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).

Dr. Martin D. Jenkins:

One man counts

Editor's note — This commentary is by Dr. G. James Fleming, president of the Morgan State University Board of Regents. Dr. Fleming taught in the political science department during Dr. Martin Jenkin's tenure as president of Morgan.

So glibly it is often orated that "One man counts!" What is really meant, of course, is that "One man counts, or may count, for good or evil."

These thoughts come to mind as the city mourns the sudden death of Martin David Jenkins, for 22 years president of Morgan State College (now University). Of him it can be said that "It is true, one man does count."

From the very day he took over the presidency of Morgan in 1948, he began to make a difference — for good.

This writer was first attracted to him because of his inauguration address. Here was a "Negro," now on the payroll of a Jim Crow state (Maryland) who dared to say, in effect and broadcast over the state:

"I condemn segregation and racial discrimination today just as I have condemned it all my adult life. It is bad educationally, psychologically, economically and spiritually.....

"Why, then, did I accept this position of president of a Jim Crow college?" Jenkins asked himself before the inauguration audience, including several government officials.

He replied: "I accepted this presidency, in a Jim Crow state, because I believe that education is most important for Negroes, and somebody has to teach them. . . .'

No one ever had to wonder where Martin Jenkins stood on civil rights. He never "tommed" before governors and other high officials. Indeed, some of his friends sometimes thought he was cruel in standing up "for the rights of my people."

When 471 Morgan students were jailed for three days in the 1950s for picketing certain public places (then closed to blacks), he stood solidly with them.

He warned the mayor: "If these students are not released by tonight, you may as well get ready to jail 2,000 more." They were released that afternoon, and Martin Jenkins directed the college dining room to serve them sirloin steaks for dinner for the next three nights.

Year after year, he spearheaded the NAACP drive among faculty and staff. He often said to them: "This may be illegal, but I can't help saying that no one at a predominantly black college should feel comfortable if he does not support the NAACP, the organization that is so largely responsible for what we enjoy here today."

Martin Jenkins had a keen appreciation of the place of practical politics in the advancement of black Americans. That is why he was so integral to the establishment of the Morgan Institute for Political Education in 1959 — a program which played an important role in furthering the election of black lawmakers.

He also saw a place for citizen-politicians — the non-professionals who are smart enough to understand, and to keep up with, the ways and practices of politics and to use politics for the common good. He backed every "Register in order to vote" campaign.

He encouraged the bringing of key men and women — from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on — to the campus, with an eye to stimulating his students to concern and interest in public affairs — students such as Arthur G. Murphy Sr. (who also died last week) — lawyer, deputy U.S. attorney, member of the House of Delegates, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus — and of whom it can also be said that "Certainly, one man counts."

Most important of all, Martin Jenkins had a dream of Morgan as an increasingly outstanding university, with the emphasis on excellence. He wanted an institution good enough to attract students and scholars of every race, religion and national background, but never forgetful of Morgan's past. He saw Morgan sending men and women forward in first-class citizenship for first-class responsibility.

It was Dr. Jenkins who first conceived the idea of Morgan as an "urban" university, towards which the university is now moving, in fact, as it already is in name. Martin Jenkins brought to Morgan some of its faculty "giants."

He was a students' president. One alumna, on hearing of his passing, called this column to say: "He was my president; my personal president. One year, when we were snowed in, in our dormitory, he came to see us every night. He personally saw that food was brought to us, and he speeded up getting us dug out."

Yes, of Martin David Jenkins it can truly be said that "One man counts! One man does make a difference."

Twenty-two years of Morgan State students in every part of the world, and thousands of educators and fellow-citizens, join in "May he rest in peace."

By G. James Fleming

The truth will be the light

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

Profile of a father

He withstood the taunts and jibes of his older brothers as he hung diapers on the line, clenching clothespins in his mouth all the more to restrain an angry retort. (He could be profane at times!)

Only moments later, as he fixed drinks and settled into that special joviality brothers have, did he put an end to their on - going derision with the quiet avowal, "I do it because I love my wife."

And so through the years he'd clear the table after company meals, bend over the sink, suds up to his elbows, scrubbing pots and pans while one of his children, whose turn came on that particular day (all five had their week) would dry.

One year, when their third child was born, only after six weeks, he took his vacation to care for them, so that Mom could go away alone with friends for a week of utter delicious abandon!

Once a month or more, he'd also give Mom a rest from Sunday dinner, and take them to a restaurant. This was a dress up affair, often in the company of his mother - in - law (the one woman he'd promised to marry if, God forbid, anything should happen to his wife).

These occasions he thought would be good training ground to learn to read a menu; to check table manners; to give lessons in courtliness to his sons, each assigned to hold the doors, seat his sisters and mother, while he helped his now ailing mother - in - law with cane, bag and other paraphernalia.

And also at this time he would help them quell that tantalizing temptation to satsfy big eyes rather than small stomachs, with a warning price limit of what they could order.

Even to this day, when he treats his children to a meal out, they tease him with the query; "What's the limit, Dad, a dollar and a quarter?"

And along with his devotion to family, he served his community well, helping to found church and organization, being elected PTA and professional organization presidents twice, where he shepherded plans for new schools and political awareness respectively.

Family vacations first were the years in the Poconos for three weeks with his wife's mother; then his own dream fulfilled — a rustic cottage in Montgomery County near his family's land held before Emancipation.

Finally, after the state took over the land, trips to Canada; across country, down Big Sur; and once a Christmas cruise to the Caribbean.

Nor did he stint on college education. A frugal man, he saved and eschewed luxuries for himself because he did not want scholarships for his children.

He believed they were obligations to the funding groups; a deterrent to developing independence, and thwarted freedom of choice. Each child, however, was also given the option to travel, or to take part in foreign exchange programs.

Most all of the children sold papers, or worked during the summer, or painted the exterior of the house as far as they could reach, or went to summer school. No devil's workshop here! Camping was an infrequent luxury.

He rarely spanked them and even then half - heartedly. The real "International Thumb" (dubbed that because of her put - downs, evil eyes and hard hands) was the mother. Yet, "Heardhearted Hannah", another name given by a daughter - in - law, affectionately, was extremely squeamish about their periodic visits to the doctor for shots, so he did it.

Dogs and cats crowded the household and the old saying that a man who loves cats is good to his wife, was truly reflected in the patience, gentleness, he bestowed upon them, his clawed suits testimony to the reciprocation of their affection. Now all either want or have numerous pets.

But he was repetitive to a fault with his lectures. One son threatened to tape record them to save time and the drone of his voice! They would number them and in unison groan as he'd hold forth, "Now which one is this Dad, 'Problem Solving 101' or 'Decision Making 202'? Reiteration to him was reinforcement of values.

It would seem on Father's Day, that the quality of a father as stern task master, through sharing and caring, yet predictable and consistent, even stubborn, far outweighs baseball games on an occasional Saturday afternoon, palsy - walsy relationships, or falling prey to the conformist pull of middle class values.

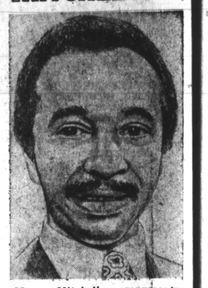
For after all, if one believes one's children are not possessions, merely on short term loan, one must make the time count. Even if non - conformity carries the risk of not imitating one's own non - conformity!

And the love and devotion his children show is proof that they give back in kind what he gave.

This is a profile of a father who taught basic values. The example of love for wife and children that even now must nag them in their own inter - personal relations, their quest for happiness. That may yet guide or good them into sorting out priorities to develop strong bonds with their wives, husbands, children even in these demanding times, while still emphasizing independence through self - discipline, self - awareness, self - control and confidence.

This father can only pray it will be so, for they have all flown away, nesting precariously on their own — his loan repaid in full and on time.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL



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

Out of the mouths of babes

On Wednesday, May 31, I received a packet containing some 20 letters from students participating in a social studies class at Carver Upper Grade Center, Chicago, Ill.

One of the two recurring themes throughout the students' letters was their heartfelt concern over the latest of the violent outbreaks on the African continent.

Though specifically addressing the recent bloody struggle in Zaire's southern Shaba province, those young people could just have easily been referring to hostilities in Angola, Ethiopia, Uganda, Botswana or Somali.

The fact of the matter is that the African continent is caught up in conflict, each new outbreak creating equally as new conflicting policies and actions by the established powers of the world.

In my reply to the young people, I indicated that world peace could not be legislated and that the end of wars and all other forms of human suffering is a matter of conscience and reason.

However, while the nations of the "free world," wait for mankind's spirit to be rekindled by the fires of humanity, we can use the tools of negotiation and economic pressure to, at least, fight against the build - up of war, tyranny, genocide and the like.

Since becoming a member of Congress, I have held to a policy opposing the sale of military weapons abroad. Whether it be planes sold to Israel, tanks to Saudi Arabia or BB guns to Kuwait, I have argued and voted against such measures.

It is my contention that a reduction, if not the elimination, in the manufacture and sale of the weapons of war will go a long way towards insuring that nations choose a course of rationality over force.

However, in a world of economic dependencies, there is a means of force almost as awesome and as potent as a nuclear weapon. It is called the embargo.

The lifeblood of every nation is predicated upon the stability of its economy, the blending of the importation and exportation of goods and services. The embargo is an economic block to the steady flow of business and commerce, having the potential, at times, to strangle nations into submission. Yet, unlike the deadly effects of conventional and nuclear arms, the embargo is a weapon of reason and restraint, designed to force the stubborn and recalcitrant to the negotiation table. I support the intelligent application of this tool.

Presently, Congress is considering the use of the embargo to thwart the oppressive and tyrannical activities within a number of African nations.

My position on the subject has been and will continue to be an unwavering one (i.e., the back of apartheid in South Africa must be broken first).

Though there may well be a few black - ruled nations whose governments are reprehensible, there is no greater American priority on the African continent than the eradication of apartheid.

I will not support an embargo or any other political - economic action against black Africa until the fortress of white racism in South Africa crumbles at its foundation. To do otherwise is both an insult to the black African peoples and to every black American.

I told the students of the Carver Upper Grade Center that the maintenance of peace and liberty requires both eternal vigilance and great effort. As I stated in this column in early May, my role as a representative is that of an unrelenting advocate for peace.

And, in this vein, the most significant step towards peace on this earth is the elimination of the seeds, roots and branches of racism. I enhance the embargo as a peace - seeking instrument; however, I will not stand by and allow the instrument to confuse the priorities.

LETTERS

Contributions of service

Dear AFRO:

A two - fold tragedy has struck Baltimore and bordering community: the death of Dr. Martin Jenkins, President - Emeritus of Morgan State University after a long and distinguished career in higher education and public service; the untimely death of Dr. Arthur Murphy while in the midst of impressive and outstanding leadership in the Maryland General Assembly and community.

The quality of life of Baltimore and the nation has been enormously diminised by their death.

Both of these men brought vision, integrity and an implacable commitment to human values and possibilities which are sorely needed in our society today. Dr. Jenkins, a towering and formidable intellect, provided for 22 years (1948 - 1970), the decisive and courageous leadership necessary to firmly establish Morgan as a first - rate undergraduate college.

It was his perspicacious, intrepid and seminal leadership which provided the foundation necessary for Morgan to achieve university rank.

Arthur Murphy, utilizing his incisive understanding of law, group processes and community organization, served as a unifying and reconciling force in the black community and the larger community.

His thoughtful and able leadership of the Maryland Black Caucus in the General Assembly represents an inspirational testimony to the power of his mind and the efficacy of doing one's "Homework." His savvy, warmth, lively mind, and genial manner will be greatly missed.

All of us are the beneficiaries of the selfless, humane and extraordinary contributions of service that Dr. Jenkens, in his long career, and Del. Murphy, in his all - too brief career, have made to Maryland and the nation.

SAMUEL L. BANKS
Coordinator of social studies
Baltimore City Schools

Del. Arthur G. Murphy

Arthur G. Murphy Sr. was one of our brightest political lights.

From the outset of his career as just another young struggling lawyer, we knew, and the community knew that Art Murphy was not just not "another."

He was special. He had decided quite early that he could be an effective and charismatic public servant and that politics could be a noble calling if one always remembered to serve the people and fight for the people without compromise.

Murphy kept his faith in himself and the people of his natural constituency of West Baltimore kept their faith in him by returning him to office each new election.

Art's intelligence and energy made the Vanguard Political Organization which he headed a vital force in city and state decision-making.

With humor, vigor and toughness Art Murphy was rapidly and sensibly climbing the political ladder when a heart attack felled him last week.

He is a career young blacks can emulate if they want to achieve no matter what the barriers. Art Murphy had style, a very sure sense of direction, he always knew where he was going because he always knew where his people wanted to go.

And he worked hard, studied the issues, learned what buttons to push to get things down, knew when to flow with the system and when to fight the system. His political timing was unusually impeccable.

We will miss him. He was in the advance guard of sophisticated young black leadership we so sorely need to take us the next step of our long journey.

His death so young is a severe loss to allthoughtful residents of this state and to lose his leadership, and great humanity is to lose part of all of us.

Unemployment and the army

Dear AFRO:

The volunteer army is getting a lot of criticism these days. They say it is becoming too racially unbalanced.

For example, the percentage of black recruits that in 1971 was 13 percent has now risen to 26 percent.

Was that not the same situation that selective service encountered during the Vietname War?

The sons of the Middle class were deferred for college and the sons of the poor, among whom blacks happened to predominate, were selected to serve. And now both white and black recruits are coming very largely from the ranks of the unemployed where the rate of unemployment among blacks is at least twice that among whites.

If we could reduce black unemployment to just 75 percent of the white, the proportion of blacks in the volunteer army would automatically come down.

Ernest Green, assistant secretary of Labor for Employment and Training says black unemployment can be substantially reduced by "the direct creation of an expanded public service job training program targeted at black communities and at black workers."

JOHN L. BERRY

AFRO invites letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

CURRENT COMMENT

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Dr. Hammond is dean of graduate studies, Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Current creative events

So many important things are happening this Spring especially in the month of June, that they should be brought to your attention collectively. Each of these is a rare treat and every effort should be made to take advantage of the unique and absolutely exciting events.

Camelia Blackwell, printmaker, is having an on - going exhibition of prints at the newly renovated Green Earth Cafe located at 823 N. Charles St. This exhibition is an outstanding addition to the artfully decorated interior.

The cafe is open Monday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to midnight; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is an excellent way to kill two birds with one stone since the natural foods served are quite fine.

"Nigeria . . . art and everyday life," an exhibition of wood, bronze and ivory artifacts from the Nigerian cultures of West Africa. The woods date from the 16th to the 20th century. The exhibition will run from June 16 thru July 2 at the Walter's Art Gallery, 600 N. Cahrles St. This is a must for the entire family.

This travelling exhibition has already been seen in New York and Philadelphia. Special activities have been planned for the public.

Of special note is a lecture tour for children at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 17. On Sunday, June 18, Olufunmilayo and her African Dance Troupe will perform at 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, at 2 p.m., a lecture by Robert Ferris Thompson on women and Yoruba Art will be presented. This lecture should not be missed under any circumstances.

All of these activities are free to the public. For more information regarding events scheduled for this special exhibition call the Walter's Art Gallery at 547 - 9000.

"Nigeria . . . art and everyday life" is co - sponsored by the Revlon Company. If by chance you are unable to get to the museum the Hecht Company, downtown has a display of artifacts on exhibition and performances every day at noon this weekend

Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre will be performing this weekend in the New Theatre Festival (T.N.T.) The group which developed in the 1960s is an outstanding creative venture in the expression of African - American church revivials, African rituals and the rhythms of soul concerts.

They will perform Friday and Saturday night (June 15 and 16) at 8 p.m. in the concert hall of the Peabody conservatory. There is a small admission in exchange of an outstanding and overwhelmingly positive and joyous celebration of black theatre at its best. For more information call, T.N.T., 837 - 1930.

Cheers! A. Robert Cole has written a new book entitled, Black Marylanders - A History for Children. The publication is illustrated by Lawrence E. Huret artist - in - residence at the Maryland Commission on Afro - American History and Culture.

This project was completed under a grant from the Maryland Bicentennial Commission and published by the Maryland Department of Economics and Community Development and the Maryland Commission on Afro - American History and Culture, located at 20 Dean St., Annapolis, Md. The book can be ordered from the the above address.

Aura of the Arts is going to publish an artist directory. Each artist will have half an 8" x 11" booklet. Five thousand copies will be printed and each artist will get 10 copies for personal use. The deadline is June 30, 1978 so that the book can be distributed by August, 1978.

Contact Aura, 30 W. 25the St., Baltimore, Md. 21218.

Dr. G. James Fleming's column "Now and then" which regularly appears in this space, this week is the first editorial in our opinion section. *See page 4.*

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE DAY BEFORE my birthday, June 25, I am to receive an honor from the Vanguards Justice Society. The dinner dance at MSU McKeldin Center also honors Fire Dept. Chief Herman Williams Jr. and Officer Ralph M. Hudson Jr. of Northwest District, all of us chosen by the 300 members of the society of which Officer Earl Nesbitt is president.

AFTER I received the announcement from Sgt. Bessie R. Norris, I wept a little. This is indeed a treasured honor. Most of all I wish everyone I have touched in 23 years at the AFRO could be there and of course my daughter, Marsha and grandkids from Hawaii.

THIS distinguished award will make my 30th since May 22, 1955 when I became a reporter and since then I've been around the world.

HERE'S THE POINT, being at the AFRO is an honor simply because through no other media could you ever meet such wonderful people like the Vanguards. If all of you out there can come celebrate with Williams, Hudson and me, call Sgt. Norris at 396 - 2346 for tickets.

LOOKING BACK to childhood, I remember Dr. Martin David Jenkins. His father had a poultry farm in Vigo County, Indiana, nearby our Clay County where I was born. Every Thanksgiving we got a goose from the Jenkins place and every Christmas a turkey. We got them live. The goose was "hung high" outside in the crisp November air to drain and cool. Martin's folks were plain, country people in manner and lifestyle but brilliant.

HERB BASS was a dear friend and my choice as a family man for our Honor Roll. One of his wonderful children was born Aug. 13 on the AFRO's birthday and we made a great thing out of it on our anniversary.

ART MURPHY, a longtime friend, taught my daughter and me to play golf. One winter, we painted the balls black so we could play in the snow. His last photo was taken by photographer Glasco Ryales at the banquet for his aunt, Mrs. Susie Murphy. A week before his death he was master of ceremonies at the 75th birthday for Susie, worked hard to see that it was perfect. He wrote her life story which we published in the AFRO. Last weekend saw many changes in the Old Order.

DR. ARIS T. ALLEN and his wife (whom he calls Rabbit) were a stunning couple at the head table along with President Ford. Her dress was the prettiest I have ever seen, white and sparkled with diamonds. She's a physician too.

GRANDEST family is that of Howard Pete Rawlings. Magnificent is the word for the testimonial given him last Sunday at the Pikesville Hilton.

TONIGHT (Friday) the Democratic Ladies Guild affair with nearly 1,000 expected. The Blue Crpt at North event at 6:30 p.m., a sit - down dinner, honors 10 special people, C and P's George Brown, Del. Pinkney Howell, Judge Sol. Baylor, Jess J Webster, Cong. P. J. Mitchell, Vulcan Blazers, Col. James Watkins, Dr. Abraham Silver, Rev. W. W. Payne, Mrs. Zatella Giles, Demo Ladies president, Kitty Mueller, and the members mark their third decade waging battle for equal rights.

DR. HENRY C. WELCOME, husband of the senator, is improving in Provident Hospital after three weeks illness.

SENATOR Clarence W. Blount's dinner at the Hollyday Room, Cross Keys is June 18, "A Tribute to People Power" by his friends.

DOUG SANDS is honoree at the all - day Saturday summer outing at Robert Clay's fabulous place on All Saints Rd. in Laurel: tennis, swimming, dancing, etc.

CAMP Prince Hall Myra is the scene Saturday of the Corinthian Lodge Masons' bull roast. Orc Requer is grand master. The great set meets at Mondawmin in the cars or can take the trip by bus to the country - club like place for fun, dinner and all the trimmings.

VISITORS from England, Canada, all the states and the West Indies will be at the Monroe R. Saunders Center for Learning, the old Samuel Ready estate on Baltimore National Pike for a week June 19 - 25. The colorful delegates will study, dine and worship together in that inspirational atmosphere.

COUNTLESS are the friends from all walks of life who have called to express concern over the recent happenings to Lt. Col. James H. Watkins. If prayer counts, he'll be Okay.

A. DWIGHT PETTIT, the attorney who first sponsored President Carter is constantly at the White House in the role of adviser. Last week he accompanied the president to the Naval Academy graduation affairs and this Sunday he'll be at the White House Lawn Jazz Concert.

OCEAN CITY'S Carrousel Hotel is the scene this weekend when our Honor Roll member Officer William Fulwood chaperons a host of youngsters. They're guests of Ocean City's Mayor Kelly.

MRS. HARVEY (Alice V.) Scott, 7611 Ridge Road, Hanover, Md., is a fourth generation member of a five generation family. The first three generations are natives of New Jersey. The Scott household is busy during the month of June celebrating birthdays.

Mrs. Scott's mother, Mrs. Minnie Caldwell of Neptune, N.J. was born in 1893. Mrs. Margaret Johnson, her daughter, celebrates her 54th birthday today (Saturday).

Seven grandchildren include Alice Judith Rooks, Margaret Earlene Scott, George and William Lippman of New Jersey; John Terry Lippman, who celebrated his 35th birthday last Wednesday and Manuel and Marie Johnson, whose birthdays are June 21 and June 25, respectively.

Included in the 11 great grandchildren are Jason and Terry Lippman and Wesley, William and Lawrence Rooks. Lawrence will observe his birthday next Monday. Six others reside in New Jersey.

In addition to her natural family, Mrs. Scott has a step - daughter, 6 step grandchildren and 4 step great grandchildren.

MORE LETTERS

Blasting Charm City

Dear AFRO:

There are so many things wrong in Charm City that we as a people should be fighting to clean up and concerning ourselves with.

All you can hear today is how Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau ordered wiretaps and investigations into the private lives of some Baltimore citizens in 1974 and 1975.

The same things we are hollering about now we were going on then and we at makes anyone think that anything about the entire situation change or has changed?

The same things that were going on then in the higher echelons of our city government are still going on... And if he (Pomerleau) was doing all these things three years ago why in heaven's name are we just taking a positive stand and making all this noise? Why wasn't this tyrant ousted long before now (must be an election year)?

It seems to me that the blacks in this city will band together to straighten out everything but what needs to be straightened out.

Our black youth are being exploited each and every day. We're being short-changed in everything from A to Z.

The quality of teachers has so dropped that the children going to schools in the city today in the poor and black and white areas don't even stand a chance for a good quality education. They come out of school knowing less then when they went in.

Charm City is spending millions to build a subway — for whom? Not for the poor blacks and whites, I assure you.

Why doesn't Congress holler when the people run the poor blacks out of their homes and condemn their houses so you-know-who can run back into the city and buy the houses dirt cheap.

Some of these people have lived in these houses for years and some of them have been paying for these houses a long time. Aren't they entitled to something?

Poor people are getting short-changed on quality school lunches. If our children don't get good food, they certainly won't grow into strong adults. Some of the lunches in the Baltimore public schools aren't fit for human consumption. The black congressmen in this city probably send their children to private or parochial schools.

A priest stole millions and some of it came from unsuspecting poor blacks and whites and he gets unsupervised probation and a nine-to-five job.

Those are things we as black people should be fighting about. Justice — not to mention equality.

Corruption runs rampant in Charm City and everyone wants to raise hell because the commissioner is following somebody's orders. We should be trying to find out who is issuing those orders to Pomerleau.

Talk about J. Edgar Hoover — someone in this very town has just as much power and if we don't watch out we're going to be knee deep in trouble.

Maybe we should have another commissioner, maybe even a black commissioner. I could name two black police officials right off the bat who would make damned good commissioners: O'Neil Beckington or Bishop Robinson.

But it makes no difference if the commissioner is black, white, blue or purple, as long as he has the protection of our city foremost in his mind and provides us with quality policemen and who cannot be badgered into doing what the political bigwigs want.

The changes needed in Charm City don't start in the police commissioner's office and won't end by firing the present commissioner. In the higher bureaucracy of this town they do what they want to do.

We should be trying to stop the flow of drugs coming into this city and the crooked police who take money from the pushers and don't lock them up when the going gets rough.

No black man brings that garbage into this country, we don't have the money or the connections to buy these drugs. Who brings them in? You know and so do I.

We should be fighting so our children get quality education so they will be able to handle all the tricks that will be played in the next 20 years. We won't be around or if we are we'll be too damned old to have a voice.

They should be urged to get all the education and skill they possibly can so that when the time comes for the black man to take his rightful place we won't allow someone to separate us.

We should be making our children ready to take over the city, not by force but because they qualify and they are strong.

In 20 years our youth of today will be in command and if they are not strong, we're all going to be in trouble.

JAMES A. BATTY

Speaking for young blacks

Dear AFRO:

Occasionally, people will say I am a racist because I complain about young blacks are treated, mostly by whites.

Last year I did a commentary on television on that subject. One of my co - workers told me that went out the door five years earlier. My oldest sister told me I made it too racist.

We need more people like myself to speak out for these young blacks, many of whom DO want to do something for themselves.

On June 6 I was at a fast food restaurant on Baltimore Street. Two young black males in their teens or early 20s came in while I was eating.

A white man, maybe in his 50s, started pestering them as soon as they walked in. When I was ready to leave, the young men had joined two or three other young blacks at a table.

The white man was still pestering them. One of the young men told him to leave him alone because he was trying to eat.

Meanwhile, one of the employees walked by, turned her head, but never slowed down.

Chances are if the young man would have popped him, the whole police force would have been there in two seconds flat. And the white man would have been at fault but nobody would believe it.

Meanwhile, the young black, who is probably struggling anyway, would have to put up at least $200 to defend himself in court.

I'm not saying that all whites are bad, because I know that's not true. There are many good ones.

But there are those who think they're God and can down all young blacks.

JAMES A. BATTY

Father Carcich escapes the net

Dear AFRO:

The Pallottine charity swindle was merely an effort of the good fathers to teach that charity begins at home.

James Jeffery Robe must have had the Father Carcich case in mind when he wrote:

"The net of law is spread so wide
No sinner from it's sweep may hide.
It's meshes are so fine and strong;
They take in every child of wrong.
Oh wonderous web of mystery!
Big fresh alone escape from thee."
Or was it the Nixon non - case?
Or the Kennedy assassination?
Or the King assassination?
Or the Malcolm X assassination?
Etcetera, ad nauseam.

ROBERT ZAUPA

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Dr. Matthew TAYBACK

Dr. Tayback is State Director on Aging.

For the time being, senior citizens represent a minority that (if you'll permit a little play on words) hasn't quite come of age.

It's not that seniors aren't significant numerically. They are. Here in Maryland, some 12 percent of the population, or roughly 500,000 people are aged 60 or over.

By the year 2000, it's expected that the older segment of the state's population will hit 700,000. Those 700,000 older Marylanders will probably represent more than 12 percent of the population then, because of declining birth rates in recent years.

No one is predicting that the elderly will ever become a majority. After all, it's projected that by 2000 "one" represents a total of 52 million people.

People who, if the present-day situation is any indication, will be wealthier, better educated, and certainly far more experienced than their juniors. They will be in a position to make their desires known — and to see that they're met.

No doubt radical changes will be wrought in such areas as health care, housing, insurance and the whole world of work. In that last area, for instance, it is likely that age will no longer mean mandatory retirement. Then too, many senior citizens may opt for second careers at age 50 or so. Many are already doing just that.

A leading social scientist has summarized that "we are faced with the prospect of very drastic social, economic and political change over the next quarter century."

While it hasn't yet achieved its ultimate strength, gray power is becoming a force with clout. Two examples will suffice: In 1975, senior citizens succeeded in getting Social Security payments tied to the cost-of-living index, no small victory.

Now, a group of elderly activists has taken on network TV! Out with "dotty old grandfathers," they're insisting. Clear the screens of "little old ladies in tennis shoes." Their efforts will probably bring results, especially if they brandish their buying power as a weapon.

Here is Maryland, there are more and more organizations being set up to serve senior citizens and give collective voice to their problems, needs and wishes. Some, like the state chapters of the National Retired Teachers Association and the Industrial American Association of Retired Persons, have been around 20 years or more.

But other, reflecting the growing self-awareness and the growing numbers of senior citizens, are only three or four years old. They include: Maryland Advocates for the Aging; Betterment for United Seniors, based in Prince George's County; the Montgomery County Association of Senior Citizen Organizations; the Maryland Federation of Chapters of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees; and, one of the newest, the Maryland State Council of Senior Citizens.

These organizations, and others like them, are the true indicators of increasing gray power.

Grey power

Postal worker speak out

Dear AFRO:

One need only read James J. Kilpatrick's recent column attacking postal employees to recognize a born elitist whose content for lesser mortals oozes from his prose like the milk of human arrogance.

He would have readers believe that postal workers all live in "Fat City" because of our "high" wages and easy work.

In fact, of course, we are the victims of inflation, not its cause!

And the cost of our labor is not "plump" considering that fewer and fewer employees are moving more and more mail. This year we will move a record volume of 93 billion pieces which is almost impossible to comprehend.

This achievement does not, as elitist Kilpatrick says loftily, suggest some increase in productivity. It is precisely a 5.2 percent increase in productivity compared to the average of 2.6 percent in 1977, among American workers as a whole.

We have set these records partly with the help of noisy, erratic and undependable machines, which are almost as simple to operate as a typewriter powered by a jackhammer, while supervisors stand behind our shoulders making certain we don't drop below the prouduction minimum of 60 letters a minute in distributions by zip codes.

Elitist Kilpatrick ought to try this himself for eight hours a day and mandatory overtime on weekends! That's right — mandatory! Its part of that plush contract of ours.

Finally, unlike other federal workers, we begin and end our careers in the same pay whether we stay on the job three years or 30. That's part of the trade - off we make for job security, not to mention the fulfillment we find in serve to the public.

The truth is that it is Kilpatrick who lives in "Fat City" on an annual income that probably surpasses six figures harvested from lecturing, writing, and broadcasting those splendidly vicious tirades against a whole class who have no really effective recourse in the media to offset his shabby works.

CATHERINE C. STUDIVANT,
Chief Steward APWU,
Historian, MD and DC
Area Local

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 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.

The AFRO-AMERICAN must become a bi-weekly, then a tri-weekly and eventually, when advertising warrants, a daily.

It has always had a loyal constituency, who believe it honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of newspaper now and I hope it never changes.

From the Dec. 23, 1920 papers of JOHN H. MURPHY SR., founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper. Aug. 12, 1892.