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 which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

PAGE 4 JUNE 12, 1976

Child abuse

Child abuse is one of those social problems deserving of more attention. A recent study covering the problem in Maryland indicates that thousands of cases are not being reported.

According to the report, done for the Help Resource Project, a federally funded program, some of the under reporting can be laid to doctors who want to avoid embarrassment for the involved families.

If experts are correct in saying that often children are abused by parents reaching out for help themselves, it does not seem that doctors do them justice by making secrets of their anti-social actions.

Another sobering aspect of the abuse of young, innocent victims is the realization that so much of it occurs among people under pressure due to their socio-economic level.

Poor people not only are likely to be the most frustrated by their income, educational, etc. situation, but they frequently have more children with whom to cope.

Child abuse sometimes is linked to the use of drugs and alcohol by parents.

Additional attention is being paid to the problem of child abuse because it has become more prevalent among white families, according to Dr. Robert Hill, director of research for the National Urban League.

This too is a pattern we have witnessed in other areas, drug use being an example.

According to the Maryland study on child abuse only about 1,500 cases were reported last year while an estimated 11,000 took place.

Also, only a handful of the 1,500 cases led to prosecution.

Child abuse victims begin life with an additional strike against them.

In simple terms then it means that each member of the community is and will be affected if child abuse flourished and fails to be countered to the extent possible.

Delegate showboating

It's on to the national conventions now and with the end of the selection of party delegates in Maryland, particularly among the Democrats, maybe the season of foolish political posturing is behind us.

For some strange reason a number of Maryland Democratic leaders, usually the biggest names behind the going-nowhere candidacy of California Gov. Edmund Brown, wanted Brown to be made a gift of delegates from Maryland even though he won none here.

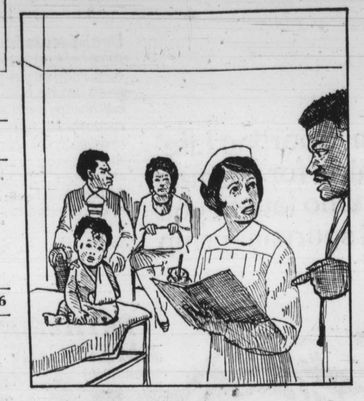
Gov. Brown and all his supporters knew the rules when Brown brought his late-train campaign into Maryland. Under the rules, Gov. Brown limped in too late to register any delegates on the ballot.

After his beauty contest victory in Maryland, one would have thought the governor had picked up delebates to count toward the party nomination by the way certain politicians and media people carried on.

What Gov. Brown found out about presidents goes for him also. Presidents, Brown kept telling us, are just like other people and if they happen to be men they get up in the morning and put on trousers before going out. And if one wants to win primary delegates in Maryland he has to put delegates on the ballot by deadline just like anyone else.

That's the only way to get delegates in Maryland and it has been rather interesting to see the silly showboating of supposedly shrewd politicians who've been wringing their hands and crying as if they and Brown had been cheated.

Don't say that the parents did it



Now and then — *by g. james fleming*

Our schools and their students

They were well scrubbed, and groomed, and shining as they marched, 262 strong, into their high school auditorium, to receive their diplomas and to mark the 124th anniversary of the founding of what is now Eastern High School.

I was not there to congratulate a kin or even a young friend. I knew none of the graduates. I simply wanted to get a commencement view of my local school system; to spend an evening with some high school people who are not dropouts, who have not flunked out, and who are not in the hands of the police.

I must have wanted something to remind me that, just as there are many, many Johnnies who CAN read, just so there are thousands every year, in high school and elsewhere, who "make it." My spirits must have needed a lift. And my spirits were lifted.

Not only was the program beautifully planned and beautifully executed, it was enlightening as one learned that 45 per cent of the 262 graduates (in this case young women) had already been admitted into college and that others had nailed down jobs with banks, colleges, several levels of government, and a variety of industries.

There was something to learn, too, of the advantage of being the current edition of a long established institution, such as Eastern, with its accumulation of scholarships, contributed by alumnae and other benefactors down the years, and up to the present day.

One person present who was especially mentioned was Prof. A. Chinedozi Anonye, of Morgan State University, who "just walked off the street and offered us a scholarship," according to Ms. Betty Williams, principal of Eastern.

Five of the graduates earned gold Peabody Medals (First Grade) for being at the top of the class, followed by ten others who won bronze Peabody Medals. Leading all the high-ranking graduates was Miss Natalie D. Tinner with an average of 95.

Altogether, 78 scholarships, medals and trophies were awarded, including some scholarships funded by Eastern's own faculty and Eastern's student body and organizations (some students, of course, received more than one prize).

Some awards were for "community service," but most were for high achievement in art, English, business education, foreign language, home economics, mathematics, music, natural science, social studies, physical education, and family living.

Despite the impressive ceremony, however, every few minutes I asked myself, "How does this fit into a column whose main concentuary is on politics?"

It was soon very clear that being in the midst of the Eastern commencement exercises (as it would have been the same for Western, Douglass, or Forest Park), with students, their parents and their faculty, was of the very essence of politics — politics serving the most important segment of the society.

It was important, too, because public education takes such a substantial slice of each taxpayer's dollar. In addition, and to repeat, it was fitting because it reminded us of the positive accomplishments of our public school system.

This is no attempt to sweep the weaknesses of the public schools under the rug; rather it is to say that we must find ways to ascertain why some Johnnies (from the ghetto or not) can read, and apply whatever we find to those Johnnies who cannot read.

It may even be that all of us will give more time to helping and pushing those young people inclined to "hit the books," who take studies seriously, and who struggle to overcome being part of a failure statistic.

Another thought concerned the need for more people like Prof. Anonye and more organizations such as the Gillis Memorial Community Church and the W. T. Meade Grand Lodge (No. 8, AF and AM), to underwrite scholarships, not only at Eastern, but also at Edmondson, Northern, Clifton Park, Dunbar, Douglass and Walbrook.

I especially liked the "Rosa Scott Award for Perseverance" and the "Susan Collins Award for Determination," both contributed by Dr. W. Eugene Scott, a member of the Baltimore School Board of Education, in honor of his mother and mother-in-law. Perhaps, first on my list is the "Josie Lee Goodrich Smith Award for Progress in English."

Yes, our schools and what they do belong here, in the spirit of Terrence, the Roman philosopher of African descent, who once said: "Whatever is human can not be foreign to me."

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

Reading ability flap

(GUEST EDITORIAL)

I read with a painful and unsettling sense of deja vu Mr. Boyce F. Mosley's (principal of the Lake Clifton Senior High School) plaintive exhortation to the Lake Clifton Senior High School faculty affirming an "all-out assault on learning" as a result of the "failure" level (57 per cent) on the recent English proficiency examination for juniors. As a central office administrator and colleague of Mr. Mosley, I can fully understand and appreciate his pique and disquietude.

However, as he must know, and the larger community, the issue is much broader and deeper than the alleged failure of the students to complete job applications and write letters of complaints to appliance dealers. The fundamental problem concerns the question of motivation and pertinence for students in a city that is increasingly, as is true of most large urban centers of our nation, bent on a custodial and "egg crate" view of education.

In brief, get as many students into classes and focus primarily on the maintenance of order. Excitement, joy of learning, participatory involvement, and relating instructional episodes to reality, past and present, yield to the "Order Syndrome." Incidentally, in this kind of environment, learning becomes incidental.

The situation at Lake Clifton, with a few exceptions, is generally true of most of our secondary schools. The tragedy of the matter is that shoddy and substandard test performances have little to do with the intellectual ability and intuitive strength of the preponderant number of our students, but the failure to create an aura in which learning can flourish and the absence of vigorous and sustained municipal support from the mayor and City Council.

The salient factors that impede and thwart the achievement of educational excellence in Baltimore are as follows:

1. The development of and support by the mayor and City Council of a specious and absurd proposition that it takes less to do more.

While, it is true that the relative number of students enrolled in the Baltimore City Public Schools has declined from 191,000 students to 171,000 students, the educational deficits and weaknesses of the students who remain, largely black and poor, owing to years of neglect, have increased and become more complex. Consequently, more teachers and specialized staff (viz., psychologists, social workers, reading teachers, clerical staff, etc.) are needed to assist students to overcome their educational disabilities.

2. The persistent and endemic racism that still pervades the building trades and other areas of the city and state.

A significant number of our graduates, even those who are able to pass questionable entry level tests and complete job applications accurately are still without jobs. The historic admonition that "education will make a difference" has virtually no meaning for them and their parents.

Nonetheless, in spite of this bleak and lugubrious state of affairs a petulant and capricious mayor is determined to have his fifteen million dollar aquarium. It represents, given the felt and compelling social and economic needs of our youths, an absurdity. It is difficult to divorce, as a social scientist, the classic historical reference of Marie Antoinette: "Let them eat cake."

3. An attenuation and weakening of support for public education.

Excellence and high quality education cannot be provided students in school districts unless there is a corresponding superior level of expenditure and broad-based community support. It is ironic as emphasis is given to the concept of "less to do more" in large urban school centers that in affluent and prosperous school districts such as Newton, Massachusetts; Shaker Heights, Ohio; Webster Grove, Missouri; whose students have historically done well on national tests and entered our most prestigious colleges and universities, there is no thought of trying to do less with more.

Finally, Mr. Mosley's "assault on learning." I believe is misplaced. It should be an assault on the mammoth apathy and misplaced priorities of those who control the power in this city; the mayor and City Council.

Otherwise, Mr. Mosley's well-deserved declaration for excellence will represent an empty Canutian proclamation: "Waves, I command thee to be still."

(Dr.) Samuel L. Banks
Coordinator of Social Studies
Department of Education

'I, too, cry genocide'

Recently Johns Hopkins Hospital prated about the reduction in black infant mortality, due in part to birth control, but it wasn't made clear how not having babies related to not having babies die at birth. However, down to 35 per 1,000 as compared to 17 per 1,000 white babies is really nothing to crow about, and like William Patterson, I, too, cry genocide!

Some sinister revelations brought out recently associated with this famous teaching institution also reinforce the notion that racism is alive and well and living at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Blacks are still the unwitting victims of job harassment and also are allegedly fair game for experimentation.

And although there are those among us who boast about their sojourns at the Hopkins and wouldn't dare be seen at Provident, there are many black people whose family and personal experiences have made them declare practically in unison, "I wouldn't go there for love nor money even if it was the last hospital on earth!"

Moreover, accusations of mistreatment, malpractice, verbal abuse, callous disregard for quality of care toward blacks, may be aired, tested and confirmed as a result of a complaint filed with the Human Relations Commission by the Community Health Council of Maryland, Inc. and Local 1199E of the National Union Of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

The complainants charge that Hopkins Hospital discriminates on the basis of race in provision of medical services; that it routinely assigns black patients to wards inhabited predominantly by other black patients and that medical care provided in these wards is unequal to that provided to white patients in predominantly white wards; that it discriminates against black employees as a class in the areas of harassment, job assignment, promotion and termination.

The Osler building, according to complainants, is a case in point, where it is purported that the eighth floor compared to other lower floors is the white area, since whites occupy 90 per cent of the floor with semi-private rooms housing only two to a room and where staff is plentiful and experienced.

Conversely, on the lower floors, there are four to a semi-private room, who pay the same fees. Staff is alleged to be more limited with a noticeable disparity in quality of care and staff support; and where the majority of patients are black. It alleged also that interns give spinal taps with much more frequency.

Further, an outgrowth of this suit may be that the federal government (that uses our tax dollars) might be forced to take a closer look at the multiplicity of federally funded programs (easily obtained by JHH) and make them more accountable to the community about the use of those funds, about fair employment practices, about limiting the co-mingling of funds, insuring that ethical procedures be used in medical research.

It is ironic that the will of Johns Hopkins specifically declared that the mission of the hospital would be to minister to the health needs of the black community.

Yet, blacks who are politically powerful and active in the back yard of the hospital either are unaware of these provisions or are not particularly interested in making the present board of directors adhere to the will's directive.

If this will had been taken seriously, the complaints that have recurred over the years and the recent formal complaint before the HHC could not have materialized.

The progression of abuses in the areas of health, education and welfare against blacks, coming at a time when more money is flowing into all these areas, are in direct relationship to the growing retreat of the black community into apathy and-or accommodation in concert with an ill conceived notion that we are powerless.

Black people, especially those who have had bad experiences or grievous injury from the hands of this hospital, should come forward now, and in this show of strength and unity, as a vigilant community force, eventually make the hospital conform to the will of its namesake.

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Postscript: The New Jersey flu vaccine (swine flu) experimentation at the University of Maryland Hospital has had few challenges from the black medical community, yet many, in private, have questioned the need for mass vaccination. Following the press release as this panic has progressed gives a good indication of corporate capitalism at work, in league with political expediency.

At first the medical community was skeptical that swine flu was really a threat. The World Health Organization was equally skeptical that swine flu posed an epidemic threat. But as President Ford's political campaign heated up with charges of insensitivity toward the poor, black, and elderly in his food stamp cuts, the $135 million mass vaccination was something for everybody. It circulated new money to the greedy researchers and drug manufacturers and muzzled the worldwide medical profession's protest killing three birds with one stone — a scary, callous, inhumane solution to the pervasive human misery that this administration has fostered.

Washington report

Clay charges conspiracy

By Parren J. Mitchell

(Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.)

Some months ago I wrote an article on the smear and discredit tactics used against black leaders. More recently my friend and colleague, Congressman Bill Clay of Missouri has addressed the same problem. Here are his thoughts:

"A recent editorial took issue with me for suggesting that a national conspiracy was afoot to undermine and eliminate outspoken black leadership.

"The scenario of late takes the form of a series of probes by the media into the political and personal life of the black elected official. Investigative reporters write outlandish articles purporting to be factual exposes of criminal activities. These highly questionable investigations thus become the basis for official government investigations.

"After months of innuendoes, quotes from unnamed sources and millions of words in print, the frivolous charges are unceremoniously dropped. But by then, the damage is done. A promising career of a black official is subsequently halted or destroyed, his or her character and integrity are seriously tarnished. The conspirators, thus, have partially succeeded in diluting the credibility.

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"Those who consider the charge of a rational conspiracy against black elected officials as silly must explain why 50 per cent of all the blacks in the House of Representatives are under investigation for criminal activity and not 50 per cent of the white representatives. Certainly, they are not contending that black members as a group are more criminally inclined, less principled, more corrupt, less moral?

"The list of black leaders under investigation and-or subjected to unconscionable, irresponsible newspaper attack reads like Who's Who in Black America:

Lt. Gov. George Brown of Colorado — grand jury investigation that he misused state funds; charges dropped. Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally of California — under daily attack by Los Angeles Times and being investigated by several agencies resultant from news articles.

Representative Ronald Dellums of California — telephones and offices illegally bugged by FBI and CIA. Representative John Conyers of Michigan — office and telephones illegally bugged by FBI and CIA.

C. Delores Tucker, secretary of State of Pennsylvania — press attacks of rumors concerning state travel and income taxes, investigated by State Senate for seven months; all charges proved unfounded.

Representative Ralph Metcalfe of Illinois — publicly accused of receiving kickbacks in 1968 rezoning: Justice Department, after one year dropped charges.

Representative Parren Mitchell of Maryland — placed under 24-hour surveillance by FBI and CIA and telephone illegally bugged for eight months; no charges ever filed.

Representative Charles Rangel of New York — criminally investigated for income tax fraud; no charges ever filed — Representative Charles Diggs — presently investigated for income tax evasion — Representative Louis Stokes — FBI investigation into campaign contributions.

Representative William L. Clay of Missouri — accused by Justice Department grand jury of involvement in narcotics trafficking; investigated by FBI for income tax evasion charges.

William J. Chenault, vice mayor of Cincinnati — accused of felony charges of embezzlement and theft; forced to resign, subsequently all charges of felony dropped when he pleaded guilty to four counts of misdemeanor.

D'Army Bailey of Berkeley (California) City Council — recalled primarily for being black-oriented.

David Cunningham, City Councilman of Los Angeles — forced into a fight for recall; he was successful.

State Representative Bill Green of California — under press attack and numerous state investigations for abuse of travel. Leroy Johnson, former state senator of Georgia — forced out of office and convicted in an IRS case on dubious charge of filing false affidavit.

Representative Shirley Chisholm — accused of abusing campaign funds; charges dropped.

Charles Evers, mayor of Fayette, Mississippi — indicted for income tax evasion.

Avon Williams, state senator of Tennessee — successfully fought censure, was charged with insulting white womanhood.

Maynard Jackson, mayor of Atlanta — has been subjected to unconscionable, almost daily attacks by the Atlanta dailies.

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"I am not for once suggesting that all charges against black officials are frivolously made or racially motivated. Blacks in high offices, too, are capable of emulating some of the worst in our white predecessors. Those that do must be dealt with in the same manner, and I emphasize, the same manner as their white counterparts.

The fact that black elected officials are under a siege of attacks cannot be viewed in isolation. This must be analyzed in relational proportion and viewed exactly for what it is — a conspiracy to undermine, emasculate, humiliate, jail and destroy those blacks who would dare challenge an archaic, repressive racist society.

Nowadays — *by bill riley*

"REMEMBER THE MONEY YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ASIDE FOR A RAINY DAY?"

"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 JUNE 12, 1976

Used for political interests

Dear AFRO:

The Northwest Baltimore Corporation whose alleged purpose is to assist in preserving the Park Heights Pimlico area is not carrying out that purpose.

The organization is actually being used by certain parties to further their own political and financial interests. Numerous employes are dissatisfied with the manner the corporation is being run in terms of fake job description where duties of employes have not and are not clearly defined.

Discrepancies exist in their books and members of the Board of Directors have formed cliques in order to prevent the public and employes of the corporation from becoming aware of the flagrant violations of the corporation's non-profit status.

Numerous employes have contemplated resigning or have resigned including the executive director.

Charges have been made that the Northwest Baltimore Corporation practices race and sex discrimination especially with those who will not adhere to the violations of the purpose for which the corporation was formed.

A concerned citizen

Scores black radio

Dear AFRO:

It is quite strange, let alone disgusting that there are at least three black-oriented radio stations aired in Baltimore City yet they are non-functional as a means for constructive communication between black people.

I'm speaking distinctly of WWIN, WEBB and WSID.

As starved as black people are for collective education, a means of true and relevant information, and an advocate of pride in every respect, we have the nerve to convey nearly nothing, but a curse of confusion and negativism.

Why are these stations cluttering our households with commercial gimmicks? Who is behind these so called black radio stations?

We need to get black radio in Baltimore on a functional level. There is no black programming in this city. What we have is dangerous, damaging and disrespectful. Radio should be used to generate pride and respect, as well as healthy entertainment to the listeners.

I believe black people are awful fortunate to be on radio but awful stupid not to take advantage of its value. If someone from WSID, WWIN or WEBB is authentically interested in blackness, call me, I can help.

Larry Davis

Housing complaints

Dear AFRO:

I am an employe of the Dept. of Housing and for obvious reasons cannot sign my name.

Several weeks ago the department started a concentrated inspection program in the 1800 and 1900 blocks of Madison Ave. in West Baltimore. Supposedly this was in response to complaints from an unnamed group of citizens. Actually it is common knowledge that a real estate group is trying to buy into this area. Obviously a property owner confronted with a long notice would be much more likely to sell.

If you would take a look at these 2 blocks you would see that it is much superior to other nearby areas. Also these blocks are close to the Bolton Hill section which has seen a big increase in property values in the last few years.

ANONYMOUS

Sincere appreciation

Dear AFRO:

I am writing, simply to express to you, on behalf of myself as well as my colleagues, my sincere appreciation for the role played by the editorial and reportorial staffs of The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN in the recent Primary Election Campaign, with respect to the judiciary.

Your objectivity, in bringing to your readers the problems of the election process faced by members of the judiciary at the Circuit Court level in seeking to retain their respective places on the bench, was exceeded only by the fairness in which you presented, for all to observe, consider, and weigh, the relative merits of the candidacies of all of the "hopefuls".

In my humble opinion, the press contributed significantly to the outcome of the recent "judicial race" and — for myself, at least, — my thanks for all your help and encouragement. I assure you that I shall conduct myself and perform my duties and obligations in such a manner as to continue to merit your confidence and support.

ROBERT SULLIVAN JR.

Young beat — *by larry young*

City employes should live here

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

The other day I received from Mrs. Emerson R. Julian Jr. about twenty petition sheets which I requested so that I too can solicit signatures needed to amend the "charter of the City of Baltimore (1964 Revisions) by adding new Section 115 (g) to Article VII providing that beginning January 1, 1977, all new city employes shall be residents of Baltimore City."

AFRO readers, particularly you civic leaders, presidents of various neighborhood associations, ministerial wives, doctors' wives, fraternal and sorority leaders, John Q. Public (who is a city resident), have you placed this city employes proposition on your meeting agenda?

Youth groups, you can provide the leg work needed to secure over 10,000 signatures. Get a petition and place one in your neighborhood grocery store, beauty salon, barber shop and other places you suspect a registered voter will be.

I have gotten so excited about the petition drive I have yet to give you some facts to persuade the voters why each should sign.

The AFRO recently carried an exclusive release of the Douglass-Chandler Economic Impact Analysis which outlined the fiscal effects of Baltimore City paying nearly one-third of its payroll to non-city residents. This excellent document was produced by Delegate John Douglass, chairman, Joint Budget and Audit Committee, and Dr. Cleveland Chandler, professor of economics and management, Towson State College.

Due to the limited space of this column I can use only the summary of the Douglass-Chandler study. This study focuses on the economic impact of Baltimore City paying nearly one-third of its payroll to non-city residents, an amount equal to $165 million plus fringe benefits. It is clear that in a time of tightening economic conditions central cities must resolve to make the best use of their own resources. Indeed, an effort to gain the best benefit out of one's own resources should precede any effort to gain resources from outside. Clearly, then, the exportation of $105 million of city tax dollars to the counties, monies raised at considerable expense and burden to city taxpayers, does not represent sound fiscal policy.

This study documents the negative impact that such an unsound policy has on city residents, the city's tax base, and the city's economy.

Summary of Findings

(1) A requirement of residency for city jobs would generate a minimum of $231 million of new dollars in the Baltimore City economy.

(2) Such a requirement would induce a minimum of $162 million in new salaries spent in the city.

(3) Such a requirement would open up a minimum of 14,700 jobs to city residents (9,000 present city jobs plus another 5,700 jobs induced by this new economic activity in the city).

(4) Such a requirement would allow the city to reduce its property tax rate by $.30-$100 of assessment.

(5) The Depression level unemployment rate among Baltimore City workers (more than 10 per cent) would be reduced by at least two (2) percentage points. Approximately 6,000 of the 33,000 unemployed workers in Baltimore City could be gainfully employed in jobs paying non-poverty wages.

(6) The poverty rate among Baltimore City families (14 per cent) is even higher than the unemployment rate among its resident workers. The recommended policy change to city residency for City Government employes would reduce the city's extremely high poverty rate by one percentage point, or by more than 2,000 families.

New Job Opportunities Created By New Spending In the City

The authors have examined the question of how many new jobs would be generated by a policy of only employing city residents. In developing our projections, we have assumed that the typical new job created would be of the service variety with an average wage of $10,000 including fringe benefits.

New Jobs Created

(a) Low Option:
14,700 new jobs (9,000 present city jobs plus 5,700 induced)

(b) High Option:
17,600 new jobs (9,000 present city jobs plus 8,600 induced). Thus, the authors conclude that the expenditure of $105 million of city tax dollars in the city which now go to county residents would open up a minimum of 14,700 new job opportunities for city residents.

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Now, with facts in hand, several petition sheets; let's wage a massive drive to secure over 10,000 signatures before July 4, and we can use that day to partially celebrate a job expected to have been done well.

By the way, when you see Delegate John Douglass, Dr. Cleveland Chandler and City Councilman Julian, say how proud you are that they sought to correct this employment injustice.

In conclusion, I'll use the language printed on the petition each of you can obtain from Councilman Julian's office, Ms. Erla McKinnon, Women's Power and Baltimore Metropolitan Committee, Inc., or, I'd assume, other councilmen's offices at City Hall:

"Beginning January 1, 1977, each new city employe shall be a resident of Baltimore City at the time of his or her employment and shall remain such resident during the entire term of employment. The provisions of this section shall not apply to those employed prior to January 1, 1977, except as provided for elsewhere in the Charter, nor shall they apply to a person employed after that date who signs a declaration of intent to become a city resident within six months of the date of employment.

"If an employe fails to abide by such declaration of intent, then the employment shall be terminated. For the purposes of this section, employe means any regular and permanent officer or employe, by whatever authority appointed, whose salary or compensation is paid by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore."

'Get the rich off our backs

On July 4th the eyes of the world will be focused on Philadelphia for the nation's Bicentennial celebration. The fanfare has been building for over a year. A commercial to beat all commercials. It's not just red, white and blue ashtrays or revolutionary razor-blades that the government and big business are trying to sell. They want to sell us a bill of goods about how well their system works. All their lies about recovery cannot cover the reality we face every day.

Millions out of work looking for jobs; while those still working are being driven harder, chained to the bosses' machinery. Our cities falling apart. Our schools, hospitals, firehouses shut down. Now, only a little more than a year away from Vietnam, the drums of another war over Panama Canal are beating again. These and a 1,000 other sores are our lot.

This is a rich country. We know because our class, the working class, made it that. It is the ruling class and their uncontrollable drive for profits that makes this society run like it does — crisis after crisis, war after war, injustice upon injustice.

Our history is a history of resistance. We have fought many battles, on many different fronts. Every gain we've made was wrenched from them by our struggle; each time we've had to fight again to keep them from snatching it back.

Now those thieves call on us to join them in celebration. We will be in Philadelphia on July 4, but not to celebrate. We will come together from across the country, thousands strong — from the shop floors, unemployment offices, neighborhoods, schools. Behind the slogan, "WE'VE CARRIED THE RICH FOR 200 YEARS. LET'S GET THEM OFF OUR BACKS!," we will unite with more and more people to build our fight for a better life.

In particular, we demand JOBS OR INCOME. The rulers say 5 per cent unemployment is acceptable. One million of our brothers and sisters stand behind each of those percentage points. We will never accept that. We want a job for each of us.

Statement by the July 4 Coalition

Salute of the Week

MRS. ANN R. SPRIGGS

(Note: Readers are invited to nominate subjects for this column. Write Salute of the Week, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1837, Baltimore, Md, 21203.

Mrs. Ann Reed Spriggs is in the spotlight this week because of her service to others. In spite of being an epileptic, she is undaunted in her efforts to improve conditions in the community.

She has been honored for outstanding community work by the Future Business Leaders of America, the JUGS and most recently by the Urban Services Agency.

Her endeavors include suggestions to Baltimore City Hospitals for improvement in health care, campaigning for Big Brothers and attending City Council meetings to find issues of concern.

Mrs. Spriggs was instrumental in getting a program on "Update" regarding epilepsy. She was also a mental health volunteer.

Her latest endeavor was to make suggestions to help improve the conditions at the Apollo Theatre in East Baltimore and received a favorable reply from the manager.

Mrs. Spriggs' next step is to verify whether or not the rumors of the theatre's closing are true.

She is also the author of the poem "I'm Dreaming of a Bright Tomorrow," which appears in the May and June, 1970 issues of Chicory.

Our honoree attended Cherry Hill Elementary School No. 139, Booker T. Washington Jr. High No. 130 and is an honor graduate of Carver Vocational Technical High School, Class of 1958.

She and her husband, Isaiah, have three daughters, Colleen Faith, 19; Teresa Hope, 17 and Deanna Joy, 15; and one son — Isaiah Jr., 14, a student at Hamilton Jr. High.

Her grandchildren are Tyrone A. Hines, 3; Wanda Sharp, 2 and Warren Sharp, 3 months.

"Deanna was awarded the most outstanding girl in Baltimore City for Youth Appreciation Week in November, 1973 by the Optimist Club. She is also in the National Honor Society and has been selected to be in the Society of Distinguished American High School Students, May, 1976." Mrs. Spriggs proudly told the AFRO.

STARS AND YOU

ARIES — "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — A relative wants a favor. Do it, only if it is ethical. A Gemini figures prominently.

TAURUS — "The Bull" (April 21-May 20) — An extravagant friend may try to influence you. Side-step this advice. It may lead to trouble.

GEMINI — "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Your recent flight turned out to be a false alarm. Celebrate, but don't forget the lesson you learned.

CANCER — "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — You will be at the right place at the right time . . . then you will appreciate the one who really loves you.

LEO — "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Look beyond the surface of attractive things. Cancer has a message which will help you distinguish truth from fiction.

VIRGO — "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — You have a tendency to take too much for granted. Check details more carefully.

LIBRA — "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Diplomacy is more effective than force. Use it to straighten out your domestic situation.

SCORPIO — "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Mystery is advantageous for you. Leave your actions to the imagination. If you tell it all, all previous efforts were in vain.

SAGITTARIUS — "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Follow through on your original hunch. Allow others to show their hands first. Another Sagittarian is very much in the picture.

CAPRICORN — "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Avoid your extravagant friends. Choose a form of recreation which will fit your budget.

AQUARIUS — "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Be on the lookout for a chance to display your personality and charm. It will be the challenge you have been waiting for.

PISCES — "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — You have many ideas for improving your wardrobe. Be selective, look for quality, but use your money wisely.

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 postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1837, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address and telephone number.

QUESTION: I would like to drive a cab but I have an arrest record. Do you know whether or not this would stop me from being hired?

ANSWER: A spokesman from a local cab company told AFRO Line that you may make application with the cab company. The company will send your application to the Public Service Commission at 201 W. Preston Street, who will in turn obtain a copy of your police record and make a decision as to whether or not you may be hired.

QUESTION: I was fired from my job last month. I noticed an unemployment office in the Metro Plaza in Mondawmin. Can I apply there for help?

ANSWER: According to a spokesman in the Employment Security Office, the office in Mondawmin is the Special Unemployment Assistance (SUA) office, which is for state, city and county employees only.

These persons work for non-profit organizations and were normally unable to collect unemployment funds prior to President Ford's recent bill making them eligible. This includes persons out of work temporarily, such as teachers and school bus drivers who were out of work from June to Sept.

All other persons should apply at 1100 N. Eutaw Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and be sure to bring your Social Security card.

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QUESTION: My husband, a former employe of the City of Baltimore, purchased a car through the Municipal Employees Credit Union. He paid $900 from his retirement fund on the balance due. Originally, he had 42 months to pay for the car which is not two years old yet. The balance due is $855 and the payment is $92.71 a month.

Our car was repossessed because we were a few days late with the payment. Now they want the account paid in full before they release the car. It seems to me that they want to take the car because it is almost paid for.

ANSWER: Mr. Werkmeister, treasurer for the Municipal Employes Credit Union told AFRO Line: "The first time we find it necessary to repossess a car, we will permit them to bring the account current and to pay the repossession fee and we will release the car to them.

"If we find it necessary to repossess the car again, our policy is that they must pay off the account in full.

"Now in this particular case, we leaned over once and for some reason we released the car to them the second time but this is the third time and we cannot go on and on doing this. We feel this is a fair policy."

Dear Jan:

My boyfriend and I have been going steady for almost three years. Following his graduation, he went away and has only written two letters. He was home the last holiday weekend and told me he still loved me. But, he hasn't written yet, as he promised.

What should I do?

HEARTSICK

Dear Heartsick:

You might as well forget it. The fact that he doesn't write should indicate to you that he isn't as interested as he used to be.

Why don't you look for someone close at home?

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.