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)

Merry Christmas to one and all

The sound of the Christmas season is in the air.

Special church services and programs are being held this Sunday.

Carols can be heard throughout the city.

Shopping centers have included music of the season as part of their service and pitch to the public.

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa and other charity organizations have been busy helping make Christmas happy for people who needed an assist this year.

For the very young, Christmas always has a special meaning.

For them, Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer are the stars of the Christmas season.

Every four years at Christmas time the country either waits to see its president inaugurated again or a new one take the oath — a gift to ourselves.

This time the wait is for a new president to take the oath.

Internationally, although peace is not universal, it prevails in much of the world today.

The real search for many of us is to find peace within ourselves—at Christmas and throughout the year.

That peace often comes to us when we listen to the message brought to the world by Him whose birthdate we celebrate on Christmas.

However you search for your peace and happiness, have a merry Christmas.

Shopping warnings

Some warnings against being left holding the bag by Christmas hustlers have been provided by Atty. Gen. Francis Burch.

His very first warning is against those street peddlers of overpriced, shoddy merchandise who sprout up at Christmas each year then fade away.

Burch warns against the dealer who lures customers by advertising cheap articles but switches his sales pitch to something else once you're in the store.

A bit of good advice from Burch is that you make certain of the retailer's policy on exchanging gifts before plunking down your money and walking out.

Another good tip is that the buyer pay close attention to the price of articles when one is going to be given away "free" if the other is purchased.

Of course, every buyer already knows good sense calls for reading any papers offered before signing.

Burch suggests dealing with good stores with reputations for honoring guarantees and standing behind products sold. That can be a neighborhood store as well as a major retail outlet.

These are warnings worthy of noting for all shopping seasons.

They are particularly important during the hectic Christmas holidays.

Hangover won't last

An objective observer recognizes the fact that condolences and alibis have no place in competitive sports.

Contests between teams or individuals are designed to produce one winner, one loser. So, this is not to be construed as either sympathy or excuse for the Colts.

However, Baltimore fans may find some solace in the knowledge that on last Sunday, their football team was destroyed by one of the National Football League's all-time great aggregations. The Colts were caught by a superb machine at a moment when it was geared for what was perhaps its most devastating execution.

No one individual in a Pittsburgh uniform was responsible for the 40-14 triumph; no one man in Baltimore flannel was to blame for the humiliation. It was a team win, a team defeat.

The victorious Steelers were sky high in enthusiasm and hip deep in talent. In the AFRO's long association with the NFL, it has witnessed some truly outstanding teams—the 1960 Eagles, the 1961 and 1967 Packers, the 1970 Colts, and the 1972-73 Dolphins. But the 1976 Steelers loom as the most awesome of the lot.

Whether they go on to achieve the unprecedented goal of three consecutive Super Bowls remains to be seen. It is the AFRO belief that they can and will.

As for the Colts, it may be said that the team last winter and this fall, tasted the heady nectar of conquest and they and their fans became intoxicated.

As in all such cases, though, the hangover won't last too long.

What Patuxent costs

Patuxent Institution seems to be a costly 20-year experiment which has failed.

Seventeen members of the House of Delegates say killing off the experiment and using space thus made available would open up facilities for 1,000 additional inmates in the state's overcrowded prison system.

According to critics of Patuxent, the $12,000 per inmate it spent in the 1976 budget is more than twice the amount permitted for other prisoners.

Viewed another way, it has cost the state $37 million over 20 years to produce 106 so-called cures, or $330,000 per individual, critics claim.

Patuxent, under Maryland's Defective Delinquent Act, takes prisoners on indefinite sentences and seeks to determine whether the convict is "defectively delinquent."

Patuxent then is supposed to cure the criminal and send him back into the community free of criminal tendencies.

At the rate Patuxent works, 106 "cures" over a 20-year period, it can be concluded that overcrowding in the prison system is responsible for creating or encouraging more criminal behavior than Patuxent can dent.

That being the case, it would make sense to end the experiment and use the Patuxent facilities and money being wasted there to relieve some of the dangerous overcrowding in the prison system.

Thanks to all and Merry Christmas

Now and then — by g. james fleming

In the spirit of Christmas

Christmastime, by whatever name called, is a very special time. It brings out the best in most people. Most of us want to give and share, rather than just to receive. Most people make an effort to be "of goodwill."

It has never been easy for ordinary man to live up to the spirit of Christmas. During many Christmases, the soldiers of the nations have been killing each other; leaders of commerce have been competing with each other with little thought of the meaning of Christmas and families have fretted over who gave what to whom.

The essence and spirit of Christmas persist, nevertheless, and men and women feel different and better at Christmastide.

This writer is old enough to be very sorry that "progress" and "modernization" have placed galas and parties ahead of church services as the way of observing the beginning of Christmas. Even the most nostalgic of us are tempted to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child via television from time zone to time zone.

There was something touching and deepening, however, when nearly every Christian in the Western World used to shut down business, or left his home and filled the churches for "midnight service" (really 11 or 11:30 p.m.), to sing the hymns and songs of the season and to welcome Christmas Day.

Amid historic colorful decorations and extra lighting, churches were crowded "with the faithful" and also with those who attend worship services only at Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday. Many attenders were also non-attenders every other time of the year; to them, too, Christmas was special.

Those who remember oldtime Christmas services recall easily the thrills of the traditional hymns (Sung to the old tunes): "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Thanks to Hampton Institute, this writer also later learned to love that moving spiritual, "Go Tell It On the Mountain."

This is not to say that all Christmas Eve services have disappeared. Many churches still hold to the custom. But, too many are no longer crowded and the emphasis is elsewhere.

For one thing, in addition to the external diversions, many people say they are afraid to be abroad at night, due to the increase of crime on the streets.

Whatever the reason, the shift of Christmas from churches to TV, or night clubs, or cocktail lounges, or even to home parties has affected the total quality of contemporary life.

But, every man to his own order, as St. Paul wrote. Not all good people are in churches, and those not in churches are not necessarily sinners. The matter of importance, after all, is man's attitude and actions towards his fellow-man; how we treat our neighbors; our attitude towards strangers; our position on capital punishment; our stand on war and peace.

Those of us a little better off have a special opportunity to be part of Christmas as we share what we have with those in desperate need —not ostentatiously or in a spirit of barter, but in the spirit of "He who gave . . ." To one and all, as you observe Christmas, each in his own way, Now and Then wishes you a Most Joyous Christmastide.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Xmas memories. . .the cherished ones

My mother and aunt used to shop for Christmas presents beginning in August, especially for things hard to find when, as they put it, the stores brought out the junk for the after Thanksgiving shoppers. Actually, they caught the best sales.

They always vowed that you never found the small compacts with flawless mirrors, or the fine scarves, gloves and purses in the Christmas shopping season.

My aunt was especially fond of embroidered linen handkerchiefs—"boxes for each, please" at a time when no polite lady was seen without one in her handbag. And they were nowhere to be found after October!

Dad on the other hand liked to shop closer to the deadline—keep up the suspense—for our toys, and we found him more mysterious as the time grew closer, going more often to the basement to try out the electric trains.

Christmas was always beautiful, not because we had so much, but because my father loved playing Santa Claus more than anything, even if he had to pay for it the following six months. (I always remember January to be the month of the doldrums in our house, as the bills began to pile up.)

After I left home, he would always come visit on Christmas Eve to play Santa for the grandchildren. But as fate would have it three years after he moved into our own house, he was buried on Christmas Eve.

The big war made us conscious, however, of our own ingenuity and it was then that we sat up nights, shrouded behind black-out curtains, listening tensely to the war reports, sipping ink black tea (coffee was unavailable), sewing sequins and beads on flowered chiffon scarves, crocheting corde bags and knitting sweaters for our men in camps overseas and stateside—or furiously baking cookies to meet the Nov. 15 deadline for overseas mailing.

These memories are prompted by this coming Christmas, the first time that we shall have Christmas with only two grown children at home, out of five, when all of them have jobs and homes of their own.

Some, repeating the time worn task of preparing for Santa, though none of the kids really believe in him, or care encouraged to carry on the myth of Santa's gifts. (They con you however, if they think more gifts are in the offing!)

But the Christmases that I really cherish were those when the whole family took part in the church Christmas pageant; the father, one of the Wise Men, the children of various sizes either being the awestruck children, angels or shepherds, and the mother acting the part of Mary, singing the Magnificat.

For just before Christmas in this pageant with the whole congregation, we were all directed to focus upon the real meaning of Christmas, the Coming of the Christ Child, who would lead a revolution, who would turn our thoughts to the greatest commandment to love the Lord God with all our hearts, souls and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The great hope of the Coming of Christ was in the belief that things would become clearer and that life would become more meaningful in our acts of good will toward men, in our overriding desire to have peace on earth.

And though in my heart, as commercialism crowds out the true meaning of Christmas, I know this great message to be true, there comes the one weak moment when as life goes on, I wish momentarily that things would be the same again in a house reeking with the smell of fresh baked gingerbread cookies (they've tried to make and half way eaten) bustling with anxious children, who clumsily wrap the homemade pot holders, the clay ashtrays made in school, the garish clay cats with fur around their necks and glass eyes, that they know for sure "Momma would just love!" behind carefully guarded closed doors.

There is a private drawer in my house where I store all the five and dime china pitchers, book ends, funny cats on chains, that I look at from time to time and remember the special Christmas when the youngest boy, merely a year and a half, toddled in to look at the tree, climbed under it, his back against the corner of the wall, with cheeks flushed and eyes glazed, where he sat for three hours contemplating the wonder of it all, quietly wiggling his toes in his Dr. Denton's.

But on Christmas Day, this year, I shall walk into another house and have dinner for the first time with the eldest child who now proudly plays host to all the rest of the family.

Yet in the eyes of the youngest grandchild that delicious moment, that marvelous revelation of the first Christmas once again will mirror that memory of old, and I shall just love it!

Merry Christmas to all of you!

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, Gerold Frank (ML420.G283F7)
A MAN CALLED INTREPID, William Stevenson (D810.S8S78)
CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lillie Palmer (PN 2638.Q8A33)
THE ROCKEFELLERS, Peter Collier (E747.C64)
WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (F128.9.J5I6)

FICTION

A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS, Cynthia Freeman
STRANGER IN THE MIRROR, Sidney Sheldon

Jobs and justice at Civil Service

As the year 1976 ends, the big hope is that the new administration and Congress include among the 1977 resolutions a change of leadership at the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

For the past two weeks we have suggested that whatever changes take place at CSC one of them should be the appointment of a black commissioner.

We are fully aware that the mere presence of a black civil service commissioner will not solve all of CSC's multiplicity of problems, but it will help.

It will go a long way toward changing the attitude of those who now have the tendency to ignore problems involving black employees as inconsequential. If a precedent is needed to show how things improve when "the mere presence of a black" is on a regulatory commission, we call attention to the progress made at the Federal Communications Commission after Benjamin F. Hooks was appointed.

Commissioner Hooks is leaving the FCC to assume the leadership of the national NAACP, but a quick glance at your television set and a brief ear to your radio will reveal the employment of minorities in this industry took an upward turn during Mr. Hooks' tenure. Of course, it is far from what it ought to be but there has been improvement and that is all minorities seek at CSC.

History discloses that when there is some one around who gives a small measure of consideration to the unique and distinctive problems of black and minority employees, we get some effort or some exertion of influence toward correction of the historic wrong-doings in the fight for jobs.

Too, we can expect a more efficient review and proper correction of practices which currently are being held as volations of merit hiring in the District's Department of Human Resources and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

A more sincere effort to eradicate the failures at those agencies down through the years by a watchful CSC certainly would have avoided the situation we now face at EEOC and DHR.

President-elect Jimmy Carter would do well to give top priority in the early part of 1977 to the appointment of a black commissioner for the Civil Service Commission. "Jobs and Justice" strongly urges the new administration to make this a high level resolution for 1977.

There is little doubt that CSC needs new leadership. Recently a "Blueprint for Civil Service Reform" was released by the Fund for Constitutional Government, and one of the main suggestions in the proposals for reform was to change the makeup of the present CSC.

The "Blueprint" under the heading "New Leadership" said the following:

"New Civil Service Commissioners should be appointed, as quickly as vacancies arise, from among people who were in no way involved in the scandal of 1969-74. A new director of the CSC's Bureau of Personnel Management and Evaluation should be appointed to replace John D. R. Cole of Operation Talent Search fame; a vigilant leader is required.

"We see signs emerging of new congressional leadership to oversee the civil service. This is a time for a sweeping change."

The Blueprint for Reform called for many other changes in the Civil Service system but emphatically stressed the need for new leadership at the top level. "Jobs and Justice" agrees with this obvious need for a leadership change at CSC, and strongly urges that a black commissioner be among the changes to come.

AFDC changes

States will once again be required to review denials of applications and terminations of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and Medicaid (medical assistance for the poor) to determine the correctness of the action taken, according to a proposal published Wednesday.

Since early 1973, states have not been required to make such reviews so they could concentrate on assuring correctness of active cases under the AFDC program.

However, HEW said in proposed regulations published Wednesday in the Federal Register that alternative methods of reviewing denials and terminations outside the AFDC quality control system had not produced satisfactory results.

Nationally, 2,600,000 AFDC applications were received in FY 1975, of which 540,000 were denied by the states and another 334,000 were voluntarily withdrawn. In addition, 1,514,000 cases were terminated because they were considered no longer eligible.

Comments on the proposed regulation should be sent to the Administrators, P. O. Box 2366, Washington, D.C. 20013, within 45 days.

Breakdown

Baby, this is it.
This is the last straw.
Don't come, don't call
We've been through this before.

All the makin' up and breakin' up
Arguments and fights,
Countless days of sleepless nights.

You wantin' your way, and me
givin' in,
I guess it's about time we brought it
to an end.

Really we're both to blame, you
moreso than me.
But the best thing about it is, we'll
both be free.

Now you have it, do you have
anything to say?
Nothing. . . . Well----
That was always your way.
Takin' things in stride, your
feelings, in a shell.
But still unbelieving, this I can tell,

So don't take me serious when I
state it as fact,
This time when I walk, I ain't
lookin' back.

MICKEY R. BOYD

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself —

• Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

• Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

• Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

• Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

DECEMBER 24, 1920
(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

"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

Commendable commitment

Dear AFRO:
Within the past decade the criminal justice system has come under intense criticism. One aspect of this dissatisfaction is the charge that its leaders have created policy without input or question from the community directly affected.

In consideration of the above, it is only proper to applaud those leaders who make the effort to place themselves in an environment where one can inquire into and challenge the current method of criminal justice operations.

Three such men are Judge Robert Hammerman, judge of the Supreme Bench, States Attorney William Swisher and Stewart Nathan of the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice, who spoke for its director, Richard Friedman.

Without the exposure of a large audience or media representation, these men spoke to my early morning college class of the Community College of Baltimore. This commitment to the people they serve is indeed commendable and deserves public recognition.

Leonard A. Spies, Jr.
Instructor, Department of Public Safety
Community College of Baltimore

Accepted demotion

Dear AFRO:
There's an old saying in the black ghetto that says "When you're white you're right, when you're black, sit back.

This must be the motto of the Maryland State Division of Parole and Probation's executive office.

During my five and one-half year tenure with that agency I served for 18 months as "acting" supervisor of the Alcoholism Rehabilitation Unit without benefit of a pay raise or reclassification, without complaint, before my subsequent promotion.

While serving as supervisor, I gave unsatisfactory ratings to two "white in right agents" for falsifying official court documents and agency records, unauthorized removal of agency files from their office locations, falsifying expense accounts, destroying agency files in reference to client cases, and failure to collect fines and costs on cases that should have been closed but were not.

In both cases their performance ratings were changed by the executive office to satisfactory; one agent even getting a promotion!

I have recently applied for reinstatement to my former position of a supervisor; however, the executive office has "investigated" my past performance and has decided to graciously allow me to come back to the division with a demotion because of irregularities discovered in my performance after I had resigned.

Too bad that I'm not the Watermelon Man, in that case they would probably have promoted me the division director in charge of the misguided "dedicated" blacks.

Nathaniel Brewington

Let's outlaw cats, dogs

Dear AFRO:
As a cat and dog lover I am deeply concerned about their unfortunate fate.

The end of the line is the pound (which has been in the news the past few months) and their last days should be as comfortable as possible, before being put to death. They certainly deserve this.

Most of them were strays, unwanted, exposed to hunger, disease, heat, cold, suffering cruelty at the hands of even their owners, maintended injuries, etc. A hell on earth before going to cat and dog heaven!

We must review man's ugly behavior towards animals. Where did we (not the animals) go wrong? As we ponder this it would be wise to recall Henry Beston's writing:

"In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethern, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth."

The lesson we did not choose to heed was that it was a privilege to have a faithful dog or cat. We stupidly took advantage of our animals for far too many years, creating an overwhelming problem.

We have reached the despicable point where we matter-of-factly kill almost 20,000,000 a year in this country alone. We have punished the animals — now we must be punished.

WE HAVE FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO OWN ANIMALS!

In this as in many other things, responsible pet owners will suffer because of the irresponsible people.

The mounting figures of animals destroyed show we do not know, or worse, we don't care to know, how to reduce the killing, let alone stop it.

So let's outlaw cats and dogs. No more animals to be kicked around.

B. J. Small

Truth no respecter

Dear AFRO:
May all Americans give their moral and unbiased support which he has so justly earned, to our newly-elected president, Jimmy Carter.

The people's faith (in him) was shown by their votes as never before.

No man is to be prejudged by his previous environment-status; be he rich or poor; black or white. Truth is no respector of race, creed or color.

Indifference to truth is what brings on racial conflict and wars. Truth — God's laws — is meant for all to have and share equally.

If we don't, not one of us will be able to live in peace. That's the condition of the whole world today. No peace — everywhere!

The oppressed and their oppressors — are co-partners in ignorance; and they wonder what it's all about.

ALBERT TAYLOR

Turkey helped

Dear AFRO:
You have made my Thanksgiving so happy and I appreciate it so very much.

I had walked and walked all day until someone called Wednesday evening and said there was a turkey for me.

Thank you very much.

MRS. LENA JAMES

Make it official

The writer's name and address must be included in the 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 letters.

Malcolm and Martin Luthern's Dream

Black is a star destined to shine
long before birth
Black is the beginning with no
ending on this planet, earth
Black is the light from the dark
shades of your past
Black is a state of mind free at last
Black is Malcolm and Martin
Luther's dream.
Black is never giving up even after
all hope is gone
Black is a strong force that can
right the wrong
Black is a woman standing by her
man
Black is a man with an understanding love plan
Open your heart to what I mean
Black is Malcolm and Martin
Luther's dream.

CHARLES HARRIS

Young Beat — by larry young

'A Christmas tree' in words

To all my Young Beat readers, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas. Yes, it is the best holiday of all.

You parents who bought those "$14.95 only" Christmas toys and those crazy gifts for cousins and out-of-town relatives have discovered that the joy is always in the giving.

Holidays, says Mackey, "under the leaves, amid the grass, lazily the day shall pass, yet not be wasted. — From my drowsy ease I borrow health and strength to bear my boat through the great life ocean."

Oh, we must not forget the marvelous job Mrs. Santa and her staff have done in raising thousands of dollars for the needy families in our community.

You know my hobby is reading and watching the famous black leaders of my time continue to pursue a course that someday will set us free. I often quote such persons in Young Beat, and today I invite you to Young Beat's "A Christmas Tree."

Make a note this tree is a Christmas tree whose balls are words:

"If a city is to survive, it must be a city with solid foundations whose builder and maker is God.

"We must appeal to our tone setters. Our athletes must set standards for our youth. Surely, as they see the value in advertising for the United Way, they must see the contrast of advertising cigarettes, beer, scotch and panty hose."

Christmas Ball Necessity — "Tell our people that the only protection against genocide is to remain necessary."

Christmas Ball Greatness — "Tell them that the laws of convenience lead to collapse and the laws of sacrifice lead to greatness."

Christmas Ball "Making It" — "Tell them we need doctors whose concern for public health is greater than personal wealth — lawyers with greater concern for justice than judgeship — teachers who teach for life and not just a living — preachers who prophesy not just profiteer — politicians who seek not merely a job but seek to find and distribute jobs."

Merry Christmas, Reverend Jesse Jackson.

"Black people helped make this country. We planted America's taters, we toted its cotton, we lifted its bales. We sank the canals and laid the railroad tracks that link the Atlantic and the Pacific. The tree of liberty is watered with our blood, our sweat and our tears. We've died in every war from Valley Forge to Vietnam.

"So now we're telling America now is the time; now is the time to do right by us; now is the time to deliver on those broken promises. Now is the time for a new Bill of Rights with Guaranteed Jobs, Urban and Youth Programs, Income Maintenance and National Health Insurance. We've kept our faith in this land, and now is the time for this land to show its faith in us."

Merry Christmas, Vernon Jordan, National Urban League.

"No people can be a great people devoid of the knowledge of God. Indeed, the black man has a history that reveals a special sensitivity to God on his part. . . .

"If my people, 'says God, 'who are called by my name would humble themselves and pray, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sins and heal their land!'

"Black people are a people of Soul. We simply cannot make it to that Blessed community without a firm sense of God."

Merry Christmas, Reverend Dr. Harold A. Carter.

"No executive order can require us to form this national community. No federal law can require us to uphold the common good. This we must do as individuals. It will thus be veto - proof.

". . . and asking you to relate the words of Abraham Lincoln to the concept of a national community in which every last one of us participates: 'As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master.' This expresses my idea of Democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the differences, is no Democracy."

Merry Christmas, Congressman Barbara Jordan.

On top of the Young Beat Christmas Tree is a shining bulb, "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

Happy Birthday.

Making your future more secure

By Charles E. Belle
Cut Your Income Taxes

It's been some time since San Franciscans have seen the like of "gold tooth Annie" linked in a dark doorway singing five ways for a dollar to passing sailors.

But Uncle Sam has provided retirement pension plans for both business people and workers who make it to the golden age.

The new Tax Reform Act was signed into law on Oct. 4, with some sexy effects on qualified retirement pains.

Taking advantage of these opportunities is a must unless you expect to live on the meager amount of Social Security money paid to former household providers and dependents.

People can protect their payroll-less years by establishing a retirement plan if they do not already belong to an Internal Revenue Service approved plan. In one case they can even start an additional retirement plan.

In addition to providing funds for the future, current income taxes are cut by any money put into a retirement plan account. The retirement plan account can be in any one of three forms, individual retirement account (IRA), self-employed KEOGH plan or a corporate retirement plan.

A banker, stockholder or insurance broker will be able to provide the sign up sheets for their respective areas of sophistication.

The plans are available no matter which area holds your interest as a method for providing future returns on your tax deductible contributions.

Naturally, the banker or savings and loan association will recite the praises of their savings accounts security and guaranteed interest income.

Income cannot be guaranteed by any stock investment program, however, many surveys have shown varying averages of return on stock market paper profits over a period of years. Most center around a return of 9 per cent, not counting dividend returns.

The life insurance companies will come to you with annuities. The monthly fixed payment figures in the future is one of the chief attractions to this vehicle for retirement.

An individual can actually set up a retirement plan even if he has an approved plan with his regular employer. For instance, you might have a retirement account for a part-time business on the side which makes you eligible for a Keogh plan.

Furthermore, up to $750 can be contributed tax deductible despite the fact that the amount exceeds the normal contribution limitations of your total earnings. Keogh plans are limited to $7,500 or 15 per cent of compensation.

However, effective for tax years ending Dec. 31, 1976, the minimum deductible contribution a self-employed individual can make to his own Keogh account is $750 up to 100 per cent of net earned income.

Hence, even if earnings are $1,000 this year for a part-time business on the side, $750 can be contributed, tax deductible to a retirement plan.

Any individual self-employed or just working for a company without an approved IRS plan may open an individual retirement account with its maximum tax deductible contribution of 15 per cent of compensation not to exceed $1,500 per year or $1,750 per year for man and wife.

If you have been working this year without a retirement plan as a self-employed or just plain employed person, contact your banker, stockbroker and insurance man—right now. (NNPA)

Mali to train export experts

LONDON—A project is being set up in Mali to train local people in techniques of good storage management and pest control. The eventual aim is to establish a permanent quality control unit to monitor the conditions of locally - stored grain and to ensure the good quality of grain exports.

Mali's grain supplies have suffered for many years from polution and insect infestation through bad storage facilities. In 1975 about a quarter of the grain provided to the country as food aid was lost in this way.

The project is being jointly sponsored by the Office for Special Relief Operations of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Kingdom's Ministry of Overseas Development.

LUSAKA — Rail traffic on the new Tanzania - Zambia railway, Tazara, between the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam and Zambia is not to be increased at the present time.

According to official figures, the current four trains a day between Zambia and Dar es Salaam are adequate for the present.

Nowadays

..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: We are always told to beware of being overcharged for meats that we buy. How can we be sure that it is not underweight? — C.M.

ANSWER: A smart consumer, to insure that he gets every ounce he is paying for, should make sure:

1 — The scale has a weights and measures seal on it, signifying that it has been tested recently.

2 — The scale starts from zero when the purchase is being weighed.

3 — You have an unobstructed view of the scale platter, so you can see exactly what is on it.

If you think you are being short-weighted, contact the store manager. If he is uncooperative, call the Inspector of Weights and Measures at 494-3614.

QUESTION: When is the best time to take vitamins, aspirins and other medicines? Is it before eating or after eating? — C.R.

ANSWER: The Constant Care Community Health Center writes, "The best time to take medicine is after meals, not only to avoid stomach pain, but also to help absorb the medicine in the body. If the doctor wants you to take medicine before meals, he will tell you so.

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, 383-3656

— 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 — 383-3680

— about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2374

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

Candles on a birthday cake are what is known as "making light of your age."

We learn that time waits for no man. However, we find it stands still for a woman of, say 35.

A BALTIMORE CITY CHRISTMAS

T'was the week before Christmas
And all downtown
Were robbers and thieves
Just running around
Picking your pockets
And snatching your purses
And that's the good part
Who knows the worst
Santa is down there
Watch him pose
And all the time
He's stealing your clothes

ZEGORY LaBOARD

'S AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — The more creative you are in your approach to the problems, the more certain you can be of solving them. Avoid head-on collisions at home.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Work out your own difficulties on the job. Fellow workers have problems of thier own.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 22) — Your friends may cause you more concern than you anticipated. Make it a point to acquaint them with others.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Remain silent, unless you feel you are able to stand behind your words.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Talking with those with experience could make for a successful endeavor on your part. Do not be too proud to accept advice.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Comparing one with another can cause you to lose out on your new found romance.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Some positive action needs to be taken if you want to save your home front situation. A little child can lead you.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Do not commit yourself to an activity unless you are prepared. It could mean disaster.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Impatience can force you to come to a conclusion prematurely. Seek guidance along this line.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Take the middle road between courage and timidity. Or else, you will find yourself biting off more than you can chew.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your anger towards others could boomerang. Be careful. You can express your views clearly but quietly.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Your desire to "get rich quick" can cause you to move in ways that are not so desirable. Don't rush into things and remember, Rome wasn't built in a day.

DAR ES SALAAM — The Tanzanian region of the East African Railway Corporation has taken delivery of five steam locomotives from India.

The new locos, costing Shs.11.4 million (about $800,000 sterling), are expected to operate on Tabora - Mpanda and Moshi - Arusha lines inside Tanzania.

25 DEC 25