We are for Lee

It was not an easy decision for the AFRO in making an endorsement in next Tuesday's Democratic primary election.

This decision was extremely difficult because of our concern for a "New Maryland" and our in-depth analysis of the strengths or weaknesses of the two candidates we think best qualified to be elected Democratic nominee for governor.

The two candidates we consider best qualified are Acting Gov. Blair Lee III and Baltimore County Executive Theodore Venetoulis.

Of the two, the AFRO's choice for election is Blair Lee.

We think, on balance, that Lee, while lacking the imagination, youth and vitality that Venetoulis possesses, does have a berry good track record.

Further, Lee has convinced the black community that he is just as committed as Venetoulis in dealing with us on an equitable basis and in getting Maryland on the right road.

A number of other factors contributed to our endorsement of Lee. Let's deal with them:

First, as the voice of the black community, this newspaper must deal with issues from the perspective of our readers.

We must do no less than protect our hard-won gains. Black Marylanders still have a tenuous grasp on their voting franchise, for although our political power is gaining, time and again we have encountered sinister efforts aimed to blunt our victories, dilute our strength and turn black political power against itself.

One of our main concerns is not only to be ever vigilant but ever pragmatic in advancing the cause of the black community.

Ours must be a politics based on survival in its most basic form. Ours must be a politics based on what is good for the most of us, not a few of us.

Let us take a look at how this translates into practical Moving-Us - Ahead Politics as the primary election is upon us.

Early on, in a dramatic display of unity, the major black political organizations of this state decided to support and work for the election of Blair Lee as the next governor of this state.

Organizations as far apart and historically hostile toward each other as the Eastside Democratic Organization and the westside forces of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell were for once together on the matter of the Democratic primary. They were - and still - are unanimous for the Lee - Hoyer ticket.

In Prince George's County which has a growing black political organizational base, State Senator Tommie Broadwater and his associates likewise opted for the acting governor.

But the "unity miracle" was that the city's major black political organizations came together and, after serious discussion, agreed that the Lee - Hoyer ticket was the best for the black community.

We are not so naive as to suppose that all these party regulars committed themselves to Lee out of a sudden outpouring of altruism. Understandings were reached, trade - offs negotiated. But, beyond this, a common theme ran through this strong black institutional support — to support Lee is to preserve and consolidate black gains in the state and the General Assembly.

Lee, a working legislator in Annapolis for many years, was seen as a governor who would work in harmony with the growing black legislative caucus, a reliable shepherd who would do his best to see that legislation important to black Marylanders would be entered into law.

Lee's choice of Steny Hoyer as his running mate more or less sealed the deal so far as this state's black political leadership was concerned.

Black lawmakers knew Hoyer to be a masterly legislative leader. What he promised, he delivered. What he could not deliver, he was quick to spell out. He also has a clear understanding of urban problems and refreshing, progressive ideas to effectively deal with them.

The decision then of established black political leadership, as well as most black aspirants new to the battles, was that the Lee - Hoyer ticket represented our best collective legislative hope.

Theodore Venetoulis, a brilliant campaigner and innovative political leader, on the other hand has been increasingly viewed by many black, notably younger voters, as the real choice.

Venetoulis, without much traditional organizational support, has taken his cause directly to the people. It is the correct and effective strategy obviously, for the Baltimore County executive has closed the gap.

Beginning as an underdog, Venetoulis has caught up with Lee and surely this is because of his grassroots style with appealing messages: first, that Maryland needs dramatic political change — a cleansing process, as it were, after Marvin Mandel et al; and that employment and environmental impact programs are urgently required.

It is to Venetoulis' credit that he gave this political season its excitement. In taking his fight directly to the people, he has raised issues, has galvanized people, feeling better about the value of their vote.

The two men are a study in contrasts.

Lee, a moderate, has done some spectacular things in a doggedly unspectacular way. He has dared the wrath of Baltimore's Southwest ethnic voter blocs by deferring to the wishes of black East Baltimoreans on the Continental Can prison site issue.

Without being asked, he named a black jurist to the vacant judgeship on the Maryland Court of Appeals. Further, his first choice for this post was no political safebody but the always militant and controversial Joseph Howard. Harry A. Cole, finally named to the seat by Lee, was himself an early young turk in black political and civil rights circles.

Unnoticed and without fanfare, Lee had done his own version of going to the people. Last winter, even before he had formally decided his candidacy, Lee felt he ought to venture into black communities to get a sense of the needs and aspirations of families there.

That Venetoulis did the same thing during this summer on a larger scale and, with much more flair, is again part of the contrast between the two prime candidates.

All of this leaves black Marylanders in a state of slight hesitancy.

We are faced with Lee, the gentleman turned politician, who has mastered the art of accommodation and respects formal political process with all the good and negatives that it entails; and Venetoulis, the youngish, Kennedy - style maverick, who dreams of a bright tomorrow and who had the courage to select a woman as his running mate.

Lee, tried and true; Venetoulis, trendy, untested. These are the options before us.

So closely matched are these two candidates that the editorial board of this newspaper, after initial conferences with these and other candidates, found it necessary at a very late hour this week to once again confer with Lee and Venetoulis . . . to pose certain hard questions aimed to clarify their true positions on the issues at bedrock for black Marylanders.

We respect the candidacy of Theodore Venetoulis. He knows what the state and municipal problems are and he has offered solutions. He is particularly knowledgeable about the urban condition. He has upped the political ante, making it impossible for his opponents and Maryland politicians in general to give us the same tired rhetoric. He has challenged would-be leaders to think.

However, we repeat the AFRO is endorsing in Tuesday's election the Democratic candidacy of Blair Lee for governor of Maryland.

Lee has forthrightly told us he will name black Marylanders to all levels of government, expanding our participation, extending our influence in the affairs of this state across the board.

Blair Lee has vowed he will work with the state's black legislative caucus to get the concerns of their constituents translated into nuts and bolts law, into the state budget pipeline.

Blair Lee has pledged that he will not replicate the Mandel years whereby blacks were promised much and in the main, manipulated or more often ignored.

By the same token, respected black political leaders have unified most monolithically around the Lee - Hoyer ticket. They have told us and they have told you that Lee is the man they can work with most easily on the behalf of black residents of this state.

Finally, our black congressman tells us that he can work with Lee on matters of both senate and federal concerns. Lee reports the same thing.

Further, Lee has more clearly spelled out what he will do for us. Our black political leadership has undergirded Lee's commitment to black Marylanders.

In this case, we know who to hold accountable. We submit that at this point in time black Marylanders above all need to know what they can reasonably expect.

As to just what to expect, Blair Lee has given us more positive evidence than has Ted Venetoulis.

Blair Lee has the unified, support of all established black leadership, representing every part of our own political spectrum.

This unity must be encouraged, strengthened and made enduring if we are to assume our full role in the decision - making process of this state.

The AFRO recommends the candidacy of Blair Lee to our readers. Further, we strongly urge them to go out and vote in full force.

The GOP choice

We urge state Republicans to support the candidacies of J. Glenn Beall and Aris Allen in next Tuesday's primary election.

These two men are sound, extremely able leaders and they have very strong approaches as to how the state of Maryland should be run.

Their candidacies mark a return to the two-party process in this state and they represent a clear alternative for voters.

We expect them to raise the kinds of issues in the general election campaign, after the primaries, which can only help all voters get a clearer sense of what is good for the state of Maryland.

Turn out for Parren

Take nothing for granted.

The fact that Congressman Parren J. Mitchell is heavily favored to win re-election is no reason for any of us to stay away from the polls.

There can be no "oh well, he's got it made" feeling among Seventh Congressional District voters.

No victory is assured until all the votes are counted. So we urge everyone to turn out and give our congressman a massive vote of confidence.

Congressman Mitchell represents not only the Seventh District, but as chairman of the U.S. Congress black caucus is now a political leader of international stature. In a sense he is the most powerful voice for black Americans in elective office.

Let us all jam the polls to show the world that Mitchell is to be a continuing symbol for our growing political awareness and ambition.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Jam the polling places

Keating's main gripe over Pettit's last minute filing and thus infringement upon Keating's "liberal supporters," though not said, was all too obvious.

And some of Swisher's remarks and inadequate defenses could be characterized as low comedy. Thus all of this exposure at prime time really served as entertainment.

No one felt free, however, to enliven the proceedings a bit more with an allusion to the federal grand jury probe stalled by the election, that hangs heavily over the incumbent's head.

Should he win the nomination and be found guilty, will it cause a repeat of Mandel's fall from grace following his triumphal win?

The black community has no other choice but to vote for A. Dwight Pettit for state's attorney, and if that liberal white vote is indeed out there somewhere it will save itself possible embarrassment if it follows the black community's lead.

And should this column sound a bit cynical, it is only because we have yet another week (Monday being when this is written) of Kennedy - style PR on TV that insults our intelligence; promises nothing; and shows no real concern for reform in this state following the Mandel - Agnew - Anderson - Alton corruption, and their callous disregard for the public's need for creditable, honest leadership.

As usual, deals are being made; committees formed to pile another euphemism upon the old walk - around - money - caper. Business will be conducted as usual, you can bet on that, be it billboards, whatever.

For it is indeed a grisly choice at the top of the ticket.

We should not be surprised to see that although the black registered vote and population in Baltimore is creeping beyond majority, no white gubernatorial candidate has taken our aspirations nor demands seriously.

That may be because we don't take our own power seriously; because we ignore primary elections; because we believe, maybe, that our vote doesn't count.

However, unlike the gubernatorial race there are excellent new candidates to choose on the district level.

Among the district new faces are Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Olin P. Moyd, Democrats for the State Legislature, 40th District with Salima Merriott for State Central Committee; and E. Zatella Giles in the 45th, whose battle against a prison in East Baltimore has yet to be won.

Saundra Banks for Court Clerk, Court of Common Pleas, and Elmer Harris, Baltimore City Court.

It is our voting strength that determines how long we can be ignored. Because if we show interest and participate in the Primary, we then can make our aspirations and demands a reality.

And the reality can best be achieved if we vote in large numbers for our black candidates running citywide — sheriff, court clerks, A. Dwight Pettit for State's Attorney, our district legislators, and State Central Committee candidates.

Naturally a good turnout for Rep. Parren J. Mitchell in the 7th is a must.

So study the issues. Get that time off from work. Help the candidates of your choice, especially blacks running citywide.

Use the phone and get at least 10 people you know to call 10 more to go to the polls and vote on Sept. 12, 1978.

The ideal way to show black power is to jam the polling places.

No other exercise of power would be necessary, if we would exercise, overwhelmingly, our voting rights, wisely and well.

By Madeline W. Murphy

As this campaign draws to a close, it could be described as the number one spectator sport (if you look at television) as the legendary Frank Skeffington, hero of "The Last Hurrah" claimed. He said politics was more exciting than football, baseball and all other sports put together.

One episode that came nearer to his description was the first TV debate for state's attorney, A. Dwight Pettit's rapid fire recital of facts and charges was far the best political ploy against the ineptitude of incumbent, William A. Swisher; the waspishness of Anton Keating.

LETTERS

Mitchell's opponent speaks

Dear AFRO:

Your readers hear a lot about Parren Mitchell, and since I'm his only opponent in the Democratic primary on Sept. 12, I thought your readers should know a little about me.

I was an attorney in a neighborhood law practice, representing the poor and working people. I've never been a corporate attorney working for the fat cats.

I believe I know the problems people face today, and I want to help solve them, not just talk about them.

Everybody knows that inflation is our worst enemy today. Nobody benefits from it. The poor, the elderly, anybody on a fixed income, and middle class people too; everybody suffers.

What causes inflation? Many things add to it.

Take energy, for example. Every month we import a large amount of oil, which makes things worse for the value of the dollar in other countries. And that in turn makes inflation worse here at home.

One thing we could do about this is to get an energy plan through Congress. We have not put our energy in an organized way. There's a glut of oil on the West Coast right now, and here in the East they say we have shortages.

We have to get our act together on energy. It's one of the most important priorities we have.

But Mr. Mitchell ignored the energy legislation. He didn't bother to vote. He didn't try to amend it. He just ignored it.

Another thing that makes inflation worse is government spending. Any sensible person knows that if you spend more than you make, you have to borrow — and if you borrow too much, you end up in big trouble.

The government has overspent and overborrowed for many years, and now we've all got trouble.

But Mr. Mitchell wants to go on spending money that none of us have even got. We can't afford more inflation.

Money pumped up by inflation looks like more but it buys less. It's a kind of counterfeiting.

If you or I did it, we'd be in jail, but the government gets away with it. Having that kind of money in your pocket is not a good deal.

It may feel fine for a little while, but when you put your hand in to get it, you find it's all shrunk and worthless.

When I was in the Vietnam war, I learned how costly wars are. We also had a war on poverty, and we lost that one too. And as always in wars, the poor and the working man pay the highest share and get the least benefit.

Well, when you're losing a war, maybe you should change strategy and the people who make it. Mr. Mitchell sounds like he's doing things for the poor and the working people, but every vote he casts in Congress makes inflation worse, and that means what little money people manage to keep after taxes buys less and less.

I want a chance to show that I can represent every single person in the 7th District, and do things that will really help — not just things that sound good, but things that really do the job. Please think about it. We need a change, and time is short.

ED MAKOWSKI

Kenyatta--a towering figure

Dear AFRO:

The death of Kenya's President Jomo Kenyatta comes with great sadness and deserves more than a passing nod from black Americans who are concerned about the fate of mother Africa.

He was a towering figure in Africa's struggle for liberation. As the first and only President of Kenya, it was his vision and leadership which provided for the smooth transition from British ruled colony to self - governing, independent nation state.

It seems only yesterday when those of us in the Civil Rights struggle were bouyed by the stirrings of freedom on the African continent.

The bloody liberation struggle that finally resulted in the end of British rule of black Kenyans in 1963 proved to be a warning to the other colonial powers of the growing price of colonialism.

Jomo Kenyatta believed in the future of Kenya and in the future of Africa. His leadership of the fragmented state resulted in steady growth and stable development and remains as one of the monuments to the new Africa.

I join with others who fervently hope that the role model of Jomo Kenyatta will inspire our present leaders of African nations to redouble their efforts to build a free Africa.

NORMAN V. A. REEVES

AFRO birthday congratulations

Dear AFRO:

I know August has been a very special month for the newspapers and I want to join with your many admirers in offering you my sincere congratulations on your 86th anniversary.

It is a moment of great pride, I am sure. You have served our community so well for so long. The news, commentary and coverage of community, civic and religious activities upon which the AFRO has prided itself have brought a deep sense of cohesiveness and tradition to the black community.

Your entire staff is to be congratulated. You have my best wishes for a long and prosperous future.

ROBERT A. PASCAL
Anne Arundel
County Executive

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.

G. JAMES FLEMING

We are our public schools

By G. James Fleming

If American public schools are not all they should be, the American people are to blame, including the leaders in education and those who appropriate money for the support of education.

This writer was not able to view the recent TV documentary on public education but, whatever is wrong with the public schools, it must be very clear that they do not stand alone. They are part of the whole — part of the entire society.

If most of us believe that it is okay to get "something for nothing" and approve this principle for education, then we must not be surprised if boys and girls who are given "social promotions" and automatic advancement, cannot read and write as they become adults.

If we neglect "the basics," from kindergarten through the grades, again we must not be shocked. If our James and Johnnies cannot tackle the demands of high school and college.

If we allow television to become master of our homes, rather than servants, we should not blame the electronic media for the results.

If many of our teachers work only for money, for shorter hours, and for longer vacations, it should surprise no one if they turn out students who are shortchanged.

If school boards are more interested in party politics or in "balancing the budget" than in seriously supporting a vital school system, we should expect exactly what we are getting in and from our schools.

Yet, we know by now that money alone is not the key to upgrading and improving our schools. As this column has said endless times, the public schools need the inspired interest and concern of all our citizens, beginning with parents and those who have themselves benefited from the country's free public school system.

Nation, state, city, county; parents, teachers, and teachers' unions must join hands in upgrading our public schools — our free public schools.

There are other sides to this matter of public education.

1. America does not stand alone in reference to its public schools. Everywhere in the western world, there is decline in "the basics." The Manchester Guardian, a few years ago, observed that the applicants to British medical schools showed that they knew some science but that they knew little English.

2. The western world, especially the cities, is now much more permissive than the world of our grandparents, with the present - day orientation affecting teachers and students, as well as everyone else.

The very fact that some American soldiers have spoken of organizing a labor union, or affiliating with one, is an indication of the change of the times.

3. Popular democracy is a high privilege, but it can erode authority, where it is indulged in without responsibility. With even 18 - year - olds voting, decision - makers can be easily threatened with "confrontation" and, more important, perhaps, with threats of retaliation from those with the vote — millions of them.

4. Perhaps, we are expecting too much of mass education. The American public schools cannot be elitist. They must offer schooling to all children, the most able through the least able. They must also accept all the pupils and students that the parochial and the private "prep" schools expel, either on educational or disciplinary grounds.

5. A stride towards major improvement should not make us funereal. Every year, the American public schools graduate many thousands of young men and women who, down the years, have helped in building our country into what it is today.

But, we lose too many otherwise good minds every year. To repeat, "Nation, state, city, county; parents, teachers, and teacher's unions must join hands in upgrading our public schools."

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Inner Harbor Marketplace— another perspective

There are two important reasons supporting this project. The first is the need to bring a cash flow of annual revenues into the city by having a major attraction to which all kinds of people will be drawn. The second is a severe need for jobs.

The proposed site represents about three acres of the total 26 acres in the Inner Harbor area. An opposing group, the Citizens for Preservation of the Inner Harbor, who would like to have the area maintained as a public park, have presented to the City Council a petition to the City Council. As a result it will be placed on the November ballot as a referendum for public vote.

In an effort to support the need for a marketplace and to meet the concerns of the petitioners, the mayor has introduced another referendum for the November ballot.

His referendum states that the Inner Harbor will halt its commercial development after the marketplace construction and prevent any further commercial development in that area. Of course, with two referendums on the ballot concerning a single project, the chance of confusing the issues and the public have increased greatly.

At this point with the basic issues set forward, one could argue the merits of this project at great length. But at this time all that would serve to do is draw our attention away from the more critical issue of black involvement in the Inner Harbor project.

Let us suppose that the project is voted YES and proceeds ahead to completion. In terms of planning, by that time it is already too late for potential black businessmen to have any kind of chance to have a place of business in the marketplace.

While all the controversy is raging the planning stages are moving right along so that in the event of a positive vote time will not be lost.

Time is lost though to those persons who take a wait-and-see attitude. Regardless of the possible outcome of this issue steps must be taken now to help insure that the avenues of opportunity will be open for blacks to participate in this city project.

The proposed $14 million dollar marketplace is projected to provide about 500 to 1,000 full to part-time retail jobs and approximately 400 construction jobs.

There are many businessmen in this city who would like to have a stake in the new location. There are even some individuals who would be willing to try something new or those with a little retail or merchandising experience willing and wanting of this opportunity.

In both cases, with the right financial backing and support, there should be substantial black representation among the potential marketplace merchants.

The marketplace concept as developed by the Rouse Company does not provide for a chain store environment. The atmosphere is designed to include various types of small specialty shops. The aim is to find retailers who can provide unique offerings. This means that shops that just sell kites, soaps, teas, fruits, fish or anything else you can imagine have a better chance than your average shoe or dress shop.

In the Boston Marketplace there is a black woman who has a clever shoe cleaning operation which brings in a weekly income of approximately $5,000.

Determination, creativity and great financial backing are obviously critical to this kind of success.

Anyone interested in such a business venture should contact Larry Wolfe, vice president for retail leasing or Judy B. Tuttle, specialty leasing representative at the Rouse Company, Columbia, Md. 21044.

Contact should also be made with Sam Daniels or Ben Mason at the Baltimore Council for Equal Business Opportunity, Inc. (CEBO) located in the Metro Plaza of Mondawmin Mall.

On Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Casino Lounge on Pennsylvania Avenue, Bruce Alexander, vice president for the Rouse Company, will make a presentation on the marketplace to HUB. This group is a newly formed small group of black professionals organized to help develop black businesses in Baltimore. The meeting is open to all interested persons and you are urged to attend.

Above and beyond the immediate duties of the Design Review Committee (which is to specifically review the designs) Rogers, Butler and this writer have made a special commitment to this project.

In a statement presented at a public hearing on the Inner Harbor we declared that: "Our energies will be directed towards encouraging full minority business participation in a significant city project where our minority population factor stands in the majority!!"

This weekend a model plus all the drawings and designs will be available for the public to review. On Friday and Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. the public can go and review the project on the 21st floor of the World Trade Center located in the Inner Harbor at Pratt Street.

This is a very serious project and no decision pro or con should be made until you — the public — have had a chance to review the project firsthand.

The burden of proof in terms of the overall success of this project ultimately rests with the mayor and the Rouse Company and the level of sincerity of their commitment to the people of Baltimore. In order to evaluate their performance the people must be aware of the issue and stand ready to act upon them with intelligence.

'One-man' Colt picket

Dear AFRO:

[illegible] photographer recently [illegible] my "One Man Colt vs. Lydell Mitchell picket sign."

Sam Lacy agreed on his sports page that Lydell got a bad deal, inserting that Irsay looked very racist. Sam stated further that the other media were painting everything very rosy.

In view of the "potential" Del. Frank Conaway, joining me with the protest, the "one man" picket line over the weekend snowballed to at least 24, with hundreds of supporters blowing their horns.

I think that the AFRO-AMERICAN owes it to the black community to voice the viewpoint of the now increasing "Baltimore Colt Black Boycott."

The media that was painting everything roses, one paper and two TV stations viewed the above demonstrations, I contend that the state's largest and highest circulated black paper stand up and be counted.

JOHN T. BAILEY

Wanted: 450 teachers

HOUSTON — Are you a qualified teacher and out of work?

If so, there may be a job waiting for you with the Houston Independent School District right now. Classes in the district opened last week, short of about 450 teachers.

Superintendent Billy Reagan said one of the reasons for the teacher shortage in the Houston district was that more than 200 teachers had resigned since July 1 to take jobs in suburban districts.

He estimated that more than 90 percent of the resignations were from white teachers who had opted to teach in predominantly white districts. He added that a number of teachers had been attracted to suburban districts because the schools are near their homes and do not pose traffic problems.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

ALL Baltimore clergymen are joining the Sunday 5 p.m. Ministerial Alliance political parade starting at Mondawmin and winding through East Baltimore. It ends in a rally at the Masonic Temple on Eutaw Place. The Alliance combination endorsement does not designate anyone for governor.

The Baptist ministers would like to see as winners Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, A. Dwight Pettit, Phillip Smith, Walter G. Finch, Zatella Giles, Troy Brailey, Harold Dobson, the whole Titus Garnett team including Lauretta Carrington and Thelma Tucker.

William Allen, and Elmer Harris are the others plus Sands, Phillips and Sloan; Rev. Moyd, Saundra Banks, the sitting judges, Sol Baylor, Milton B. Allen, Shirley Jones, Joseph Caplan and Edgar Silver.

Fred Price Jr. is a candidate for the House of Delegates from the 25th District, Prince Georges County, Md. The Friday, Sept. 8 rally and dance roundup is at the Bladensburg Fire House, a fun thing.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED holds the Annual Meeting and lunch Oct. 7 at Hunt Valley Inn under the theme, "Women of Faith in Action." Special music is by the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir.

CITY FAIR opening date is Sept. 15 at noon at the big Nations and Neighbors parade starting at Constellation Dock. Tony Randall and Brooks Robinson leading.

PATTERSON PARK High band's 76 Trombones will be followed by representative from 83 neighborhoods and 11 nations of International Village.

Baltimore's efforts to become a more visably fair to all people and especially black citizens is evident in the Inner Harbor development. The Rouse Harbor Place briefing Wednesday stressed "for all people."

City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell obtained then and there from Developer James Rouse a commitment to black citizen participation.

The luncheon in the Sky Room of the World Trade Center introduced the proposed market place as a festival, a human place for an intimate, warmer relationship of citizens.

It will have shops, eating places and delightful areas 12 months a year where even if you don't have a penny to spend you sit, enjoy and just look in the company of folks from all walks on the waterfront.

Michael's statement on his talk at the luncheon with Rouse is: "Based upon the firm commitment from Rouse himself, the plan for the Harbor Place will include the black community of Baltimore city in planning and construction.

"All the Inner Harbor complex and operation of that complex will have black citizens involved. There will be back-owned businesses and the black minority contractors will have a great part.

"It is because of this commitment that I am supporting the unique effort by the private sector to fill the void now existing in the Inner Harbor by bringing people downtown on a year-round basis."

So many of the town's leading businesses, civic and community representatives were present at the luncheon we wondered "who's minding the store."

Over 800 names were on the invitation list, jurists, politicians, state legislators, city councilmen, state and city workers, neighbors and friends.

BUT, I saw none of the clergymen listed. Perhaps this oversight can be corrected since ministers of all faiths touch each and every citizen who must vote to OK the Harbor Place in November.

SEN. CLARENCE BLOUNT towering head and shoulders above most men arrived late but was certainly seen because of his height.

BIG SHOT clan (unofficial) members included Bill Bouchet, Russell R. Jones, Bethelhem Steeel president; Henry Parks of Parks Sausage; Ken Wilson of the AFRO and Afro president John Murphy III and Lou Grasmick, Civic Center boss.

Oh, the list goes on and on and not to forget Archie Jones, the leading Republican. Del. Ike Dixon, councilman Du Burns, Margaret Armstrong, Victorine Adams, Sen. Abrams, Ray Hasbert, Hattie Harrison, Francis X. Knott, Sister Catherine Kelly, Sterling Paige, Allen Quillie, Dr. Steve Mueller and Clayton Tucker.

Also Cong. Parren J. Mitchell, Sen. Clarence Mitchell, Mrs. Theodore R. McKeldin Jr. and Dr. Tyson Tildon.

HIGHLIGHT of school opening is the coming new City College which is 137 years old and now much different from the old all-male school for the selected scholars.

New principal is 31-year old Solomon Pausch, a one-time Peace Corps volunteer. He's a PH.D. While the renovations are going on, Lausch is holding class on the ground floor at Eastern High. The new City College opens with 346 kids in the 9th grade and 106 in the top A-Class and 240 in the next B-Class. some 75 percent are girls. Liberal arts and college are the guiding lights.

The renovation of the old Gothic building at 32nd and the Alameda costs almost $9 million.

REV. ST. GEORGE CROSS, a leading Methodist pastor is running for the 41st District State Central Committee and wants the people to deal a death blow to machine politics. Also against the machine are best bets David Sloan and Frank Conaway.

FASHION SHOWS are in the spotlight now and the one combined with a dinner is set for the S.S.B.D. Social Club, 100 Rutland Ave. at Chase St.

Monday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m. Lawrence Parker will bring in his models and disco is by owner Bob Dockins who spins the best in town.

Tickets at $4.50 advance and $5 at the door benefit the United Negro College Fund. Call 276-9009.

ROOTS are in the Mechanic Theatre program notes which reveal Alex Haley has made it fashionable for everyone to search for his family background, his roots.

People are not the only ones who have roots, the story by Don Knight goes, "Plants do too and so do words."

HOWEVER, the neatest and latest are the sale of real plant roots, from the John the Conqueror flower which grows in old European countries travelled by the Christian Crusaders over 2,000 years ago. The AFRO's Church of the Year St. Martins at North and Madison has them all prettied up in jewels on necklaces an chains as does Grandma's at Park and Mulberry.

ANOTHER TRAGIC DEATH is that of a 28 year old West Baltimore security guard, Lawrence Terry, who was slain Aug. 11 in the rain on Eutaw Place.

Police say someone called him and told him that his brother wanted him to come to Eutaw Place a short distance from North and Linden. When Terry got there, shots rang out.

The heavy night rain kept the police from getting the two big men who witnesses claim trapped Terry and gunned him down.

THE BROOKLYN, N.Y. Citywide Autume Revivial extends from Sept. 10 through Dec. 1 with ministers and evangelists from nearly every church, city and hamlet in the nation arriving for sermons.

The program is so vast and long, it is an evening's reading. The first evangelist speaking Sept. 10 is Baltimore's Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn who appears at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church 425, Howard Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. The pastor is Rev. J.T. Reeder.

Baltimore's Dr. Harold Carter is listed for Concord Baptist Church, Sept. 24. Rev. Gardner C. Taylor is pastor.

BALTIMORE clergymen attending the National Baptist Convention in New Orleans say there may be an upset of the aged and longtime president, Dr. J.H. Jackson of Chicago.

AND, guess who is getting a big push? Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Martin Luther King civil rights era.

This Baptist convention has always been billed as the largest in the world as to membership and boasts over 3 million in the combined congregations around the globe. Dr. J.H. Jackson has been president over a quarter of a century and is said to be a millionaire.

MECHANIC THEATRE opening night Tuesday with The Music Man (Tony Randall) saw many notables in $15 seats, practically the same crowd as at the World Trade Center luncheon Wednesday.

Looking quite fashionable were Henry Parks and his date Alice Pinderhughes, the Brent Snodgrasses of the Bethlehem Steel execs bunch and Ida Peters and husband who were seated among the critics.

VERDA WELCOME'S 4th District 20th anniversary party is at Slim Buter's Glenarchy, 3300 Druid Park Drive, a fabulous place if I've ever seen one: Reach Beatrice Lewis at 945-1014 for tickets this evening (last call) and go.

CANCER birthdays please note that Jupiter enters your second house Sunday and your whole style of living will change dramatically with no end to opportunity and gold.

THE HISTORIC Catholic event, the blessing of the statue of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange at St. Mary's Chapel on Paca Street near the AFRO is Sept. 9, Saturday. this is the first in Catholic history, a statue of a black nun. Soon the photos will go around the world and Sister Lange will become as famous as Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The celebration Saturday is a highlight of the Seton Hill open house, the historic area behind the AFRO where owners have restored the ancient houses into masterpieces.

Hear Dr. William Parker

Region 2 teachers told to 'challenge' students

By Pattie Hodges
Special to the AFRO

Dr. William Parker, director of the Office of Minority Education for the Educational Testing Services, Princeton, N.J., delivered a provocative speech to more than 1,000 Region 2 teachers on their first day back to school.

Assembled in rapt attention for two hours in the Lake Clifton High School Auditorium, teachers listened to Dr. Parker challenge them to teach children skills.

Assume that children can learn. Stop hiding behind barriers called disadvantaged, poverty-stricken, and low expectancy, he said.

Would these barriers exist if teachers were offered $1000 for each student whose reading level was raised? Teachers have to motivate students for learning, but first, teachers have to be motivated themselves, he told the educators.

Dr. Parker, who has earned two Ph.D. degrees and has done research on the behavior of blacks, spoke of the games blacks play such as styling, pimping and tomming to survive in a white majority society.

He also spoke of the differences in the values of customs of those who migrated to America by choice or by force.

He used the example of the avoidance of eye contact as connoting dishonesty, shyness, or guilt in one culture while in another it displayed humility, reverence and respect.

The father of seven children, Dr. Parker spent two years teaching at the University of Ghana, where he also studied African culture and customs.

Mrs. Thelma Cox, Superintendent of Region 2, said that she first heard of Dr. Parker from several principals in her Region who had attended a statewide Title I Summer Institute, and Dr. Percy V. Williams, State Assistant Superintendent for Compensatory Programs, George Lisby, Title I Coordinator, and Peggy Willis of the State Department who were present to greet Dr. Parker.

Also on hand to welcome him to our state and city was Sen. Robert Douglass.

Serving as hosts for the Annual Staff Meeting were Region 2 Specialists Barbara Thornton, Edward [illegible], Russell Lyles, Leonard [illegible], Anderson, Rita Brooks, Carolyn [illegible], Mike Winer, and Administrative Assistant, Dr. Norman E. Smith.

Region 2 Elementary Principals and staffs presented were William Moore of School No. 2, Dorothy Brooks No. 7, Lucille Johnson - No. 8, Carrol Harrison - No. 16, Helen Norfolk - No. 23, Edith Stark p No. 25, Myra Harris - No. 26, Harold Katz - No. 32, Leonard Wheeler - No. 36, Karl Boone - No. 39, Estelle Brown - No. 85, Louise Tildon - No. 86, Francis Roberts - No. 97, William Koutrelakos - No. 101, Warren Sears - No. 102, Florence McDonald - No. 135, Ernest Thayil - No. 139, George Bush - No. 149, Ruth Brown - No. 350.

Secondary Principals are Leon Coleman - No. 57 - Maurice Dorsey - No. 90, John Mohamed No. 40, Elzee Gladden - No. [illegible] Julia Woodland - No. 41[illegible] Solomon Lausch - No. 480, Maurice Wells - No. 298, Ernest Lee No. 453, Maurice Robinson - No. 413, Lois White - No. 457, and Enlo Roundtree No. 740.

This year all 19 of the elementary schools in Region 2 are Title I schools; three schools - No. 23, No. 86 and No. 135 are primary centers, and the GATE program for the gifted and talented is located at School No. 36.

Dunbar and City College are both city-wide schools having an A course.

Special centers are Harbor City with a program for former dropouts, Paquin Junior-Senior High School for pregnant girls, and a program located within the City Jail for inmates working for their GED.

"We expect to have an exciting and productive year," states Mrs. Cox. "Despite shortages and cutbacks we have a job to do and we will do it for we feel that a mind must not be wasted. Dr. Parker has told us that we must take pride in our profession, high a high expectancy level of ourselves and our students, and don't blame students for the failures of teachers and don't blame teachers for the failures of parents."

Vote Sept. 12 Maryland