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., 1640-1922. 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)

City coming or going?

Is Baltimore shining or fading?

The city got some good and bad news out of two recent studies.

The National League of Cities notes that while Baltimore is losing population, has a shrinking tax base and suffers serious urban decay, it has had successes in reversing the trend.

Baltimore's 6.5 per cent population drop between 1960 and 1973 represented the smallest drop among 15 cities in the study that sustained losses — and the city was credited with starting a movement back by young, middle-income families.

On the other hand, a Brookings Institution study found a bigger gap between the quality of life in Baltimore and surrounding suburban areas than all but 3 other cities among 55 surveyed.

The Brookings survey warns that the hardship situation is going to get worse unless government changes, such as annexations, are made.

It also took some of the gloss off the NLC report by advising that city-suburban imbalances like that between Baltimore and her wealthier neighbors prompts additional flight and deeper urban crisis.

We think what stares Baltimore in the face is the need to make some hard decisions about its future — about how best to build on what is here.

As Baltimore looks outward for assistance, it has to tackle its people problems with the same intensity and boldness visible in the attack on other decay-threatened resources.

There is an imbalance in the evenhandedness of our efforts now that is deeply disturbing.

Murphy bucks redlining

Del. Arthur G. Murphy Sr. has demanded significant information from the C and P Telephone Co. in connection with the firm's admitted "redlining" of certain districts.

What the redlining adds up to is that the designated districts don't get the same night repair service as do other areas.

Thus some telephone users, although they pay the same rates as residents in non-redlined districts, get inferior service.

Only if the telephone company decides there is an emergency situation, a redlined district's telephone isn't likely to be repaired if something goes wrong at night.

It is extremely important that people in these discriminated against areas know who they are.

Many people in high-crime areas consider the telephone their most important link to the outside world after dark.

If there is a fear about possible criminal harm, they can call. If there is illness, they can call. If there is a fire, they can call.

Our guess is that most of the redlined districts are in areas such as those represented by Del. Murphy.

Del. Murphy's demand that the telephone company review its present policy and come up with a better system of handling the problem, makes sense.

We also think it would be important for Del. Murphy to have a look at the racial composition of the telephone company's force of repairmen.

If, even with armed protection, these repairmen wrong at night to service telephones in large numbers of districts at night, they pose a threat to the public welfare because criminals can take advantage of the lack of service to create havoc in redlined area homes.

The least C and P Telephone Co. can do is let us know which of its area paying for second-class service.

Insurance rate hearings

Is Edward J. Birrane Jr., insurance commissioner, interested in a change or updated justification of automobile insurers' tradition of socking city drivers with higher rates than those paid in the suburbs?

Birrane has scheduled a hearing for Dec. 16 at which insurance companies doing business in Maryland will have to justify the difference in rates.

Insurers have insisted they suffer greater losses in major cities than in suburbs because of the number of accidents, the crime rate, etc.

Birrane apparently has made up his mind that the geographic differences in rates are so much a part of the insurance companies's operational system that it would pose trouble for them to change.

They've been using the system for 40 years and for them to change "would create a tremendous regulatory problem because insurance rates are based on statistics kept by the companies and the companies have been basing their statistics on the weighted experience drawn from these territories," the insurance commissioner says.

For Birrane, "It's not whether you have a line denoting a territory but where you're drawing the line."

How about drawing the line around the state?

Those legislators and thousands of drivers who feel there is some unfairness in the rates now in existence, have their work cut out for them if those hearings on Dec. 16 are going to spur changes.

As we see it, Birrane views the hearings as a vehicle to give the insurers an opportunity to get some statistics in the record to show they don't violate the law which forbids "unfairly discriminatory" rates. He could then show the insurers' justification statistics to the legislature.

Anyone strongly interested in changes in the geographic boundaries and rate schemes had better not depend on the insurance commissioner's office to carry the ball.

An encouraging step in the right direction is Mayor Schaefer's move to have City Solicitor Benjamin Brown represent Baltimore's interests at the hearings.

The case that should be made at the hearing is such that if no change comes out of it the battle can be continued.

Another Labor Party ploy?

Beware of the U.S. Labor Party's challenge to presidential election results in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin. What it portends is nothing good for blacks.

The party's unsuccessful candidate for President, Lyndon H. LaRouche, has asked the Justice Department in a telegram to probe incidents of alleged vote fraud in the four states — all of which were won by Carter.

LaRouche also has said his party is trying to void those states' elections through lawsuits.

Clearly electoral fraud has no place in the American fabric. But isn't it interesting that the most important allegations of fraud in recent years have come in 1960 and 1976 — both being years when candidates who championed people's causes narrowly won victory?

Where were all these friends of justice and fair play through years of intimidation of black would-be voters in the South? How much of the Watergate crime was unearthed and challenged by the Labor Party? How much top-level corruption, how much exploitation in our communities by drug dealers has this group resisted?

It also is interesting that the U.S. Labor Party's staunchest allies in the challenges have been some Republicans. But then, GOP resistance to a Carter victory is logical.

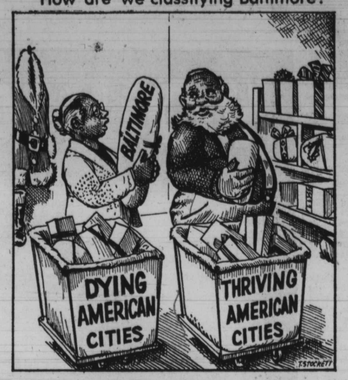
What's in it for the U.S. Labor Party? Simple election reform?

Knowing the usual thinking of leftist groups, it is suspected that much higher stakes are envisioned.

Though Jimmy Carter is, by no stretch of the imagination, a left-wing radical, he does stand for quite a few things dear to the hearts of activists. Things like full employment, energy-saving autos, equitable taxation and a liberalized economic policy.

The forthcoming Carter Administration is the first thing many downtrodden Americans have had to look forward to in over a decade. A successful Carter Administration would conceivably make it hard for splinter groups that are more interested in gaining power than in actually helping the people they pretend to represent.

How are we classifying Baltimore?



Now and then — by g. james fleming

Carter may have last laugh

It is not often that one columnist writes about another columnist, applauding the latter on something he has written. This time, however, we want to tip our hat to Carl T. Rowan, syndicator, for his piece defending the Jimmy Carters from the snide remarks of the Washington social elites.

It is so easy to make jokes about persons and groups, especially when the jokers have no hard facts against the victim or victims. Blacks know what we are talking about; so do the Jews, the Irish and the West Indians. But, with the election of Jimmy Carter, a new rash of anti-South, anti-Georgia jokes abound.

Some are what may be called legitimate humor. Most are the cocktail circuit type, repeated with venom and insult, and not intended just for fun.

Much of the joking is judgmental. It is setting Carter down, prejudging that he cannot be an effective president because of his Georgia rootage, and hinting (more than hinting) that social life at the White House, under the Carters, will be real "hick" stuff.

Rowan refers to such "sick humor" which paints Carter as "just a Georgia cracker," about to impose "a bunch of yokels, cornpone idiots and drawling numbskulls on the national capital." Rightfully, he objects to the "Once a cracker, always a cracker" slurs he has written. This time, however, we want to tip our hat to Carl T. Rowan, syndicator, for his piece defending the Jimmy Carters from the snide remarks of the Washington social elites.

It is so easy to make jokes about persons and groups, especially when the jokers have no hard facts against the victim or victims. Blacks know what we are talking about; so do the Jews, the Irish and the West Indians. But, with the election of Jimmy Carter, a new rash of anti-South, anti-Georgia jokes abound.

Some are what may be called legitimate humor. Most are the cocktail circuit type, repeated with venom and insult, and not intended just for fun.

Much of the joking is judgmental. It is setting Carter down, prejudging that he cannot be an effective president because of his Georgia rootage, and hinting (more than hinting) that social life at the White House, under the Carters, will be real "hick" stuff.

Rowan refers to such "sick humor" which paints Carter as "just a Georgia cracker," about to impose "a bunch of yokels, cornpone idiots and drawling numbskulls on the national capital."

Rightfully, he objects to the "Once a cracker, always a cracker" slurs heard among the Washington establishment. (Incidentally, this same "cracker" bit can be also heard far away from "Establishment" places).

Just as they did against Lyndon B. Johnson, these critics (including some writers and cartoonists) are predicting that President-elect and Mrs. Carter will serve dishes at White House functions featuring possum and chitterlings, dressed up in French names.

Really, however, the Carters are no country bumpkins. The president-elect, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where cadets (future naval officers) get a good dose of the "social graces"; he has served a term as governor of Georgia; he has attended governors' conferences. Mrs. Carter was the "First Lady" of Georgia and, reportedly, she was no wall flower at the governors' conferences.

Rowan suggests that the Carters need not feel ashamed because they have a Georgian drawl, no more the Harvardians, Yalies or Princetonians need be ashamed of their Eastern accent.

Rowan might also have called to the Carters' attention that there have been another set of southerners who were maligned and looked down upon when they entered the high places of government. They were the blacks who sat in the Reconstruction constitutional conventions and the Reconstruction state legislatures, and those who held topmost administrative positions in state and local governments.

Regardless of how schooled they were, or how well they conducted themselves, they were the victims of the harshest editorial and other attacks. They were described as "uncouth," as "louts," as "illiterate" and as "corrupt."

These black men, nevertheless, were the same members of southern conventions and legislatures who insisted on reconciliation with their former masters and with the Confederate South; who did not want "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"; who fought for a Bill of Rights in the several constitutions, and who were especially outstanding in persisting on a free public school system for the former Confederate state.

The Carters may find solace, of a kind, out of musing over the jokes and snide remarks which will flow when the first Jewish person or the first black American is elected president!

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Pure folly: woodman spare that tree

Wasn't it ironic that while Jeanne Mandel, Gov. Marvin Mandel's wife, commented that the new federal court house would be more ideally suited for a day care center, on that very day, Title XX monies set aside for day care were being diverted by the City Council to save Dutch elms in Baltimore to the tune of $130,000?

The City Council's overwhelming vote to steal money from this critical program, to again make cosmetic (and in this regard, foolish) expenditures, reinforces their peculiar penchant for beautifying the city while services to people are woefully lacking. Days of Nero and Marie Antoinette!

Add this to the $25,000 rug in the mayor's ceremonial room and all the millions spent on Schaefer's folly — the Pyrolysis (pronounced paralysis) plant, the pinching off of reserves from the general fund for a little consulting here, a little travel there and in the midst of this munificence, the sum total is an explosive situation of misplaced priorities that make the city fathers' cries of poor mouth, fall upon deaf ears.

And they wonder how come the citizens are apathetic — why they distrust government?

Further, to try to save elms from Dutch elm disease by throwing money at them is like flushing $130,000 down the sewer. Dutch elm disease is nothing newly discovered, for it has had a devastating effect upon thousands of elms in the eastern and central U.S. since 1930.

In fact, for this reason, many states do not bother to plant them because of their susceptibility to a multitude of infections that rapidly wither the leaves and make them fall while they are still green.

Moreover, it is impossible to arrest the disease because of bark-beatles that continue to spread the disease. In addition it is transmitted by natural root grafts that result from planting trees too close together.

Therefore, even with this expensive treatment there is no guarantee that the trees can be saved.

It is amazing and deplorable in these hard times that City Council so callously ignored the pressing need for day care and squandered money that did not rightfully belong to it.

More wisely used, wouldn't the $129,000 feed and care for needy tots and toddlers, freeing their mothers to work, or go to school, or both so that some day they might regularly enrich the city coffers?

It is purely romantic notion to respond to the poetic plea of "woodman, woodman, spare that tree" when it is a luxury we can ill afford.

Poet's Corner

I AM A POET
By Kaka G. Kehinde

I am a poet . . .
I can bring you the fragrance of a rose in a word, in a phrase
I can make the sun rise and set your mind in all of its splendor.
I am a poet . . . .
I am the beat of forgotten tunes
I am the sound of waves crashing the slave coast and the distant cry of those that jump in the sea just to be free.
I am a poet . . .
I am the shout of the southern black minister that echoes in the mountain top that he had a dream.
I am a poet . . . .
I am the voice of Malcolm screaming Black Nationalism to ears that refuse to hear.
I am a poet . . . .
I am the rock
I am the roll.
I am a poet . . . .
I am the beat and the rhythm of John Coltrane.
I am a poet . . . .
I am the rhapsody you see when our lady sings the blues.
I am poet . . . .
I am all that was and all that will be
My words live on when my flesh is dead.
I am a poet . . . .
I am self defined, self exclaimed
You can not take what you do not give and you can not take my poetry from me for my poetry is me, a poet that's me, a poet that's free.

Washington report

Watch the next Congress as well as the president

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

All eyes are focussed on President-elect Jimmy Carter, watching to see what black citizens will be appointed to which government posts.

However, we should also be watching the U.S. House of Representatives where a major shakeup will occur in the leadership in the 95th Congress which convenes in January, 1977.

Congressman Thomas (Tip) O'Neill appears certain to become the speaker of the House.

A real dog fight is developing between Congressmen Richard Bolling (Missouri); Phil Burton (California) and James Wright (Texas) for the post of majority leader . . that's the second highest position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The position of majority whip (the third highest position) will be contested.

The chairmanship of the Democratic Caucus is up for grabs: Congressman Thomas Foley started an early campaign for that post, but just this week, Congressperson Shirley Chisholm (New York) announced she was a challenger.

The chairmanship of the now powerful House Budget Committee is open and there are four major challengers: Representatives Ashley (Ohio); Smith (Iowa); Giaino (Connecticut) and Stark (California).

What is the significance of all of this for black folks ?

Just as the president sets policy for the executive branch, the Democratic leadership sets policy for the legislative branch. For this reason, as various contestants for the leadership posts have asked for my support, I have, in return asked for commitments.

No black has ever served as majority whip . . why not now? There are five deputy whip positions. No black has ever served in those positions. . . why not now ?

The leaders recommend members of Congress to serve on the Democratic Policy and Steering Committee. I served on that committee once. At present there are only two blacks on the committee, Ralph Metcalfe and Barbara Jordan. Why not five blacks on the committee. . .now?

The House Budget Committee, now in its third year of operation, will really begin to set priorities in the next Congress. How much for housing, how much for defense, how much for education, and how much for veterans benefits, etc, etc.

I am in the process of meeting on an individual basis with each of the four persons who are seeking the chairmanship of the Budget Committee. In each of these meetings I have attempted to lay out the problem, which is, the Budget Committee is conservatively biased and the U.S. House of Representatives has a strong conservative streak.

I have bluntly asked for a commitment to protect and strengthen those programs necessary for our survival (for example: food stamps) before I will commit myself to support any of those who want to become chairman of the Budget Committee.

Quite frankly, while I believe that President-elect Carter will perform well in the area of civil rights and civil liberties, I have the strong suspicion that he is a conservative in fiscal and economic matters.

If that suspicion proves out to be fact, it is most important that the leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives pursue liberal policies in the area of housing, unemployment and economic development.

I cannot stress too strongly how important this is. Already there are ominous clouds flying. The "anti-bussers" will resume their attacks in the 95th Congress. There will be, I'm certain, a strong effort made to whittle down the power, scope and authority of the Equal Opportunity Commission. Equally true there will be a strong effort to institute zero based budget procedures against human welfare-social welfare programs.

In addition, a strong challenge will be made against the 8-A program. This is a program in which a certain percentage of government contracts is set aside for minority business.

All of this means that an awesome burden is going to fall on the pitifully few blacks who serve in the U.S. Congress.

This in-house fight has got to be led by the 17-person Congressional Black Caucus.

We in the Caucus will now, more than ever, need your support, your encouragement and your assistance.

Don't let us down. That was a foolish admonition because I know you will not.

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)

"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

Phone company 'redlining'

Dear AFRO:
There have been no former newspaper reports of incidents to phone repairmen. Please correct me, if I am in error.

If the phone company denies service to certain areas as was exhibited by the published report of service denial to the Western District police station, there should be a letter to all customers stating this policy.

This would be consistent to other communications to customers informing of rate hikes, distribution of directories, appeal to buy new phones, etc., etc.

When a franchise is so discriminatory it is open target for overtaking competition.

The phone company must be aware that many of their plants are in the "redline area" that their employees must pass through the "redline area" to come to their place of employment.

If the phone company truly needs protection, they must not think highly of the police department for protection when service to them at headquarters was refused.

MRS. MIRIAM L. WINBORNE

Businessmen question lottery

Dear AFRO:
It is no secret that area retail business has been something less than great.

Among other reasons expressed at recent merchant meetings in various parts of the city is the theory that many of the dollars normally channelled into the stores is, instead, being used for the purchase of daily state lottery tickets.

Now would seem an appropriate time for the governor to appoint a study commission to weigh the benefits received from the lottery proceeds against the costs incurred.

The latter should include more than merely monetary costs.

Questions which must be answered, to cite just a few, are:

What is the percentage of daily sales derived from locations in low income and lower middle income areas as compared to locations in more affluent areas?

Is not the highly skillful promotion promising an illusory financial dream fulfillment programmed to appeal to the least sophisticated of our citizens?

And has it not evoked a disproportionate number of dollars going for daily tickets from those citizens' incomes normally earmarked for food and clothing?

And, finally, is the lottery really in the best public interest, or is it merely a politically palatable regressive form of taxation directed against those who can afford it least?

HERMAN KATKOW
Director
Mayor's Advisory Committee on Small Business

Crownsville report hit

Dear AFRO:
In response to your article of Nov. 9 which lambasts the shortcomings of Crownsville Hospital Center, I should like to take exception to the paragraph which insinuates that patients who are committed involuntarily are denied due process of law.

This is a blatant fabrication and I personally challenge anyone to produce any evidence that this situation exists at Crownsville. Regulations have been in effect since October, 1973 which require that all such patients have a hearing within a week of their admission to assure they meet certain criteria.

Those regulations can be found in the state code under the title 10.04.03. Furthermore only 29 per cent of over 3,000 involuntary admittees have been retained at these hearings since their inception and these persons have had the right to a series of appeals.

All individuals have access to a public defender who maintains an office here at the hospital and provides representation for indigent persons who request his services.

I am personally responsible for the operation of the Hearing's Office at the hospital but was on vacation when the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights visited here.

I do not know where they obtained their information but am certain no one here lied to them about it and that the quality of this service did not deteriorate during the two weeks I was absent.

I might add that the part of the report that deals with dietary deficiencies here is also grossly inaccurate. Our dietician informs me that no one from the committee spoke to her either.

If the rest of their report is as inaccurate and irresponsible as the parts concerning patient rights and diet, it can be ignored as a gross distortion of the truth and attributed to the used game individuals here for sensation.

ROBERT A. DURNER, ACSW
Chairman
Task Force for Patient Rights
Crownsville Hospital Center

Rock Glen comment

Dear AFRO:
I wish to thank you for the comments that appeared in the Opinion Column on Nov. 13 concerning Rock Glen Junior High School.

It was a pleasure to read very positive statements by the press after our continual harassment by the TV media.

I could not agree with you more that some members of the broadcasting media did not set very good examples for the young ladies and men at Rock Glen Junior High School and elsewhere.

Thank you for your words of encouragement and support.

DONALD L. KNOX
Principal

To get food coupons

Dear AFRO:
Every three months the handicapped citizen must get statements from the following agencies in order to continue getting $12 a month food coupons:

Unemployment, Big Joe who cashes your checks, the private doctor and hospital, the last job that you quit 20 years ago, from Social Security stating how much, bank book, rent book, mortgage, property bill, ground and water bill, gas and electric, babysitter and witnesses.

They forgot the boot black.

This makes no kind of sense at all. It only serves to punish, which is soul killing, the serpent.

HAYWOOD COLEMAN

Attack on cancer

A five-year, $25 million program has been launched in the Detroit area to see if more lives can be saved and the social and economic costs of cancer minimized when a community coordinates all of its cancer control resources.

The Michigan Cancer Foundation, with funding from both the NCI and local sources, began the project in October.

Public education aimed at the early detection of breast, cervical, colorectal, and head and neck cancers will be stressed.

Meals on Wheels

Dear AFRO:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for publishing all the articles I have sent to your office concerning the Meals on Wheels Program.

With the help of the paper I have recruited volunteers and informed the community of our service. Thank you again.

CARL LURE
Tide XX Director

Young beat — by larry young

Public hearings on health issues

The Baltimore City House Delegation Sub-Committee on Health of the Maryland General Assembly will hold a public hearing on health issues on Wednesday evening, Dec. 8, at the State Highway Administration Auditorium, 300 W. Preston St., at 7:30-10 p.m.

You are invited to attend. You are encouraged to offer testimony about your concerns regarding health issues in our city or state.

If you are interested in testifying, please call Ms. Ethel Elliott (396-3594) or me (624-3981), to be sure you are signed up. However, you can sign up on the evening of Dec. 8, too.

Members of the sub-committee are: Delegates Arthur Murphy, Dennis McCoy, A. J. Miedusiewski, John Douglass, Torrey Brown, and yours truly is sub-committee chairman.

HEW Secretary David Mathews called "extremely encouraging" the public response to HEW hearings designed to increase citizen participation in the drafting of department regulations on home health care.

More than 2,000 people attended five hearings on home health care in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Dallas and Los Angeles. Altogether, 514 citizens testified and more than 900 written statements and exhibits were presented.

"The response to the hearings bears out what I long have suspected — that citizens want a greater say in the promulgation of rules that affect their lives," said Secretary Mathews. "I find the initial results of our change in process extremely encouraging, and will continue to see ways to improve citizen access to the department's rule-making activities."

Citizen testimony at the hearings focused primarily on questions of expanding the scope and availability of home services and ensuring quality care with appropriate cost controls.

In 12,000 pages of testimony analyzed by HEW, strong sentiment was voiced for the concept of in-home health services. This opinion was reflected by one witness who said: "Any person can be appropriately cared for through the home health care mechanism as long as the support system — whether it be family or agency — is developed enough for the individual to get the services he requires."

Still another witness put it this way: "Most people view home health care as an alternative to institutionalization for older persons. We believe that institutionalization is an alternative to home care, and should be used as a last resort."

The need for better coordinated services also was voiced frequently. One witness said that without coordination, individuals and families requiring home health care often have complex needs and "... are forced to deal with several providers, commercial entrepreneurs and official groups for services which, under these circumstances, may be incomplete, fragmented and tardy."

Some witnesses called "artificial" the present provision of Medicare law that requires a person to have had three days of prior hospitalization in order to be eligible for in-home services and urged its modification.

There were a number of suggestions to make in-home services more effective and rational.

Witnesses said that children, the handicapped of all ages and persons with chronic or terminal illness could be maintained in their homes — and unnecessary institutionalization avoided — if a wide range of home services were available.

It was suggested that transportation and other ancillary services might allow many persons to avoid being hospitalized or going into a nursing home for needed care.

Another often-heard complaint was that some home health services "close their doors at 5 o'clock and have no weekend service, which leaves people in need of round-the-clock services stranded.

Myths about the swine flu vaccinations

By John McAvinue
Publicity Coordinator
Influenza Vaccination Campaign
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Several myths have plagued the swine flu program which have found expression in the letters to the editor pages throughout the state and which must be answered to set the record straight before the public.

No. 1 The swine flu vaccine has been safety given to more than 500,000 Marylanders as of this date with only 30 mild and minor medical incidents alleged to be associated with the vaccine.

Most of these were reports of some fever, headache, local rash and arm tenderness. Nationally, there are more than 24 million people vaccinated. There are no deaths proven to be directly or indirectly associated with the vaccine in Maryland or the nation.

At this point the mass immunization program now appears even safer than the introduction of polio vaccine.

In a word, there is no excuse for anyone not to get the shot because of reaction fears.

No. 2 — The myth that the immunization program will cost the taxpayers 3.2 billion dollars is incorrect. It is also wrongly attributed to N.I.H. (The National Institute of Health).

I have checked with the public information office there and at the U.S. Public Health Service. Neither agency estimated any such figure.

What N.I.H. really did say, and it may possibly have been distorted in the public's mind, was the following: "The last flu pandemic, Hong Kong influenza 1968, produced nearly 33,000 deaths and incurred social and economic costs to the community estimated at $3.2 billion."

This number means the public, industry and insurance companies sustained a toll of cumulative costs due to absenteeism, medical and hospitalization bills and personal loss of income amounting to $3.2 billion. The public and industry were the victims of flu epidemic costs, not the taxpayer of 1968.

The Congress has approved $135,064,000 for the flu program which is estimated to have little overall inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the economy. The major portion of the $135,064,000 has been used for the purchase of the vaccine from drug manufacturers.

No. 3 — Regarding the myth that swine flu vaccine is bad for heart patients, we wish to point out the case of a nursing home on the Eastern Shore which decided on a Friday afternoon to wait until the following Monday morning before giving shots to all their patients.

Over the weekend and before the vaccination team returned to give the first flu shot to the nursing home patients, 3 patients died. The 3 people proved to be victims of the nation's No. 4 killer, heart disease.

This incident clearly shows how hysterical conclusions can be reached by assuming because a person received the shot 24 to 48 hours prior to death, the vaccine is the necessary cause.

No scientific proof or autopsy evidence in Maryland or the nation suggests even a remote tie-in with this proven vaccine and any death.

The American Medical Association, The American Lung Association and the Diabetic Association of Maryland fully support the flu campaign.

No. 4 — The myth that famous names have equal validity in evaluating a technical program is extremely damaging.

Benjamin Franklin, America's genius inventor, politician and philosopher, was one of the greatest opponents of the colonial smallpox vaccination program. While Ben Franklin was a great statesman, we can safely say that on the subject of vaccination he served science better by flying his kite.

It took nearly 200 years to bring the toll of smallpox victims down to its present level of approximately 7 suspected cases in the world today.

Only 10 years ago, 2 million people died of this disease for want of a single vaccination.

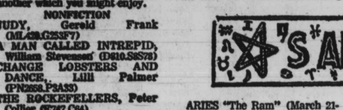
We sincerely hope this never will be the case where the need to immunize a target population is undermined by fear or individuals who are not in a position to accept the liability for their advice.

The U.S. Public Health Service and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene accept that responsibility.

People are reading

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

NONFICTION
JUDY, Gerald Frank (ML528.G23F7)
A MAN CALLED INTREPID, William Stevenson (D810.S8S72)
CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lilli Palmer (P92555.P3A33)
THE ROCKEFELLERS, Peter Collier (CT67.C534)
WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (F128.9.J5H6)
FICTION
A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS, Cynthia Freeman
STRANGER IN THE MIRROR, Sidney Sheldon



ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — It is necessary that your forces be organized in order to meet the challenge. Someone close to you has some good suggestions.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — As long as you keep in mind who is the master and who is the servant, things will end exceedingly well. Take great care in what you say.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22 - June 21) — Any move that you make which suggests personal feelings can get you into trouble. Use your head instead of your heart.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Make every effort to establish a routine which will make you get your work accurate. The speed will come later.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Your wisdom will lead you into making the right decision. You will not regret it.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — The confusion which engulfs you may be a blessing in disguise. You will realize your good fortune soon.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Do not let on that you are the slightest bit dissatisfied. You need all the moral support you can get.

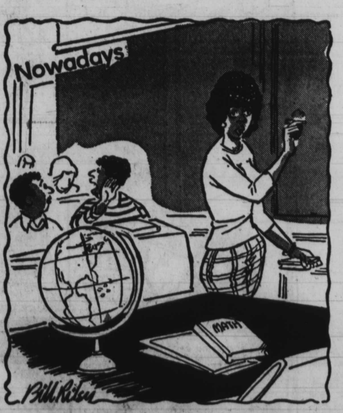
SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There is one who is more qualified than you for the project ahead. It will be good to seek his help.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It is well to act according to another's image of you. However, you must stick to your own principles.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Avoid too much responsibility at this time. Your health comes first in all cases.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Others may be able to use their influence. However, you must first make an impression of your own.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 19-March 20) — Family fun should be considered, but make up your own mind. You may be pushing too hard.



"I CAN'T STAND SOME PEOPLE'S KNOW-IT-ALL ATTITUDE. HOW ABOUT YOU?"

...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: Please find out why there are no telephones on the 8th floor of Mercy Hospital. There are TV's in all the rooms. Also, why is it that you do not have a visitor's pass? — E. T.

ANSWER: Don Rosetti, public relations officer at Mercy, told AFRO Line:

"The system just will not take any more phones at this time. A total study reveals that we have to do something about it. The system will be changed as soon as it can be done.

"We plan to initiate the visitor's pass system just as soon as possible. Here again, a complete study has been made and we know very well it is a necessary program to have. Currently, our policy is two visitors per room."

QUESTION: Last May, our homes were inspected and the homeowners were sent notices of what they had to do. Why do homeowners have to make repairs, yet homeowners who rent their homes don't do anything? Is this fair?

Also, what can we do as homeowners about the alleys behind our homes? There are families putting their trash in paper bags and sitting them in the alley. There is another family that collects old tires and parts and puts them in the alley and the children pull it all out and just make a mess.

Many of us use the alley to go to our garages and we have to clean the alley before we can get in. — G. O.

ANSWER: A spokesman from the Neighborhood Development office said, "Inspectors go to houses upon complaints, whether the house is rented or owned. They cannot walk into a privately owned house, unless it is in a multiple dwelling (3 or more units), which by law has to have a yearly inspection."

With regard to the trash, you need only to call 396-4415 to remedy the situation. You will need to give the house numbers of those responsible for littering the alley.

Where to call

COMPLAINTS

Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3141 or 396-3150

— of questionable business practices, CONSUMER PROTECTION, 383-5656

— on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4499

— discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3636

— about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2274

EMERGENCIES
AMBULANCE — 396-1111
FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313
POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333
HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412

SERVICE
ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218
CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000
DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168
DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720
FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763
FURNACE CHECK — 396-4429
LEGAL AID — 539-5340
PENSION REFORM — 962-3914
RAPE — 366-7273
RAT AND INSECT CONTROL — 396-4418
RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188
SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-6232
TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049
VACANT HOUSE — 396-4176
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

Smile

The most effective way to attract attention is to make a mistake.

A woman worries about the future until she lands a husband. A man never worries about the future until he is saddled with a wife.

DEC 4 1976