County teachers being misled, union charges

The budget proposal submitted on Jan. 25, by Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools Robert Y. Dubel misleads the public and teachers regarding any increase in salary for the 1979-80 school year, according to the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO).

A letter written by TABCO President Raymond Davis Jr., questions the superintendent's representation of the facts which could give the public a false impression as to exactly how much of a salary increase teachers will receive next year.

"The facts are that the Board of Education of Baltimore County has adopted a very rigid and strict interpretation of President Carter's voluntary wage and price guidelines," said Davis, "and has actually offered teachers less than is allowed, even one agrees that those guidelines should be applied to teachers."

According to TABCO, the Board of Education's present salary offer is for 4 percent, not the 7 percent used by Dubel. In describing his 7 percent offer, Dubel also included normal incremental increases and a new dental plan which had been negotiated and agreed to last year, but which takes effect on July 1, 1979.

"This new method of the superintendent in describing the salary offer as a 7 percent increase is not only misleading, but totally ignores past practice and financial reality," said Davis. "Increments have never, and should never, be counted in any cost-of-living salary increase. This is particularly unfair to over 2,000 senior teachers who receive no increments at all."

"To say that the Board has offered teachers the 'maximum increase allowed by the federal government' is simply untrue," said Davis. "For example, according to the guidelines, the previously - negotiated dental plan should not be counted in the 7 percent ceiling."

Davis also cited a compromise offer by TABCO which would have been within even a strict interpretation of the guidelines, and which was unacceptable to Dubel.

Statistics show that teachers have not been and never have been a contributory factor in the growth of inflation. Since 1968, teachers have not even kept up with the rise in the cost-of-living, much less contributed to it, Davis said.

"We recognize that the President has developed his guidelines to help curb the unacceptable rise in inflation," said Davis, "but we also feel that to punish teachers who have never contributed to this rise is grossly unfair and totally against the spirit and intent of the President.

"We want to assure the public that, in developing our negotiations package this year, we considered not only the needs of our teachers but also the state of the economy and the ability of the government to fund a fair and equitable increase."

1st Lt. Timothy G. Bosse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent L. Bosse, 127 Lyndale Ave., recently completed an infantry officer advanced course at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

During the course, students were trained in the duties at company and battalion level as oriented toward infantry operations. They also were trained in the responsibilities of battalion, brigade and division staff officers.

Low-income housing $ available in county

Housing assistance payments are currently available in Baltimore County to assist the development of an estimated 100 units of newly constructed family housing, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced this week.

The program is part of Maryland's allocation of Section 8 funds and would be used by a developer to build a complex of townhouses, garden apartments or detached houses.

The maximum amount of payments are $486,000 and interested developers can submit preliminary proposals to construct the 100 units in Baltimore County to the Baltimore area office of HUD at any time during the fiscal year.

So far the office has received one proposal.

The program would help low - income residents of Baltimore County because a family of four with an income of less than $14,000 would be eligible to live in the complex.

Under the contract, HUD will make Housing Assistance Payments to families whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the locality.

In connection with the selection of families, the owner is responsible for leasing at least 30 percent of the units to very low income families (i.e.: families whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the locality).

Spec. 4 Solomon L. Floyd Jr., whose parents live at 324 N. Mount St., recently completed a jungle training course in the Panama Canal Zone.

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Advance FEDERAL
SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CONDITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1978

ASSETS

First Mortgage Loans	$ 20,078,491
Improvement Loans	241,303
Savings Account Loans	709,239
Real Estate Sold on Contract	49,647
Real Estate Owned	37,032
Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank	175,000
Cash on Hand and in Banks	252,353
U.S. Government and Agency Securities	1,513,496
Other Investment Securities	90,232
Fixed Assets (Less Depreciation)	56,513
Other Assets	237,594
TOTAL ASSETS	$23,440,905

LIABILITIES

Savings Accounts	$ 18,322,732
Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank	2,100,000
Other Borrowed Money	750,000
Loans in Process	52,437
Advance Payments by Borrowers	681,319
Other Liabilities	208,303
Reserve for Uncollected Interest	25,221
Federal Insurance Reserve	558,277
Undivided Profits	742,616
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 23,440,905

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10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday

Home Office
1111 W NORTH AVENUE
(At Pennsylvania Ave.)
Baltimore Md 21217
Phone 523-7100
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday

what to do if you can't pay your gas and electric bill

We are concerned that some of our customers with financial problems may not be able to meet the higher winter gas and electric bills. If these bills are allowed to accumulate over the winter, it could create a financial burden that some people will find impossible to handle. Also, it could mean loss of gas and electric service at some later date. We do not want this to happen.

If you can't pay your bill, GET IN TOUCH WITH US.

We'll be happy to discuss your individual situation and try to help find a solution.

Here are some things we can do — with your cooperation

1 Installment Payments

In cases where a customer cannot pay the entire bill, installment payments may be arranged in the form of a special agreement. We will take into account the unpaid balance, ability to pay, past payment history and other special circumstances.

2 Even Monthly Payment Plan

Monthly payments are averaged throughout the year to take care of increased use of gas and electricity during the heating months. All residential customers are eligible and there is no added cost. Once a year your account is balanced so you only pay for what you use.

3 Referral Service

There are a number of social agencies that have government or private funds to help those in need. We will gladly provide the name and addresses of these organizations. In special cases, we will accept the guarantee of a reputable agency in lieu of payment.

4 Third Party Notification

A brand new plan which allows another person to receive a copy of an overdue notice. That person is not responsible for the bill but would be informed when there is a problem. This could help people who are out of town, elderly people, or people with physical problems. A notice will be sent with customers' bills in the near future advising them of the details.

5 Partial Payments

If the customer cannot pay the total bill, we will accept part. Any amount will help to keep bills from piling up.

We are willing to help. But you must do your part. Just call or visit one of our offices listed below:

BALTIMORE
Gas and Electric Building
Lexington and Liberty Streets
685-0123

BEL AIR
21 W. Courtland Street
838-5000

ANNAPOLIS
Parole Plaza Shopping Center
224-3000

WESTMINSTER
75 East Main Street
848-8000

LAUREL
900 Fourth Street
776-7900

BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC

OUR WORLD

- *Optimists meet at Racquet Club*
- *Great cooks of Baltimore*

Test scores show our children lagging

Reading — whose problem?

'I think kids can read ...if they can't there should be somebody to help out...'

SO SAYS ERNEST MILES, fourth grader, age 9, Furman Templeton Elementary School.

READING? - more kids' opinions, page 19

Baltimore public school children are not measuring up to the national averages for reading and mathematics achievement levels.

A reality that last year caused the School Board to set rules that held that no student can be graduated from high school unless he or she passed certain proficiency tests.

Reading ability equals success in Western civilization and the hard truth is that despite the too often less than adequate school facilities in black communities, our kids simply have to read and read well to survive.

Educators, parents, social scientists all have theories as to why too many of our Johnnies cannot read well enough.

In this report the AFRO seeks to begin a necessary dialogue on this critical issue. Read what your friends and neighbors have to say about the reading crisis and then take time to give us your thoughts.

Our Kids should be everybody's business.

Mrs. Ponjola Priest, social worker, Baltimore City public schools, Region Two.

Today's children are exposed to a wide variety of communication techniques as never before — Then why the common lament Johnny can't read?

It is my opinion that school systems are experimenting too much with the reading programs. Every new technique must be tried, every new reading program must be initiated.

There needs to be a return to the basics of reading and phonics point the way.

If reading is to be improved then children must spend time at home and in school practicing what we would have them become proficient in — reading.

Readers should be carried home each night so that practice can be done. Parents need to spend more time listening to Johnny read, and in turn, reading to Johnny.

The schools cannot accomplish its goals working in isolation. There needs to be a greater link between home and school.

Parents should encourage Johnny to get to know and make use of the neighborhood library. Each library should have on reserve the basic readers used by the neighboring schools. This is of particular importance if the school's readers are not permitted to be carried home.

Within the last two years there has been an upswing in the reading levels within the schools. This trend, hopefully, will continue.

Charles "Chuck" Thomas, Regional Specialist, Pupil Services Team, Region One, Baltimore City Public schools.

A main premise is that reading, as most learning, is a sedentary activity, requiring time, concentration and actual physically stopping of other activities.

Our whole society is action oriented at an increasingly accelerated pace. (Examples are mobility, speed in types of transportation and types of entertainment, with a proliferation of movies, T.V. and other audio - visual aids).

Reading cannot compete for a child's attention which has so effectively been captured and senses bombarded by the stimuli from such movies as "Superman," "Star Wars" or "Jaws."

There is little a teacher can do that can compete with these activities. It is asking a child, during the span of a classroom period, to almost become a non - member of a society that has conditioned him to speed since birth.

A concomitant to the above premise is that many of a child's role models, both at home and in the community, are often non - readers. This is particularly significant to the young child beginning to learn to read.

Finally the interest level embodied in the types of material presented in a classroom usually fails to capture the child's interests or "his conditioned interests.

One answer to this problem might be to build a reading program around the interests of the child, (as some schools are already doing), by using comic books, sports magazines and material from movies and TV shows.

'Reading cannot compete for a child's attention...'

Charles "Chuck" Thomas

'School systems are experimenting too much...'

Mrs. Ponjola Priest

Next week: more views as teachers, parents, clergy look at the READING riddle.

AKA supreme basileus quite a lady!

R.S.V.P. with Marie

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has a leader who's determined to move ahead. She has a keen mind, keen insights and what seems like a reservoir of just - waiting - to - be - used- up energy. She has personality too.

Barbara K. Phillips was elected supreme basileus of AKA at its July 1978 convention in Houston, a seat she will hold for four years. She was in Baltimore last weekend for the annual Founders' Day luncheon where she delivered the keynote "Instruments for Today's Gilead."

Sounding much like a born - again Christian (she's a trustee at First Baptist Church, Winston - Salem and chairman of the personnel and fiscal policy committees), Mrs. Phillips used the words of the Biblical prophet Jeremiah as the basis of her address.

She highlighted the "real problems" in this country and challenged her listeners that they must be willing to throw out the life line to cure the evils and remove those obstacles which are preventing us from moving forward.

National programs and their success are that in which Mrs. Phillips is most concerned.

"In 1979 we are involved with the Reading Experience program and are attempting to address ourselves to the reading problems of children in the nation. We are looking beyond just reading, our children must also become more proficient in math and writing skills. We are proposing to enlarge our thrust to incorporate reading, writing, mathematics into a lifelong learning process."

Also, says Basileus Phillips, there is an effort to identify potential leaders within the membership. Some 30 college freshmen, sophomores and juniors from colleges and universities across the country will participate in this program, still in its embryonic stage.

They will be selcted by a jury consisting of three representatives from all nine regions and the general membership. Their selections will be announced in April.

The sorority, says Mrs. Phillips, plans to continue its domestic travel grant program, which provides first - hand exposure to high school juniors and seniors to the black cultural influence in this country. A jury selects 40 of the young women who will participate in a national essay contest to take the summer tour. The program is conducted bi - annually.

In addition, there is a foreign travel tour for sorors only, also conducted every other year.

"We plan to volunteer. My travel engagements are provided for as well as my office expenses."

How does her family feel about all of this?

"We're all doing this together," she answers cheerfully.

Family background has played a vital role in Barbara Phillips' successful life. "I was reared by my grandparents (Mr. and Mrs. Hence Lowe), who believe we could do things — they encouraged and allowed us to do things.

I remember that my granffather could not read, but he could tell us the greatest hobo stories. He was just remarkable. That, I believe, developed a lot of verbal skills."

Her parents are Mrs. Alma Lowe Amos of Winston - Salem and Clarence W. Kinard of Cambria Heights, N.C.

(Continued on Page 19)

Barbara K. Phillips, AKA Supreme Basileus

(Photo by Snowden)
Mr. and Mrs. Orlando N. Jones celebrate golden wedding anniversary

has not spent a weekend at home.

"I spend every weekend attending national and committee meetings. She will deliver many addresses this year. About 60 percent of my day goes to AKA."

With the help of a full - time secretary in Winston - Salem and fully - staffed national office in Chicago, Mrs. Phillips is able to meet her responsibilities to the organization (membership totals 80,000). She receives no pay — "it's strictly volunteer. My travel engagements are provided for as well as my office expenses."

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(Continued on Page 19)

More RSVP — page 17
—Twins for the Dr. Drapers
—50 Golden Years

Partyline

By Michele L. McRae and Pattie Hodges

A few years back, Mrs. Lillian Pierce Benbow, immediate past president, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., wrote a stimulating article for Ebony Magazine. The article was entitled, "Let's Stop the Dance."

The article drew much attention from national and local clubs and organizations, as well as from concerned individuals of this nation.

In this article, Mrs. Benbow challenged clubs and organizations to "stop the dance." She urged them to pool their resources and purchase a banquet facility of their very own. She also stated that our own dance hall would not only save us money but it would provide employment for our black brothers and sisters.

We were reminded of this very significant challenge by Mrs. Benbow a few weeks back.

We were attending the 66th Annual Founders' Day observance of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

A panel of distinguished Baltimoreans was discussing Deltas theme: "Rebuilding the Black Support System Through a Personal Commitment to Public Service."

Led by moderator, Atty. William Murphy, the six panelists which included the Rev. John R. Bryant, Dr. Andrew Billingsley, Dr. Rebecca Carroll, Judge Robert M. Bell and Mrs. Thelma Cox were all giving their views on how blacks could "rebuild the black support system."

The panel discussion was a spin-off of the keynote address by Frankie Muse Freeman, attorney, the first woman and only black ever to serve on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

During the discussion, a member of the sorority, Mrs. Ida Murphy Peters, a daughter of one of Deltas 22 founders, Mrs. Vashti Turley Murphy, asked the panelists: "Is there anything we (black people) can do to take our business back into the inner city and back to our people?"

Well, of course, the audience applauded and many shook their heads in admirable agreement. The obvious answer was, 'Yes we can,' but nobody offered any suggestions as to what and no one said when.

Who will make the first step? When will the first steps be made?

Alone this year of 1979, the many founders' day observances, annual balls, annual luncheons, fashion shows, banquets, teas and the like will be sponsored by clubs and organizations, as well as churches.

Expenditures for these 1979 affairs will well exceed $125,000. What a fantastic purchase of a facility or land upon which to build we could make with that amount alone.

(Continued on Page 16)

AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyez

SHRINERS BALL — Potentate and Mrs. Amos Baxter led the procession of the Medina Temple No. 1 and 2 Shriners last Friday evening, Jan. 26, when they hosted their annual ball at Martin's West.

Tattle Tales

Who is this property manager who reaped a goodly sum about $50,000 from his collecting rent and not turning it over to the lady who owned the property?

And's wait there's more. Is it true, Dear Hearts, that he wanted more and more besides what he pocketed and put in the bank from her houses and renters there on Sugar Hill?

How could it be? Why the shameful old critter, nasty rascal!

Here's what he did

Every night when the elderly, wealthy lady was ready to retire, he swore he'd help her out. But lo and behold he escorted her (by force) to the basement and stuffed her in a casket, slammed down the lid and then screamed and hollered like the Devil was coming down the steps to take her to West Hell.

Similar dirty tricks continued until she died.

This may hit the courts. The Grapevine has become friendly.

One of our favorite sporting types has thumbed his nose at that health and fan spa he frequented. Those suburban men found his charms too much for their ladies and were getting mean and envious. He who runs away lives. Sugars.

We just will not believe this one but one of TT's best friends swear on his Good Book this really happened.

This alleged glamour doll visited that Towson fancy shoe emporium and insisted on trying on some delicious svelte boots the clerk told her might be too tight for her luscious legs.

They huffed and puffed and put her into them but couldn't get them off once on. Child, they practically had to call the emergency rescue squad to unboot her.

The solution was to slice the boots off with a razor blade. $400 big bills down the drain, honeys. Aaaah vanity.