professional areas.

No more than two per cent of the monies allocated would be set aside for administration, and the program would be funded by a one per cent surtax on the profits of banks and corporations earning income in the state.

It is time to stop just sitting there. It's time to DO something . . . to get out track shoes, pens and phone directories and demonstrate concern.

For further information about this bill, call 235-8495 to get details about an organizing effort to push and lobby for this bill.

Just like the power structure adopted "We shall overcome" that took all the sting out of it, let's adopt, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," and put a principled, humanistic meaning to their phrase.

Young beat — by larry young

Presidential primary important for all

(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.)

On November 2, 1976, the United States will elect a new President. And in a single day, a man will be chosen to change America.

But, he must do more than talk about change. He must cause it. He must know what's right. He must know what's wrong. And he must know what's next. And he must know how to make it happen.

When I vote in the Maryland Presidential Primary on Tuesday, May 18, I will go into the voting booth wanting change, not for the sake of change, but for the sake of progress.

I just cannot believe America is a nation that has lost its way. I believe we are a restless nation, searching for better ways.

One of the most prominent civil rights organizations in the nation has prepared a magnificent document which should be the "measuring stick" for how we black Americans should vote for President.

Published by the National Urban League, Vernon Jordan, Executive Director, the document is entitled—"The State of Black America 1976."

In his January 28, 1976 press conference, Jordan said, "Last week, the President declared that the state of the union is better, in many ways a lot better.

"I am here today to say that the state of black Americans is worse, in many ways a lot worse, as a direct consequence of the social and economic policies followed by recent Republican administrations and Democratic Congresses.

"The slow but steady decline in racial cooperation in the black condition became, in 1975, a headlong rush into the deep pit of depression and hardship.

"The condition of black Americans, once the benchmark of America's commitment to equality and justice, is now the object of malign neglect and hostile disregard."

The Jordan statement added: — "That neglect is manifest in the President's State of the Union address, which did not include a single mention of black citizens and their needs.

"Nor did Secretary Edmund Muskie's reply to the President include even a single reference to the hopes and aspirations of black people."

Because of this exclusion of black people, the National Urban League prepared its document that, explains the seriousness of the situation in which black people find themselves.

In this Bicentennial year, it is a sad commentary upon a nation celebrating a revolution fought on the position that "all men are created equal."

It is important to note that the Urban League's State of Black America document makes important recommendations that spell out some of the solutions; a full employment policy, that assures decent jobs for all; an income maintenance system that alleviates economic hardship and replaces the welfare mess; housing, health and education programs that go beyond rhetoric to bring our nation closer to a prosperity that includes all of its citizens.

Further urban legaue's Jordan urges: —"Black people, whose condition has so drastically worsened and whose very survival is at stake, should educate themselves to the issues, should register and vote in the coming primaries and election.

"This Bicentennial election of 1976 could be the most crucial election in recent history for black people."

Right On, brother Jordan, and compliments to the National Urban League.

AFRO readers, the hour is late, but there is yet time to set the American house in order.

A proper beginning for each of you is to register to vote. On May 18, AFRO readers should vote in the Md. Presidential Primary.

This column will be open to Presidential candidates to discuss honestly and openly the critical issues facing us in 1976.

A quick word to the Republicans—you, too, must vote. The contest between Reagan and Ford should not go unnoticed by Republican voter in the AFRO precincts.

Two weeks ago, State Senater Verda Welcome and I were elected by the Md. Democratic State Central Committee to be 2 of 9 Marylanders to serve on 2 to 3 Democratic National Convention standing committee - the Platform and Rules.

Consequently, I will not endorse a Presidential candidate utilizing this column. However, I will write about the U.S. Senate and Congressional races.

I am going to ask AFRO readers to help me. I'm going to ask you to help me put a good idea to work.

And that's better idea is to spread the word—VOTE, May 18.

Right now, place this date on your desk, circle your calendar, put a memo next to your telephone and call friends.

AFRO history series

All over the country this month youngsters in schools and colleges have been studying black history. The month of February has been designated as Black History Month by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Inc.

In connection with this annual observance, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers' newest program, "Newspaper in the Classroom," has developed a unique promotion entitled, "1975 AFRO Black History Series."

What this means is that schools and colleges may obtain a 32-page tabloid containing reprints of the 1975 AFRO Black History Series. It is available at a bulk rate of 10 cents as opposed to the regular price of 50 cents a copy.

Since most schools and colleges are integrated, and lack in depth history courses which tell about the contributions of black citizens past and present, the articles provided in this tabloid are of inestimable value.

Stories in the history supplement reveal that the first Revolutionary War martyr was a black man; that thousands of black troops served under George Washington, and that 20 per cent of the Maryland troops in 1776 were black.

Other articles tell about the 20,000 black seamen who served U.S. ships in the Civil War, many of whom were cited for bravery.

Also featured are the black heroes who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for distinguishing themselves in action.

The series includes pioneers in music, literature, and other fields of endeavor.

What the AFRO Newspaper in the Classroom is accomplishing is providing lessons plans and ideas for using this newspaper as a living textbook.

Many schools call their Newspaper in the Classroom program Communications, Learning Your Neighborhood, or Journalism. Some schools published weekly newsletters. The end result is that the students improve their communications skills.

The AFRO switchboard has been busy with calls from youngsters and teachers seeking more information and background material on heroes, past and present.

The AFRO's 1975 AFRO Black History Tabloid now in its second printing is a valuable aid.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Spring inevitable---despite abuse

It is impossible to operate a modern nation without its government engaging in espionage and spying, and it is impossible to run a big-city police department without police snooping, structured or unstructured.

In all the present probes of America's espionage practices and Baltimore's police behavior, it is well to keep in mind that it is the alleged ABUSE of powers that is, or should be, put under the microscope and that should be condemned.

It is not a question of whether all CIA, all FBI, all Defense, and all police espionage activities should be stopped.

Such abolition of finding out what an alleged or potential enemy is up to, or what some criminals or suspected criminals may be planning, would be near-suicidal—unless all possible opponents, military and civil, could be compelled to dismantle their similar spying or their threatening confrontation violence.

To this writer, therefore, what all the headlines are about is the alleged violation of law, as in the case of the CIA and the alleged misuse of secret data, as in the case of the local police.

Webster's defines espionage as "The practice of spying on others, or the employment of spies; systematic secret, observation of the words and conduct of others."

Espionage, by definition, does not include planning or aiding in assassinations, foreign or domestic.

Neither does any law of the United States authorize assassinations, real or character; nor is "bugging" legal without court consent.

As to the CIA, it is clearly stated in its establishment statute that its activities shall not be carried on in the United States.

When it has been determined that the CIA or any other agency has violated American law or any international agreement, the agency in question should be disciplined, old laws should be clarified, new laws may be needed.

Indeed, it may be right and proper to examine whether an agency, such as the CIA, has outlived its usefulness.

Certainly, one needs to question the past gigantic size and the almost total independence of the CIA from any supervision.

It appears certain, that, from here on, there will be more executive and more congressional over-seeing of all espionage activities.

This writer has always felt that the CIA was too amazonic and too "footloose and fancy-free," too trigger-happy. On the other hand, it should be accepted that, in the world of nations—the world as it is—no one nation, (in this case the USA), can conduct its intelligence-gathering (its legitimate spying) in a goldfish bowl.

Police departments, too, often abuse their intelligence-gathering powers and practices.

It is not the data they legally collect; it is how they use it that is the issue.

There is no gain-saying that the police and their political overlords often resort to using police secret information illegally.

There is no gainsaying that First Amendment rights and protections often are violated. Such abuses must be fought continuously.

But, this question seems reasonable: "Must the police always wait until overt acts are committed, and actors and evidence have disappeared, before gathering information?"

In my younger years, I often wished that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies might have infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan and lynching mobs and would have known the leaders in mob violence and their plans, before they struck.

I accept the right of the Postal Service to open mail and spot-check for questionable schemes and swindles.

I do not like "informers," but can see why the police must use them, from time to time.

It may take a lot of "boring from within" to break the back of the hard drugs racket.

To repeat, there is no way in which the United States alone can act as if spying is not necessary, when all other nations and guerilla groups are indulging in spying.

There is no way, either, in which espionage can be conducted with press releases.

But, to prevent gross abuses will call for strong, clear laws, unshaking executive policies, and for administrators who can use power and patriotism with restraint and with respect for "the higher law."

In correcting past sins of commission and omission, we must be sure that we do not throw out the baby with the bath water.

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

The old believe everything; the middle aged suspect everything; the young know everything.

Register to VOTE

Register now so you can vote in the Primary Election on May 18, 1976 to nominate candidates for President of the U.S., and U.S. Senate, 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.

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).

OTHER VOICES SAY —

Reagan's demagoguery

Now that I've digested a bit of Reagan's campaigning, I've just about decided the hackers are right.

While most politicians indulge in demagoguery, Reagan seems to have that ruthless instinct for zeroing in on the fears, hatreds and other vulnerabilities of voters.

In denouncing the food stamp program, which serves some 19 million Americans, Reagan paints a picture of some hard-working taxpayer at the checkout counter in a supermarket wondering how he'll pay for his few pounds of hamburger.

Then, as Reagan dramatizes things, along comes "a strapping young buck" with a pile of T-bone steaks and a fistful of food stamps.

Reagan's "hard-working taxpayer" naturally is outraged.

This is shameful demagoguery on Reagan's part, but it is clever stuff nonetheless.

Clever because it is racism disguised just enough to be palatable to millions of whites.

Everyone knows that "strapping buck" is a code phrase that conjures up images of Mandingo, of some "burly" black male, chomping down T-bones, courtesy of the food stamp program.

Never mind that the vast majority of food stamp users are whites. Reagan has tapped a mass desire to believe that if this country didn't have so many lazy blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos and Indians, there would be no need for food stamp or welfare or Medicaid program.

CARL ROWAN

"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

Judges must apply

Dear AFRO:

Your editorial of February 14, 1976 "Five Judges Not Enough", is of particular interest to me as chairman of the Judicial Nominating Commission, 8th Judicial Circuit, covering the trial courts of Baltimore city.

As you must know, it is our responsibility to recommend to Governor Marvin Mandel, those individuals that the commission feels are fully qualified to perform the duties and assume the judicial responsibilities of a judge.

The Nominating Commission advertises widely among the legal profession and solicits the assistance of non-legal organizations in its search for qualified persons to fill vacancies on the bench.

Since 1971, when I became chairman of the commission, we have had the privilege to recommend a number of black attorneys who have applied for consideration and who this commission felt were qualified to sit in judgment of their fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, the number of black attorneys who have applied to the commission has been very limited and we were, therefore, unable to recommend as many as we in the commission felt should have been.

In our efforts to recruit qualified persons, we make every effort to find individuals who are willing (1) to accept the judicial salary and (2) are ready to stand for election, in the case of the Supreme Bench.

This commission has been privileged to nominate to the governor a number of distinguished black attorneys and again, we only wish more qualified persons would apply.

The present merit selection system appears to be working well, and under the executive order, Governor Mandel can only select those individuals who have been recommended by this commission.

With the assistance of your paper, we hope that more attorneys will consider applying for judicial vacancies as they occur.

As a personal note, I truly enjoy reading your paper and I am particularly impressed with your logical and factual editorials.

MARSHALL M. MEYER

Dr. Banks errs-Dean

Dear AFRO:

I read Sam Banks' attack on HB77, a bill to allow Maryland law school graduates to practice law upon graduation which appeared in the AFRO on Feb. 17, 1976.

To attack a bill that one has not read places that person in imminent danger of being classified as an ignoramus.

The bill reads: "An applicant who has graduated from the University of Baltimore or the University of Maryland School of Law shall not be required to take an examination related to his knowledge of the law, if the candidate makes application for admission to the bar and satisfies all other requirements of this article."

HB77 is a "diploma privilege" bill. When you finish school, you start working.

Dr. Banks displays a curious ignorance when he discusses my bill. He claims that my proposed legislation will "eliminate the bar examination for black law schools in Maryland . . ."

First, my bill does not mention "black law schools," Secondly, law graduates take law exams and not law schools; and thirdly, there are no black law schools in Maryland.

Banks also claims that my bill requires the "adoption of a separate legal standard or requirement for black law students" and that I am seeking "special privilege" for blacks.

None of those ideas is contained in my bill.

Further, he continues his phantasmagoria by demeaning black law students and fulminates about instruction in the elementary-secondary schools.

If I did not know better, I could easily believe that Dr. Banks must have been acting as if he were a Sam Coleridge scribbling the Kublai Khan.

My bill is addressed to persons who have been graduated from law school. Presumably they know how to do independent research, and how to speak, write, and read.

Naturally I was slightly upset over the unprovoked, paradoxical, quisling attack. However, upon re-reading that turgid, convoluted affront, I realized that obtuse Lilliputians are real.

Walter R. Dean Jr.
(Editor's Note: The writer represents Md.'s 41st District in the Md. House of Delegates.)

tell it to Jan

Dear Jan:

I was once very much in love with a girl when I went to jail. She had my child five months after I was arrested. When I returned from a year later, I found she was in love with someone else. I was so hurt I wanted to kill myself.

Now I have another girl pregnant and I have been arrested again. She wants to get married when I come home.

My problem is: can I trust her or will she fall for someone else? This is a world of hurt and I would have no reason to live in it if she does.

HURT

Dear Hurt:

Your first objective should be to trust yourself and stay out of jail. THEN you can afford to fall in love. THEN you won't have to worry about someone "waiting for you."

Make it official

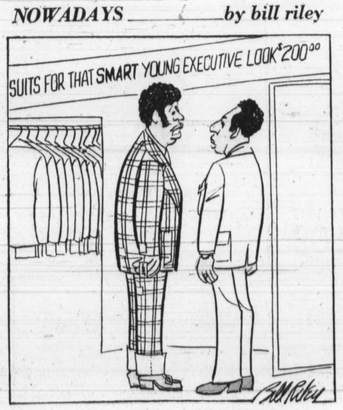
The writer's name and address must be included in all Letters to the Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN.

Those which contain printed or typed names 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.

NOWADAYS — by bill riley



Inner city residents will suffer if mass transit plan is abandoned

Dear AFRO:

As chairman of the Baltimore City Planning Commission and having been a member of that body for nearly eight years, I would like to accept your invitation to share with your readers some of my views and the position of the Baltimore City Department of Planning on the proposed mass transit facility for Baltimore city.

First and foremost, I think all of us must agree that when we are trying to give rational thought to a project that is as massive . . . as costly (approximately three-quarters of a billion dollars) . . . involving thousands of workers and machines and taking several years to build . . . as the proposed mass transit project, we must try to put such a project in some orderly perspective.

We must try to think clearly and satisfy ourselves, in our own minds, as to whether we think such a massive undertaking is in the best interest of all citizens in Baltimore city.

Baltimore, is a municipality with a little less than 900,000 population, with 52 per cent being black citizens. Its geographic location has been its greatest asset.

Not only is this city blessed with one of the finest harbors in the world, it also enjoys great access by railroads, highways and airlines.

This has enabled the city and the metropolitan region to become an area of highly diversified employment by attracting a wonderful variety of manufacturing, commercial, wholesale and retail businesses.

There are also in Baltimore city, and within a relatively few miles of the city, a number of federal and state government installations employing thousands of people.

Certainly it must become completely clear by all of the citizens of Baltimore City; black, white or other ethnic identifications, that the basis for our judgment on any program or project that will affect our lives is whether said program or project will maintain and improve job opportunities by making a lasting positive impact on the financial stability and general economy of the city.

It appears to this writer, that if Baltimore city is to survive as a thriving urban community, its governmental, business and community leaders must be certain that this city must be served by a total and comprehensive transportation system.

This should include airlines, railroad, (modern, deepwater) port facilities and a Mass Transit System for the efficient and economical movement of people.

Relative to the foregoing statement, we of the Baltimore City Department of Planning would like to address ourselves to some of the specific concerns that have been raised by previous writers on the proposed Mass Transit System!

1. Increasing the accessibility of locations within the city—particularly the central business district — is an important, perhaps essential, element in the effort to rebuild the deteriorated physical structure of the city and to increase the tax base of the community.

2. Increasing the capacity and the attractiveness of the transit system is required if we are to avoid increasing dependence upon the private automobile for movement, and that this can happen only if something significantly faster and more dependable than total reliance upon the bus is developed; and

3. In an era of diminishing supplies of fuel and rapidly inflating costs for both labor and supplies, a much more efficient mode of transportation must be developed if the costs of transit are to be held down to a point where the common man (or woman) can afford them.

GEORGE L. JUDE

As long as the State Legislature was prepared to back its pledge — made four years ago when the state took over responsibility for running the Mass Transit Administration — to put up the money necessary to build a rapid transit for Baltimore, there was no real problem.

The plans for the regional rapid transit system, developed in 1968, and subsequently refined, satisfied all of these requirements.

The rapid transit facility would increase efficiency (thus reducing the Mass Transit Authority's rapidly mounting deficit — in the long term); it would increase accessibility within the city (thus increasing the attractiveness of sites such as the new Social Security Complex as sources of new employment); it would provide a higher quality and more dependable means of transit for the people of Baltimore.

It looked like the answer to many of our most serious problems.

Apparently, the Federal government thought so too. It reviewed the Baltimore system plans as thoroughly as Federal authorities could and, finally, conceded that it was a good system.

It was so good that it was selected as one of two or three new system starts which have been approved in the last five years.

Approval of the concept wasn't enough for the State, though. They complained that it was impossible for them, (Maryland Department of Transportation), to begin to build because the Federal government wouldn't tell them how much money would be available over the long-run.

Without a long-term commitment, the State said, we can't afford to begin the system's construction.

Well, they got one. Urban Mass Transit Administration, in a precendent-setting move, indicated that Baltimore could begin building its initial leg of the system as soon as we made a decision to do so and we could look forward to half-a-billion dollars of Federal grant money over the next five years.

In addition, when we needed more money to extend the system, they told us to come and ask for more.

There was no commitment for more money, but there was certainly no indication that this was all we could ever get.

Now, suddenly, the state started singing a new tune. Instead of a lack of Federal funds, it was a lack of state money that was the issue. (Actually, this took a few weeks to get straightened out; the first story was that there would be a huge operating deficit. It took a few weeks to clarify the issue and to find that they were trying to saddle the Baltimore system with losses on the Washington system!)

There have been other issues, of course, but that's about where we are today — trying to find out whether the state will honor its commitment made four years ago.

AFRO readers might recall that, four years ago, the state raised the gasoline tax by an extra 2 cents per gallon.

None of that extra money — almost $20 million a years — goes to the city of Baltimore; it all stays with the state to use for transportation projects of all kinds.

One major use was to be the construction of Baltimore's rapid transit line; the other major use was to build highways in the rest of the state.

Guess where the money has gone? Right the first time: highways.

Guess where the money will go, if the anti-transit people — who are being led in the legislature by representatives of the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland and the suburban counties — win this dispute? Right again: more highways!

So, for the immediate issue, if the transit project is defeated, it will be the residents of Baltimore who will be the losers, the suburbanites who want more highways to get to their suburban job locations the winners.

It's actually even worse: those extra highways in the suburbs will make it even more desirable for new jobs to locate in the surrounding counties than in Baltimore itself.

The losers? The inner-city residents who can't get to jobs because he doesn't have a car and the busses don't go to the suburban jobs (or if they do go there, take an hour or more to do it).

The mayor has tried to make these issues clear before the City Council and the State Legislature. So far it is unclear whether they agree.

While the Planning Commission has a firm, clear policy in support of the transit system politicians listen to a different drummer.

Conversations with elected officials make it clear that they are looking for indications of support from the people on this issue; to date there has been little of this.

Without this support from the people who will benefit — almost all of whom are city residents, whether they work downtown or not — it is not at all certain that the legislature will support the project.

Without the project, Baltimore will lose its favored position with the Federal government. They have given us until May to fish or cut bait.

Without the Federal support, there is little reason to believe that we will ever have any kind of transit that is any better than the slow, undependable inefficient bus service which now exists.

The decision which must be made within the next month or so is one of the most critical to be made this decade as far as the future development of the city is concerned.

Unfortunately, it will not be made by the city, but by the state.

I fear that, unless the city's own delegation is strongly in support of the project, we will lose this issue.

Without an indication from the people — the busriders and the taxpayers who will benefit — I fear that the wrong decision will be made, that the subway will not be built, and that the state will turn its back on the transit problems of Baltimore and deal, instead, with the easier issues of building suburban highways.

GEORGE L. JUDE,
(Chairman, Planning Commission, Baltimore City.)

(Editor's note: The AFRO has invited all interested citizens to tell how they feel about mass transit system for Baltimore city. Previous articles on this subject have been written by City Councilman Michael Mitchell and Delegate Walter Dean. Address your comments to AFRO Readers Say, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

If YOU ask ME — by bettye mos

Out-of-sight were the John Taylor Dancers who appeared to entertain guests at the Chi Delta Mu annual founders' day dinner dance on Sunday at Blue Crest.

John Taylor, the instructor, has been with the Cultural Arts Program at Dunbar Junior High School for the past five years.

He is also an art teacher at Severna Park Junior High School and the associate director of the Columbia Dance Theatre.

The group performed four numbers, Jazz I, Fungi, Raggedy Ann and Voodo.

The colorful costumes were designed by Darnell Moore, 22, a member of the group, but the kids made the costumes.

When the dancers perform like this, they use the name John Taylor dancers, but in reality they are the Urban Services Agency Dance Group.

The company is composed of eleven dancers, ages ranging from 12 to 22 years but the seven who performed in this event were Center G. Schroeder and Hollins Sts., where Mr. Taylor teaches dancing one hour daily, four days a week.

In addition to Mr. Moore the performers are Barbara Dunham, 14; Twinette Brown, 12; Brenda Giles, 19; Chiquita McCutcheon, 17; Joan Cooper, 18; and Costance Lane, 15.

Cuff notes: — Mr. Taylor told the AFRO the group is planning to give more performances, including hospitals, to get the exposure they need, because most of them plan to go into professional dancing.

Next year they plan to audition for the professional company that is now being formed at Dunbar (the Baltimore Dance Theater).

More Cuff: — The young dancers won sustained applause from the dinner guests. Guests were especially enthusiastic when one of the dancers lost a skirt, but like a professional she went right on with her routine.

There was laughter and applause for the male dancer who kept right on, even though he suffered a big split in his tights. He covered the area with a shawl and continued his dance.

They were real troupers!!

More about people and things: Damita Jo, the famed singer, was among guests at the Northwest Child Study dinner dance Friday evening at Emerald Gardens.

Orchestra leader Wilbur Phillips prevailed upon her to join his outfit for one number. She rocked the place.

Phillips has a "real gone" band and his own singer has a delightful voice.

New couples seen about here and there: Dr. Clifton Jones, the widower and Mrs. Sue Miles, spied at the Valentine party at the Reisterstown Plaza Hot Shoppes and also at Chi Delta Mu.

Another new couple about: Ms. Jewel Moseley and Dr. Virgil Clift at recent gatherings including Chi Delta Mu.

At the We Wives 35th anniversary, spied Eliza Robinson, escorted by Ellsworth Wilson.

Mrs. Ada Weaver and Ernest Murphy were another twosome.

Judge David T. Mason's date was beauteous Merla Hayes of our town and D.C.

More people and things: We joined fellow members of the Md. Bicentennial Commission and a goodly crowd of representatives of patriotic organizations to salutes George Washington, the father of our country.

The Saturday morning ceremony was at the George Washington Monument in downtown Baltimore.

We had an opportunity to look inside the historic structure and to meet James H. Davis the municipal guard of N. Aisquith St. More on him in an upcoming issue.

Later, we joined a number of celebrants for lunch at the Greenspring Inn. Sharing the table with Bicentennial commissioners were Girl Scout representatives.

Verna Bigger, 15, of Poplar Grove St., was among them. She is a tenth grader at Western High, who is active in the Girl Scout Community 11 in the Metro West division.

With her were Mrs. Yvonne Archer of Milford Ave., the Girl Scout community director; and Ms. Annie Hunter, who is field supervisor for the Baltimore district.

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. 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 728-6200, extension 64 or 50, between the hours 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and speak directly to AFRO-Line.

QUESTION: I notice that when reference is made to appointments by the governor, there is reference to them being in his green bag? Is there really a green bag?—H.R.

ANSWER: Officially AFRO-Line learned from Ms. Ruth Eaton in Legislative Reference in Annapolis that according to an English Dictionary it was first used in 1677 to describe a bag of green material used by barristers (lawyers) for carrying legal documents.

The term also has been found to have been used here as early as 1908 during the administration of Gov. Austin Corrulhers, but it probably was used much earlier than that.

"Also, from the governor's office a spokesman tells the story of a green canvas bag having been made by one of the girls who was working for Gov. Tawes and they have been using it when they send executive nominations to the Senate.

"From the Legal Dictionary, 'Words and Phrases' a green bag is a satchel in which a lawyer formerly carried papers to and from court."

Further, the spokesman told AFRO Line, "It used to be that when the governor's green bag nominations came down, they made a big ceremony out of it. They would knock on the door and the doorkeeper would admit them and the governor's aide would carry the nomination to the Senate. I don't think they go through that ritual now."

QUESTION: My name is spelled incorrectly on my birth certificate. How do I go about having it corrected? P.R.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Bureau of Vital Records in the Baltimore City Health Department told AFRO Line:

One must get a record made before his 10th birthday showing the proper spelling of his or her name. This will include a baptismal record, first school record or an insurance policy.

Sometimes persons will change the spelling of their name when they reach 18 or 19 years of age, then this must be done through the courts.

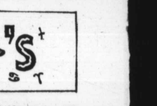
These records should be taken to 201 W. Preston Street or mailed to P.O. Box 13146, Baltimore, Md. 21203, along with the incorrect copy they have.

There is no charge for this service. The correction will be made and a new copy will be sent to replace the old one.

Where to call

POLICE — emergency day, night, weekends; 222-3333; community relations, 396-2710; homicide, 396-2721.

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



ARIES "The Ram" (Mar. 21-Apr. 20) Mistakes can be avoided if you discuss details with co-workers. Take heed to your Scorpions advice.

TAURUS "The Bull' (Apr. 21-May 21) It is time to improve your appearance. Health treatments may help. An Aquarius is waiting in the wings.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) You are embarking on a new project but do not shirk your duties at home. Your Aries doesn't feel too well about it.

CANCER "The Crab" (Jun 22-Jul 23) You are confusing a Piscean. You must make your statement a little clearly either written or oral.

LEO "The Lion" (Jul 24-Aug 23) You are having trouble with financial obligations. Your Sagittarian has some expert advice.

VIRGO "The Virgin" Aug. 24-Sept. 23) Value your Geminian friendship. Listen to what your friend has to suggest.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) There is no better time than now to keep your promises and get those petty little jobs done. A Virgo is in the picture.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You may have hurt a good friend of yours unknowingly, so don't be surprised at the change in a Taurus' actions.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't risk the security of your home. You have become lax. This is not wise. A Leo is waiting to help you out.

CAPRICORN — "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) If you wish to be successful, you must study more carefully and above all have a little more patience. Seek aid from your Cancer.

AQUARIUS — "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Good judgment, rather than hunches will put you on the right track. An increase in your devotion to Capricorn will also help.

PISCES — "The Fish" A little more cooperation with your associates will net you big results. You and Taurus are usually activities