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. 12, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1892-1922. 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)

Metro sees the light

At long last, after finally concluding that Mayor Schaefer isn't giving black Baltimoreans a fair shake, the Metro Democratic Organization went public with its views and promptly got slapped in the face, along with other blacks, by city officials.

In December the AFRO pointed out that only 7 of the city's top 44 posts were held by blacks. At that time the AFRO also observed that two key posts, that of Civic Center director and Department of Social Services director, had undergone changes that saw blacks resign to be replaced by whites.

That meant we were losing what small progress had been made.

For months Mayor Schaefer and other city officials have been urged to do something about this racial imbalance in top positions by taking concrete steps to bring more blacks into the upper grades.

Jobs that had been singled out included the new personnel director, the budget director and someone for the administrator of City Hospitals.

One of those jobs, the personnel director, has been filled by a black woman.

Just days after Raymond V. Haysbert, a member of Metro's executive board, declared that his organization wants to see more high-level appointments of blacks if it is to continue supporting the mayor, one of Schaefer's top aides, delivered the face slap.

Hiding behind the Civil Service Commission, one of those dodges blacks understand get manipulated like anything else in city government, finance director Charles Benton, City Hall prayer leader who rune one of the more lily-white sections, announces he was filling two important slots with whites.

We think Haysbert, president of Parks Sausage Company, said everything about Mayor Schaefer's attitude when he observed, "It seems that he simply doesn't have any respect for us."

The question is, what is Metro, the other black Democratic clubs and black voters willing to do about that situation?

Going around boasting about our being more than half the population and deserving of better treatment is not the answer.

Metro includes figures like businessman William L. Adams and Henry G. Parks, for whom the sausage firm is named.

There is only one way to win the respect of politicians.

You vote them out of office.

The message becomes even more emphatic when the incumbent thinks he has blacks eating out of his hands.

Blacks have to make an early decision about what they want to do. It need not be unanimous among the political leaders but the more of them joining in, the better the chances of success.

The key to success is broad support of a candidate who will come to the people with a program they will buy.

The first agreement blacks have to make is that if the odds are too long against a black candidate for mayor, a strong white alternative who'll make a commitment and wage a proper campaign could win the mayor's race.

Some black political leaders have sold their souls to the present administration, but with a solid front by other organizations and an informed public, the job can be done.

It's time now we determine how serious we are about winning the kind of respect — and job progress — we can have if we get our thing together.

Hornbeck's good start

David W. Hornbeck, Maryland's new superintendent of schools, is starting off in his job as a man who is more than just talk.

In addition to naming Mrs. Floretta Dukes McKenzie of Washington as director of Project Basic, Hornbeck has sent out a memorandum establishing a goal of 50 per cent women and blacks among new department hirees.

By giving Mrs. Dukes the highest post ever held by a black or a woman in the department, Hornbeck sets the example in his own office and that's a message the underlings will understand.

That prison suit

As predicted here earlier, Maryland has been sued in federal court because of inadequate and overcrowded prison facilities.

The Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau asks the U.S. District Court to close the facility due to overcrowding and other deficiencies.

These include unsanitary conditions.

It is tragic, indeed criminal, the way Maryland and other states pile inmates on top of one another and provide them survival level facilities then dump them back on the public.

Maryland officials are creating a monstrous problem for the citizenry by the neglect of inmates trusted to their care for rehabilitation or for the protection of the society.

There is no way that the Maryland Penitentiary, stuffed with 1,500 inmates, twice its planned capacity, can do the job it must if the correctional system is to be anything other than a farce.

Likewise, there is little chance that men and women thrown together in the very worst kind of situation as to health needs and clean surroundings are likely to emerge with an improved attitude toward society as a whole.

The Maryland correctional system stinks.

For years there have been warnings and even inmate uprisings. But state officials, with the public looking the other way, have given low priority to upgrading the prison system.

Now something will have to be done.

Enough similar federal court suits have been won, in states like Florida and Alabama, to indicate that Maryland is going to lose this one — and deservedly so.

The big tragedy in all this is that instead of committing adequate resources to doing the best we can in reducing future crime among people sent to the correctional system, the state is guilty of contributing to unlawful acts by people it cages up for a period before sending them back to society, often worse off than when first incarcerated.

Welcome hits Pressman

This issue's guest editorial is a response made by State Senator Verda F. Welcome to Comptroller Hyman Pressman after the latter criticized the appointment of a new personnel director:

I am disappointed at your complaints about the hiring of a highly competent woman, Mrs. Hilda E. Ford, as director of personnel for Baltimore City.

You do not challenge the woman's competence to do the job for which she has been selected; you challenge her appointment because she is not a city resident.

To my knowledge there is no requirement that someone live in the city before they can be considered for an appointment, only that they be willing to move into the city. This Mrs. Ford has agreed to do.

Instead of deploring the choice of this qualified woman because she gained her experience elsewhere, perhaps you should deplore the fact that Baltimore City has given so few women, particularly black women, the opportunity to advance up the career ladder so that they qualify to hold such a position.

Rather than expending your energies opposing this excellent appointment by the mayor you could do a lot more good by making sure that discrimination no longer prevents women or blacks in Baltimore from advancement.

We're tired of this treatment, Don

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Reflections on 'People's Inauguration'

The most striking memory of the inauguration of Jimmy Carter as President of the United States was the President's walk from the Capitol to the White House. It really made the inauguration of the 39th President "a People's Inauguration."

It was so relaxed ("so loose," to borrow from the playgrounds). It personalized the bright, sunny day which was part of the great event. It made the mass of people feel that "he is like one of us" (despite his being a millionaire). It showed that the President trusted his people and sensed the temper of the day (against the advice of the Secret Service).

There is something about a walk by one, or by those, who have the facilities to ride or fly. In the Carter walk, with his family and with his notable smile, there was something special. And "the people" enjoyed it all

While the consensus is that President Carter is not a great orator, his Inauguration Day speech was warm-hearted and moving. It certainly was not dull. It was outstanding for its sense of honesty and for being the brain — and heart-child of Carter himself.

He had been warned against "preaching a sermon," but he dared to anchor his 15-minute message on a verse from Micah; he dared take his stand on the side of morality and goodness; he dared to refer to the significance of prayer and God.

Few will forget his quietly eloquent and generous salute to his predecessor, now ex-President Ford, "for all he had done to heal our land." The 150,000 people closest to the ceremonies joined in a lengthy applause, with those who were seated standing.

Lincoln, Truman and Eisenhower were not great orators, but that accident did not prevent them from leaving a tremendous mark on their time and generation. Great oratory alone will not end employment, or reduce inflation, or set "a new spirit" alive in the land. Carter may not be a Billy Sunday but he is no dud.

Most important of all, he his speaking what it may, it was good enough to elect him President. And that's mighty good.

—

One cannot think about the new President, despite all that there is yet to be known about him, without saying a word about his not-so-silent partner, his wife Rosalynn. In a warm, charming, manner she gives evidence of being the Rock of Gibraltar that a President needs, a helpmate at its best.

Some editorial writers and cartoonists have already reminded her that nobody elected her President; that it is Jimmy Carter who was elected. But we say, "More power to Rosalynn," believing that she may be another Eleanor Roosevelt who was so useful to Franklin Roosevelt as an outreach to the people.

There is much that Mrs. Carter can do to help the President, by affording him another pair of eyes and ears, and by being close to his conscience — all this, without even making a speech.

—

The inauguration came several days after soon-to-be-President Carter had appointed several blacks and women to positions their groups had never held before or recently, in their government. There is every indication, indeed, that the ascendancy of Carter heralds "A New Beginning."

As the Chief Executive, throughout his campaign, asked the American people to "trust me," so the people (most of them) continue to show that they trust him — or want to trust him.

The throngs that went to the inauguration, from far and near, and risked the freezing weather; the thousands who paid $50 per couple to dance in celebration; the millions who prayed publicly and in silence and those who marched in formation — all made this confession of trust.

Now it is up to Jimmy Carter and all those attached to him, by blood and by official connection.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Metro and vested interest politics

As if out of an episode of "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," unreal on the surface, yet basically true to life, is the stance of Metro Democratic Club in decrying the fact that the mayor is not making enough black appointments.

Coincidentally, the day after this lament, the mayor introduced his new black director of personnel for the city, in an orchestrated play, that looked as if he had heard the crocodile tears of the so-called political leaders of the black community.

Now, this out-of-state director, unfamiliar with the black fatalities of local politics, will be confronted with a tangle of impossibilities that no one has ever dreamt had existed; where pressures and directives from the mayor under the present set-up will be mountainous and impossible to fulfill.

And then at the height of her frustrations, with nagging factions all around; at the height of her inability to follow through, because of this maze created by the mayor, will come his regretful intonation: "See, I did what you suggested, but we just can't find a qualified black to do for the city's personnel what we had hoped."

(Sort of like Jimmy Carter's complaint that he can't find enough qualified blacks.)

And thus, the self-fulfilling prophecy will have been accomplished.

—

Across town, predictably, Metro, the darling of the governor, mayor and Irv. Kovens (not necessarily in that order!), with all of the appointments it claims to control on key boards and commissions in the city and state, including colleges and hospitals, will echo the mayor and give up.

What is ironic about this situation, painfully laughable, is that in bringing together most of the important heads of black political power in Baltimore, Metro has delivered the black community to this narrow, parochial carbon copy of patronage, pork barrelling, back-scratching, hand-washing — tinged with monumental self-hate — that has brought the power of the black community to its knees.

Independent black candidates for judgeships, court clerkships, City Council, General Assembly and, most recently, the black candidate for president of City Council, have gotten short shrift from them.

For example, if they had supported Paul Chester in his bid for that latter office, their power would have been all the more significant and inspiring. And the successful election of Paul Chester would have changed the whole history of this city, as well as his own.

The old truism that you can't have it both ways, is truer today than ever before.

Because you cannot dance to the piper's tune without paying mightily for it, and the end result in this instance has been continual co-optation.

While at the same time, a pitiful array of black board members, silent, or cowered, or always in the process of delivering up to the Philistines more destructive rulings, firings and gross unaccountability to the black community, they purport to serve, have become gigantic, all encompassing "deputies for the coloreds."

Furthermore, it has been rumored by unimpeachable sources, that in the heat of the battle over the superintendency of Dr. Roland N. Patterson, he had been offered $50,000 to drop his case by one of the head litigious white power brokers.

When Dr. Patterson refused, continued to fight for the survival of black children in a racist school system, he became a victim of a citywide and national knife job. And unlike other ethnic communities that enfold and protect their own, we spinelessly deserted him, distoyally identifying with the adversary.

Sheer cowardice.

—

Also, these corrupting powers quickly become Nervous Nellies when someone with legitimate political ambitions set out to challenge this kind of rotten practical politics.

They hasten to cover up their derrieres when confronted by white political bigwigs (who start calling in their "markers"!) oftimes throwing decent, independent black candidates to the wind.

Lamentably, these tentacles reach out throughout the black community, even in Cherry Hill, where minions of the mayor dictate policy, all for jobs, centers and personal aggrandizement and strangle all efforts for meaningful change.

We must, therefore, not place our hopes in organized political clubs whose foundations are built upon sand, to be our spokesmen, our saviours, our answer to the impotence of the power of blacks in this state.

Since they seem to have only their own vested interests at heart.

What we need to do is bring about a renaissance of independent political thought in the black community. We must develop vocal groups who question and challenge the accountability and records of those blacks already in office.

And at the same time, we must groom young blacks with our time, talents and money who must replace them.

We cannot tolerate any longer the carrot on the stick that tempts the weaklings among us; that rewards the informers among us; that threatens those who unfortunately are vulnerable to political blackmail.

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.G253F7)

A MAN CALLED INTREPID, William Stevenson (D810.S8S78)

CHANGE LOBSTERS AND DANCE, Lilli Palmer (PN2658.-P3A33)

WORLD OF OUR FATHERS, Irving Howe (F128.9 JSH6)

FICTION

A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS, Cynthia Freeman

CARRIE, Stephen King

Washington report

Divide and conquer tactics attack unity

By Parren J. Mitchell

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

We unified and won in the civil rights struggle. We unified and placed blacks into elective office, mayors, congresspersons, lieutenant governors, etc., across the country. We unified and President Carter was elected.

However, there are forces constantly at work to destroy that sense of black unity and, as a result, to leave black Americans in a status quo position.

Many Americans viewed the unified, impressive black voter turn-out on Nov. 2 with alarm. They are concerned because that kind of political unity forces responsiveness on the part of elected officials and those who seek office. I can just imagine how some, alarmed over what happened on Nov. 2, might attempt to destroy that national black political unity.

They would seek to pit women's unity against black unity. Each time blacks sought positions or programs, or legislation, women liberation groups would be manipulated to demand those positions for females, to alter those programs and to deny that legislation or amend it in the name of women's liberation.

For my part, the struggle of women to achieve equality is, in theory, in harmony with the struggle of blacks.

However, we must be on guard against deliberate efforts to force confrontations between these two groups.

They would try to encourage regional factionalism in the national black community. How many times have I heard political leaders from the far West say, "Our black citizens on the West Coast really don't have the same problems as black citizens on the East Coast."

It would be advantageous for those who would attempt to destroy a sense of black unity to try to force confrontations between blacks in the southern states and blacks in the northern states.

It would serve their purpose well if bitter divisions could be created between the so-called middle class blacks and the so-called lower class blacks.

As a strategy for the destruction of black unity, it would be necessary to ignore the advice, counsel and guidance of black leaders who have advanced our cause this far. By ignoring them a message is sent to blacks.

The message is, "See they are not really important in the scheme of things and therefore you must come through an all-white structure for those things you want to accomplish."

An off shoot of this strategy is, of course, to encourage divisions in black leadership, or failing that, to manufacture instant black leaders.

I submit to you that these are indeed real, critical problems that we must prevent. Were the women's liberation groups encouraged to protest because blacks sought, unsuccessfully, our full representation in the Carter Cabinet?

Was the confirmation of Griffin Bell a southern black vs. northern black fight? Of course not, but it sure was played that way by the media.

An economic stimulus package has been prepared. Was the OIC, NAACP, Urban League consulted with regard to the formulation of the stimulus package?

Poet's Corner

Aftermath of a ballot cast

Holding back . . .
Not wanting to count the chickens
before they hatch
Braving the winter winds
First the oath and we the people
Listen pensively, hopefully as he
pledges before God and man to
protect . . . care
Take a stand . . . For good and new
happenings
To service a nation — a people
Who portrayed their trust through
ballot
Now walking as if to battle
Armored with his promise, rare
determination and smile
This seemingly gentle man walking
His first lady keeping stride at his
side
And the rest of us following their
lead
Biding our time but feeling already
The warm flowing tide of the new
spirit
Getting the feeling that he and we
are old friends.

DOROTHY C. ALVES

Smile

An obliging policeman asked a woman after she had smashed into a telephone pole:

"Would you like the city to remove all the rest of the telephone poles?"

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

A-5 JANUARY 29, 1977

Emergency heating oil

Dear AFRO:

I would like to express the appreciation of the Department of Social Services for your editorial support of the Emergency Services Program under which we provide emergency heating oil.

While the editorial was kind to me personally (and I am very appreciative of that), most importantly, the editorial demonstrated the kind of understanding and support which is necessary if such emergency programs for low income people are going to claim their necessary, rightful share of public funds.

So on behalf of our clients, we thank you.

Kalman R. Hettleman
Director

Neighborhood bias

Dear AFRO:

They talk about blighted black neighborhoods. Much of the blight is caused by the city of Baltimore.

After many calls to all responsible city agencies, including the police department nothing has been done about an abandoned automobile which has been parked on the side of my house in the 3600 block of Ayrdale Rd. since Jan. 2.

Greenspring Valley and the outer Reisterstown area, this condition would not be allowed to remain.

However, I don't see the city reducing the property owners' taxes because they are not receiving city services.

There is definitely discrimination in the city of Baltimore between the black neighborhoods and the white neighborhoods.

ANNA P. HINES

Short-notice response

Dear AFRO:

It is with utmost pleasure that we commend you upon the magnificent job all of you performed for our New Year celebration with out friends.

We have steadily received many calls in addition to person to person congratulations from friends, neighbors and acquaintances, relative to the lovely picture in the Jan. 8 edition.

Thank you so much for the spontaneity shown us upon such short notice.

Mr. and MRS. HARRISON
(GLADYS) FOSTER

Center open to all

Dear AFRO:

Thank you so much for the lovely article declaring me "Woman of the Week" in your January 1 edition.

The article not only made me proud, but instilled pride within my family, co-workers and the Glover-Tillman Learning Center's parents.

Glover Tillman is not just for children who have been diagnosed emotionally handicapped, but also is open to the "normal" children of working parents who otherwise would not be able to afford the unique service that the center offers.

Again, thank you so much.

CAROL GLOVER

More on baskets

Dear AFRO:

I am taking this opportunity to express my gratitude for your thoughtfulness in accommodating our office with Christmas baskets, toys and clothing.

Your gifts of love were truly in the realm of love and life, and so greatly appreciated by those families in need who received.

Believe that this act of benevolence lifted my spirits to heights that I felt would not be reached this year.

In fact the appreciation that I witnessed was deeper than what I have witnessed in years of late.

Sincerely extending to you a peaceful, healthful and prosperous New Year for many years to come.

MRS. SHELIA GREEN
Urban Services Agency

Two Baltimoreans cited

Dear AFRO:

This letter to the Editorial Board is designed to gently but firmly protest the inattention and therefore the attendant abuse of two of Maryland's most articulate, hard-working, substantial and well-intended members of the black leadership structure.

Though these men differ in style, content and areas of emphasis, they share a love of Baltimore, its people and its institutions, and in their respective spheres attempt to seriously improve the conditions and the quality of life under which all our citizens live.

To begin with, the media has totally ignored the sober and systematic manner in which Dr. G. James Fleming has conducted the policy development process at Morgan State University since he became chairman of the board.

This scholar, seasoned by years of work with academic giants like Gunnar Myrdal and Martin D. Jenkins and politicians like Franklin D. Roosevelt, consistently demonstrates his high energy level, his intellect and his abiding concern for the dispossessed.

In my opinion, your columns are overdue in giving praise where praise is obviously well deserved.

Since Dr. Fleming is, among other things, a journalist, academian and policy analyst, it seems appropriate to this writer to also praise another black Baltimorean who has labored long and hard to improve the quality of life and consciousness in Baltimore.

Young Beat — by larry young

One vote against sales tax hike

..(Mr. Young is a member of the House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore's 38th District.)

Almost every politician has his or her eye on the next election. That's the real test in politics, re-election, followed afar by things you want to get done.

It's human and understandable, but, it's unfortunate, because the trait spills over into much of our political discussion and writing.

Altogether, too often we spend too much of our time speculating on future developments while ignoring the facts of the present.

Look at us here in Baltimore, when we gather to talk politics. When we tire of wondering what Blair Lee or Steny Hoyer is going to do in 1978, we try to figure out which black Democrat will be asked to run on a statewide ticket.

And when that gets old, we can always try to choose a black to run for mayor of Baltimore.

—

The founders of our country recognized this human failing and ordered the chief executive to present a State of the Union message from time to time.

The writers of the Maryland Constitution, did the same, requiring the governor to report on the "condition of the state" at each regular legislative session.

But, both put a tail on the order, that the president, for example, should recommend "such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient" and the tail has come to wag the dog, in Annapolis as well as in Washington.

The usual State of the Union and condition-of-the-state messages have come to be little more than laundry lists of what the chief executives want the legislative branches to do.

"Things are good," says the usual message, "and here's what needs to be done to make them better."

—

Because he was leaving office after having lost the election, President Ford pulled a switch and gave his appraisal of the State of the Union message, without much of a laundry list.

That he said, he'd leave to President Carter.

And to his credit, Governor Mandel did devote some effort to explaining his view of the state's condition, but it was little more than a promise and a kiss.

I'll find it very difficult to vote for the proposed sales tax. We presently pay a 4 cents sales tax. As of July 1, 1977, it could very well be 5 cents.

I have proposed an alternative plan. What if the sales tax is passed, then a person-single, making under $5,000 will pay no state income tax, also a married couple making under $10,000, will pay no state income tax.

—

It's nice to know where the Governor thinks we are. How can we set a course for where we want to go if we don't know where we are?

One suggestion that comes out of this is that maybe our timing is off. Custom dictates that these messages be delivered at the opening of a Congress or a Legislature.

But, it's not unchangeable.

Maybe here in Annapolis, at least, it would be wiser for the condition of the state messages to be given at the end of a legislative session rather than at the beginning.

You, the AFRO reader, can respond to the proposed budget by writing or calling your legislator, toll-free, 269-0100.

Embry answers Chandler criticism

Dr. Cleveland Chandler has recently written to the AFRO criticizing HCD's and my personal efforts toward increasing minority participation in our programs.

While I believe HCD's record in promoting equal opportunity speaks for itself, I do not believe Dr. Chandler's charges should go unanswered. To do so would be to indicate that we do not feel strongly about equal opportunity.

Dr. Chandler starts with some minor errors. I was never associated with BURHA, HCD's predecessor agency, as Dr. Chandler claims. Nor did he ever complain to me about the Inner Harbor Plan, a plan which was enacted after public hearings by the City Council a year before I became commissioner of HCD.

Furthermore, the plan did not remove poor people without rehousing them. Only 125 families were displaced by the Inner Harbor project, and 288 new replacement low-income units have already been built in the Inner Harbor.

No land on which housing was located has been sold to a corporation, powerful or otherwise, as Dr. Chandler claims.

—

Dr. Chandler's second charge is equally in error. He has never in my eight years in office spoken to me about "racially discriminatory patterns in the placement of families in public housing projects in Baltimore City," about increasing low-income housing, or locating it in new areas.

If he had, he would have discovered that 90 per cent of our public housing tenants are black; that applicants are housed on a first come, first served basis; that Baltimore, in the last five years, has built more low-income housing per capital than any other city in the country; and that the city cannot build public housing in the suburbs, as a matter of law, without the permission of the county council.

As far as promoting minority business enterprise and employment, we were the first city agency to adopt an affirmative action plan and hire an equal opportunity staff.

A recent call to the Minority Contractors' Association will reveal that HCD does more to promote minority business involvement than any other city agency.

—

Dr. Chandler contends that federal community development funds are not being spent in the black community.

The fact is that 90 per cent of these funds go to black neighborhoods, and if the community in Park Heights thinks we should stop funding the Park Heights Community Corporation, as Dr. Chandler contends, they have not informed us.

The facts are that all programs in Park Heights, as is true of all HCD programs in any neighborhood, are devised and approved by the community itself through its representatives, selected in open elections.

One of the major problems in increasing minority participation in the governmental and economic life of this city is the self-serving posturing of a few people who are more interested in advancing their own cause than that of the community.

I would urge Dr. Chandler, or anyone else interested in this question, who thinks that more can be done by HCD, to submit to me specific proposals to accomplish the goal.

R. C. EMBRY JR.
Commissioner,
Department of Housing
and
Community Development

Salute of week

..AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

Ernest W. Jordan, 71, of North Baltimore is proud of the fact that he has been driving since he was 14 years old and holds a "clean driving record" since 1928 when he first came to Baltimore.

Mr. Jordan, a retired chef from One Charles Center, was born in Charleston, W. Va. and lived in Ohio and Pennsylvania before coming to Baltimore.

He recalls that he has served three former White House dignitaries at the Center. They were Nelson Rockefeller, Spiro Agnew and Richard Nixon.

In addition, he served at a banquet at the Fifth Regiment Armory, in honor of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Our honoree and his wife, Mazie, attend the Church of God in Christ Apostolic Faith where the Rev. Sister Williams is pastor.

ERNEST W. JORDAN

He has two sisters, Lillie Mitchell, a traveling missionary and Garnent McGee who has a printing business. Both are residents of Stamford, Conn.

Nowadays

"PLEASE DON'T TELL MY MOTHER SHE'S GOT A COMMON COLD. SHE HATES TO THINK THAT ANYTHING ABOUT HER CAN BE COMMON."

Fire game?

Dear AFRO:

Are we playing a numbers game in the matter of fire deaths?

At what figure will we say enough and design, if not already available, a suit so fire-resistant that with it a fireman can enter blazing areas to rescue animals and people?

Or is it a matter of money? Do such suits cost more than Baltimore cares to pay?

B. J. SMALL

..AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complaints 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 have a very large problem. I am 16 years old and presently out of school and can't get back in. I realize I never should have dropped out. It was a dumb thing to do. I have paid for my mistake but I don't think I should pay forever.

I dropped out of school October, 1975 in the ninth grade when I was 15. During the whole time I was out of school (October to June), I did not receive a letter from Lemmel, nor did a truant officer come to my house.

When I returned to school in April, I found my name had been dropped from the roll. I was not 16 until June 29.

When I asked my counselor, Mr. Macer how I could get back on the roll, he said it was up to the principal whether or not he wanted to take me back.

I am sitting around the house doing nothing when I could be in school getting my education. Is it asking too much to put me back in school so I can make something of myself and be able to help my mother and my family?

I am supposed to be tested in February at the Calvert Adult Center. The Center is more for adults than it is for a 16 year old. I need to be in a regular school environment.

Please do what you can to help me. My spirits are low because no one seems to want to help me. This is a serious problem and it may affect my entire life. — T.S.

ANSWER: AFRO Line spoke to the principal of your school and was advised:

"We reserve the right to refuse him re-admission at age 16. His mother talked to me last week. He voluntarily dropped out, because he was in so much trouble up here.

"We recommended that he go to the Calvert Educational Center, but he doesn't want to go into that program. He wants to return here. It is our opinion that his return is going to cause him to revert to his previous games."

According to the assistant superintendent of educational services, E. Robert Umphrey, "His only alternative is to enroll at the Calvert Adult Center where he will be tested to determine his weaknesses and a counselor will advise him of the courses he should take."

Umphrey further suggested that you pursue the recommended courses in the evening classes and learn the basic skills of mathematics and English principles, which will prepare you to take the High School Equivalency.

JA'S AND YOU

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 — 383-3560

— 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

LEGAL AID — 539-5340

PENSION REFORM — 962-3914

RAPE — 366-7273

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188

SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-0232

TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-1049

VACANT HOUSE 396-4176

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-6731

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — You have a tendency to be impatient with youngsters. If necessary ask for help when assuming responsibility for their care.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Put your house in good shape. This should rate high on your priority list.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Direct your talents to things that may be more useful. Do not become involved in boring activities.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Take care that you are well-groomed at all times. A sloppy appearance can turn others off.

LEO "The Lion" (July 25-Aug. 23) — Your superior attitude can get you in trouble. Don't let a friend know that you feel you are more intelligent.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — The fact that romance is in the air doesn't mean it's in the cards. Another's feelings can not be taken for granted.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Don't give up on your course of action too soon. Much can be gained if you stick to it.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you are willing to step out of character for a while, you may be able to solve your own problems. No one is perfect.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A project that will benefit another can bring great personal satisfaction. Cheerfulness and friendliness are the orders of the day.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — To be popular with your peers you must learn to show sincere interest and tolerance. Do not judge too quickly.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Attempt to rekindle the fire of an old flame, but don't burn your fingers. Follow the advice of a Leo.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Watch your budget carefully. Do not succumb to the temptation of making purchases beyond your real power.