OPINION

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The Watkins affair

For months we have been asking State's Attorney William Swisher and his staff to resolve the many questions surrounding long-standing allegations and insinuations about alliances between law enforcement officers and dope dealers.

We have asked that the special grand jury charged with probing so-called cop pay-offs and the narcotics traffic in general do something besides go through the investigatory motions, julian consumer taxpayers money and waste the court's time.

From that fateful day last year when dope peddler Elijah "Ditty Wo" Davis was assassinated we have reported on an amazing series of plots, counter-plots, cat and mouse games pitting cops against cops, criminals against each other, criminals cooperating with prosecutors, criminals fearful of cops and fellow criminals alike and on and on.

We called this terrible but very real show Baltimore's dope opera. It just kept spinning out chapter by fuzzy chapter.

And now, for all the characters who passed through these news stories, for all the twists and turns, the special grand jury has finally produced for us citizens, a very anti-climatic script.

After months of investigations, States Attorney William Swisher and his minions, now say that they find one man and one man alone, veteran police commander Col. James H. Watkins, to be the culpable and solitary instrument of wrong-doing thus by inference passing off the rest of the Baltimore police department as "clean."

Anyone who believes this without pause should be institutionalized.

Ten indictments have been presented against Col. Watkins. They are based, at first reading, on testimony of two known convicted criminals and the teen-age mistress of the late Elijah Davis.

It has been less than a secret that Watkins has been the focus of investigations, by daily media and law enforcement personnel, and for at least three years, even further back in his career he had to endure exhaustive scrutiny of his law enforcement history.

We know of no other officer on the force who has been so thoroughly examined. The colonel has to be the most investigated investigator in the history of law enforcement.

Thus far he has emerged without serious blemish.

We have no way of knowing whether the state attorney's office has a "hard" case against Watkins but we are proceeding on the basis that this officer must have his day in court and is innocent of all charges — unless there is irrefutable evidence to surface indicating the contrary.

We must give citizens this background information against which to measure just how "just" the justice will be in the case of Col. Watkins.

State's Attorney William Swisher is a product of the old Jack Pollack political machine, a power apparatus centered for decades in the 5th councilmanic district and favored mightily by Pollack's determination that black Baltimoreans remain political serfs, and that any political strategies, no matter how contemptuous were allowable — just so blacks were forever shut off from their legitimate political due.

We must further note that Swisher's assistants are, in the main, white and given the ideological positions Swisher espoused in seeking elections — I'll clean up the jungle — few black assistant prosecutors have been recruited to his staff and those few who have must suffer a daily anguish at being in such a situation.

We are dealing with an overwhelmingly white prosecutorial mechanism in a majority-black city. In Franz Fanon's terms, a classic example of settlers' control of the natives.

Point man in the Watkins probe has been Assistant State's Attorney John Denholm, narcotics cop turned prosecutor, who in the unfolding investigation leading up to the indictments last week, has been a man possessed.

He has been Captain Ahals hunting Moby Dick — and while Watkins is hardly the huge white whale of Melville's novel for obvious reasons, Denholm's intensity in landing this particular big fish is on an energy level up there with Melville's allegory.

Another shading thoughtful Baltimoreans must consider is that while the Watkins probe has consumed hundreds of hours of prosecutorial and investigative staff time, and before judgment is reached, will consume hundreds more such hours, the state's attorney's office has had no significant impact on the epidemic narcotics traffic which infects this city.

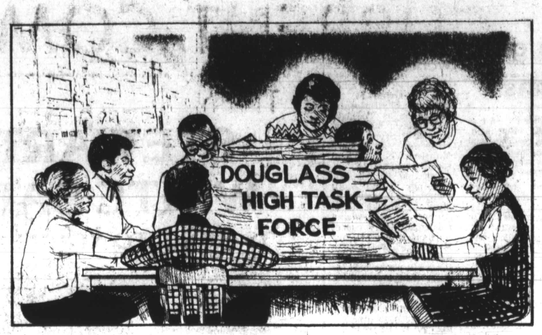
As the case for or against James H. Watkins unfolds, we must insist that Baltimoreans not lose track of this simple and undeniable truth: i.e.:

The state's attorney's office Swisher along with the Baltimore Police Department can show no evidence that their combined efforts in any way have had a significant effect on curbing a runaway narcotics traffic in this city — a problem that continues to cripple and oppress our children by federal agencies.

The only significant narcotics cases successfully prosecuted in this locality during Swisher's tenure have been those conducted by federal agencies.

There is a reason for this as there is a reason why James H. Watkins now stands alone before the bar of justice.

We think the reasons are one and the same.



A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Dupes and diabolical leaders

By Madeline W. Murphy

All the while for ten years that I have known Mayor William Donald Schaefer, he has presented an enigmatic picture.

First as representative on the Community Action Commission as liaison for the City Council, he appeared liberal and concerned about the plight of Baltimore's black and poor. Appeared is intentionally the description because what he did was often prompted by political opportunism.

Often heard in those early meetings when it came to activist programs like Small Business Development Centers, was the guarded warning: "All right. If that's what you want . . . but I can't guarantee I'll convince the council."

And sure enough when the time came for council action, although approval of programs was merely a mutual courtesy between the council and the commission to insure approval later on of the poverty budget, the programs would be resoundingly criticized and compromised or be rife with dissension, negative publicity and downright hostility toward the entire poverty program.

Now it, as Urban Services, has totally surrendered to this man's will and design, merely lip service — emasculated.

Even in the old days, there was this nagging suspicion that here was a man who hid his deception cleverly, speaking publicly in defense, and warning opposition of the consequences in private; who played both ends skillfully against the middle, while presenting the liberal face. Yet he was perceived to be the mainstay of the aspirations of the poor and the black.

Today, as if first impressions are the most lasting, through his meteoric rise from councilman, to President of City Council, to Mayor, twice, of the city of Baltimore, all the while riding the back of black political naivete, black people have yet to divine the danger to them of this Machiavelli.

Or in their struggle for political unity are not willing to risk his ire and vindictiveness by running a strong black candidate against him.

And such vindictiveness! To see the obvious measure of it one need only recall his bristling reaction to criticism in the case of the bumper sticker pasted on his car reading: "Baltimore's Worst — Mayor William D. Schaefer."

His anger was so great that firefighters at the Lombard St. super fire station, who were thought to be the culprits, were transferred. And the humorless mayor, piqued by dissension, by the breach of his divine sanction, saw his role to be royal rather than democratic. As if to say "Off with their heads!" What's that saying about standing the heat of the kitchen?

Yet black leaders have a love affair with "backing a winner," unmindful that Theodore R. McKeldin, an underdog Republican ran seven times before he won.

We too must have the same staying power to run, test, educate and run again until we get it right!

But oh, how we talk and talk to avoid decisions.

Lest we forget, Fred Douglass knew the price of power and control when he warned that power concedes nothing; that it is not gained without struggle.

Our political fortunes as a result of the great political leap in 1970, are now in limbo because we accommodate, compromise unnecessarily, and become willing appointees and dupes to a crafty deceitful enemy, whose prime interest is his own survival, his own absolute power, that has corrupted the operation of a total city.

We must keep track of the Grandes, the paper companies, the Rouse deal, and the reappointment of Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau. (Now the Armistead Hotel and Pollack)

Despite honest opposition and a need to fully investigate this Pomerleau's diabolical grasp of power, an aura of fear crept into the 17-2 Council vote in his favor. For Pomerleau had the gall and brazen arrogance to intimidate by way of recording those who testified against him at the recent hearing before his reappointment was confirmed.

So all love Baltimore, who are naive enough to be hoodwinked by the Inner Harbor, brick and mortar, by prison shell games, by appointments and promotions of the favored, while there are job freezes and lay-offs, beware that without opposition Otto Napoleon in City Hall, the worst is yet to come.

No man should get the kind of hold on city government that Richard Daley has had on Chicago. The same arguments against a three-term commander of police must be made in the case of a perennial mayor, for too much that become acceptable practice, makes citizens slaves; the city a makes citizens slave; the city a colonial territory.

Most notably, as we see the transformation in housing rehabilitation of former all black neighborhoods by the white middle class, the message should be clear that to the white "noose" around our bulky black necks, black is only beautiful to us — and only a few of us, at that!

If we allow our numbers to grow while still tolerating a police state in 79, we alone shall have ourselves to blame for the consequences.

PARREN J. MITCHELL

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

On gun control

For the past two months, my office has been flooded with a great number of postcards and letters from citizens on the issue of gun control. Ninety five percent of this correspondence has been expression of opposition to the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm's recently proposed gun control regulations.

These regulations which require 1) a unique serial number on each firearm; 2) reporting thefts from dealers in firearms and 3) quarterly reports on all transactions by firearm licensees are designed to assist law enforcements agents in tracing weapons used in crimes and in detecting illegal traffic in firearms.

It is apparent that many citizens feel that the bureau's proposed regulations are yet another intrusion by the federal government into their private lives. There are numerous others who continually express their constitutional right to bear arms.

I must take issue with both of these assertions. First, when we speak of interference into private lives, I am in agreement that there are many responsible citizens who will be affected by handgun control regulations.

These are citizens who undoubtedly have the highest regard for human life and its protection. They certainly would not use their firearms to deliberately harm anyone. Sadly enough these citizens cannot and do not provide any relief for the families of those who have been victims of firearm abuses.

These responsible citizens cannot and do not compensate for those irresponsible citizens who, like them, may have the highest regard for human life but may accidentally harm others by misusing firearms. Further, these responsible citizens cannot and do not compensate for those who may illegally purchase firearms and consequently, failing to property register them commit the all too many crimes of passion and greed.

Need I say more?

To address the many citizens' outcries with respect to a constitutional right to bear arms, I will continue to stand by a long series of U.S. Supreme and Appellate Court's decisions that have clearly established that the Second Amendment guarantee of a right to bear arms refers only to the right of the states to maintain an armed militia rather than the right of the individuals to possess firearms.

I agree with a right to privacy for all citizens. Let me further state that I am aware of the many cases in which our law enforcement officials may have provided less adequate protection for our lives and property.

However, the proposed regulation by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms do not seek to prohibit any private rights of citizens.

The regulations encourage citizens participation in helping the bureau to carry out, among other things proper registration programs and reports of thefts or losses of any firearms.

There should be no question as to the value of such regulations as have been proposed by the bureau. Yet, on June 7 when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 12930, the Treasury-Postal Service-General Government Appropriations Bill, Fiscal year 1979, it retained a provision in this bill which would prohibit the use of any appropriated funds by the bureau of carry out its gun control regulations.

Since in my mind, to prohibit the use of funds to implement the enforcement of these regulations is to question the value of human life and how far we as legislators are willing to go in our efforts to protect it I supported the amendment offered by Rep. Robert McClory to strike this prohibition from the bill.

Rep. McClory's amendment was defeated by a vote of 314 to 80. The National Rifle Association powerful lobby has won again. How many people in Baltimore will be shot or killed this week by an unregistered gun?

Since the bill must now be considered by the Senate, I am hopeful that this body will see fit to abolish the prohibition on the use of funds by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to carry out its gun control regulations, which continue to be a part of the House passed version of H.R. 12930.

If we as legislators and citizens are to continue to hold the protection and preservation of human life as a top priority, then we must push for the enactment of such measures to those that have been proposed by the Bureau.

LETTERS

Let's get going

That political pleasantry, the "appreciation banquet" or "testimonial dinner" or whatever the current euphemism for raising money for candidates may be, is almost out of season — praises be!

Attentive AFRO readers will note that this year we have carefully and dutifully recorded as many of these rites of spring as time and news space permitted.

We have mightily striven to be fair in our presentations — our policy being to open our pages to all and any credible political aspirants — old timers and new faces.

We would be less than candid, however, if we did not tell you we're glad the "appreciation" phase of the current political season is winding down.

We have serious business to get on with on your behalf. We must now deal with more than the "good feelings" political-social affairs evoke and report what the myriad or candidates have to offer the electorate.

We have to tell you the issues as the politicians perceive them, and the community perceives them and as we perceive them, though we hope our perceptions and thoughts are most often in harmony with prevailing community views.

Black political aspirations are escalating and resistance to our ambition is taking new and more sophisticated forms.

We have to tell you (and have you tell us) who are our enemies and who are our friends.

We see a great many victories for us to share and giving you the information needed to consolidate our gains and minimize our losses when the order of the day.

We have appreciated all the "appreciations" as much as any one.

Now we are ready to put on the gloves and come out smoking. That, of course, is part of our job!

Another Harbor tiff

Opponents of the proposed Inner Harbor marketplace to be developed by the Rouse Company have cogent arguments for their position; do not tamper with the people's leisure space, do not sully the fresh open spaces around the Harbor; do not introduce crass commercialism into such a sylvan glade.

Proponents of the marketplace are saying it will bring more jobs, create business opportunities for minority entrepreneurs, give downtown year-round excitement.

It seems a classic clash between environmental purists and progressive mercantilists.

It is surely our kind of fight. One we are jumping into with relish as we determine to find which position really best serves our community's needs.

Rev. Hope's questionable phases

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was sent to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on June 19.

Dear AFRO:

Recent comments by many who attended the "NAACP Unity Ball" on June 9, 1978 at the East Wind here in Baltimore indicated much unhappiness with questionable phases of the speech by the Rev. Julius Caesar Hope. His premise that the "black man is the lark man's worst enemy," was not in itself the main problem. The problem emerged from the speaker's approach to, and development of, the subject matter as well as his choice of words and their usage, both of which had street appeal. He did not, therefore, characterize broadly the language tastes of many people of Baltimore and the State of Maryland — black and white.

Negativism all too frequently colored his well - intentioned pronouncements, and accusations were hurled at black people with no exceptions. Rev. Hope had no consideration for the hundreds of persons present that evening who are aware of the black man's plight and are attempting to do something about it by using all the resources available to them. Was that the appropriate time, occasion and audience for such general upbraiding? Many have answered no.

The speaker's vitality and persuasive power of description are to be commended; nevertheless, we suggest that in the future, he utilize his talents more discriminatingly in all speech situations. We think it would be desirable that he refrain from referring publicly to young black men as "cats" — a term which tends to imply irresponsibility. Subject matter, content and modes of development that are acceptable in closed workshops conceivably may be appropriately modified in public address.

We realize that the struggle for economic and political freedom sometimes bogs down to a weary and slow- moving pace, but we must never fail to use every positive means at our disposal. We encourage our people to make faster strides toward full American citizenship. We are making progress, undeniably. Therefore, we should recognize that fact, and say so without apology or hesitation. We must say it in ways that cannot be misunderstood, and by doing so, we shall be able to bring hope and determination to the millions of our people who continue to bend beneath the crushing load of poverty, disappointment and despair. If we apply the slogan, "Every man lift a man," there will be ample opportunity to engage in mutually constructive criticism when need is the kind of humanity that unifies people.

Let it be understood that under no circumstances are these comments intended to infer that free speech should be discouraged, but the proper place and time are most essential. Moreover, in the future, it may be helpful to emphasize to the NAACP staff that speakers who "put down" and degrade deserving black men and black women often succeed in entertaining the masses, but do disservice to conscientious people who support the cause of liberation.

Yours in the struggle,
Sen. Verda F. Welcome
Life Member, NAACP

Dr. Flossie Dedmond
Retired College Administrator
Community Organizer
Life Member, NAACP
Club Woman

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

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN

Proposition 13—Just beginning

By G. James Fleming

The last word has not been spoken, nor the last vote taken, on the Proposition 13 - type referendum, recently started rolling in California. The movement is spreading to other states.

There are many points to consider.

The feelings and tempers against ever - rising property taxes have been evident for a long time, but most tax revolts have been short - lived, or they have inconvenienced only a small jurisdiction. Proposition 13, however' affects an entire state, and a heavily populated one, at that.

People in other states are now attempting to mount campaigns similar to California's.

Some of the realities and the politics of present - day taxation are that Americans have been demanding ever more services from their governments year after year. The only way to pay for trips to the outer planets, for the most sophisticated war machines, for expressways, for zoos and aquaria —and for cradle - to - grave welfare, is through taxes of some kind or other.

Californians and their followers are not against all taxation. They are committed to halting the escalation of real estate taxes, especially residential taxes. They are not exclusively concerned about the taxes the very rich pay. They are speaking mostly for the average home - owner, the family that bought and is paying for a home only through both husband and wife working, and sometimes the children, too.

To those of the tax revolt movement, there seems to be a persistent pattern by all levels of government to make those who try "to lift themselves up" to pay, and pay and pay.

Those who defend higher taxes or, at least, oppose the California movement, argue that Howard Jarvis is the spokesman for those who contend that too much money is being spent to aid the poor (among whom are many thousands of minority people); lady believe too much is being spent on public schools, on public housing, and public welfare, and the like.

(A recent poll in California showed that the majority of those who voted for Proposition 13 felt that too much money is being spent on welfare).

If Proposition 13 sticks, local taxes in California will be reduced by some 57 percent. This threat has already meant the cancellation of all summer schools in the sunshine states hundreds of policemen and firemen will also have to be dropped. Many other civil servants will have to be fired in nearly all other departments, including hospitals and jails.

This anti - tax movement is bound to spread, but this column doubts it will go to such extremes as in California. What it will and should do is to make government and those in high public office to tighten their belts, to become less wasteful (where there is chronic waste), to cut some frills, and to examine priorities. There should also be a search for new sources of public income.

There are also too many leakages and too much favoritism — in under - assessment or under - taxation for some, while over - taxation for others. On the federal level, for instance, how many millionaires and near - millionaires are escaping without paying taxes anywhere related to their income?

If the Proposition 13 movement shakes up those who govern, it will have done a good and needed service. If it chokes key cities and attempts to punish the poor and those whose children are compelled to attend public schools, it will perform a disservice, and it will eventually be repudiated.

As tax - reformers wage battle, they must remember that true reform does not necessarily mean abolition, just as urban renewal does not always call for a bulldozer.

They must face the fact that most Americans, including themselves, have been enjoying ever - higher wages and salaries since World War II, and enjoying many more fringe benfits, at public expense. Those who furnish services to government (all kinds of vendors) also charge more.

In other words, there seems only one direction for taxes to go — UP!!!

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Activities for a Baltimore summer

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

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

By Dr. Leslie King Hammond

Summertime is here and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture has prepared a list of activities and services available to neighborhoods and communities for the summer of 1978. Do not hesitate to take full advantage of these services. All it takes is a simple phone call to make arrangements and find out the current schedules.

The Arts Expansion Program:

Neighborhoods may request performance-exhibitions of talented high school students with training in the visual and performing arts. These students are trained at various colleges and arts institutions throughout the City. Contact Phillip Levine, program coordinator, 396-4521.

Baltimore Neighborhood Arts Circus:

The Neighborhood Arts Circus brings performances and participatory events in dance, theatre, and music to nearly 60 Baltimore neighborhoods.

The circus also provides 60 students from the Arts Expansion Program with training in the performing arts.

Neighborhoods may request performances by park-community centers. Contact Phillip Arnoult, director, theatre project, at 539-3091.

Art Mobile:

The Art Mobile is a traveling art classroom which visits Baltimore city children's neighborhoods during the summer months. It is designed to teach elementary age youngsters rudimentary art skills. Contact Paul Levine, Arts Expansion Program, at 396-4521.

The Cloisters Children's Museum:

A free bus is provided to the museum grounds for use of neighborhood communities throughout Baltimore City.

Arrangements for bus use must be made in advance by contacting Joanna Kann at 823-2550 or The Cloisters. A summer camp is available at The Cloisters by contacting Joanna Kann at 823-2550.

Funds for Art in Neighborhoods-FAM:

Monies are raised by the Mayor's Ball and are given out in grants to neighborhoods for cultural events. All grants are panel-reviewed and approved. Elizabeth Dryden administers this program. Call 396-4575.

Theatre Project:

Year round theatre performances by local and national grups free to the public. To be featured: "Non-Electric Music Series," July 7-August 26, 1978. Call Theatre Project for details, 539-3091.

The Maryland Academy of Sciences:

Educational center for scientific learning and enjoyment. Summer schedule beginning June 27-Labor Day: 12:00-6:00 p.m. with reduced rates from 5:00-9:00 (and each weekend during the Inner Harbor neighborhood festivals).

Admission is $1.50 for adults, 50 cents for children; $3.00 for family of four. Planetarium show, "Star Watch," will be shown continually through the day with ongoing exhibits, films and live demonstrations.

Open free to organized school groups. Provide admission without charge to visitors one day each quarter year. Call 685-2370 for information.

Arena Player:

Theatre incorporated in 1965 to expand cultural expression through acting, speech, choral music and dance.

For details on summer series of productions, call 728-6500. Summer high school workshop for 14-20 year olds. Productions by these students may be requested by neighborhoods.

Walters Art Gallery:

The Walters Art Gallery opened its first major African art show, "Nigeria . . . Art and Everyday Life," Friday, June 16-July 9, 1978. Special events are being planned: African art films, performances by Olufunmilayo and her dance group and a lecture by Robert Thompson, a Yale University specialist in Nigerian art.

Free to the public. Open Monday 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Tuesday-Saturday from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Call 547-9000.

The Department of Education will lead special workshops (of a limited enrollment) for 5th-6th graders and high school students. There is no fee. To register call 547-9000 ext. 43. These will be held in July from the 10-21st, 1978.

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture is a warehouse of information and activity.

This group is located at 21 South Eutaw Place in what was formerly called the Bromo-Seltzer Building and now nicknamed the Baltimore Arts Tower.

The committee is under the directorship of Mrs. Jody Albright. Any questions regarding art and culture in the city should be directed to this office — the phone number is 396-4575 or call City Hall.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

SOME 50,000 persons were present all day Sunday and long after dark at the Inner Harbor Maritime Heritage Show sponsored by Ken Wilson who heads the Marina Yachts, sailboats owned by several hundred, black and white, packed the harbor and a fabulous display of fireworks lasted from 9 to almost 11 p.m. No July 4th nor bicentennial event in history could beat it.

We were guests on a $250,000 yacht owned by some D.C. friends, an ocean-going ship, truly a quarter of a million dollar dream, color TV, den, living room, kitchen and dinette and bedrooms, the whole bit. Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wilson have proved they can handle the Baltimore marina as never before. Where are the folks who said a black man couldn't do it?

MANY yachts were in harbor Tuesday night when the Air Force Band from Bolling Field held a concert. Folks by the hundreds, all races were in beach chairs and on blankets on the grass from 8 to 10 p.m. A beautiful sight of interracial harmony. The band had a black conductor and instrumental soloist.

WATCH IT — A strange new wind blowing over the nation's elections signals a white middle-class backlash that may forecast the winner in Maryland. Whites in the middle bracket are tired and angry about "too much for blacks" and they now compose a dangerous bunch of underdogs ready to slap down any politician who promises black citizens "too much" and working for them."

AFRO's Dawn Magazine astrologer Moby Dick received big press and TV headlines for predicting Palestine Prime Minister Gwen Davis, Yolanda Tucker, Bonnie Butler, Linda Davis, Chancey Crockett, Joe Dawson, W.H. Scott, the contractor; Rev. John Roy, Wendell Sutton, Sagittarius, is still a winner, according to the stars.

JUNE 21 — The Vanguard Justice Society dinner dance 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at MSU's McKeldin Center honors Fire Chief Herman Williams Jr., Police Officer Ralph H. Hudson Jr. and me as AFRO representative, all selected by the group of 250 officers with Earl Nesbitt as president.

JUNE 24— 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Greater Northwood Arts and Crafts Festival at Lake Montebello.

TODAY through June 25 at the Monroe H. Saunders Center for Creative Learning, the estate formerly the Samuel Ready School, some 3,000 delegates are in session from the 50 states, Canada, England and Jamaica, a beautiful sight . . . 5150 Baltimore National Pike

JUNE 27 — Inner Harbor Loft, Paca and Lombard, groundbreaking and luncheon, 11 a.m.

JUNE 27 — Douglass High Alumni meeting, 7 p.m., Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Ave., very important for former and present grads.

NEWEST MEMBER of the famed Julian family is Percy Lavon Julian, son of attorneys Andree McKissick Julian (mother) and Emile Lavon Julian, who arrived May 9 weighing in at eight pounds, one ounce.

Engraved announcements are telling the news of the new heir who bears the name of his great uncle, Dr. Percy L. Julian, the late chemist who before death held the title of "the greatest living scientist."

Others of the great uncles and aunts are Dr. Emerson Julian, the city councilman; Dr. James Julian, the physician; Dr. Mattie Julian Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Julian White, retired teacher and Mrs. Erma D. Julian, all foremost in their own fields. And, I might add, natives of my own Indiana.

THE ALL NIGHT black tie, dinner dance June 22 at the Science Center featured dancing under the stars and a mid-summer's night dream as usual. The International Buffet by Rehms Caterers featured spectacular desserts. Solar demonstrations, scientific exhibits and planetarium shows made it worth $50 a person. Top drawer!

ANOTHER fine affair is the 25th anniversary given by the Redd children for their parents, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel T. Redd. It's June 28 at Martin's West and black tie, if you please. Gifts of silver are already arriving at the Redd home on Loch Raven Blvd. These June things are surely fabulous.

CONTRACTOR Robert Clay's estate in Laurel overflowed Saturday with Doug Sand's guests. He's running for the House of Delegates, 41st District, with wife Barbara heading the campaign team.

Doug is a Methodist lay leader and has three churches.

Campaign headquarters is on Walbrook Junction. Some of the guests were Salina Marriott, Rav Haysbert, Kenny Webster, Ted Venetoulis, Paulette Brocker, Gwen Davis, Yolanda Tucker, Bonnie Butler, Linda Davis, Chancey Crockett, Joe Dawson, W.H. Scott, the contractor; Rev. John Roy, Wendell Sutton, McLaurin El, Claude Hewlett, Devereau and Anita Sterette, Antoinette Porter, Paula McCoy, the Richard Johnsons, Harvey Anderson, Marcia Porter, Gloria Jones and the James Beans.

Doug's 50 cent dinner voter-registration drive each Saturday is going great.

JULY 9 — The staff and staff and management of WEBB will host the 14th wedding anniversary of attorney and Mrs. Richard V. Johnson, 4 to 9 p.m. at Bolton House with a fashion show by Mentor of New York, buffet and all the trimmings.

73th BIRTHDAY party at her son's (Rev. Alfred C.D. Vaughn) church last Sunday was a grand affair for Mrs. Mildred Arnetta Conaway Vaughn.

Her kids, four boys, four girls, 23 grands and five great-grands were hosts along with Mrs. Alfred Vaughn. Members of the church decorated and prepared the buffet. Members and friends gave a money tree. The color TV was from her family.

All children present were, Revs. A.C. D. Vaughn, Dehaven Vaughn, Liberman and Robwood Vaughn; Elizabeth Gaither, Carletta Ivey, Arnetta Hicks and Alfreda Graham.

CONG. Parren J. Mitchell told the world about that flu vaccine, said "don't touch it." Now, they're just admitting it was a hoax and $ millions in suits have been filed for the dead and sick who rushed to get the shots despite P.J.'s warning.

CONG. Mitchell's Monday-Tuesday, June 26-27 Housing Hearings are set for St. Ambrose Church, 4502 Park Heights, 7:30 p.m. and will sound another warning. All citizens should be present.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Bishop and Mrs. Robinson and Acting Area II Deputy Chief Major Edward V. Woods led the Baltimore police delegation which flew Wednesday morn to St. Louis for the June 21-25 National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) convention. There on the scene now are Major Cal Lewis, Major McNeal, Brockington, Lt. Mel Freeman, Lt. Edward Tilghman, Flan Couch and Ms. Catherine Pugh.

Mrs. Juanita Mitchell writes to ALL WE KNOW:

This is to express appreciation of our Lillie Jackson Board of Trustees, Museum Council and members for the excellent news coverage of the opening of the museum on June 4 including the pictures.

We believe the museum serves a useful purpose and will inspire this generation and those yet to come with a story of how corrections of ancient wrongs are possible in a democracy to those who work within the constitution.

Dr. Carl Murphy and the AFRO played a vital part in the reorganization of the Baltimore Branch NAACP in 1935 and the recruitment of Dr. Lillie M. Jackson to head the organization. The AFRO mandate became the battlemap in the war against oppression.

We are grateful for the continuing interest and support of the AFRO in the struggle for freedom.

Tribute to Master Theodore Hayes

(Editor's note: Avrum K. Rifman is an associate judge for the Municipal Court of Baltimore City. He delivered the following remarks at the Bible retirement banquet for Master Hayes.)

Dear AFRO:

The very day I joined Ted, as a junior associate of his in the Juvenile Court, he called upon me in person, at 8:30 a.m., and warmly welcomed me to the court.

He knew from his earlier experiences the many problems of a new appointee in a Court which has developed a special practice and procedure.

From the first day, he gave me day to day assistance, advice and counsel. He helped me immeasurably to make the transition after having come from another specialized judicial post.

Although the Court Administrator had not yet made available to me a secretary and a bailiff, Ted, again, cheerfully made available to me his secretarial and clerical help.

His overwhelming magnanimity enabled me to cope with the many delicate and sensitive family crisis which find their way to the Juvenile Court.

We are fortunate that Ted is deeply endowed with wisdom of the Holy Bible. In the words of Leviticus 19:34, a stranger came into his midst, and he remembered and comforted me.

Ted never forgot! He remembered that he, too, was once a stranger, in a strange land.

In publicly honoring Ted this day, we honor ourselves. From a life time of association with him, his many assembled friends express their love and devotion to him.

He is a man of profound wisdom, yet, withal, he faithfully performed the duties of his sensitive judicial office with the patience of a "Job."

He is one of the finer exemplars of a modest public servant.

As a true gentleman, he never talks down to the witnesses, juveniles, the parents of the juveniles and the court personnel. He has a deep understanding of human frailties. He is a plain, gracious, human being.

And beyond all value and worth, he is a devoted father and husband, a devout Christian, and, preeminently, a very gentle man.

His religious parents must have had a sense of prophecy when they selected Theodore as his baptismal name. The root words of Theodore are: Theos, from the Greek and Latin, meaning, God; and doron, meaning gift. Verily a blessing from the deity.

Ted's life exemplifies the essence of all religion. The living words from Micah bring: "What does the Lord require but . . . to walk humbly with thy God."

Ted has now reached his three score and 10 years. We may now render an honest accounting of Ted's stewardship as a public servant, his official title being, however, Master.

In the sight of God and man we vow that Theodore has acted justly. He loves mercy. And he still walks humbly with his God.

He is a precious human being and a rare public servant. We cherish him. We call him brother.

May the countenance of the Lord shine upon our Brother.

AVRUM K. RIFMAN

MORE LETTERS

Sen. Douglass sets the record straight

Dear AFRO:

This letter is in answer to a letter written to your paper by a Jimmy Hodges. It is clear, as I read the letter, the writer does not have the necessary grasp of the facts.

Delegates Hattie N. Harrison, John W. Douglass, Joseph A. Chester and myself (Senator Robert L. Douglass), along with Senator Joseph Bonvegna and the 45th Legislative District worked very hard to change the direction of the "Continental Can Prison Project."

Somebody ought to take some time to educate Mr. Hodges, because if he is to critize us for being "nervy politicians," then he ought to at least know the facts.

He ought to know that the Continental Can issue that was a part of the 1977 Capital Budget, had nothing whatsoever to do with providing additional space for prisoners at Continental Can (3500 E. Biddle St.).

He ought to know that we (the 45th & 46th District delegations) had no part in putting that money making scheme in the budget. He ought to know too that Senator Bonvegna and I filibustered the bill in the Senate and held it up for several days while we attempted to negotiate a settlement.

He ought to know that we almost won that battle, if it had not been for a bad vote by one of our black Senators. He also ought to know that we (the 45th District- "nervy politicians") spearheaded the court suit, that we, the so-called "powerless politicians," had the Mayor and the Board of Estimates to pay for.

Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges, that things don't just happen in Annapolis, they had to be sponsored by somebody and that other senators and delegates must be lobbied to get them to support an East Baltimore issue.

He seems to want to give the success of HB 2173 to someone else, like the Concerned Citizens. Somebody ought to tell him that nobody from East Baltimore can introduce legislation in the House of Delegates, except Delegates Harrison, Douglass and Chester and the House Delegates from the 46th District.

Somebody ought to let Mr. Hodges know that HB 2173 would not have gotten out of the House Appropriations Committee, if it had not been for Delegates Chester and Douglass (two "nervy East Baltimore politicians").

Somebody ought to tell him that the bill had opposition in the House, but those "nervy politicians" got enough support to get it out of the House.

Somebody ought to tell him what happened in the Senate, when the bill was filibustered by several very powerful senators, who were eventually defeated by the nervy Senators, Bonvegna and Douglass, and all of our other Senate friends. So it appears that even though the "nervy politicians" of East Baltimore are powerless, we were able to lobby enough votes to get HB 2173 through the House and Senate.

Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges that the "nervy politicians" from East Baltimore (Senator Douglass, Delegates Chester, Harrison & Douglass), negotiated with the Governor, the House and Senate leadership to put together the essential ingredients of HB 2173, even before the bill was introduced.

Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges, that the governor has already signed HB 2173, into law and that the mayor of Baltimore City has no responsibility as to the signing of that bill. The mayor might have something "on his desk" that pertains to the "Continental Can-Fort Armistead issue." I assure you it is not HB 2173.

Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges that in an issue fight like Continental Can, everybody had a role to perform, the mayor, the City Council and the City Government had theirs, the Concerned Citizens had theirs, the House and Senate leadership had theirs, the governor and his office had his and we (Senator Douglass and Delegates Chester, Douglass and Harrison — the "nervy politicians") had theirs.

We did our job and we did it well. Our doing our job, did not in any way, detract from others who had important functions to perform and performed them admirably. Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges, that we (the "nervy politicians") have the right to ask for and expect support from our constituents when we do a good job.

The letter we sent was a reminder to our constituents that we were a ("Nervy Moving Force") in succeeding to turn an almost hopeless situation around.

Somebody, I don't know who, ought to tell Mr. Hodges, that "The steam that turns the wheels, doesn't blow the whistle." The "nervy politicians" from East Baltimore turned the wheels, now we are blowing the whistle.

The 45th Legislative District has the best delegation in the State — Senator Robert L. Douglass, Delegates Joseph A. Chester, John W. Douglass and Hattie N. Harrison, the "nervy Douglass team," and they deserve being re-elected.

Somebody ought to tell Mr. Hodges what this political business is all about. When they do and when he knows what's going on, then he should support the "nervy politicians," when they perform in their usually "nervy" efficient manner.

Robert L. Douglass
Senator — 45th Legislative District

Legal interns

Dear AFRO:

During the past school year, I have enjoyed participating in the internship program in conjunction with St. Frances - Charles Hall School offering eleventh and twelfth grade students on-the-job training in our law office.

The program proved to be mutually beneficial. The students were capable and conscientious workers quick to take on responsibilities and in turn, were exposed to first hand information on the practice of law and the judicial process.

This type of program reflects a joint commitment on the part of the educational system and business to assist black youths in the community.

Too many aspiring youths are blocked access to such experiential opportunities and therefore become disillusioned with pursuing various professional careers.

A. DWIGHT PETTIT