OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

Unfortunate situation

It is indeed unfortunate that our local NAACP leadership finds itself embroiled in controversy but we are confident that our oldest continuing human rights organization will weather this torm as it has weathered so many others in the past.

What really gives us pause, naturally, is the notion that branch president Mrs. Enolia McMillan feels this newspaper has not treated her fairly or adequately presented her views.

It is nit-picking but we measured space given Mr. Brailey who made certain allegations about local NAACP beside that given Mrs. McMillan and the two mayoral aides Mrs. Henderson and Ms. Campbell who were also parties to the dispute and find that all of these principals had their positions evenly and equitably distributed within our news columns.

Troubling it must be that the NAACP, venerable as it is, must be publicly examined, but our position is that the NAACP like Caesar's wife must be beyond reproach.

The bulk of Mrs. McMillan's statements are presented on the opposite page so that anyone who might have missed any portion of her stand in the ongoing but hopefully, soon to be resolved NAACP misunderstanding.

Further along these lines

We are reprinting the editorial we printed immediately following the now hotly contested NAACP Unity Ball in September. Had all presently engaged in disagreement read our words, or remembered them, perhaps we would not now all be agonizing.

Thank you Mr. Mayor but now let it go

We join with our advocates of a strong Baltimore branch NAACP in thanking Mayor Schaefer for lending the weight of his office in making last week's NAACP Unity Ball what seems a rousing success.

Yeoman service, oops, yeowoman service was performed by Marie Henderson, a special assistant to the Mayor, in organizing what has been this young fall season's social and political smash hit.

Practically everyone who is anything in local politics was there for what that is worth.

We profess some alarm, however, at not seeing nearly enough of the "little people" in attendance — those folks who have for so long been the backbone of our oldest freedom fighting organization.

Now that the Unity Ball has accumulated the necessary "tart-up" money to enable the local NAACP to begin its revitalization program, we would hope that the Mayor and his aides who were so helpful now back off a bit and let this non-partisan civil rights advocacy move ahead.

We are sure the Mayor would not want the integrity of the NAACP compromised through too close an affiliation with his or any other political faction.

We would also hope the NAACP would be equally as wary of any such entangling political alliances.

What is required, now that the ball is over, is the kind of fiar-dhitting, broadly-based membership campaign that will restore the NAACP's grass roots strength.

With David Glenn and Elizabeth M. Moss as co-chairpersons of this upcoming membership drive, we are assured that the NAACP will be on its way to renewed strength and victories in the never-ceasing struggle for full rights for all American.

Reprinted from the
Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN
Sept. 17, 1977

Toward peace on earth

Looking at the world this Christmas, we see for the first time in a long time a diminution of humankind warring against itself.

Certainly with the Vietnam horror behind us and a reduction of tension in the Middle East, peace on earth, good will toward men is less a phrase to cause mocking.

But peace has yet to settle on many patches of this globe.

Let us briefly look at some of the major areas of unrest that kill and stifle man's life and dreams:

Angola, an African land engaged in civil war.
Rhodesia.
Namibia.
South Africa-civil rebellion.
Ethiopia-Somalia.
North Ireland.
Molucca.
Djibouti.
Lebanon.
The Philipines where guerilla warefare persists.
These are the major conflicts.

Here at home, lest we forget, there are grim areas of non-peace and bad will.

Our urban areas fight to survive and revive themselves, caught up in the deliberations of a Congress and an Administration that places a higher dollar price on rearmament and subsides to big business than to the conditions of poor and low-income city dwellers.

We have unpeaceful children, many trying to function in systems of education that speak not to their immediate real needs or to their real future needs.

And so it goes.

Many things are as bad as they have been, many things are better than they were.

We suppose as long as the world is as it is, or humnas are as they are, a certain degree of turmoil will persist.

Let us pause as the holiday period begins to take this kind of look at the world. Each in his own way following the just laws of God can bring the true meaning of Christmas closer to more people.

We wish you a happy holiday and as much inner peace as divine providence will allow.

God bless us all.

Christmas spirit

When I was young, there seemed to
be none more beautiful than my
mother's Christmas tree.
With tinsel and lights from top to
bottom,
A sight not to be forgotten.

'Twas this same tree, a few days
ago, was among the many
evergreens in the woods below,
that I chose and chopped down for
it to be my mother's beautiful
Christmas tree.

I nailed the tree to our front porch
floor, so as to stand straight and
tall for us to adore.

'Mom placed an angel atop the tree
and passed the Christmas tree
bulbs on to me.
Dad parted with tinsel, going here
and there.
While Robert thinned the fine cotton
to make Angel's Hair.

At last the presents were put under
the tree,
And the tree lit up, so all might see
the most beautiful tree of all, to
me, my mother's beautiful
Christmas tree.

J.S. BRUTON

At Christmas time lest we forget

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN: Christmas is loving sharing, caring

By G. James Fleming

Christmas, deep down, is loving, caring, sharing. Loving others, caring for others, sharing with others. For Christians, all this should be done in the name of Jesus Christ, but, the spirit of Christmas the essence of Christmas — "deep down" — can have meaning for mankind regardless of one's religious attachment.

At this time of year, or some other time, parents give toys and other tokens of loving, caring and sharing to their children regardless of how they worship. Other men and women remember their own parents, the aged and the poor. Children follow suit.

We've heard "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and other Christmas hymns from radio sets and from shop windows in Moslem countries. We have heard Jewish mothers in Baltimore say that they bought their little children toys at Christmas time partly "because they would not understand not receiving toys while other children did (although Christmas, as a festival, has its roots in the Jewish Chanukah or, more popularly, Hanukkah).

It is this spirit of loving, caring, sharing which, in all climes, has made its thrust into public life and has caused churches and other social agencies, and government itself, to establish institutions to extend loving, caring and sharing to those in need.

Christmas is not selfish. Loving, caring and sharing immediately paint a picture of two or more. The spirit of Christmas calls for more than looking after only one's own. It goes even further than the "extended" family, as this term is usually understood.

It was this spirit, expressed or unexpressed, that first led to the establishment of free or nearly free public schools; that opened hospitals; that attracted women to nursing; that inspired musicians and other artists to inspire others and that set up soup kitchens, orphan homes and homes for the aged.

The list could be lengthened.

As the years have passed, we have refined some of the processes and created formal institutions. We have also increasingly commercialized both holidays and holy days. "Deep down," however, there is still the spirit of loving, caring and sharing as the "roots" of Christmas.

That is why so many people say that "Christmas brings out the best in us." That is partly why the churches are crowded at Christmas more than at any other time of the year.

But, there is no Christmas spirit without man; no loving, caring and sharing without men and women as the operating activists. No children loved, no aged cared for, no sharing by the better off with the poor, unless human beings love and care and share.

Sometimes all of these manifestations come within one's own family and friends. That may be a starter, but the spirit of Christmas — as Jesus Christ himself — means reaching out. It means being Good Samaritans, it means feeding the hungry, it means healing the sick, it means suffering little children to come to us "for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

The spirit of Christmas should also mean better facilities for those in prison; better care of those in hospitals and nursing homes; smaller classes in public schools; greater efforts to keep families united; and more dedication to the goal of different peoples living together in harmony, whether in town or city, state or nation, or among the nations of the world.

There is also great need for foster homes and adopting parents. We must also reach those who are lonely for, amidst the celebrations of the yuletide, the statistics show that more people commit suicide on Christmas Day than on any other day of the year — out of sheer loneliness and alienation.

These are the rambling thoughts of one columnist as he wishes one and all "A loving, caring and sharing Christmas."

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Christmas: no more fatique!

By Madeline W. Murphy

Christmas evokes memories that are often engraved on our minds.

It, of course, is the anniversary of the birth of Christ that should not be overshadowed by more mundane and materialistic drives. For basically we all must long for peace and good will toward men.

But human frailty such as it is one thinks back to the days when Christmas was also a time for decking the halls, rejoicing, making merry and loving every minute of the secrecy of presents, of unexpected surprises and disappointments.

Christmas, thirty-five years ago, was the time of proposal of marriage, of initial rejection, then sudden acquiescence.

Christmas in childhood and adolescence was turning one's hand to cooking, making cakes and cookies and then learning during the war that nothing was available, including sugar, and then doing without.

I think of Momma, who died in March this year, because her's was the spirit that narried and that I nonetheless have emulated for too many years.

She worked too hard in the months of December, after she had tracked down Christmas present bargains all during the Fall. She painted, (paint fumes made Dad sick, so he said) made chair covers as if expecting some great important visitor. My father often criticized this activity as useless, since after Christmas according to him was the time to clean up.

But Christmas was also open house time when friends came in numbers expecting food and drink.

And although Daddy fantasized and overspent as Santa for too many years, Momma was realistic and practical. For neither did she wait until the last minute to stock the larder with food and all the trimmings. She set aside money from October to December so that Christmas dinner was not a strain on the tight budget of an underpaid school teacher.

Christmas Eve was the traditional time to set up the tree. Mother supervised us with an eagle eye and only one could put the final touch of tinsel, strand, by strand, by strand upon the tree.

She would say, "Icicles must look real. Not thrown on helter-skelter. See how lustrous it makes the lights and the bulbs?" And of course we wouldn't argue since that tedious job was not our cup of tea.

And while stranding the tree, her sister Aunt-Dede, 10 yrs. her senior and our second most generous Santa, would supervise her! That tree became a work of art and all during the holidays it was Momma, weak and tired, who'd clean under it, pick up dropped strands and replace them. Every day that tree got a working over until it was dismantled and abandoned on the trash heap. Her pet. Her shrine.

Somewhere I read that Christmas trees were invented to woo the Druids to Christianity. What better way to use the worship of trees? And I have a notion that Momma had some Druid in her!

Mom was a great cook. Although she had had to learn after marriage from Daddy. She had what Aunt Dede called the "soul of a cook." Momma sort of huffed at that appellation because she knew that that was Dede's way of flattering her into cooking for her fellow teachers. But as they say, flattery will get you everything, and it did with Momma.

On Christmas day, the house was fragrant with mince, apple and pumpkin pies mixed with the special aroma of roasting turkey. And when we had set the table, and finally served all the food, invariably as if by an inner clock, Momma would look around the table, glassy-eyed, pale, jump to her feet, rush toward the stairs announcing to all, "I'm sick." And sure enough like every other Christmas, having worked so hard by herself (she wasn't too good at directing others to do what she could do better) she'd caught the grippe (I guess that's what's known as the flu today).

Then mother would spend the rest of the holidays in and out of bed. Up mostly to entertain her numerous visitors who knew what a good cook and hostess she was.

So every Christmas while the kids were growing up, I'd work equally hard and get sick too, just because of habit, or guilt or example. Most of the time anyway, Momma would be our Christmas guest and so "what's a daughter-mother to do?"

For a couple of years, so it wouldn't be a total loss, I'd buy Christmas trees live — balled in burlap — set in a tub of water, to avoid that endless strand, by strand, by strand ritual of Momma's, with the excuse that it would be hard to clean off when planted in January.

But then finally when we had planted enough live trees to fill a nursery, and had to revert to cut ones, I devised a method of cramming the tree with so many red shiny roses and garlands of gold beads that even Momma became reconciled that alas there was no more tinsel to strand. Now we could sit back, enjoy, without cleaning up the strays that would drop to the rug.

She used to say when we'd criticize or ridicule her: "That's all right you'll miss me when I'm gone!" And I sure do.

But now, with no one home, it's poinsettas and boughs, holly on the door and away to one of the children's houses or just away.

And most of all no Christmas tree. Better still no more fatigue and illness. Time to contemplate just peace. And of course, peace and good will toward men. Time to enjoy the grandchildren on their own turf.

And that's the best Christmas a grandma can have! Merry Christmas to all, just don't work so hard tonight!

WASHINGTON REPORT:
PARREN J. MITCHELL

National priorities

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

(Editor's note: This week's column was written by Ms. Arnita Hannon, legislative correspondent in Rep. Mitchell's Washington office. Ms. Hannon is a 1977 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Howard University, holding a bachelor of arts degree in political science.)

The United States is finally attempting to return the Panama Canal Zone to the Panamanians after economically, politically and militarily controlling it since 1903.

Rep. Mitchell has supported the Carter Administration's efforts to formulate and gain approval of a workable Panama Canal Treaty.

This treaty is needed, particularly in the interests of Panamania rights and human rights. The treaty is necessary for the preservation of a good working relationship between the United States and Panama in the areas of international trade and transportation. It represents the end product of the work of four Presidential Administrations and is, perhaps, one of the most positive gestures on the part of our nation to right some basic wrongs.

The Carter Administration's present efforts to secure approval of the treaty is both commendable and impressive. But, what about the implementation of immediate plans to deal with the continuing violations of the human and civil rights of those citizens of our own country?

What about a compatible, working relationship between those who represent our nation's poor and illiterate and those who are striving on a system which continues to allow its priorities to somehow shift toward, a greater concentration upon further construction of weapons aimed at total human destruction?

When are we going to realize that while we are furiously debating the Panama Canal Treaty, students are debating dropping out of high school and even junior high school in order to try and work toward the economic survival of their families?

What about Presidential Administrations which have spent more than 13 years worrying on a treaty which, admittedly, is an outstanding step in the human rights area, but have neglected to substantially rid our country of food shortages, air pollution, drug addiction and unemployment.

These are questions which must be raised time and time again — questions which must continue to emphasize the tremendous paradoxes and contradicitions which we allow to exist.

This is certainly not to say that na efforts in the above mentioned areas have been made.

We can all point to some existing drug rehabilitation programs, initiated on the federal level, which do work, which do make a difference. Meaningful actions have taken place in the arenas of housing and employment. We certainly cannot forget those achievements which have been made in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties within the last two decades such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act.

Presently, however, we are faced with perhaps tougher questions such as those raised by the Bakke case and the continuing obstacles which block ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. There still exist far too many discrepancies and mis - direction of funds aimed at assisting poor and working families. All too many children still do not know or experience the benefits of a hot meal.

The point is that as long as these problems do still exist in our great nation, even though at a somewhat reduced rate, we must concentrate on these areas. While we continue to unrelentingly work at establishing cordial ties with our fellow nations, of course attempting to right some very blatant wrongdoings of our own local elected officials, local boards and agencies to please look harder at the violations of human rights in our own country.

CURRENT COMMENT

BILALIAN PERSPECTIVES
MICHAEL RASHID

Real leadership

(Minister Rashid is spiritual leader, World Community of Islam, Baltimore)

I once asked a friend of mine whose brother was a junkie, if he ever did or said anything to his brother about his drug habit. He said no. His explanation was that, "He's old enough to decide for himself what he's gonna do with his life".

You've probably heard this kind of reasoning before in relation to someone helping another person whose life is on the skids. We are hearing this more than ever today, as people express the "It's your thing, do what you want to" type of permissive attitude. And this is exactly what Eman W. D. Muhammad and other leaders mean when they say that the greatest need in our society is the need for moral leadership.

Today it is not all uncommon to talk to parents who have given up on disciplining their children. Their familiar replay when children talk back or are disobedient it, "Well, all the other children are doing it", or "you know, that's how it is these days", or some other such nonsense.

A few years ago, if children were to start doing wrong, we would quickly hear our mothers tell us, "Youngun, you better straighten up and fly right, because I'll see you dead before I see you grow up the way you are going". And while it may have upset us to be punished by mama, at least we knew she was concerned about us. (You may not believe it, but if only 10 per cent of the mothers in Baltimore were like that, we could eliminate juvenile problems almost overnight).

Is it really love to just sit by like my friend and pamper members of your family while they destroy themselves?

Is it really leadership when the "leadership" of our society pampaers the people by giving them what they want, rather than what they need, to grow as healthy human beings? That's not love - and that's not leadership.

My friend whose brother was a junkie used to give his brother a place to stay, buy him food, even get him out of jail when he got in trouble. But he "loved" him too much to help him kick his habit. Actually, my friend was too weak himself to give any strength to his brother, so he just pacified him in the name of "love".

The leadership of our society is very much like my friend. They know that we are destroying ourselves with the "do your own thing" mentality, the permissiveness, the shacking, the "free love", the lottery, the freakish clothes, the undisciplined life, but they are too weak themselves to give you any strength. Instead they give you "love", in the form of welfare, token jobs and a little "fried chicken and biscuit" money.

Don't you know that giving welfare or a job to a man that is too weak to zip up his pants is just as bad as giving money to a junkie? And it's the same with giving money to the lottery junkie, the clothes freak, the reefer head, or the liquor drinker. Welfare, jobs and other forms of money will never help these people until they are able to get control or themselves and gain mastery of these weaknesses.

If the leadership really cared anything about you they would be teaching you the value of moral strength (the ability to decide between right and wrong, and then having the strength to do the right thing), teaching you how to control yourself and not let others manipulate you, teaching you the natural role of man and woman in society, and teaching you how society is naturally formed.

They would be teaching you the importance of self-discipline, self-leadership and the importance of respect for the laws that exist within your own being.

This may not be what we want, but it is definitely what we need! We should wake up and demand that our leadership give us these things and not a lot of weak and ineffective "love".

FOR ALL WE KNOW
ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
City Editor

For the record

CHRISTMAS, 1977 is marked by many things notably this: A large department store manager said sales are down mainly because a large number of citizens are expected to be laid off the first of the year. And, they're not buying.

RECORDS SHOW some 40,000 Baltimoreans are jobless and about 2,000 homes without light, heat or cooking fuel. Many youngsters go to bed hungry each night. The AFRO's Mrs. Santa has over 1,000 emergency cases. Numberless are the cases received by other charity organizations.

RECORD RAINFALL causes flooding in the inner city and outlying areas. Dec. 21, first day of Winter has no forecast for the year's dying days but weather prophets say 1978 will surpass 1977's blizzards and record cold.

BRIGHTER SIDE notes include Saturday's Yuletide fete in Waverly headed by Myra Hale. The area off Greenmount and 33rd was like a greeting card, its homes magically decorated for the holiday. Tree-lined streets, lawns and windows are all aglow.

PRESENT for the judging (in addition to the AFRO) were TV, radio and media personalities, Mayor Schaefer and Wally Orlinsky. Myra's home is like old England, logs on the fire, wine and cheese for neighbors and guests. That's a happy neighborhood where the AFRO hopes to make new friends.

OUR ANNUAL Journey to Hawaii is postponed since my daughter Marsha is going to the island of Samoa. A fantastic celebration will take place there for the inauguration of the first non-white governor and she is an honored guest from the island of Hawaii. Usually the U. S. government sends in a white governor but this time, the first in 1,000 years, a native is king.

Getes will extend from Christmas, through New Years and on into February.

SKIPPING YULE Greetings this year, the AFRO thus joins many other firms which view this as a time to conserve. There are too many others who have nothing and we have to share in other ways.

SOOOOO, we wish you a Merry Christmas in print.

NEVERTHELESS, cherry cards have come, from many. Farthest away is Mayor Frank Fasi and family of Hawaii and next Judge and Mrs. Perry B. Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio. President Carter, Gov. Blair Lee III and Mayor Schaefer sent less elaborate greetings than last year.

Wally, Jo-Ann, Eric and Judith Orlinsky have Maryland scenes on a fold-up which needs no envelop. Senator and Mrs. Tommy Broadwater and several legislators have smaller cards than usual, John Sims' greeting commemorates Saint Elizabeth Seton.

MARY CARTER SMITH'S notes reminds that she'll be at the Smithsonia in Washington telling stories each day of the holiday to delight thousands of tourists who arrive on vacation from school.

FRUIT in a rainbow of color surrounds the card from Clifton Harris and the Postal Alliance. Noah and Dorothy Thompson say "Happy Holiday" in verse. Thanks to all others who say the same.

RENAI AND LEROY FLOWERS announce their first, six lb., 12 oz. boy who is seeing his first Yule at his home: 7216 Oakhaven Circle, Randallstown. Dad is base guitarist with "Fly Face" and the hit record is "Walkin'". Mom is in the Air Force, daughter of Ms. Gertrude McKinnon and niece of Mrs. Lorraine Tucker.

MAJOR CLARENCE E. ROY JR., Police Community Relations section, lauds Ginos, George Larkins, Md. National Guard's Co.C, 58th Bn., and all others who gave some 500 children and 150 senior citizens such fine Christmas parties.

Thanks from us goes to the many other groups who invited us to their Yule parties for the less fortunate. Sorry we could not possible make them all but blessings to you for caring about the needy . . EMO

LETTERS

NAACP president answers critics

Dear AFRO:

The officers and members of the Baltimore Branch NAACP are perturbed at the one-sided portrayal of the facts surrounding the resignation of Mr. Troy Brailey who resigned from our board of directors. Falsehoods and distortions have been reported as facts.

Since neither my response as president nor the NAACP executive board's response have been shared with the public — we request that they be printed in the AFRO.

Del. Troy Brailey lied when he said two people from the Mayor's office have taken over the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP. No one, or two — no minority has taken over during the eight years that I have served as president — not even the Honorable Troy Brailey.

We adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. A majority of the executive board members present on Nov. 26 voted to change the date of the Unity Ball from Sept., 1978 to June, 1978. Two of the four negative votes were cast by Mr. and Mrs. Troy Brailey. For many years our annual dinner fund - raiser was held in November around Thanksgiving. In 1976 and 1977, it was held in September. It's amazing that after only two years, September has become a sacred month.

Furthermore, it was I who recommended the change of dates to the Freedom Fund Committee first and then to the executive board. What dedicated NAACP member would permit a change of date to terminate his 29 year "service" to an organization with a track record like ours?

The value of the length of one's term of office is dependent upon the quality of one's service. Two things count in the NAACP thrust for freedom, equality and justice for all: (1) The number of members who subscribe to our goals, and (2) the programs promoted to reach our goals.

During the eight year period from 1969 through 1976; Mr. Brailey solicited a total of 95 memberships while his wife solicited 156. Many board and non - board members secure more than 100 each year, thereby earning membership in "Club 100". Their totals exceed 800 memberships during the eight year period.

Then too, board members are asked and expected to support our fund - raising activities. Our records show that Mr. Brailey's support has been very poor. Finally, as chairman of our Labor and Industry Committee, he has failed to recommend to the branch ways of improving the economic status of minority groups as detailed in our constitution. The Labor Committee never has a report.

The questions of the racist composition of the CETA staff and the insensitivity represented by photographs in February-March Manpower Report were raised by another board member (not Mr. Brailey) in early summer.

Because only one of our staff is full time, and one of the three part timers entered the hospital for an operation, another was only on Fridays, during the summer when school children are on vacation and the third one was off for a month, we were unable to follow through on these questions while responding to requests for information and assistance with citizens' personal problems of discrimination etc.

I knew nothing of Mr. Brailey's criticism until George Collins indicated his desire to talk to both of us at the same time. One would think he would discuss it with me before going to the press.

Mr. Brailey's letter of resignation (which was delivered to the press 24 hours before I received it) contains another falsehood. No motion was made to prevent any NAACP officer from criticizing the mayor or any other high city official without the entire board being present and voting for it.

It is pathetic to see an elected official make a "Grand-Stand Play" based on lies in order to attract attention. A better way would be to perform a superb service instead of punching at those who do. We do not discriminate against anyone, white or black, because of one's employer. All are welcome to come in and help us. We fight against discrimination at all times, everywhere even on our executive board.

All of our meetings and records are open to the public.

Lastly, Mr. Brailey failed to renew his membership in October, 1975 when it expired. So his membership has lapsed. He should not have enjoyed the title of chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee, since all committee chairmen and board members must be current NAACP members.

Thank you for permitting the majority to be heard.

(Mrs.) ENOLIA P. McMILLAN
President
Baltimore Branch NAACP

Unemployment compensation

Dear AFRO:

With respect to your article in the AFRO-AMERICAN of Dec. 3, 1977 entitled "suit may end it all for blacks," I note that you state that if Maryland is successful in its suit against a 1976 federal law requiring state and local government to pay unemployment compensation, black residents who currently receive the aid could lose out.

I would like to correct the impression that the article gives, because if Maryland is successful in the suit which has been filed by six States and 1268 towns, cities and municipalities, it will not affect any persons, black or white from receiving unemployment compensation.

The federal law related only to unemployment compensation to be paid by governmental agencies and the thrust of the suit is simply to have a determination made by the Supreme Court of the United States as to whether the federal government can control the budget process of state and local governments.

In fact, Maryland enacted a law in, 1977 providing for unemployment to state employees who have become unemployed which law is to take effect on Jan. 1, 1978. There is no intention on the part of Acting Governor Lee or on my part to seek a repeal of that law in the event we are successful in the action which has been filed and even though we are successful, the Maryland law will continue to protect governmental employees as to their right to unemployment compensation.

This matter was fully explained to the leaders of the various unions when the story first broke and it is regretable that they did not take the time to put the matter in proper perspective.

Trusting that this explains the sole purpose of the suit and the fact that it will not affect any employees' right to unemployment compensation, whether they be governmental employees or employees in the private sector.

FRANCIS B. BURCH
Attorney General

A chance for a black man

Dear AFRO:

Three cheers for the Nigerian who was indicted for fraud and cheers for the Koreans and the Vietnamese which can pull the wool over the American public's eyes. You see, an American black doesn't stand a chance with white America.

Anyone who comes to this country and speaks a foreign tongue, can get away with murder regardless of what race he may be.

However, a black American, and we helped to make this country what it is today, can't get a decent loan to start a business or get jobs.

All you have to be is Oriental or African and come to the United States and you can get anything you want — just be sure you are not a black American.

RUFUS REACHY

THE AFRO : the way we were, Dec. 23, 1950

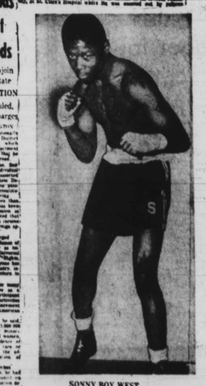
BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN — LATE CITY EDITION — 56 Pages

'SONNY BOY' WEST DIES

Merry Christmas

Washington Boy 9th Ring Death of Year

Two Brain Operations Fail to Save Life of D.C. Lightweight



SONNY BOY WEST

Hearing on Charges Against Cop Asked

Policeman Accused of Drinking on Duty, Starting Stabbing Affray

NAACP Protests Sodaro's All-White Staff Aides

'Hurry, Santa! We Can't Wait Much Longer'

Paul Demands Right to Visit Foreign Lands

Asks Court to Enjoin Department of State

CITES CONSTITUTION

Livelihood Curtailed, Famed Singer Charges

Teachers Get Defense Facts

Booklets Given Out

Holiday Cheer

From Urban League — From Department

CHRISTMAS, 1950 — Headlines during the holiday season 27 years' ago dealt with 'Sonny Boy' West, the ninth boxer to die in the ring in 1950. Paul Robeson went to court to obtain the right to visit foreign countries. Locally, Anselm Sodaro's appointment to the Supreme Bench was being questioned by the local NAACP. — In 1977, Sodaro is chief judge on the Supreme Bench. And, for Christmas, the AFRO featured the children of city residents as they impatiently await Santa Claus.