Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. at Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1909-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

PAGE 4 JANUARY 27, 1979

Neighborly visit

Harry Roe Hughes, our new governor, had barely taken office before stating that full political representation for the District of Columbia did not really thrill him.

Our eyebrows raised, hearing this, because we see the Nation's Capitol as an 80 percent black city and we fully support the District's right to self - determination which means electing its own congressmen and senators.

That Governor Hughes saw it differently gave us pause.

Happily, the black leadership of Washington visited Annapolis this week. The District's new mayor Marion Barry, Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D.C.'s non - voting member of Congress, and other officials, came to our state capitol to rally support for their quest for self - rule.

They made a lot of friends, including, as we understand it, our new governor.

The support of Maryland lawmakers is essential to the District.

Washington can have elected representatives to Congress only if a voting rights law amendment is passed by 38 states.

If Maryland, Washington's closest northern neighbor says okay then what is at best an uphill struggle has a slightly better chance.

Credit for softening up our state legislators must go to the Maryland black legislative caucus.

They have talked up the District's cause where it counts and they have realize the value of the Nation's Capitol being elevated to state status.

We see the importance of unity with Washington, a majority - black city, and hope all of our law - makers see things the same way.

Gordon Kamka

We feel that Gordon Kamka, Governor Hughes' choice to head the state's penal system, ought to be given a chance to do what he can to improve what has been an intolerable situation.

Kamka has drawn fire from those factions who say more prisons are the answer.

The former City Jail warden has been quick to remind citizens that part of the problem of overcrowded prisons and a high crime rate is lack of employment opportunities.

We all know Kamka is saying that a lot of black crime is the direct result of joblessness which leads to hopelessness which turns to desperation.

His detractors do not want to deal with the root causes of overflowing prisons, the majority of whose inmates are black, but focus instead solely on keeping dangerous elements behind closed bars.

We continually point out that the confinement of dangerous criminals is an imperative but that for run - of - the mill offenders imprisonment as our penal institutions are presently maintained proves nothing.

In Maryland as elsewhere, the recidivism rate proves that traditional penal approaches simply do not work all that well.

If Kamka has new ideas let him try them. Things could not be worse than they are presently.

Those who fear his ideas may be too "liberal" about keep their mouths shut for awhile for the approaches they have been advocating have done little to improve a horrible situation.

Nor have his opponents ever dealt with the root cause of so much crime —economic deprivation. Until they can begin to deal with fundamentals we feel they ought to step aside to make way for innovation, or at least people who understand why we have so much crime to begin with.

We say give Kamka a chance.

We must

In a speech in Washington recently, Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), made clear, "Many black people are fiddling while Rome burns."

This warning is significant. He had reference to the waning financial structure of the NAACP. The NAACP's financial plight, indeed, is a sorrowful commentary on black American citizens.

It is hard to understand that an organization which has done so much down through the years to bring black citizens into the mainstream of American life, and is still working overtime to assure black citizens their full constitutional rights, now finds its survival seriously threatened by the lack of financial support.

The big question, of course, is: Who is to blame? The answer is easy because if 21 million black citizens fail to support the one organization that has made it possible for them to attain the status of full-fledged citizens, then we cannot expect other people to do the job for us. It is a plain case of ingratitude, and we should hang our heads in shame if we do not pull the NAACP out of the hole.

As Hooks stated, "The genius of the NAACP is that we have taken the laws written by white folks, for white folks and about white folks and made them apply to all folks." This has not been an easy task because for years the NAACP has been operating on a shoestring budget.

Over the years the organization's resources have been drained by the frequent calls for legal defenses and appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court to get vindication for our constitutional rights. Every step of the long and stony path has been marked by high costs.

This year (May 18) will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the celebrated 1954 landmark Supreme Court school desegregation decision, which was initiated, handled and argued through the courts by the NAACP. This brought an end to the suffering separate but equal legalism that had prevailed for more than a century.

Long before this decision, history will show that the NAACP had fought to outlaw the old lynching laws of the country and battled tirelessly to gain civil rights recognition for all citizens.

The list of the good deeds of the NAACP, before and since, could go on and on, and there is little doubt that this organization has been the major force in eliminating much of the second-class status of black Americans.

It has been the watchdog of black citizen's rights, and since it is clear that we do not have the full benefit of these rights even at this late hour, we cannot afford to allow the lack of financial support to diminish the NAACP's work and value to American society. The job to save the NAACP must be done by black Americans.

Kids on rush

The Rev. Elijah McDaniel Sr. is to be commended for the campaign he has begun to alert the Park Heights community to the evils of drug abuse.

The Park Heights Community Corporation and its special unit, the Park Heights Anti - Crime Project, also deserve praise.

Rev. McDaniels has taken his war on drugs to the streets of his community telling all who will listen that we must not allow our young people to abuse themselves with dangerous substances.

The minister and his associates have zeroed in on a relatively new form of dope: "Rush," technically known as isobutyl nitrite.

It is sold legally and as the Park Heights crime fighters point out is easily accessible to youngsters.

For some it could be the introduction to even more dangerous drugs like heroin.

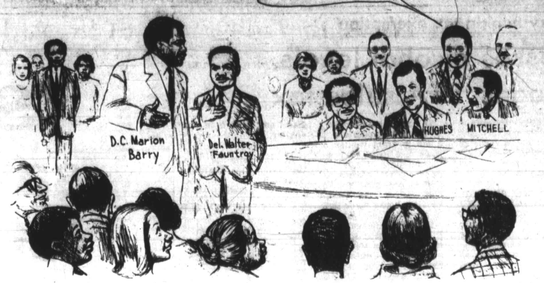
And it is heroin, which has taken its toll of young people in Park Heights as elsewhere in our city, that must be the ultimate target.

Rev. McDaniels is bearing living example of committed Christian witness.

We hope that his group will soon find its numbers swelling with other good citizens and religious leaders who dare take the war on dope out on the streets where it is dealt and must be dealt with.

We say give McDaniels our support.

"Let's help our friends next door"



A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

Work, an extension of self

Mrs. Murphy is a commentator on Impact News on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on WEAA-FM.

I've often thought and said that work is highly over - rated, especially work that is monotonous drudgery.

Yet there are those who extol its virtues, talk about its fulfillment; that idle hands are the devil's workshop. But then there are those who would rather do nothing, no matter how much they admire the work ethic.

For instance, last year when Jimmy Carter returned to Plains, Ga., for Christmas and all the novelty of tourism had slowed to a trickle, a state built tourist parking lot had only five cars, and an old wag remarked, "I'd sure like to work there. All you do is sit at a desk all day and nobody comes!"

Another example comes to mind: when the latest group of lawyers had been sworn in at the Court of Appeals, overheard was a woman talking to a friend — "Look at her standing there just collecting tickets, that ain't a bad job to have."

The other replied, "Yeah, but what about the one who checks cameras, all ya' do is give out stubs and collect 'em and she just sits all day!"

Neither of them knew exactly what other jobs these women performed, since swearing - in ceremonies only happen twice a year, but knowing how the layers of government provide for this kind of sinecure (from the Latin: "without care"), they just may have been right when they coveted those "soft jobs."

Also, it's amusing to hear "desk jockies," particularly in government jobs harangue about people on welfare, when they spend a great deal of their own time gossiping on coffee breaks, and suddenly shuffling papers when the supervisor shows up.

Because this country's biggest welfare recipient for the middle class is the middle level bureaucrat. Yet without him or her, what a gigantic unemployment problem we would have.

For it's very difficult to talk about streamlining government, (as the Messiahs of the monetary menaxe, those Prop 13 people — would prefer) when we see the vicious circle of these levels of work - fare, actually keeping down unemployment figures.

It's also evident, what with civil service guarantees, that it's hard to develop any kind of efficiency. So enter another work - fare constituency, the paid consultants, a lateral group, who feast upon the public purse. Their main job seems to further complicate, confuse and confound any progress about any issue or problem.

Shredding machines, consequently, often chew up new reports that have duplicated old reports, that have been commended, recommended, but never implemented, because the same facts and figures, lies maybe, have to be restudied, mostly to insure self - perpetuation, or new cabinets, or new departments.

Further, rather than help the public, the old endless referral game keeps us hoodwinked into believing that the government actually works for us!

Someone recently suggested, after attending a dinner dance, given by the same people, who invited the same guests, who had the same orchestra, that maybe the following year they ought to tape record the music, xerox the people, play it with the figures in silhouette and no one would ever have to be bored again.

Maybe, government, one day, will be run and re - run, taped and re - taped, in the same way with xerox machines developed to print people, then desks and boredom would vanish forever!

But given President Carter's budget that cuts out even some of those drudgery jobs, while increasing by 10 percent national defense spending, any work for the growing black unemployed, means survival.

What with ground beef costing, as predicted, $2 per pound by the middle of the year; and gasoline prices rising to $1 a gallon; it may seem a bit frivolous to even discuss the attributes of work. Any work for some would be welcome and urgently necessary.

However, this discussion merely tries to disabuse some of the notion that they are somehow superior because they go to work to receive the public dole while others stay at home for a mere pittance, both doing almost the same thing — nothing.

Studs Terkel, author of the book "Working," said recently, "Work is an extension of one's self; and if work has no meaning, then self has no meaning."

With the kind of malaise spreading throughout all classes of people today, perhaps we had better talk about how to make work more meaningful and at the same time go about the unfinished business of finding more creative ways to build this country.

I'm sure there is enough of that kind of work screaming to be done.

—LETTERS—

CCB business department head responds to students

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter in response to the enclosed allegations voiced by a concerned ex-student in your Dec. 2, 1978 issue.

Dear Name Withheld Upon Request:

I will attempt to respond to your allegations concerning the poor quality of instruction in the business department at the Community College of Baltimore for several reasons:

1. I do believe you are a concerned student and you deserve a reply,

2. The Community College of Baltimore and its business faculty should be represented, and

3. The general public has the right to know certain information that was not communicated in your recent correspondence.

As chairman of the Department of Business Administration at the Community College of Baltimore I have an obligation to each and every one of our students. I want to help you.

I might suggest that if you have specific complaints concerning the academic program or specific instructors please visit with me either via telephone or in person.

I can only act on specific information and when I get that information, if legitimate, I promise, I will act.

Now that you are having difficulty at a second institution, let me suggest that the Student Government Association is a most inappropriate organization to air these kinds of complaints.

If you want prompt action, and I would, the academic dean or department chairperson would be the people to see.

Now let us speak more of the Community College of Baltimore.

The institution and the department are most concerned about meeting the needs of our students. In Business Administration we have over 100 full - and part-time professors who are highly credentialized, experienced and dedicated teachers.

We strive to impart the skills and knowledge to make our students competitive in the job market and successful in senior colleges.

By the way, the majority of our graduates attending a senior college attend the University of Baltimore. By your own standards "the best in the state."

Let me respond to the 'tricky way' some students with bad grades get good grades at the end of the semester' allegation.

At the Community College of Baltimore and in the Department of Business Administration, grades are not manipulated to generate a high success rate. Indeed, our standards are strictly enforced.

If a student is deficient in a subject area, for whatever reason, he will not be passed through. That is a departmental guarantee. We don't want to commit long term departmental suicide.

Students attain the grade that they earn, whether that be an "A" or a "F" grade. Sometimes that policy causes problems for some of our students.

That our faculty is concerned about the needs of our students can be demonstrated by the recent implementation of special teaching designs in two of our business mathematics courses, two accounting courses, establishment of a business laboratory and the development of a new "bookkeeping" sequence. We continually strive to meet the needs of our particular students. "No care attitudes" are not representative of our demonstrated efforts.

Complaints from several students, while important, do not make a reliable sample. While we are not perfect, our experience and research indicates that we are doing some things right.

Our Office of Institutional Research surveyed 1977 graduates of which 420 responded to a mail questionnaire.

Some of the major findings are interesting:

1. Respondents were satisfied with the quality of instruction including the facilities, laboratory equipment and faculty advisements,

2. Eight-five percent of the respondents stated that they would recommend the College to friends,

3. Eight-two percent of the graduates stated that they would recommend their programs to friends,

4. Eight out of ten graduates believed that the level of course content was appropriate for them,

5. Nearly two-thirds of the graduates are employed on a full-time basis, and

6. The median salary of all respondents was $11,250.

Specifically, in the area of the Department of Business Administration, graduates were satisfied with the quality of teaching in the curriculum and student-faculty relationship.

Eighty-five percent of all graduates would recommend the business curriculum to a friend and in the accounting curriculum 78 percent of the graduates were employed and the remaining 22 percent of the graduates were enrolled in a four year institution.

The median annual salary for 1977 accounting graduates was $12,500, business administration graduates - $13,750 and marketing-management graduates - $12,500.

However, as I indicated previously, please contact me. We are always striving to make things better.

GERALD L. HAMEL, Chairman,
Business Administration,
Community College of Baltimore

AFRO welcomes 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.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

Black politics USA

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

I despise partisan political parties and partisan politics. There are many times when I am unable to distinguish between the performance of Democratic national politicians and Republican national politicians.

Nevertheless, the party system is here; it affects the lives of black Americans; and we must have some inkling of the present current trends in the two major political parties.

An assessment of those trends is imperative, especially because the Presidential Campaign of 1980 is already underway.

Apparently, the Carter strategy is to woo and win the blue collar, white, lower and middle class constituency, which has traditionally supported the Fords and the Nixons.

His appeals to reduce government spending, balance the budget, and his attacks on waste in government are clearly designed to appeal to that category of voters. In so doing, apparently, President Carter is willing to run the risk of losing some black support, hoping that a flood of the middle America vote will offset the loss of black votes.

I do not think this strategy will succeed. Carter's foreign policy, i.e. S.A.L.T. talks, the Panama Canal, recognition of the Peoples Republic of China, is contrary to what middle America wants.

Middle America hates communism, therefore it is fearful of the Peoples Republic of China. Middle America is still caught up in a "Send in the Marines Attitude," therefore it wants to retain control over the Panama Canal.

Finally, Middle America believes that the Soviets are devils incarnate determined to "bury America" and so they oppose the strategic arms limitation talks.

One term Pres?

If President Carter pursues his present political strategy, he will be a one-term President.

What about Gov. Jerry Brown of California? His shifting economic philosophy, which now stands somewhere to the right of Ronald Reagan, makes him unbelievable.

Whatever other faults the American people have, they have the ability to recognize a political kite, which follows the direction of the current political winds, having no thought, no political philosophy, no political credo to call its own.

Jerry Brown wants the office of the President badly. He will not get it because he is not believable. People may not like Goldwater, but they know where he stands. People may not like Ted Kennedy, but they know where he stands. Of Jerry Brown, the people ask: "Will the real Jerry Brown please stand?"

What about Ted?

Which brings us to Sen. Ted Kennedy. He is undoubtedly the most popular, most dynamic figure in the National Democratic Party. Will he run? Yes, if President Carter's economic policies go the domestic front lead to another severe recession.

Yes, if the administration's austerity budget launches a people's campaign against loss of jobs and wages. Yes, if the administration foreign policy initiatives, i.e. Mid-East peace, talks with the Soviet Union become completely unravelled. There are so many "ifs" but that is the political picture for Kennedy as of now.

There are no surprise democratic Presidential candidates waiting off stage. But, I should be careful . . . Remember Harry Hughes, "a lost ball in tall grass."

The Republican Party, though it preaches about reaching out to blacks and women and other minorities remains dominated by the right wing factions headed by Sen. Goldwater and Ronald Reagan.

One announced Republican candidate for the Presidency, Rep. Phil Crane is to the political right of Goldwater. There apparently is still no room in the Republican Party for moderates like Sen. Mathias and Sen. Charles Percy.

There is still no accommodation between rugged, free enterprise capitalism and necessary federal intervention in the economic system for the Republican Party.

Take it slow

As of today, what are we blacks to do in the face of these currents and cross currents in both major political parties. First, let us not make any early commitments. We have made that mistake too often in the past.

Second, any commitment we make must be based upon performance of the candidates in office. How did he deliver for us when he was a senator? What is his record for us while he was president?

Third, and last, I am as committed to black people, the black movement as anyone else in this country, but, I beg you, at this point in our history do not fall for the line beginning to be pushed by some "super - blacks" that now is the time for a national black political party.

Now "ain't" be time. Such a move would merely lend comfort to our enemies in both political parties who are desperately anxious to neutralize our growing political power.

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN

Last week a mixed week

The nomination of Joseph C. Howard for the U.S. District Court bench and the appointment of Theodore E. Thornton Sr., as state director of personnel, were definite pluses last week in Maryland.

Both Judge Howard and Mr. Thornton will be making history. Judge Howard, now of the Supreme Bench, as the first black U.S. District Court judge in Maryland, and Mr. Thornton the first black to hold a major cabinet post in the state.

If Judge Howard is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, there will be additional history - making, because for the first time, there will be at least one black Marylander serving on every judicial level in the state.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes surprised some skeptics who thought he would fudge on this appointment and not nominate any black at all.

Those who know the senator better, however, felt he "would do the right thing." There is an extra plus because the nominee was, and is, the principal candidate of both the black lay community and the black lawyers.

An out - spoken freedom fighter, and a brilliant lawyer, "Joe" Howard must "pass muster" with President Carter, who must next submit his name to the Senate, if he so chooses, or some other name. Finally, there must be confirmation by the Senate.

The addition of two new District Court judges to Maryland, also brought the nomination of able Judge Shirley B. Jones — thus bringing about the lowering of both racial and sex bare in this branch of government in the state.

—

Those who know Mr. Thornton best, acclaim him A - OK as an administrator, as an innovator, and as "No Uncle Tom." He leaves behind years of solid experience and accomplishment in Richmond, Va., including six years as director of personnel.

By reaching into our sister city, Gov. Hughes kept his pledge to name a black person to his cabinet. It is an extra plus that Mr. Thornton is in a spot which is so important to blacks and other minorities, and a spot which must lead the state into really non - discriminatory employment and up - grading in its civil service.

A woman will also be in the Hughes' cabinet, as promised. Ms. Constance Lieder, white, nominated as secretary of planning, must be considered a plus in more ways than one, since she is not ignorant of blacks, having been a teacher in the urban planning program at Morgan State University since 1974.

One of these days, it is to be hoped, there will be no need for songs of joy on the appointment of a single black or a single woman, in a society which likes to boast of "employment on merit only."

For the country as a whole, the picture is different and there are no pluses for the masses of blacks, according to Vernon E. Jordan, in his annual report as executive director of the National Urban League. This same conclusion has been reached by other trusted investigators.

Mr. Jordan sees 1979 as as most critical and calamitous year for blacks, especially for black youths, where employment is concerned.

Some black economists hold that the minimum wage is "a catastrophe for young and unskilled blacks," shutting them out of the labor market.

Others argue that some energy and environmental rules affect industry in such a way as to work to the detriment of blacks also.

Said in a more general way, those concerned foresee and project black unemployment continuing, with some 50 percent of black youths, willing to work, unable to find work.

The Urban League finds now, as it has found in the past, that the gap between the income of whites and blacks is widening, with blacks still bringing up the rear.

Last week, indeed, was a "mixed week," with pluses on the political side, but still minuses on the economic side.

By Marion Banfield

Shall we deal with prisons at all?

Mrs. Banfield is district director of Family and Children's Society.

In last week's column I wrote that Governor Hughes' selection of Gordon C. Kamka as secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services was a good move.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Mr. Kamka will speak at Benjamin Banneker Communication Center, Room 200, Morgan State University, Hillen Road and East Cold Spring Lane.

I suggest that you phone Morgan and find where the building is located and where to park for the program that begins at 1:30 p.m.

The topic is "Prisons Are the Responsibilities and Liabilities of Everyone." Dr. La Moyne Matthews of Morgan's Continuing Education - Outreach program and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are sponsors.

Gordon Kamka will talk about what people are trying in other - countries and some new approaches for us. Bobby Cheeks and Leroy Durham will present some of our American problems.

Last Saturday an all day seminar was presented on the Criminal Justice system. Remember that I said it would be interesting to see how we support programs pertaining to this system.

Unemployment, judges who give out sentences by race, and a public school system that fails to prepare black students for the American mainstream of survival skills were basic causes listed. Violence as a cultural factor in the media was the focus of the luncheon speaker.

Although prison sties, half - way houses, community residential quarters, crime and punishment are so much a part of our community concerns, very, very few citizens attended this seminar.

The Maryland Conference of Social Concern just did not attract the citizens who have loudly given their emotional response to discussion of issues of the criminal justice system when neighborhood matter needed attention.

Facts and myths were presented to an audience of professionals or advocates who are working with or closely associated with concern about what Baltimore's system of justice does to youth and adults.

Judges weren't there, businessmen whose properties are affected by unlawful acts, folks who don't want to live near those who have broken, laws, educators whom tax payers emply to make our children literate and employable weren't around.

Trained social workers who have had successes with a variety of approaches to dealing with young people and their families were frequently discounted by employees who had their own favorite theories.

Conspicuously and inappropriately absent were black males to articulate their own successes and failures, their own suggestions for dealing with the court system.

—MORE LETTERS—

'Cast off mental chains that hold us'

Dear AFRO:

When we take a serious, in depth look at our social, political and economic status in these United States, we can see that it has changed very little.

And as long as we continue to cling to these names that elude to slavery, it will not change. Names such as Negro, colored, black and Ethiopian are names that elude to inferiority, wickedness or evil of some type.

True, we have carried these names for quite some time. But brothers and sisters, there is no such race of people linked to the human race.

Negro is a name given to a river in West Africa by present - day Brazilians because it contains black water.

Colored means anything that has been painted, stained, varnished or dyed. And according to science, black means death.

Yet we call the Europeans white. White is everything black is not. White means purity, goodness and right. Black is evil, darkness and wrong doings.

We must cast off these mental chains that still hold us to bondage. And live the proud noble life of our illustrious forefathers. As long as we cling to these slave names, we will be treated accordingly.

If you doubt the words I speak, just ask yourself or a neighbor what their nationality is. They may say that they don't even know what the word means.

If dogs could talk and you asked one his nationality, he would say, "Oh, I'm a 'German' shepherd or a 'French' poodle." But ask one of your brothers or sisters and they'll say either black, Negro or colored.

A citizen is a person born or nationalized in a particular country or state with rights guaranteed by law. Or as Thomas Jefferson stated, "certain unalienable rights" which are those that cannot be taken away.

Over the years we have been laboring under the false impression that we had rights, when according to law all we have are granted privileges. The difference being that privileges can be taken away at any time and rights can't. After the defeat of the south in the Civil War and Reconstruction, there were many privileges granted to the newly freed slaves.

Northern politicans were out to rebuild the defeated south. Voting privileges were granted the ex - slaves along with other privileges to control the political machinery in the south, as a means of pacification and as revenge on the rebellious south.

But at the same time such northern states as Connecticut, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and Ohio and Michigan had refused to grant voting privileges to the so - called Negro.

The "great emancipator" Abraham Lincoln said while addressing a group of so - called Negroes, "We have between us a broader difference than exists between any two races. . . It is better for us that we be separated."

Lincoln desired freedom for slaves but beyond that he promised little. He said if the Negro does not accept colonization which was to him the only realistic solution available, then he had no choice but to accept an inferior position in American society.

The few privileges and post - war status of the so - called Negro were promptly taken away with a series of Supreme Court rulings.

The court ruled in the case of the United States vs. Resse that the federal government had no right to interfere in state matters such as these.

The court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional in 1883. The court said the federal government "had no right to protect the civil rights against the actions of individuals or organizations."

In 1896 the court ruled in the Plessy vs. Ferguson case that the races were "separate but equal" which is actually separate and unequal.

I'd say rights without protection are no rights.

Several time I've said "so - called Negroes" and many of my fellow brothers and sisters may wonder why. I mean today we're called Negroes, tomorrow it's black and what's next?

It's said that we have eyes to see but can't see, ears to hear but can't hear. This is because we have taken too many things for granted.

I'm not trying to cause you to become militant or anything but just to think! If we would think we could save ourselves.

Let's link ourselves to a family of nations.

BRO. RODERICK MCGOWAN

Red Cross thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of Red Cross, I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone who responded to our recent appeal for blood donors.

Our critical blood shortage has been overcome, thanks to the superb public - spirited response of the community.

I deeply appreciate the efforts of the local media, including the AFRO-AMERICAN, for emphasizing the daily and constant need for blood.

Even during the holidays and periods of bad weather, patients need over 500 units of blood every day.

We can avoid blood emergencies in the future only by resolving to give blood regularly.

If you have not already done so, I urge you to call Red Cross and make an appointment to be a blood donor.

MARTIN G. KNOTT,
Volunteer Chairman,
Red Cross Blood Services,
Management Committee

Inflation 'culprits'

Dear AFRO:

Merle J. Fitzgerald, (AFRO letter, Jan. 19) by reading the Reader's Digest, you chose the poorest, the most unreliable source of information, to learn, "What Really Causes Inflation?"

You are seeking enlightenment from a magazine that has over the years striven to confuse, mislead, manipulate and divert American citizens from the real reasons for the obscene cost of living.

The Reader's Digest's purpose is to protect the unconscionable culprits of big business who, while crying inflation, laugh all the way to the bank with record - breaking, superprofits, year after year after year.

The record profits of these monopolies (less 5 percent of American manufacturers control 86 percent of the industrial assets and receive over 90 percent of the net profits of industrial firms in the American economy) can only be realized through record prices shackled to the exploited American working man and woman. Such monopoly price increases are one of the major causes of inflation.

Several months ago, a Fortune magazine (a philosophical kin of the RD, but, at times, more candid) predicts that over the next 12 months, widening profit margins will cause a 3 percent rise in industrial prices, bringing the total rise to 10 percent. And much of the remaining 7 percent is due to profiteering.

Another major culprit is the "nonproductive" huge military expenditures. The military budget is soaring as never before in peacetime, ensuring billions of additional profits for the military - industrial complex, so eloquently exposed and condemned by then President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Add to this the cost of maintaining, the propping up of fascist governments across the length and breadth of the globe, who would be overthrown by their own people if it were not for U.S. intervention, you begin to get an idea why the nation is plagued by inflation we cannot seem to control.

The struggle to curb and control the monopolies and military addicts is essential to the struggle against inflation; and the key to curbing these monsters lies in strengthening trade unions and people's organizations, together with developing coalition, independent political activity.

LEON PEACE RIED

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

MORAL EXCELLENCE, this is the theme for the evening when nearly 1,000 persons gather at the banquet sponsored by Masjid Muhammad Mosque No. 6, 514 Wilson St., the beautiful religious group under Imam Alfred Muyammad. The date is Feb. 10, the time for all our citizens to join them at $30 for couples and $20 for singles.

THE AFRO has always praised the Mosque for its service to the community and its citizens who are noted as law abiding homeowners and persons devoted to family, culture, refinement and the better things of life.

The dinner set for 7 p.m. to midnight at the Hilton Hotel, gives opportunity for all Baltimore to share a wonderful evening and at the same time support the cause which makes a better Baltimore.

WE LOOK forward to the event which is a year attraction for all races and guests from all walks of life. Azizah Muhammad is chairwoman and Minister Muhammad, resident Imam.

AND, we expect to join the nearly 1,500 persons who will be present Feb. 26 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel to honor Dr. Alfed C.D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church. A great banquet if there ever was one! We hope to see all our friends there.

New Shiloh

NEW SHILOH Baptist Church's choir, Dr. Nathan Carter director, by the way, was accompanied by the master organist, Victor Myrick, at the Jan. 23 commencement at St. Mary's Seminary. James Quigg, pipe major of the Baltimore Pipe Band, led the processional playing the bagpipe. Eighteen degrees were conferred at the ceremonies in the chapel. Graduates were of all denominations and races.

MANY personalities from our town were present Jan. 24 when 100 representatives of the U.S. Senate and House marked the 15th anniversary of OIC Of American at a Congressional reception in Washington.

REV. LEON SULLIVAN, founder and OIC chairman, conducted the ceremonies. OIC has grown from a small black - oriented training facility in an old Philadelphia jailhouse to a nationwide network of over 200 industrial opportunities centers. OIC prepares the disadvantaged of all races for employment and since 1964 has trained 500,000 individuals.

JAN. 25 (Thursday) was opening day for the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees National Executive Board meeting. Many Baltimore execs are present at the confab which extends through Jan. 27 at the Sheraton Park in D.C. including Johnny White and Local Union Chief Harris.

Artists

BEFORE FEB. 10, catch the work of Noted Artists Clarence Wood and William Travis at the Murphy Fine Arts Center on Morgan Campus, Monday - Friday, 9 to 5. A wonderous display.

NEXT TIME its snows, go to the Zoo, take your camera and snap photos of the white foxes jumping and leaping for joy. They love the flurries. Frolicking in the snow is part of their ancient winter ritual. Forget the thunder. There's a plenty snow acoming.

FEB. 5 at 7:30 p.m. we'll be present at Central Baptist Church, Baltimore and Pulaski, to help the congregation honor Brother T. Earl Fritchette, church organist, who retires after 31 years.

A supper musican and fine guy, Earl is a product of Hampton Institute, Juilliard School of Music, Baltimore Institute of Musical Arts and (listen to this) a grad of the American Academy of Mortuary Science, New York City.

He is to be cited by the AFRO and the congregation for the betterment of community and Christian life and superior service. Dr. M. J. Brackett is pastor.

School salutes

RUTH J. PRATT, Public Schools' administrative assistant for public relations, notes that 1979 marks "The Year of The Child" and renewed dedication to the promise that no child shall miss the opportunity to earn and develop.

TO THIS end we have coming up a weekly section featuring as many schools as possible in photos and story so that the youngsters can get recognition by their own newspaper.

WATCH for it. Save each one for your children so when they look back in years to come they will be able to remember.

RUTH, one of our favorites, quotes an author who says "Nobody knows what a boy is worth and the world must wait and see, for every man in an honored place is a boy that used to be." Of course, this means girls too.

DR. JOHN CREW, superintendent, likes our AFRO plan to show off our schools, teachers and the children and we hope you will too.

JAN. 30 is the date of the Convention Awareness Conference at the Civic Center, a session to prepare for the advent of the new Convention Center due to open this Summer.

FEB. 6 opens the Basic Acting Preparation Course for adults at Center Stage. So you want to become an actor or actress? Here's your chance. Call Joan Doyle, 685 - 3200.

Watch out

FEBRUARY is the month when folks who are kept at home because of snow or wintery weather are likely to dream of becoming rich. It's then when the mails are full of fraudulent schemes. The Post Office says these mail - delivered frauds are put in many mailboxes and come under "every guise the clever human mind can devise."

THE POST OFFICE notes these schemes go out to everybody including senior citizens who want to make money at home and "sell to friends". Retirement estates, business opportunities, medical frauds, work - at - home, all kinds of contest for "millions", are the most common.

The Post Office warns "Don't bite".

FEB. 17 is the Govans Manor Apartments, 5200 York Rd., Valentine Day dance with hors d'oeuvres and music by the Charm City Band all for $3.50 advance, $4 at the door. Proceeds go for the new senior citizens' multipurpose center opening this spring at 5225 York Rd. Call 323 - 3576 for tickets and go, go, go. Have fun!

Fab fashions

LAWRENCE PARKER'S Fashion Extravaganza at the Civic Cener Jan. 28 is at 8 p.m. See you there.

ALSO SUNDAY, is the Chart House Crew's opening of that fine place on our Inner Harbor, Pier No. 4 at Pratt St. Doug Cook is your host for cocktails etc.

GOVANS PARENTS - Infant Center, 5217 York Rd., is open now with focus on child and parent development and lots of special, good things for all families. Call Kathleen Connors, 323 - 1096.

MRS. MAXINE STEPHENSON is the one person folks at Georgie B. Murphy Homes want the world to know about. Here's their letter of praise which came to For All We Know:

Mrs. Maxine Stephenson, a resident of Murphy Homes received a Silver Award in the Baltimore's Best for outstanding service to the city by contributing many hours of valuable services to her community.

Mrs. Stephenson has been a resident of George B. Murphy since 1963.

She has been active in her community by contributing and serving as an example of good neighbor.

She has served as a captain of her hallway, a leader in the beautification program, a former tenant council officer.

She is a member of the Tenant Advisory Group and first vice President of the Ladies Club of Murphy Homes and married to Edgar Stephenson.

Most of all Mrs. Stephenson is a woman of courage and devotion and an honor to her community.

JAN. 27 is the date of the first inaugural ceremony of the Baltimore County Chapter NAACP. The event of 2:30 p.m. at the Towson Library, 320 York Rd., Towson, is to be a newsworthy affair and quite nice. This chapter deserves your support. Our invite comes from Col. James R. Perlinger. Contact him for your membership, all you Baltimore Countians, at 5915 Old Frederick Rd., Baltimore, 21228.

FEBRUARY activities planned by the town's top and most resourceful citizen, Rev. John Roy, include the WEAA Radio Morgan program tonight (Friday) 7:30 p.m. All citizens should listen to hear about the coming City Council race and the black business organization.

50¢ dinners

LATER, he will announce the 50 - cent fish dinners to be held in all churches and the free clothing and warm meals for the needy as well as the register to vote campaign. Rev. Roy will revive the "Survival Revival" and he urges all doctors to support Provident Hospital. He will also announce his coming Black Expo Fair due by the middle of March.

REV. ROY was the main force behind the North Avenue protest initated by Cong. P. J. Mitchell's office after a citizen was slain in a drug store nearby. He's a courageous person and deserves your support.

Money Matters

Conserving your estate

This articles is from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Planning one's estate and preparing one's will are two very personal duties. Every individual's will and estate plan will no doubt be unique, carefully matched to his own situation in life.

Still, the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants points out that there are some general guidelines that can be useful in everyone's estate planning.

The CPAs note, for example, that in some jurisdictions, widows and widowers are occasionally surprised and distressed to learn that money held in joint accounts with the deceased spouse has been temporarily frozen by the courts — sometimes for many months — until the estate is settled.

To prevent possible temporary financial hardship to you and your family, the CPAs suggest keeping some funds available in separate accounts.

That same goal should be kept in mind in planning your estate, the Maryland CPAs advise. In other words, try to provide your estate with some liquidity.

By "liquidity," the CPAs mean that you should make sure that some of your assets are easily convertible to the cash that will be necessary to cover the funeral costs, administration expenses, estate taxes; and so on, that will inevitably add up prior to the settlement of your estate.

Life insurance often proves especially useful for that purpose, the CPAs say. Because the insurance proceeds are not subject to probate, when a beneficiary is named, they are usually available quickly.

Many people confuse their taxable estate with their probate estate, the CPAs observe. Although certain assets — such as life insurance or property held in joint tenancy— are not subject to the lengthy procedure of probate and may therefore pass quickly to one's survivors, all or part of such assets may form part of one's gross estate for estate tax purposes.

For most people, the CPAs add, federal estate taxes aren't as rough as they were only a couple of years ago. For example, this year's $134,000 estate tax exemption, plus the large marital deduction allowable for property passing to a surviving spouse permits a spouse to leave a sizable estate to a husband or wife without incurring federal estate tax. The estate may be subject to a state inheritance tax, though.

As far as wills are concerned, the Maryland CPAs say that family breadwinners often fail to realize that a large part of their estate cannot be disposed of by their wills.

Such things include bank accounts, securities, and real estatg owned jointly with right of survivorship; savings bonds naming a co - owner or beneficiary; and life insurance and IRA or Keogh plans naming beneficiaries. Proceeds of those will go to the person named as co - owner or beneficiary regardless of what is said in a will.

The Maryland CPAs again urge that you keep your will in a safe but accessible place. Do not put it in your safe - deposit box because your heirs or executor may not have quick access to it.

Even in cases where someone other than the deceased has had authorization to open the box the IRS has sometimes prevented it for fear that taxable assets may be removed.

Charge it!

This is from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants

One of the most important things every consumer should know about credit is: interest rates charged by various credit sources vary widely.

For that reason, says the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, it pays well to "shop around" for credit. It might take a little extra time, the CPAs admit, but careful credit shopping can literally save you hundreds of dollars in interest.

Take an automobile purchase as just one example. The dealer who sells you the car, the various banks in your neighborhood, credit unions, a motorists' club and your own life insurance policy may all be sources of credit — and all at different rates of interest. The difference between the highest and the lowest could fill your gas tank dozens of times over the life of the loan.

The CPA Association also suggests that you find out whether you will be penalized if you pay off your debt early, before it is actually due. The imposition of prepayment penalties is not uncommon, the CPAs say, and it might make early payment not worth your while.

One way to finance a large purchase is with a credit agreement with contains a "balloon clause," one which holds down the sizes of monthly payments, but provides for a final payment that is substantially larger than the preceding ones.

While this arrangement can be useful to a consumer, the Maryland CPAs say that a note of caution is necessary: If you are not able to make that big final payment on time, you run the risk of losing merchandise for which you've already paid most of the purchase price.

The CPAs also offer another word of caution. It's not usually a good idea, they say, to add an item onto a credit agreement you have already made to cover a prior purchase.

If you have trouble with payments later on, you run the risk of losing everything bought under the agreement, even though you may already have paid for the original purchase.

As convenient as credit cards are, there are circumstances in which you may be better off not using them, according to the Maryland CPA Association.

When