Helping Mrs. Santa

More than 500 letters to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa in the past two weeks are saying, we need help, our food stamps don't last through the month.

Families are unable to pay their gas and electric bills or buy heating oil or secure furniture grants.

What is happening to our Social Services in the city of Baltimore? Why are so many little poor people falling through the cracks?

We're not talking just about black people. The AFRO's Mrs. Santa is getting just as many calls from poor white people.

The AFRO believes that people are asking for help in the right places and are being turned away.

As one lady wrote this week, "I am sending $10 to help Mrs. Santa. We don't have much but what we have can help someone at Christmas. At one time we received a Christmas basket when we needed it and now we would like to do something in return."

Her letter continues:

"The Bible says it's better to give then receive. I hope this little token can help someone. God has been so good to me and my family this year."

You too can help the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Send your check to AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw St., Balto., Md. 21201 or call 728-8205.

Toward a Balanced Police Force

Not enough black police officers and still too much brutality by local law enforcement personnel.

These were the issues put squarely to police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau by a delegation from Freedom House, the human rights organization, this week.

The Commissioner, newly named to a Presidential Commission, especially for his progressive views as an enlightened law enforcement official, has in effect agreed with his Freedom House critics.

The ratio of black to white police in predominantly black Baltimore is extremely disproportionate. Only 14 percent of the force is black.

This is just plain awful.

Pomerleau, belatedly, knowing he cannot have an effective police force so long as this kind of imbalance persists, has pledged the Freedom House delegation that he is prepared to hire 300 officers.

Law enforcement as a career is an honorable calling and in these times of such horrendous unemployment among our young people, we would certainly urge all who are eligible to apply.

Of course 300 openings are just a beginning.

We will, however, with the black community in general, feel more at ease when the city police force has a racial balance in line with racial population totals.

The Measles Mess

An estimated 9,000 students were marked absent from their classes Thursday as the measle immunization deadline caught them without proof that they have had their shots.

Ridiculous!

We don't know exactly where to place the blame for this high rate of banishment except that somewhere along the line either school officials or parents got their wires crossed and failed to get word to the kids about how important it was to have some proof that they either already had the measle shots or had previously had the disease.

As a result 9,000 kids missed a full day of class and were considered truants by school officials.

We have to commend the department of education for seriously making an effort to keep down the number of students from being "excluded" from classes by setting up clinics throughout the school system and working closely with health department clinics.

But we believe the suspension rate would not have been so high if school officials had made the questionnaires issued at the beginning of the school year simpler for parents to understand.

We don't know how many students were marked absent Friday because of this situation. But we do know one thing, 9,000 students missed a day from their educations, because of ineffective bureaucratic procedure.

Our Readers Say

In recent weeks much notoriety has been given to the public school administrative policies of both Baltimore City and County. Specifically, this procedure allows for the explusion and-or suspension of students against whom there is "substantial evidence" that policy regulations governing the prohibition of the possession of alcohol and narcotics have been violated.

While departments of education can establish their own regulatory policy, these policies must be in line with the constitutionally guaranteed procedural due process that has become the hallmark of our judiciary and non-judiciary systems of fair plan and equal justice under the law.

The current policy does not require that such violators be given their adjudacatory hearings prior to the invocation of this extreme type of sanction for something that seemingly calls for counseling and-or treatment. Needless to say this assistance should be coordinated with the student's academic response in order that the best of both possible worlds may be taken advantage of through a minimal investment in our youth.

There is no dispute to the right of the Board of Education to define a code of conduct which must adhered to by those participating in the public educational system. However, a larger responsibility perhaps exists to temper justice with genuine sensitivity to those students who may or may not have a problem of this nature.

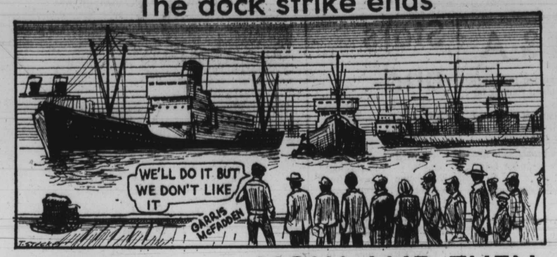
Further, such drastic action prior to a student's day in court opens a Pandora's Box of constitutional problems, yet to be addressed. Any exoneration from alleged charges serves to magnify these undefined constitutional issues. Clearly the "presumption of guilt," exhibited by the invocation of pre - emptory sanctions taken against our youth has no place in a system whose very lifeblood is youth. Their development mentally, socially and athletically creates the foundation for our future. This same promise holds true for judiciary and other non-judiciary systems of justice as well.

In stark contrast to its purpose, the educational systems release the youth from our schools as punishment rather than working with the student to alleviate any problems that may or may not exist.

An investment of this nature spearheaded by our Boards of Education helps to further insure the future of society. It is not too late to logistically arrange programs of this nature to accomplish that end and thereby create a balance which is most needed between the existing regulations governing policy and the applications of that policy in such a way so as to reflect a sensitivity to the student's problem.

STUART JAY ROBINSON

The dock strike ends



G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN:

Sadat — 'Man of the year'

Regardless of what happens to Anwar Sadat in the days ahead, he is bound to be considered the "Man of the Year" throughout the world, except for the hardline Moslem countries. He is even being mentioned for the Nobel Peace Prize or for at least sharing it with Prime Minister Manahem Begin of Israel.

This is not said prophetically, but hopefully. It is too soon to know what will follow the Sadat-Begin, face-to-face meeting on Israeli soil. Sadat, however, will have a place in history, for his courage, for his commitment and for not being afraid to take an unpopular step. For it was the president of Egypt who offered to go to Israel and who dared to go, once he was officially invited.

From our own American experience, we know that old hurts, old feuds, historic hates and blind prejudices do not go away easily. Right may win out in the long run, but it is often so difficult to know what is right, and "the long run" may be so terribly long, as measured by any one person's lifespan.

So far as it is given to contemporary man to judge, however, history was made in Israel a fortnight ago — and what happened there was only a beginning.

The Quakers say something like this: "Since wars are never settled on the battlefields, but around a conference table, it behooves men to sit around the table before they have killed a million people." But, those who rule seldom listen to the peacemakers. It is to be hoped that the Begin-Sadat sitting may mean confrontation short of war between Arab nations and Israel. More than that, this historic meeting may mean, again we hope, a deference of another World War.

There is so much land in the Middle East that there should be room for all those who claim a home there. There must also be a place for Jews with their historic claims to rootage there.

As this column has said in other times, history owes the Jews of the world some recompense, to somewhat balance the treatment Jews have received wherever they have settled. They have been discriminated against their religion; they have been ostracized and punished because of their business acumen; fact and fiction have conspired against them. Christians, by and large, have forgotten that Jesus Christ was a Jew.

Hitler and the Nazis were not the first to persecute Jews. They were not the last.

Atomic bombs in the arsenal of Israel will not guarantee security to that country. Mutual acceptance of the right of Israel to exist by the Arab leaders, as it is by Israel, will be one giant step in that direction.

Another such step will be willingness by all the nations of the Middle East to sit around the conference table. At such a table there will have to be give and take on all sides. Rhetoric will have to give way to practical bargaining. Each side must have something "to crow about" once the conference is concluded and treaties signed.

If it were left to the masses of the peoples of the Middle East, we believe there would be peace among them, to a notable extent. There was a sample of this in Jerusalem as the visiting Arabs met warm welcome from the Israelis of all levels, and as both sides discovered that, while their two countries are still at war, their citizens could treat each other as civilized people should.

It is a reality, however, that "sovereign" nations produce leaders (politicians, militarists, orators) who promote one kind of "ism" or the other which turn one people against another, one nation against another. To be truthful, even one tribe against another.

The rulers of a nation may turn their propaganda resources either to developing friendship and tolerance with other nations or to arousing distrust and ill will against them. In the present day, technology permits the manipulation of people beyond all dreams of past generations.

Although the future is unclear, we must all hope that, at long last, the Arabs and Israelis are near than ever to beating their swords into plowshares.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT:

MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy and Howard P. Rawlings

In this series, we have only discussed work attitudes of black women, not their natures. Black women historically have had a nurturing instinct. They have been keepers of the church, school and home foundations of civic organizations and the elective process.

Yet, it is this fragile bond that reinforces a fierce commitment to help black people, that is denigrated by sexual abuse by black males.

On the other hand, the black men in our case histories, as managers, although aligned with black agencies that are committed to upgrading black people, are ambitious pillars of the community and family men who play single-purposedly the game of assimilation and upward mobility. They accommodate to the system, mimicking the white male superiority role in their abuse of black women.

To answer the question why they do this opens myriad psychological explanations that we are not equipped to analyze. However, the women in this series, state with one voice that this attitude is peculiar to their treatment of black women. White women hold the esteem of black men as if their whiteness, as one put it, "is the color of respect."

In our rap session with these women to develop remedies, we included Virginia Draper. Mrs. Draper, an attorney, was formerly Assistant U.S. Attorney, and - Assistant to the Chairman of Equal Employment Opportunities, and is now in private practice bringing valuable expertise to problems of black working women.

Because, as one woman explained, it is doubly difficult in a black vs. black situation to fight since there aren't as many avenues in which to complain, she elaborates about black loyalty, "You go into a job with a black supervisor of a black institution wanting to make a contribution and then find the black male supervisor is more interested in abusing you than helping black people."

And so they all agreed that if black men feel no sensitivity toward black women and black people, they were fair game for counter attack. Even though the process is long and arduous, black women must uphold the principle that their rights must not be violated.

The same old story of the oppressed becoming the oppressor underlies the lie that black men have become victims of a matriarchy, blaming the victim in the age old divide and conquer ploy. Our correspondents believe that black men should re-read their history. We went through slavery together. To be raped or to be whipped is none the less degrading for either. To be unable to find work, which forces the black women, in many cases, to hold the family together is not the fault of the black woman, but of a white racist society.

However, all women should gain strength and hope from the rare black men who understand the plight of black working women who are willing to fight with them to win their rights to be respectfully appreciated as thinking, caring, capable human beings.

Mrs. Draper suggested ways to remedy the special problem of sexual harassment on the job:

Since state and local agencies, like the Human Rights Commission and the Community Relations Commission as creatures of the system are reluctant to tangle with some cases, or do not find sex discrimination and harassment high on their list of priorities, it is necessary to file charges with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, 1964.

In securing a lawyer, male or female, who has an understanding of women's problems, the burden of follow-up is lifted from their shoulders. An advocate, for a nominal fee gives an agency more motivation to take their cases seriously.

In jobs where women have quit because they cannot stand the psychological and physical abuse they still have a right to file charges. If the stigma of complaint follows the women when seeking other employment, they can demand to know why they are not being employed, to look into their personnel file and challenge unfruthful information.

In our four cases, Ms. A quit and went on an inadequate unemployment compensation allowance. As an independent woman with a family, however, she cautions all single women to avoid the pitfall of spending as if there were no tomorrow. "Save, save, save!"

Ms. B filed with EEOC and received monetary damages. Ms. C is still unemployed and searching for a resolution to her problem and Ms. D secured an attorney and was able to win $6,000 in back pay through the internal grievance process.

In all these cases, however, there is the solitary problem of alienation and frustration that an organization developed around these problems would alleviate.

Working Women United Institute, 593 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., 10021, is such an organization. Forming a branch, black women would then be able to resolve their problems effectively. Moreover, the initiative should be taken by black colleges in Baltimore to develop workshops and institutes that would help black working women.

Meanwhile, one woman suggested harassed black women ought to warn other co-working women about male pinchers, feelers, propositioners, about being forced into sexual intimacies to - keep their jobs and name them in bulletin board memos; circulate petitions against them.

However, they all agreed that fighting for respect, demanding it by taking legal action is the ultimate solution that will end sexual harassment and discrimination in the case of black working women.

Part IV: Black working women

Where to go and what to do

CECELIA W. BRYANT

Mrs. Cecelia W. Bryant is a church leader and lecturer.

Part II

Consideration for black American women

(Editor's note: Mrs. Bryant's column in last Friday's AFRO dealt with the equality of black women in a developing nation as dealth with in an address by Forbes Burnham, prime minister of Guyana.)

We must continue to regard racism and the economic and political processes which it fosters as the enemy and notexhaust our energy abusing and destroying one another. As we come to affirm our essence — the inner woman — we must develop lifestyles of allegiance to that truth. We cannot re-enforce self definitions based upon garment, residence, body structure, or "social" status.

Said Burnham: "I am afraid that I must concede, however, chivalrous I may want to be, that many women are the architects of their own serfdom. They accept a flattering remark here, a flattering remark there. They have imbibed the ores and ethic of a past generation and a different economic idealogy and they are satisfied. Some them fear this freedom we are talking about."

The intergenerational texture of our communities assures that presence, often stablizing, of value systems belonging to days gone by. However, even the most positive of these is rapidly being eroded by the influx and impact of contradictory stimuli provided by electric and print media. The television which exerts the most influence in the the socialization process and the one which former FCC Commissioner, Benjamin Hooks laments that we have the least power in. And it is race not sex which is the primary cause.

Therefore, we must continuously re-remind ourselves that it is not a sex but an entire people who must be liberated. And because of our collective unfreedom, each of us must develop to fullest potentiality that all of us might have maximum benefit.

Elitism whether based on hue, possessions or sex is intolerable. Personhood can never be enough as long as we remain a powerless and vulnerable people in the face of the economics and politics of the larger society.

How effectively the Burnham address lives itself out in the life experience of Guyanese people, we shall shortly discover. Nevertheless, it is time for us to restyle our self-definition as black women in terms which preserve our cultural heritage, strengthen our capacity to relate and respond to one another, mobilize our spiritual resources and unify our people.

Our development and ultimately our liberation depend upon a meaningful response to this challenge.

The Burnham address focuses out attention on the significance of the home in this processes and therefore this issue of womanhood is a concern of our men and out children also. To each of us he declares: "A woman is not a - THING."

To compete

Dear AFRO:

As a so-called black person I am distressed by the denigration of my race by my self-styled spokesmen who see me and other Africans as helpless, hapless morons who must rely on handouts or find made-work situations to get along.

Perhaps destiny saddled us with a burden by limiting our birthright to tribal life in the jungle and primitive mores but we will never get anywhere by blaming others for our misfortunes.

The simpler fact is that we should understand that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee anybody happiness, only the right to pursue it. Thus, we have to overcome our jungle ways and stop looking for handouts. We must become better educated and skilled and be willing to compete with others.

To say that educational and vocational opportunities are not available is hogwash. Asking experienced workers to step aside and make room for us in nonsensical.

Myhammad Ali has been champ for a long time. Should he be forced to relinquish his crowd because he is black and we haven't had a white champ for along time?

MIKE PERKINS

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let's Talk

It's time we had a heart-to-heart talk. Let's talk about my apprehension with regard to the future of blacks in Baltimore and in Maryland.

From the outsdet, I recognize that this talk will be labeled by some whites as "Mitchell's black racism" and by some black citizens as "Mitchell's radical discontent." The labeling process triggers and is a part of my concern for our future.

Next year, a governor for the state of Maryland will be elected. It does and should disturb me and you that to date, the black community has not made public its minimum demands for its political support.

While it is true that some persons (I included) have publicly stated what our community should demand from all gubernatorial candidates, and some groups have done the same thing, the black community has not yet come together to say "these things give for our support."

There is no reason why a black should not be on the statewide slate. I personally don't want to hear any talk about which of the black leaders would or should go on a ticket.

I don't want to hear that because we don't have to limit ourselves to "black leaders." There is a tremendous reservoir of talent in black communities, young men and women who could serve well in public office.

Are you worried about a recognition factor? You shouldn't be! Jimmy Who is now President Carter.

I am concerned, and properly so, that the arrogant actions taken to preclude blacks from even being considered for the Appellate Court have not been challenged by the total black community. Every church, every fraternity and sorority, every civic organization should be infuriated to the point that decisive action should be initiated.

It is arrogant to take all the black judges, save one, and label them as unqualified. It is arrogant and racistly arrogant, to smear our judge, Joseph Howard, without producing one scintilla of evidence to justify the attack on him. It is arrogant and racistly arrogant for the elites to apply pressure to the news media to down play this slap in the face to the black community.

Let's talk about the resumption of the policy of racial exclusion in the Maryland state bar examinations. We have fought this policy before and because we did we made some gains. The sleeping giant woke up, smacked the racism in the state bar examination and then went back to sleep. The minute we dozed off the racism was resumed.

Parents, teachers, counselors, friends strive to be supportive to our young women and men in the law schools. The students study hard and well. Then it is decided that only a few of them have done well enough to pass the bar examination. Our community must come together to rigorously examine the state professional examinations to see if they are administered in a fashion designed to eliminate potential economic competitors, especially those who are black.

How can we continue to tell our young people to go to medical school, law school, schools of dentistry when we know there is an apparatus designed to exclude them after they have completed their professional training?

There are so many obstacles that must be overcome, and we can indeed overcome them if we act in unity. That brings me to the largest reason for my apprehension: the fragmentation of efforts.

Joblessness is wracking our community, but this group and those persons will not come to a strategy session on joblessness because that group and those persons convened the strategy meeting.

In far too many instances historic preservation and neighborhood rehabilitation constitute a new form of urban removal for black folks. However, organization B and individual No. 3 cannot come to a session to confront this issue because organization A and individual No. 4 convened the meeting. Ridiculous!

The economic drain on our community through the thousands of ceremonial functions which are put on each year is enormous. I am all for ceremonial functions but not for those in which the dollars flew out of the community never to be returned or used for the good of our community.

We have had the beginning of a heart-to-heart talk. I guess I am concerned that the facade of black power is simply that — a facade. I guess I am even more concerned that far too many of us accept the facade as being the real thing. Well, if we continue to accept that, we shall not become empowered economically nor politically nor socially.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

You don't need to be evicted

OUR GREATEST NEED today is in the area of housing "a roof over our heads" or to put it simply, "a place to eat and sleep" for ourselves and children. We have most of our problems in this one item.

THEREFORE, we would like to refer you to Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc., the group called BNI, 12 W. 25th St., Baltimore, Phone 243-6007. Here's where you may obtain answers on eviction, landlord - relationships, rent problems of any kind, your rights, needed repairs and the law in general.

MANY OF US do not know anything at all about KEEPING the roof over our heads until we learn bitterly what we should or could have done.

FOR EXAMPLE, the November BNI News Letter says that the lack of enough money is the basic problem mostly of women who are head of the house and find themselves in the position of "hardly able to pay rent or provide food for themselves and children."

BNI's recent study says, "Many women simply do not know where to turn for information and may remain in dangerous situations simply because they do not know what to do or what resources are available to them or they lack enough money to make other arrangements."

WHAT TO DO in case of eviction notices, complaints about poor maintenace of your home or apartment, complaints on items that are dangerous to health and safety? Call BNI and ask what to do. Ask for their publication on laws covering tenant landlord relations.

RACIAL TROUBLE in your neighborhood can be taken care of by BNI experts. Should you wish to have an apartment in a building of your desire but have been refused because of race, religion or "something else", call BNI. The organization has "testers" both white and black, who skillfully do the checking. If the landlord is guilty of prohibiting your moving in BNI can even take the case to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

EVICTION efforts of BNI are given in this example:

The News Letter states, "When we successfully fought an eviction on behalf of a young woman and her child residing in subsidized housing, we enabled them to continue living in a decent apartment for $54 a month. Had she been evicted, she would have had to pay much more for housing which most likely would have been standard"

REMEMBER, you are not the only one with problems.

BNI is also able to refer tenants to Social Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development and other agencies who help the tenant get problems solved.

In 10 months hard work, BNI has handled 366 tenant - landlord complaints; 68 assistance calls and 2,927 calls for information and advice.

AMONG the types of problems tenants have encountered are those of having difficulty recovering security deposits, excessive late charges, improper notices of termination, rent increases and responsibility for gas and electric or water bills, retaliatory acts by landlords.

ALSO, lack of essential services, inadequate maintenance, excessive noise and trouble getting subsidized housing.

BNI's counselling and educational services are comforting. Even if you just want to have someone to listen to your problem, it's good to know there is an agency which addresses itself to tenants' rights and concerns. BNI believes a tenant should get what he pays for.

THINK AHEAD NOW. With the holiday season right here and a long, hard winter ahead, you need to be comfortable in a home that is warm and free from agony.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, ASK: Call 243-6007 for BNI help.

For another look at evictions, See page 9

Letters

Blood is thicker than statewide support

Dear AFRO:

Recently, Stephen Sachs, a Democratic candidate for the position of attorney general was a guest speaker at a luncheon given by the Delta Theta Phi Law fraternity.

Sachs told the group of his accomplishments and why he should be supported. Throughout his remarks was the inference that he was the best qualified candidate for the position of attorney general. After his presentation the floor was opened for questions.

As a member of the fraternity, I asked Sachs whether he believed we should support him on the basis of his being the best qualified candidate. His answer was in the affirmative.

I then asked him to explain to the group why he was not backing Dwight Pettit, Esquire for the position of U.S. Attorney, by reason of his having the majority support from all sectors in Maryland and Pettit was deemed to be the best qualified of all persons being considered for the nomination of U.S. Attorney.

Sachs explained that he was backing Alan Baron, Esquire for the position because he was his law partner, the best man at his wedding and a blood brother, among other reasons.

After the luncheon was over, Sachs further attempted to defend his position. I pointed out that the normal procedure is that when a certain candidate is being considered for a position, the candidate having the majority support is selected and other candidates are withdrawn for the sake of party unity. Further that this procedure has not been followed in Pettit's case and that by inference, Baron's name was divisive and a breach of the rules.

No black candidate could do what Sachs is doing and still be welcomed in the majority communities.

Black elected officials owe a duty to their constituents not to engage in "jitterbug politics." There can never be respect for our race so long as we permit games to be run on our candidates. Sachs must recognize that as long as Baron remains in the race for U.S. Attorney, we cannot in good faith and consciousness entertain any support for him.

Black elected officials must be placed on notice that we shall keep a watchful eye to see who welcomes Sachs into the black community while he uses divisiveness to try to impede Pettit's success.

HILDAGARDEIS BOSWELL

More support for Pettit

Dear AFRO:

Open letter to U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes

Approximately six months ago a group of black women leaders felt that it was time for Marylanders to consider a qualified black man for the office of United States attorney for the state of Maryland.

We found A. Dwight Pettit, a young and gifted Maryland attorney perfectly suited for the job. We not only examined his qualifications but we looked at his experience and involvement. He proved to be exemplary in all areas.

Within three months of letting influential persons around the state know what we knew, we sought tna dreceived the support of persons within the political sphere including attorneys and other professionals, as well as persons within the business and community sectors.

Today, persons supporting the nomination of A. Dwight Pettit range from judges to elected officials, bankers to union leaders, ministers to lay persons as well as a solid grass roots support. These supporters come from as far away as Allegany County to the Eastern Shore and from Baltimore City to Montgomery County.

All are concerned because they feel as strongly as we do that it would not only be fitting for Pettit to be nominated but also that Maryland would miss an opportunity of our lifetime to show to the world that the political process can be fair. Further, in view of the fact that Pettit was the co-chairperson for the election of President Carter in Maryland, he would be given the blessings of the White House.

By your statements, you have permitted Jervis Finney, a Republican holdover, to remain in office while does-o-playing the need to fill the vacancy with a Democrat. This decision has had an ng effect on a state that was once considered a Democratic strong hold. While you procrastinate, the Republican Party is building a solid base of support here in Maryland. Because of your failure to nominate a replacement for Finney, the lack of leadership in this area is beginning to take its toll.

The Republican Party has begun recruiting young talented blacks who could have been working within the Democratic ranks.

You will have to assume the responsibility of losing these talented young people. This is only the beginning. Perhaps it is not important to you that talented persons remain within the party; however, we can assure you that the effects will be visible in the coming elections.

We want you to know, Sen. Sarbanes, that the era of "Jitterbug Politics" in Maryland is over. Any politician who seeks our votes and as a result is elected will be held accountable for their political actions.

rness is a doctrine that even the most naive politician understands. We beseech your fairness. The ball is now in your court. We await your action.

HILDAGARDEIS BOSWELL
ELOISE C. HALL
Spokesperson
Maryland Coalition of Black Women Leaders

Dear AFRO:

I want to applaud the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) for its vocal concern about the Appellate Judiciary Nominating Commission's recommendations for the state Appeals Court. The fact that there was only one black candidate's name submitted to the Acting Governor is, in my opinion, a slap in the face of the black community. In essence, the Commission is saying there is only one black judge qualified to sit on the high Court.

Acting Gov. Blair Lee II added insult to injury by saying how disappointed he was that Judge Joseph Howard's name was not on the list. He has further shown his lack of sensitivity to what the black thinks by stating he will not fill the court job until he knows for sure whether he can appoint Mr. Parks to the cabinet post of Secretary of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Parks has stated he does not see the connection between whether he accepts the post and the Acting Governor appointing Judge Harry A. Cole.

But it's obvious the game he is playing.

The Acting Governor is playing the political game of "only one" with the black community. Either Mr. Parks accepts the Cabinet post, or Judge Cole is appointed to the Appellate Court, but we canot have both.

I have not seen any comment from the Maryland Legislative - Black Caucus on this issue. Hopefully, they are doing what they usually say they are doing, working quietly in the background in the interest of the black community.

RODNEY A. ORANGE

Dear AFRO:

It appears as though America's black Republicans have played around in political quicksand until now I can see them sinking slowly in the east.

Our country needs the two-party system and full participation by all concerned people.

If I ask a black Republican to take me to your leader who could I expect this person to be? Would it be ultra-conservative Howard Baker, John Connelly, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford? Or possibly Nixon or Agnew?

Since Sen. Edward Brooke and Mathias are considered thorns on the Republican rosebush I must assume that the black Republican must appraise these figures with scorn and disapproval.

I have heard of no Republican projects that deal with jobs, rebuilding the cities, better aid and education for depressed localities and human rights in deference to state's rights.

The only way to bring this country out of it economic chaos is to deal with the problem of the poor and seeing to the needs of the destitute.

PAUL D. McAllister

THE AFRO : the way we were, Dec. 1, 1951

THE AFRO of Dec. 1, 1951 headlined a police who was hit in the head with his own nightstick and one who was convicted in a bribery case. The photo shows several con men on their way to court in the bribery case of the two officers.