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

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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)

Md.'s paid killer

It's not likely that Maryland's hired killer, Daniel Gearhart, the 34-year-old Kensington mercenary who went off to murder Angolans to better his own family's financial condition and to satisfy his bloodlust, will be shot dead by a firing squad.

His death sentence, along with a similar fate announced for 3 more of the 13 mercenaries who have been tried in Angola, is an ironic signal of the end to the successful plunder of Africa by paid white killers.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. government, which had bloodier hands in Angola than did Gearhart, according to testimony claiming the Marylander killed no one, says the death penalty is unjustified under international law. The U.S. would make more sense and have more impact had it not financed and encouraged much of the bloodletting that took place in Angola.

People like Gearhart never would have been in Angola had U.S. officials been against their adventures.

The curbing of white paid-killers plundering Africa on any pretext unhappily was to be taken by this country. The willingness of Russia to provide modern weapons and the ability of troops to use them — Nigerians in that country and Angolans backed by tough Cubans in that nation — took the profit out of the mercenary business in Africa.

Despite U.S. refusal to diplomatically recognize Angola and our unwise decision to veto Angola's admittance to the United Nations, Angola President Agostinho Neto is not likely to have Gearhart shot.

In the Marylander's case, death at the hands of a firing squad would prove nothing at all.

The trial in Angola proved though that newly independent country, despite all the problems it has had, is a good bet for future success as a stable member of the world family. President Neto's life and death decision probably will enhance that status.

Thus, in failing to bring about the downfall of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, Gearhart and his ilk in the long run may have contributed to the unquenchable drive in Africa for liberation and majority rule.

Certainly they left white mercenaries with a dimmed reputation which is not likely to encourage their reliability as tide turners in African conflicts.

Household work valued

A mother's value to the household won another important victory when Maryland's Court of Appeals ruled that 10 children of Mrs. Delores Benita Holmes, a Prince George's County slaying victim, have a right to a grant from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

CICB and a Baltimore Superior Court had turned down the family.

In the majority opinion, Judge John Eldridge wrote: "We agree that the economic value of the loss of Mrs. Holmes' services, such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, ironing and other simple household functions, should be evaluated in determining whether financial hardship has resulted from her death.

"Although she chose to perform the parental services herself, we nevertheless believe that the economic position of the Holmes family was enhanced by the value of those services."

This precedent-shattering decision could have far-reaching impact in high-crime areas where mothers and other women frequently are victimized by thugs.

I came to kill but didn't

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Spirit of July 4 is contagious

July 4 (tomorrow), for most Americans, is a meaningful day. To older Americans and to small-town Americans it is still a moving and emotional day — with warmest thought of the significance of freedom and liberty.

To many thousands, perhaps millions, of non-Americans, all over the world, it also has meaning, as a day celebrating the rightness and value of the revolutionary spirit wherever mankind is oppressed, wherever some people keep their fellows underfoot.

It is too bad that July 4 (Independence Day) has become so commercialized in big cities, and has come to mean mostly "hitting the highways," buying and selling, and risking death by auto or by water.

But the spirit of July 4 is still worthy of adoration. It is the spirit of revolution, which may, in time, lead to revolution itself.

It is the spirit of Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson and, later, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Denmark Vesey, Thaddeus Stevens and others of the anti-slavery period.

July 4 is the spirit, too, of the Frenchmen who shouted "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," and of all those down the years who have adopted and adapted this commitment.

Fortunately, the spirit of freedom is contagious. It is catching. It did not stop with Magna Carta. It did not stop with the Declaration of Independence. It did not stop when Patrick Henry cried, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death."

It inspired black men and women in the United States; Asians in India and Indonesia, more recently black Africans in colonial Africa; and most recently, in Portugese Africa and in the Union of South Africa.

The Mau Mau movement in Kenya was a "freedom movement" — as legitimate as a revolutionary uprising as the American Revolution; so also was the revolt against Belgium in the Belgian Congo. The list could be lengthened.

Unfortunately, countries which have won freedom and independence by revolution, in one era, turn against all revolution in their own country in later years. That is why the majority Americans could not understand the black confrontations of the 1960s, no more than they understood Denmark Vesey and the rest.

But, revolutions will continue as long as men and women have red blood running through their veins, and as long as some people try to oppress other people.

Killing black South Africans by the scores and hundreds will not prevent the black majority people of South Africa from, eventually, winning a majority voice and majority power in that country. It will only lead to long-term bitterness during which blacks, whites and "the colored" will die.

In the long run, turning guns and tanks on black Africans must end at the negotiating table, where both sides will give and take, and settle for the common good.

Some white South Africans will flee to other countries, countries such as Australia and Canada. Many of these will return, however, just as white Congolese hurried back from Belgium to Zaire.

Those who run away, all of them several generations removed from Europe, soon discover (1) that they are not Europeans, (2) that they cannot command the same kind of good positions as they had in Africa, and (3) that they are, in general, "never had it so good" as when they were in Africa.

The spirit of July 4 is the spirit of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," it is the spirit of sharing the best of life and the pursuit of happiness. Most of all, the spirit of July 4 is contagious.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Old lessons we dare not push aside

Don't fret this one

There's no way Mayor William Donald Schaefer is going to permit this city's public schools to open in September without crossing guards on duty.

Frankly, we don't care where the mayor gets the money.

He's spending taxpayers' funds for every single thing he plans to do in Baltimore City and his budget includes a number of things less important to taxpayers than the school crossing guards.

A lot of praying is going on around City Hall these days, not just because running Baltimore is a tough job, but supposedly as a result of deep religious commitments there.

Among the prayer leaders are Mayor Schaefer and his financial chief, Charles Benton.

Our country cousins' fair

Maybe Baltimore County's fair people will come back to Baltimore City this September to see how we put on our successful festival.

Next year the county fair probably will get broader support.

Although most Baltimoreans won't admit it, many of them secretly hoped the county fair, which they saw as an attempt to take some of the luster off our own, wouldn't be a spectacular financial success its first year.

Actually, there is no reason why both fairs can't turn out to be successful. There are enough people in the area.

Baltimore City's annual fair, a cozy community-linked funfest has taken on a bit more luster as result of the 11-day run our country cousins gave the area. People have found Baltimore's fair safe, educational, fun and well-worth the reasonable admittance.

But as we said before, if the county promoters want to join us in September to get a better feeling for how it's done, they're mighty welcome to come mingle with the hundreds of thousands who'll be there having a good time. Welcome, y'all.

Clean-up drive on

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper's 42nd annual AFRO Clean Block campaign is underway.

Before the summer is over, thousands of young people and adults will spend countless hours helping beautify the city and learning about health and sanitation.

Again this year, Baltimore City, major businesses, organizations and individuals are cooperating to make possible the prizes that will be awarded winning blocks at the end of the campaign.

Although every one can't win a prize, all the participants and Baltimore City will be big winners. Let's give Baltimore that Bicentennial sparkle this summer.

In an earlier column, I decried that parents have received no training, only through trial and error, for their awesome lifetime vocation. They must search for guidance in books, magazines, counseling sessions and adult education classes, haphazardly, if and when they are available and if there is time.

And in this regard, the plaintive words of a young girl, in the book "Young Girls: A Portrait of Adolescence" by Gisela Konopka, ring more poignantly in our ears, should we stop to reflect upon the ravages of changing times, the anxieties of growing up:

"I'm growing, world — I am reaching and touching and stretching — and testing — And finding new things, new wonderful — Things. New Frightening things. — I'm just growing, world, just now. — I'm not tall, I'm not strong. I'm not — Right — I'm just trying to be. — I'm a person, I'm me! — Let me test, let me try, let me reach, — Let me fly! — Push me out of my rest (But not too fast). — There is much I don't know. — There are things that I want — don't — Hide me from the sight of the world. — Give me room, give me time. There — are things, I'm not frightened — To try. — Let me tumble and spring, let me go — Let me be. Wait and see. — I am growing, world — Water me with the wisdom of — Your tears." Cherie A. Millard

Time was when things were less perilous and uncertain, especially during summer vacations. Kids went back to the country, either to grandma's or auntie's to not only spend a relaxed unusual, sometimes, exciting vacation among farm animals, beside brooks and shady streams, but also to work in the fields to benefit from sage and strict advice and discipline of their elders.

This provided their parents a little respite from the continual plaint: "But there's nothing for me to DO!" the kids, from the ominous city streets where all manner of evil hovered and beckoned.

Today, summer camp has become a more widely accepted diversion along with summer school and recreation programs.

Lacking, however, is the surrogate relationship of blood relatives and family friends who provide the personal touch, the caring discipline of an extended family.

Consequently, the new generation of young people have had to develop, with limited inner resources; undernourished without the inter-relatedness of diverse generational experiences, or the interaction within that framework which would test and develop primary survival skills.

When we make the mistake of comparing generations, we forget that the lack of communication between generations which made the nuclear family has stunted the ability of young people to progress as rapidly, as wisely; or to support and cherish older people as well as each other.

Nevertheless, no one in her right mind would advocate returning to the "good ole days".

But we cannot put aside the valuable lessons of those days in our eagerness to make our kids' lives better than our own.

For it was what we experienced that made us, for good or ill, what we are today.

Material possession could not have been substituted for the motherwit of our survival; the fruits of stern discipline; the make-do determination to get ahead despite limited resources, opportunities or money.

The strength of our older relatives and also of our peers past 50, derives from a development of self-reliance, resourcefulness, initiative, determination, — and the ability to make something out of nothing — that forestalled our demise, the benefits of which we cannot underestimate in the nurture and growth of coming generations.

People are reading

Books most often requested at the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library this week are listed below. If the one you want is not immediately available, the librarian can suggest another which you might enjoy.

NONFICTION

JUDY, Gerold Frank (ML420.G253.F7)

WITHOUT FEATHERS, Woody Allen (PS3551.L44W5)

CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lillie Palmer (PN2658.P3A33)

STRANGER AT THE PARTY, Helen Lawrenson (PN4874.L28A37)

ROSE: MY LIFE IN SERVICE, Rosina Harrison (DA574.A8H37)

HOW THE GOOD GUYS FINALLY WON, Jimmy Breslin (E861.B73)

FICTION

RAGTIME, E. L. Doctorow

LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR, Judith Rossner

MISTER GOD, THIS IS ANNA, Fynn

CLARA REEVE, Leonie Hargrave

SHOGUN, James Clavell

Washington report

Passing on amendment to help young people

By Parren J. Mitchell

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

The following occurred in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 23, 1976.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLOOD. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

First, I want to say that the distinguished chairman is truly a man of compassion, understanding, love and sensitivity.

Mr. FLOOD. Just a reflection of my principles.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield further, that is why I am disturbed by the drastic cut in the summer youth program. It amazes me that the gentleman, known as a repository of compassion in this House, brings before us a summer youth program that is drastically cut from what was recommended.

Mr. FLOOD. The gentleman makes a persuasive argument. But it has nothing to do with the case because we did not cut that program.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield further, as I understand, we have funding for a level of 888,000 summer jobs; is that right?

Mr. FLOOD. Well, what we are doing, as I said in my opening remarks, we have done this with a number of programs.

We are keeping this at this level. We are not cutting this, but are going to maintain it at the 1976 level. That will not affect the program.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. That is not the essence of my problem. In the Budget Committee on which I serve, and in the Budget Committee in the Senate, legislation was passed suggesting a million jobs, the reason for it being that we have had 40 per cent unemployment, summer youth unemployment. Therefore, it is unwise and, in my humble opinion, illogical to hold to the present level.

Mr. FLOOD. Well, of course the gentleman understands that under no circumstances did we put in this appropriation bill everything that is in that budget resolution.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. I understand.

Mr. FLOOD. And as the gentleman says we have been on top of it since the first law was passed. Certainly, nobody is more concerned about, not only unemployment, but underemployment, than myself. We have maintained this level, but we could not embrace everything in the budget resolution.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. I thank the gentleman, and I hope that before I offer my amendment he will change his mind and support my amendment, which will produce a million summer jobs, knowing of his compassion.

Mr. FLOOD. I have done that on occasion — not often.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. I hope this is one of those rare occasions.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding to me.

Early on in the debate I engaged in a colloquy with the distinguished chairman pointing out my concern over the reduction in the number of jobs for youth for the summer. The chairman has indicated that under this appropriation bill we will hold to the present level. With all due respect to the chairman, I would insist that is a very dangerous thing to do. It is almost as if someone had cancer and we said, "All right, we will hold your cancer where it is but we will not cure it."

Since 1973, when we consider age groups from 16 to 24, we have seen a consistent rise in unemployment rates. In the age group 23 to 24 in 1973 the unemployment rate was 7.7 per cent and for September, 1975 it was 13.9 per cent. If we look at an analysis of both sexes, ages 16 through 19 in May of 1973 had an unemployment rate of 14.3 per cent and in September of 1975 had a rate of 19.4 per cent.

The more critical and alarming statistic in my opinion is the tremendous differential in the unemployment rates for white youth and black youth. If I may, I will cite some statistics. When we look at the youth in age group 16 through 19, in May, 1973 the unemployment rate for white youth was 13.1 per cent. The rate rose to 17.6 per cent in September of 1975.

However, for black youth in the age group 16 through 19 in May of 1973 the rate was 30.1 per cent, more than double the rate for whites, and by the time we get to September of 1975 the rate mounts to an astronomical 36 per cent.

I know that providing summer youth jobs will not solve all the problems, but I also know, and I have said so many times in the well of this House, that we pay a terrible price for not letting our youth work. We pay a price in terms of crime, we pay a price in terms of delinquency, and we pay a price in terms of alienation from our society.

I think it is totally and terribly wrong to hold to the present level of summer youth work in light of the constant rise from 1973 to 1975 in youth unemployment. I have an amendment I will offer, and I am going to urge the support of the members for my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the Amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MITCHELL).

The question was taken; and the chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. The chair will count. In excess of 130 members are present, a quorum.

RECORDED VOTE

The pending business is the demand of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MITCHELL) for a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were — ayes 205, noes 201, not voting 25, as follows:

My amendment passed by four votes. We won!

"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

Tribute to Dr. Zollicoffer

Dear AFRO:

Your excellent editorial entitled "Dr. Zollicoffer" in your May 12 issue certainly told the truth about this great doctor and human being. He showed us the creative possibilities of handling one's existence, and all of us should emulate the exemplary way in which he lived his life.

Dr. Zollicoffer was one of our children's doctor and our family friend. However, we were privileged to know him in other roles which we would like to share with you.

We knew him as a staunch supporter and activist in the struggle for civil and human rights. Long before it became "fashionable" for so-called middle - class doctors to mingle with, and help grass roots people, Dr. Zollie was right there. We could depend on him. There was never a time that we came to him and he said, "No," or "I've done enough," or "I gave last week," because he knew that this struggle is a hard and continuous one.

He would let many of us know as he made his contribution, "I am not always out there in person, but remember I'm marching and fighting right with you. This is our fight and I'm with you."

Dr. Zollicoffer's allegiance was to the black community. He used his education and training to help black people. He was dedicated to getting people off narcotics and did not prescribe methadone on his belief that it was the substitution of one undesirable habit for another.

On occasions when children were hurt by personnel within the school system and other doctors looked the other way and couldn't see bruises and scratches, any parent could depend on "Dr. Zollie" being truthful in what he observed and not backing down. He had integrity and courage.

He sent his children to public schools and staunchly supported good public education, but he was aware of how the system impacts unfavorably upon our youngsters.

There was no denying a child medical care or medicine because the parent had no money. He cared about children and improving the quality of life for people and not merely about money.

Black citizens of Baltimore owe their gains made in the area of human rights more than they know to Dr. Zollicoffer. He was a strategist with unquestionable dedication to the cause and a genuine humanitarian brother.

We couldn't ever repay Dr. Zollicoffer for what he did for us medically and spiritually but as Dr. James P. Cooper said at his funeral, he has a wonderful wife and four sons that we should comfort and support materially, as well as spiritually. (The oldest son, Michael, just graduated from Northwestern High School.)

I agree with Dr. Cooper, as this is the very least we can do as a living monument to a wonderful doctor and comrade.

MRS. CLAUDETTE CHANDLER AND FAMILY

Baltimore shaping up

Dear AFRO:

Baltimore is really shaping up this year. Teen-agers are starting to get themselves to make something of themselves. some of to get themselves together to make something of themselves.

Some of the young people who have been out of school for one or two years are starting to stop and think about what they are doing. They realize that they have got to do something to make lives in the future.

Some are going back to school, to the Job Corps or even to the service. Crime started to slack up a little, too, during the past year. Violence is not too bad this year either.

That's why I figure Baltimore is really "shaping Up."

(Miss) Glenda E. Farabee

Urban Services

Dear AFRO:

We feel that we must speak out in an open letter to Mayor Schaefer on the issue of the six (6) resident councils of the Urban Services Agency becoming civil service. We have no adverse feelings about civil service itself; our issue is what is happening to the council employes as a result of the change.

When Mr. Lenwood Ivey became director of the Model Cities Community Action Program in 1974, he was aware of the Model Cities Program's objectives, its policies and procedures. Those policies were based upon the fact that one did not need a degree to hold a position in the councilmatic program where experience could be substituted. The program was designed to upgrade community residents; therefore, Mr. Ivey was well aware that very few of our employes actually had degrees.

Since that time, however, Mr. Ivey has re-vamped the job specifications for council employes, and anyone not meeting the new specs must be placed in lesser positions, regardless of their experience and-or their past performances. Furthermore, it has become mandatory that all council employes interested in maintaining a position with the Urban Services Agency take a civil service test, and that they apply only for the test for which they qualify under the new job specifications.

This action is in direct contrast to the decision made by the U.S.A. administrators in June 1974 which stated that new job specifications were being made in an effort to standardize salaries and job specifications.

It further stated that the new specifications will not affect persons already employed, but will apply to all persons hired after July 1, 1974. It is our contention, based upon these facts, that Mr. Ivey has been grossly unfair in his dealings with the council employes.

To add to the problem even more so, Mr. Ivey made no provisions for job placement for the six (6) council secretaries, who lack the necessary experience for neighborhood development.

In concluding, Mr. Mayor, we beseech you to keep in mind that these same employees who must now have degrees to hold on to their positions have been providing quality services, to our communities, with no degrees, for the past five years.

Finally, we feel that you've tried to be a good mayor for all the citizens of Baltimore. We are asking now, in the name of justice and fair play that you look further into this obsession of Lenwood Ivey to be rid of the former Model Cities personnel.

IRVIN J. CONWAY

Unfair discipline?

Dear AFRO:

I am writing in reference to the disciplinary actions at Randallstown Senior High School. Disciplinary actions are more strict in the case of black students than for white students.

In a recent incident that happened to my daughter (Deborah Jones) she was taken to jail and a member of my family was notified by the police department.

The assistant principal (Mr. Lane) told me he did not have the time to look into the situation and therefore, he told the police officer to handle it. She was taken to jail because another teacher accused her of stealing a white student's wallet, without any proof or evidence.

In previous years black students, including my son, have been suspended and not allowed to enter any Baltimore County School for such things as fighting, being accused of stealing — just on the word of a white student or teacher who [illegible] being committed they just think the black child is guilty because he was seen in the area at that particular time.

It is very disturbing to know that some of the principals and teachers do not take time to relate to the students because of the color of their skin.

Behavior problems that are typical of any adolescent are handled with the harshest punishment if the student is black. Taking a 17-year-old girl to jail for something someone thinks she has done — without proof or evidence could be very damaging to that child's emotional development.

Please publicize this on behalf of all students and concerned parents — black and white. Thank you.

TEXIE A. JONES

P.S. — I am not excusing the students for misbehaving, but all disciplinary actions should be equal for all students. There have been incidents involving white students engaged in the same behavior problems and worse — they were not even suspended.

Young beat — by larry young

Are we our brother's keepers (Part II)

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." — FDR.

I gather from the calls and few letters I have received that many of our AFRO readers are indeed concerned, if for no other reason that they have relatives or close friends regrettully in one of these institutions. As I said to one lady, I only regret that my time could not be spent following through on the various complaints I've heard concerning these institutions. I have strong admiration for those persons who presently work in these facilities and will forward all complaints and recommendations to the new commissioner of the Mental Hygiene Administration.

The following are a few of the recommendations made by the Humane Practices Commission to the governor and the General Assembly: That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the General Assembly and the Governor review the underlying philosophy for care and treatment of our mentally ill and mentally retarded citizens with the emphasis being placed on implementation and coordination of services between institutions and community facilities.

— That the present salary scale for fully qualified professionals be at more realistic levels. — That the present salary scale for health assistants be increased to more realistic levels, with regular review. — That career ladders be established within the system to provide upward mobility for the direct care employee.

— That cooperation be established with the universities as well as other colleges in the state to provide residency programs and other training in medicine, social work, nursing, physical therapy, mental health technology, administration of health agencies, epidemiology of mental diseases, etc. — That there be participation by program staff in the budget process for both capital and operating programs.—That a total program be provided to meet the variety of patient needs.

That a state program begin in the individual's home community, and when an individual needs help, there be primary use made of community facilities and programs. — That the decision to institutionalize be made in the community in conjunction with the institution. — That there be education changing public attitudes toward the benefits of community services. — That institutions delay de - institutionalization unless there is a community program with adequate support services. — That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene speed up the development of community based programs (including day programs) of manageable size close to the source of admission.

— That individual treatment plans be completed for all residents of all institutions for mentally ill patients and mentally retarded residents and immediately implemented. — That mentally retarded residents now misplaced without program in psychiatric hospitals be transferred to appropriate mental retardation facilities. — That programs be established for those mentally retarded residents now located in psychiatric hospitals. — That there be greater freedom of movement of residents by unlocking doors.

At the request of the governor of Maryland, in 1975, the legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution Number 63 calling for a review of the state's program for the mentally ill, including its objectives, facilities and services.

It was resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland that the American Psychiatric Association be requested to undertake this review. Much of the impetus for the review came from the Maryland State Mental Health Association. Members of the association felt that it was time to assess and to evaluate the mental health programs in Maryland through an objective study conducted by professionals who were not associated with any of the public or private programs in the state.

This survey was conducted by the entire membership of the Consultation and Evaluation Services Board and two additional consultants.

The two additional consultants, who represent other disciplines, are Ruth Lewis, R.N., from the American Nurses' Association, and Julian Hanlon, representing the field of social work. These two members of the survey team concentrated on meeting with members of their discipline, not specifically about the roles and functions of their discipline, but to obtain their assessment of the overall program.

The other members of the board visited state facilities, community facilities, hospitals, clinics, other services and research and training facilities.

Here is some of what the May, 1976 report of the American Psychiatric Association said:

"Baltimore is an independent city and thus is not a part of Baltimore County, which surrounds it. The mental health program is essentially state provided through direct services and special grants. At least two of the seven catchment areas have had federal funding for staffing of Comprehensive Community Mental Health Centers.

"Administrative issues involved in providing comprehensive services to this city are complex and unique. There does appear to be a public policy issue that needs to be resolved: What are the respective responsibilities of the state and the city of Baltimore and what are their responsibilities for collaboration in planning and providing services. There may need to be a separate study as to the best way of meeting the mental health needs of Baltimore City.

"Maryland has a respected heritage in mental health. Long ago the state applied many of the public health concepts to mental health. This was a natural evolution from the introduction of the concepts of comprehensive psychiatry by Doctor Adolf Meyer, again originating in Maryland, through the strong mental health citizen movement supported by Doctor Meyer and his successors in the state, until the time of the application of the concepts of public health epidemiology and other contributions from Doctor Paul Lemkau.

"In addition, the state of Maryland has provided leadership to the rest of the nation by its early introduction of psychiatry into the district courts and other courts of the state, with the development of a highly professional application of forensic psychiatry and with the involvement of the state in psychiatric research.

"A decade or more ago, Maryland was renowned for its application of demographic data and concepts of utilization into a statistical record system (case register) that promised to contribute to a much better measurement of effectiveness and utilization of mental health services. In addition, the state led much of the nation in its investment in basic and operational psychiatric research, acknowledging this to be a significant state function and responsibility if there was to be effective use of knowledge and resources."

It is against this great heritage that the present Maryland state mental health program needs to be viewed.

"It is also worthy of consideration that the four million people of the state of Maryland are currently investing $77 million dollars a year in identified mental health programs, excluding the expenditure of funds in that part of the Medicaid program dealing with mental illness and emotional problems. This leads, then, to the question of how over $19 per person per year is being spent to promote mental health and to prevent mental illness and reduce all disability and dysfunction."

This two-part series did not even scratch the surface of the problem, but this I know: We must be more aware that we have brothers and sisters who are in these institutions, and we must advocate proper care for them.

Ms. Peggy Thompson called and informed me that she was interested in organizing a benefit for the purpose of having the proceeds go to the Crownsville and Rosewood Hospital Centers.

If anyone is interested in working on this benefit committee, call 363-1057.

The group will be asking Mr. Michael Newton to offer his production of "Roots, Rhythm and Rags" as the major attraction of the benefit.

Ms. Thompson, do count me a member of your ad hoc committee, and I trust AFRO readers will be giving you a call to offer their support, too.

Salute of the Week

(NOTE: AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations for this column. Write Salute of the week, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203).

In the spotlight this week is Mrs. Eleanor Smallwood of Mt. Holly Street, who is quite active in community work.

She has had five sets of foster children.

At present, there are three children in her home — an adopted great grandchild, Christine Smallwood, 17, whom she has had since 3 months old; an adopted grandniece, Carolyn Barton, 10, whom she brought straight from the hospital when she was 5 days old and Charlene Hawkins, 9, a foster child.

"My pet hobby is children. I don't think I would last very long if they took them away from me. There are so many children out here in this world who just need a little love and care," Mrs. Smallwood related.

MRS. ELEANOR SMALLWOOD

She added, "Each year I place a sign on my door inviting children to ring my bell and get blanks for their parents to complete so that they may attend Camp Concern, a free day camp."

Mrs. Marguerite Campbell, mayor's assistant to whom Mrs. Smallwood referred as "one of my best friends," told the AFRO: "For about six years this lady has coordinated the Camp Concern project for her immediate community.

"For six days she makes sure there are the maximum number of kids the bus can carry on the day camp experience for the full six-week period.

"In addition she is active with the Edmondson Village Committee which is geared to saving the Shopping Center and to enticing merchants to return there."

Although Mrs. Smallwood has no transportation of her own, she also finds time to visit the Maryland Penitentiary and the Maryland House of Correction to render whatever services that are needed.

Her pet project is the Lyndhurst Elementary School, No. 88, on Wildwood Parkway. She says the students have to use the gym as a part-time cafeteria and feels it is "a disgrace to have to eat amid the perspiration odor."

She is proud of the fact that the mayor called her personally to tell her that "he would see that she got the money to remedy the situation."

A native Baltimorean, Mrs. Smallwood, widow of Raymond Smallwood, is the daughter of the late Isaac and Rosa Fisher.

She's a member of St. Bernadine Roman Catholic Church where Fathers Maurice Blackwell and Edward Miller are priests.

Nowadays — by bill riley

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 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address and telephone number.

QUESTION: I vaguely recall reading somewhere about a literary club called, "Maryland Society of Poets." I have written several poems and am anxious to have them published. Can you tell me how I can contact them?

M.P.

ANSWER: According to Attorney General Francis B. Burch, there have been advertisements about the Maryland Society of Poets affiliated with the National Society of Published Poets. A consumer alert has been issued warning Maryland consumers against its operations.

Mr. Burch states that "Ads are placed in various Maryland newspapers stating that "The Maryland Society of Poets is compiling a book of poems. If you have written a poem and would like our selection committee to consider it for publication send your poem and a self-addressed envelope to . .

"Poems are then sent from this mail drop in Baltimore to Mr. Thoutte in Florida who . . . advises these correspondents."

"Congratulations — The Selection Committee of the Maryland Society of Poets has advised me that a poem you have submitted has met their standards for publication.

"This may be a great opportunity to have your poem published in our book that will receive statewide distribution. It is necessary however for you to be a member . . . before we can publish your poem in our book.

"The membership fee . . . is $25 a year."

Mr. Burch said, "An investigation by the Consumer Protection Division . . . has determined that:

"The National Society of Published Poets consists only of Mr. Thoutte.

"That until Mr. Thouttee's solicitation drive there were no members of the Maryland Society."

AFRO Line suggests you contact the attorney general's office for further information. Call 383-3737.

QUESTION: My niece is a former mental patient. Her condition has regressed and she is rapidly deteriorating. She just wanders about the streets and does not care about herself personally. I have been everywhere I can think and even to the police who say they can do nothing unless she commits a crime. I am at my wit's end because I know she needs help. Can you suggest someone?

M.A.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Mental Health Association of Baltimore told AFRO Line that you should call them at 235-8786 and they will advise you of the procedures to follow.

Stars

ARIES "The Ram" (March 24-April 20) — Wonderful progress has been made all by yourself. Do not let others horn in, take all the credit.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Because of your success you may tend to relax a bit. Do not let up, stick with it.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21)—A great deal of confusion is destined to surround you. Do not take on any added responsibilities.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Exercise a little more patience. You upset others when you become frustrated over trivials.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — A stricter budget and more careful planning will help you cope with the future.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Check your wardrobe and you will find that you have a great deal going for you. Avoid unnecessary shopping.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Choose activities which are compatible with those of your family and friends. It will make life much easier.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Take nothing for granted. Make inquiries but rely on your own abilities.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec.-22-Jan. 20)—Your involvement can never be tepid. You should be either hot or cold, or get out all together.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your humor and willingness to seek higher standards will earn you good standing in your career.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Hanging on to past events could be a serious and costly error. Look to the future — it's much [illegible]