Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Tragedy at Painters Mill

A young man, suspected of car theft, was killed by county police bullets as he was driving off in a stolen automobile following a rock concert at Painters Mill theater in Baltimore County.

His family has urged a full - probe of this tragic incident.

We agree that the matter should be thoroughly investigated.

There is widespread feeling, based on too many past events, that law enforcement personnel often "over react" and get into fatal fire situations too often when black people are apprehended.

Baltimore County's police department, most recently in controversy with the "Green Card" passes for black youth furor earlier this year, must move carefully to release the full facts in the death of Dennis J. Hall at Painters Mill.

To assure objectivity we would strongly hope that both city and county NAACP branches carefully examine this incident.

The family and Hall's companions at Dismas House, a half - way house for offenders, agree that the slain man's death raises "many questions."

No one is disputing Hall's possible involvement in a car theft.

The question is whether county police observed correct "procedures" in trying to apprehend him.

A car, stolen or not, is hardly worth a man's life.

This incident must be pursued until the truth is known and justice is done.

Where's our governor?

We were beginning to think this state had no chief executive until Harry Hughes went public this week with a few well - chosen words about the energy crisis as it affects Maryland.

Other than this, however, Governor Hughes has been still as a mouse.

This quiteude raises some questions for us, possibly for you.

When will the governor begin moving to instill the breath of fresh air in our state body politic he promised during his campaign?

Where is proof positive of his commitment to programs of employment, greater involvement of minorities and women in the affairs of state and innovations in economic development for Maryland?

We seem to recall that Mr. Hughes said he was going to do something about such concerns.

Six months into his term we ought to be able to point to something. Thus far we see little, hear little and resultingly expect little.

We want and we think most thoughtful Marylanders want the Governor to cease his low - profile style and lead us forward with far more spirit and visible direction than has been the case thus far.

Ku Klux Klan on rise

The hate - spewing Ku Klux Klan is on the rise — again. Just as some blacks were sinking into believing that the millennium had arrived, that bygones were bygones, the news wires carry the reminder that the Klan is no longer underground. The latest is Okolona, Miss. But, Mississippi is not alone. Terrorism against blacks has been reported increasingly from different directions.

Lest we forget, when the Klan becomes strong enough politically, it will again begin buying sheriffs, judges and governors with the votes of its members. When this happens, local, county and state governments and those who govern will turn against blacks.

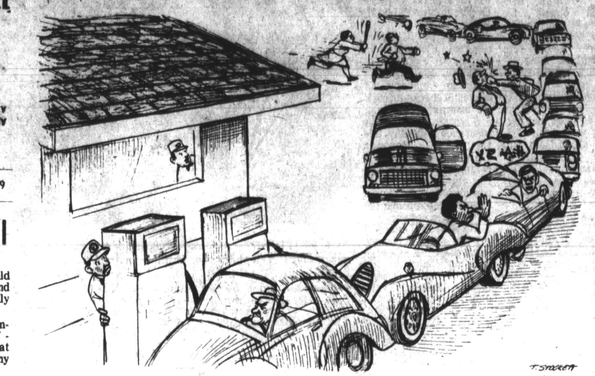
The Klan will not stop at state lines. It will also again influence the election of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

When all these moves take place at the same time, "the system" will be quite different from what it was during the years of John F. Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson and during the days of the Civil Rights laws of the 1960s. For it is not laws passed that counts; it is laws enforced. And who knows better than blacks that American law enforcing agencies know how not to enforce laws when such enforcement will protect blacks? Or when such enforcement will offend the Ku Klux Klan, politically.

Blacks must not wait until the Klan strikes; they must plan, prepare and strengthen themselves. They must not be caught off - guard.

In Maryland, an important first step is being taken on Saturday, June 16, with an all - day meeting of the Maryland Assembly at Morgan State University with Congressman Parren Mitchell as the leading spirit — an ingathering of survival.

These are times that try men's souls



Black renaissance — helping ourselves

By CATHY POPE SMITH

Black leaders — politicians, educators, professionals and intellectuals — must initiate and implement a massive self - help program designed to improve the general welfare of black people in the nation and the city.

Black politicians, unlike their white counterparts, fail to understand the mystique that surrounds their potential for influence or power.

In actuality, blacks have little or no power. This is true of politicians, businessmen, educators — no matter what they are, they have no power.

There is however, an aura about a politician that gives the illusion of power that black elected officials do not utilize. They may not use this illusion of power because they don't know how effective it is or because they, like many blacks, do not feel obligated to help one another.

If politicians used their individual power of office to support other blacks in getting positions, that would go a long way in solidifying black people and trying to demonstrate to the white power structure that black people do work together and maintain a united front.

There is an "old buddy system," or "ole boy network" that white men have engaged in from the beginning that has as its underlying philosophy: "If I'm in a position to help you, I will."

Not only that, these white men often deliberately set out to sponsor a young, up and coming person within, and sometimes outside, the organization.

Blacks either are not aware they should do this, or are not aware it can be done, or are afraid to participate in the old buddy system.

Evey black who has made it to a middle level management position, should be concerned about sponsoring some young person to follow in his footsteps and should, in turn, create an "old black network."

This black network, unlike the "ole boy network" which was formed from a position of power, will depend heavily upon an internal communications system that locates or pinpoints black individuals who are highly skilled and talented.

Black men and women must lean heavily upon each other for support. White liberalism has gone with the wind. Whites are no longer affected by cries admonishing them to conform to the moral laws of justice and equality.

Whites no longer feel obligated to take care of blacks by alloting certain amount of jobs, or equal health treatment or justice in the courts. White paternalism is no longer fashionable. White liberals have given up just as black activists have almost given up the struggle.

And so we must ask ourselves, where do we go from here? Blacks need to have a new birth or black renaissance. It doesn't take much to begin a neo - black renaissance. It simply takes recognition that blacks must help blacks, blacks must unify, identify and work toward common goals.

The neo - black renaissance will rely heavily upon the intellectual black — the professional blacks and the blacks with money. Black intellectuals can develop the theoretical framework while the black professionals contribute their talent and skills. The black businessmen should support these efforts with an available cash flow.

For those black men and women who have money and are above the middle income levels, and because they are about the business of making money there should be a concerted effort on their part to make financial contributions to help support the skills of the black middle class as they apply their knowledge and expertise in improving the lifestyles of the black community.

Unless blacks start this mass self help program, not only will the current generation of blacks be crippled, but many for generations to come will be recipients of a welfare state and exist on a merry - go - round of poverty that will be impossible to halt.

Black intellectuals must serve as the vanguard for this neo - black renaissance. They must be able to lead this black struggle by assuming the leadership position and delineating the basic philosophy and direction of the movement.

Blacks must begin a massive self help program because if they don't help themselves no one else will.

Money Matters

Creating a family budget

Although most families think it would be a good idea to set up a budget to bring some order into their household finances, few actually get around to doing it.

In business, of course, there are few companies that don't have budgets. Their managers regard planning the use of money as one of their essential functions.

Heads of households should take the same point of view, according to the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accounts, especially in these days when inflation is making more and more demands on the household's purse.

What is the major advantage of a budget? It lets you look at your financial situation from an overall viewpoint and it thus provides a clarity that is hard to achieve by merely making day - to - day spending and saving decisions.

For that very reason — to gain the long - term view — your budget should span the entire year ahead; it can then embrace such once - a - year expenses as tax payments or, perhaps, insurance premiums.

Family budgeting is not a complicated matter, the CPAs assure us. To prepare a budget, it's really not necessary to draw up complicated charts or make minute breakdowns.

Instead, using the spending realities of recent past years as guides, set some limits on what you wish to spend in such categories as clothing, entertainment and so. At the end of the month, when you go over cancelled checks and cash or credit card receipts, see if you have stayed within the limits.

Try that procedure for several months, the CPAs recommend. Then, if you find you are exceeding your maximums too often, your budget — or your spending habits — may need restudy and - or revision.

Obviously, then, a family budget need not be drafted at a single sitting. Let it evolve over a period of time. As you note your outlays, discuss whether they truly represent areas where you want your money to go. In a few months you'll develop a budget you can live with, and one that will do you some good.

One way to help make your family budget work is to have bank accounts. Use one for regularly recurring expenses, such as rent or mortgage payments, and the other for the occasional expenses. Tax refunds, bonuses and other out - of - the ordinary income should be deposited in the second account. That way, you'll build a "cushion" that will prevent unexpected expenses from disrupting your financial plan — and turning you against the whole idea of budgeting.

Spending and saving targets will not only bring some stability into your household's financial life. They will also serve as standards against which you can measure your own performance as a money manager.

The Maryland CPAs say that without specific goals, preferably written out, it's almost impossible to know what you've achieved, or by what margin you fell short.

In making your budget, don't overlook the need to reserve or make quickly available enough cash to pay debts, taxes, and funeral expenses in the event of your death. The alternative may be that your executor would have to sell assets quickly, at distress prices.

LETTERS

Suggested ticket for the Fourth

Dear AFRO:

As a resident of the 4th District I am very interested in the well - being of my community. I was pleased to read in the AFRO that the political groups in the district are ready to resolve their past differences. The election of Victorine Adams, Michael Mitchell and Kweisi Mfume' sounds like a powerful combination.

Victoriene Adams, with a long history of hard work, has the political experience and contacts that the district needs by virtue of her many successful years as an elected official.

Michael Mitchell can provide the legal skills and the support and knowledge gained from his family, which has a history of activism and support for black issues.

Kweisi Mfume' will add a new perspective to the leadership of the district. He can bring the commitment and enthusiasm shown by many of our young adults today. In addition, his knowledge of the communications network and educational training in urban affairs can be a benefit to the other representatives and the community.

Working cooperatively, Adams, Mitchell, and Mfume would represent the most talented and effective delegation in Baltimore City.

As a concerned resident, I applaud the initiative taken by Sen. Verda Welcome in trying to place the good of the community above the political differences that may have prevailed in the past. William Adams is also to be applauded for agreeing to sit down and hold discussions with the Senator.

The AFRO is to be commended for its untiring efforts to keep the citizens of Baltimore well informed on critical issues such as this. I hope to read in the near future that the politicians in the 4th District are really "reunited".

For the good of all residents in the Fourth, I would like to see Adams, Mitchell, and Mfume become a reality.

MRS. ESTHER BANKS

Westside Elementary thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the pupils, parents and staff of the great Westside Elementary School, I sincerely extend accolades and thanks to you for the excellent article on Westside that appeared in the June 2, 1979 edition of the Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN. We of the Westside family are truly inundated with elation and pride.

If only you could have witnessed the happiness and appreciation registered on the faces of the children when they saw themselves and their school. They truly exhibited a positive self - concept of "greatness". Thanks to your efforts and work, the concept of greatness has been reenforced and enriched.

It is encouraging and rewarding to have an urban newspaper be concerned with the positive endeavors that are taking place in the many good schools within the Baltimore City Public Schools System.

It is also uplifting to know that people like you and your staff members care about the urban school and the success of its children.

Thus, we at Westside commend you and your staff for projecting the positive aspects of our school and other Baltimore City schools.

In retrospect, accolades and thanks are extended to the "Great AFRO - AMERICAN" from the "Great Westside Family".

JUDSON B. Wood, Principal

VOICE views on downtown parking

In a recent article, VOICE (Voice of Informed Community Expression), stated its views on the parking situation in the District of Columbia.

Basically, Voice pointed out that a municipal parking authority should not and would not supplant or usurp the role of private parking operators. It would, however, assure that public objectives are better met, particularly in areas of greatest need.

VOICE calls upon the mayor and D.C Council to provide the city with the means to assure that a parking program will be planned, developed, and controlled by public officials, acting in the public interest, to help further our economic, employment and environmental goals.

The following is the second article from VOICE entitled "parking in Downtown."

Businessmen and many others generally consider parking to be vital to the economic and physical revitalization of downtown Washington between the White House and the Capitol, east of 15th St., N.W.

Environmentalists have come to regard the provision of parking in downtown as a major impediment to the improvement of air, noise, and other environmental problems and even as an invitation for additional freeways. However, businessmen and environmentalists — the terms are not mutually exclusive — agree that greater public involvement is essential to both sets of objectives.

Downtown is the hub of regional employment. Approximately 100,000 persons now work in the one square mile between the White House and the Capitol north of Pennsylvania Ave.; 162,000 are projected to be working there by 1985.

As a result of each of these three functions — employment center, retail center, cultural - educational - entertainment activities center — there are and will continue to be significant parking needs within downtown, even assuming a fully operational METRO regional rapid rail transit network which is still at least five years from reality.

OIC declares war on unemployment

By Gerry Harewood and Curtis Austin

The OICs (Opportunities Industrialization Centers) of America have declared "war" on unemployment across the nation, especially among the country's youth.

The declaration was made earlier this week at the 15th annual convocation of OICs held in the nation's capital, by the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, founder - chairman of the organization.

He followed up by taking the first "battle" into the White House, where he delivered to President Carter one million petitions for a comprehensive job training program for the hard - to - employ.

"Our goal," Sullivan told the president, "is to find one million jobs for one million unemployed youth."

The president's reply: "Right on."

He then promised his personal support to the OIC "war" and promised to bring the program to the attention of his Cabinet, Sullivan reported.

The Bapist minister, whose organization has provided job training opportunities for 500,000 Americans of all races among the hard - core unemployed, said he warned the president that "the growing clusters of unemployed youths on the nation's street corners" were reminiscent of the days just before the riots of the 60s.

He emphasized to the president that in his view, unless the situation was changed, it would be only another three years at the most before the riotous 60s recurred.

The four - day convocation at the Sheraton - Park hotel brought together some 2,000 delegates from nearly all states and from several parts of Africa.

Rev. Sullivan delivered the keynote address to the convocation on Sunday evening, following services at various city churches, on what was billed as Religious Emphasis Day.

Monday was Community Day, Tuesday, Government Day and Wednesday, Industry Day

On the impressive roster of speakers during the four days of symposia, workshops, luncheons and banquets, were some of the leading civil and human rights activists in the country today.

These included U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young; Vernon Jordan, president of the National Urban League; Dr. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP; the Rev. Jesse Jackson, executive director of Operation PUSH; Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., often referred to as the "51st Senator," Comedian - activist Dick Gregory was also among the opening night speakers.

Emphasis was placed on jobs throughout the conference, theme of which was "Reaching the Unreached Across America and throughout the World."

After visiting the president Tuesday Rev. Sullivan carried his jobs petition to the Capitol and presented them to several congressional leaders gathered on the east steps.

He told them that in essence, the destiny of the youth of America was in their hands . . . to let them have a job, to have some money in their pockets and be able to look anyone in the eye and say "I am somebody, you can't look down on me any more."

Among the guests were Rep. Bill Gray from Sullivan's congressional district in Philadelphia, Pa., and House minority whip John J. Rhodes who noted that "a job is a very precious thing to those who are without it."

Rep. Charles Diggs (D. - Mich.) observed that Sullivan's capability to get the diverse group of people to support OIC and the jobs program, showed their worth.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Last of old 'City'

It was impossible not to be a bit saddened, at the recent 140th and final commencement of City College — the third oldest public high school in the United States. It will not exist after this school year, as it has existed in the past. A new school, coed for the first time, will take its place, with a new number, although expected to carry the same name.

More important, it is to be hoped that the Board of School Commissioners will really apply itself to developing the new school, or some other, to the high - level, university - directed institution that the old "City" was for a century and a quarter.

The City College which had its "last hurrah" a few days ago, was not the historic "City." It had accommodated itself in recent years to broad - based appeal and, by and large, had become "just another high school."

Nevertheless, some of its current all - black graduates could hold their own with any competition.

Kenneth M. Smith, the valedictorian, for instance, graduated with a 95.5 average. Seven graduates had averages over 95 percent and won Peabody Prizes; 26 of the 104 graduates had their names starred for receiving an average of 90 percent or more and found the words, "With Honor," inscribed on their diplomas.

This class was also the first to graduate after passing the new proficiency examinations, without which passage the members could not have received their diplomas.

It would be heartening, and a great boost to our city ("the Best") if the people could be sure that the new school, to replace "City", is going to aim high and if it will dedicate itself to attracting those young men and women — black, white and brown, male and female — who are blessed with superior gifts and who are willing to pay the price of hard work and commitment to learning.

We earnestly hope that the black community will not fight such an emphasis. There are black youngsters, who, now and in the years to come, will tackle, appreciate and relish such a curriculum.

We have expended millions and done much for the Johnnies who cannot, or won't read. It should not be thought amiss to pay some special attention to Johnnie's cousins who can read. Recent changes make it easier to support a prestigious high school since, now, it will be open to all, based alone on merit and promise.

The outgoing City College was fortunate in having accumulated a large number of annual scholarships, some created as far back as 1911. How will these scholarships be allocated, if the school's name is changed? Will they go to the new school or is there another plan?

One sad note at the City commencement was the revelation that none of the scholarships to graduates entering the Johns Hopkins University was awarded — because none of the 1979 graduates will be going to the Hopkins (it is not known whether any graduate applied or whether none had been accepted up to commencement time.

A happier note was the valedictory by Kenneth Smith and which received rousing applause. He reminded his listeners that they themselves were principally responsible for their own freedom: Freedom from overuse of alcohol, freedom from drugs, freedom from children born out of wedlock; and freedom to remember their parents, freedom to continue advancing their education, and freedom to make the most of whatever job they were lucky to find.

The entire class pledged to continue the spirit of City College.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

REV. SINCLAIR FRANKLIN, PASTOR OF Lincoln Methodist Church in D.C., will be returned to Baltimore's Ames Methodist Church after the Methodists meet June 17-20 at UMBC in Catonsville.

He replaces Rev. Lovell Parham who is going to Homestead in East Baltimore.

REV. HAL HENDERSON will be the first black minister at the Northwood Appold Church at Cold Spring and Loch Raven.

There will be no changes at Sharp Street, Metropolitan and John Wesley, we hear.

THAT'S NOT ALL of what's scheduled for the Baltimore Conference's 1,500 delegates who gather on the UMBC campus.

WORD 18 that June 17th's Legislative Session will see some sparkes flying when Rev. St. George Cross moved to uncover a hidden rule that provides that lay pastors, associate pastors, probationary pastors can not vote for delegates to the General Conference.

He claims that rule wipes out about 50 percent of the black ministers and congregations. His cross-amendment will make the Conference vote to take a resolution to the 1980 General Conference to get rid of this constitutional thing.

HE SAY the present arrangement is colored with racial tinits in that, in the olden days black ministers were kept from seminaries and thus could never become full member of the Conference and thus never had voting privilege.

He states, "Church law should be fair" he'll ask for a two-thirds vote at suspend the rule. All may walk out.

I RECALL the 1960 World Conference in Denver, Colo. which we were among over reporters worldwide watching the disgraceful antics by the Methodist who had refused to integrate pulpits up to that time. Black ministers were chained to black churches.

It's somewhat better now but could be a lot more Christian but there are still some hidden patterns of racial bias left. Imagine that.

WE CAN NOT FORGET the 1976 Bicentennial the Methodists had at the Civc Center, 9-10ths all white on the platform and in the audience. Rev. Frank Williams and Rev. St. George Cross were the only ones we sae on the platform.

OF COURSE, there were some black choirs sining but . . . .

NOW WE HEAR REV FOREST STITH may become a Bishop at the 1980 Conference. He is now the first black chairman of the Council of Ministries.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS at the UMBC Conference will come the evening of June 17 and late comers will miss the vote, a thing that some of our pastors are calling "tricky."

BUT BACK TO St. George Cross. He is not only an attorney with all the earned degrees but also in possession of three masters degrees. He was last month one of six black graduates out of a class of 84 at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington for the Master of Divinity.

CROSS is running for the 5th District Council seat against Banks, Robinson and Reeves and as an experienced attorney and politician, has been in the ring since 1966. His radio WEBB sermons are every Saturday and Sunday.

St. George pastors Lewin Methodist.

HIS CUTE LITTLE DAUGHTER, Karin, was graduated in ceremonies at Pimlico Jr. Hi, Wednesday, from her Calloway Elementary School so now she goes on to high school.

HEY — MORE ON THE Methodists - The 1984 World Conference is in Baltimore . . . is headquartered at Lovely Lance Methodist to mark the Christmas Conference there in 1784 - 200 years ago.

MARGURITE CAMPBELL, looking very smart at the "Mike Makes My Day" party for Michael Mitchell at the Belvedere Sunday nite, says she's leaving Mayor Schaefer FLAT soon. Quitting him!

HER BIG PARTY is set for Saturday, June 23 at Martin's Champagne Room, 2701 W. Patapsco, 9 to 1 a.m. at $15 with delicious bouffet, An Evening With Margurite and DON'T YOU MISS IT.

JUNE 17, 5:30 p.m. 7 p.m. is the cocktailer at Ramada Inn Belmont for Congressman Stokes who will here for Cong. Mitchell's Black Peoples's Assembly at Morgan.

Dr. SAMUEL L. BANKS, coordinator of Social Studies for the Baltimore schools, has been invited by the Education Commission of the States of participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Citizenship-Social Studies Review Conference in Denver, Colo. June 27, 28 and 29.

Dr. Banks will be with five other nationally prominent social studies curriculum experts to review test items being developed for national use in citizenship and social studies.

The national test reviewed by Dr. Banks and the panel will be administered to school - age citizens who are 9, 13 and 17 years of age in 1980-81.

FABULOUS is the word to describe two banquets held Thursday.

The Baltimore Alumni of Virginia Union University with Harlow Fullwood president entertained President Dr. Allix B. and Mrs. Jones and the students and parents of Baltimore high school grads who are entering VUU in September at the glittering LaFontaine Crystal Ballroom.

SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN was the retirement party for Kathryn Thomas Friday, principal of Henson Elementary, at the Regency Terrace. The Frisby, Russell and Thomas clans were there inluding the familys' famed attorneys and educator.

SATURDAY'S TOP wedding is the exchange of nuptial vows in a fairy-like lawn and bower setting is Ellicott City between Gwen Neal and her chosen bridegroom Jacy Jefferson Bell. That's realllllly top drawer simply beautiful 'twill be. You oughta see the invitations.

JULY 14 Republican Convention in Detriot will see GOP hopefuls eyeing Jimmy Carter's presidential chair but it is predicted that Dole, Reagan, Baker, Crane, Weicker, Bush, Connally and Kemp will in the White House elected by ALL emos and GOPers. Betcha!

ROSE KENNEDY, the senator's mother who is approaching 90, fears herson will be assassinated as U.S. president but she secretly would like to see all America vote him in as the most popular man in history.

NEWSPAPER people say the only other person who could poll every vote is Mohammad Ali (Cassius Clay) who still holds the title of the world's most popular man. If you ask kids in Icleand to identify him, they'll call his name without a thought.

REMEMBER when Ali on a visit at the White House said he could get the chair if he wanted to and Jimmy Carter agreed?

THE FIRST in history, the Black Peoples Assembly headed by Congressman Parren J. Mitchell starts Saturday morn at Morgan.

WE HAVE NO Grand Desing for our people anywhatsoever. Japs, Chinese, Koreans and others have had theirs and for example, the Koreans planned to invade black neighborhooods long ago and they have, all over America.

NOW PARREN plans our first in history 5-year plan of unity and goals. If you do not attend we will be forever scattered, going blidnly about, the victims of everyone else.

REGISTER TODAY so that we may have our own Black Peoples Grand Design for direction in the next five years.

GETTING READY for July 4th are members of Clifton Harris' Alliance Local 202 with the plans for the July 7 picnic at Gun Powder State Park.

A logical course

The National Black Veterans Organization proudly applauds the courageous, compassionate and responsible position President Carter has taken regarding Zimbabwe-Rhodesia sanctions.

While it obviously was a most difficult decision, we are convinced Mr. Carter has taken the most logical and realistic course. The Congress can do no less.

The present Zimbabwe-Rhodesia government lacks the necessary support of the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia people and of the blacks throughout all of Africa. As President Carter said, "The black citizens, who constitute 96 percent of the population of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, never had a chance to consider nor to vote for or against the constitution under which the elections were held. This point cannot be emphasized too strongly."

There has been some encouraging progress, but clearly just not enough. The opposition political parties were banned from the election. They were unable to fully participate in the political process. Therefore, the Congress cannot in good conscience fall back upon the Case-Javits Amendment as right and proper justification for demanding immediate lifting of sanctions.

They can, however, support a phased-removal plan proposed by the President. The Congressest and the American people's interest would be fully protected by the presence of the on-site inspection of the American representative monitoring the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia progress towards full majority rule. The findings of this representative's observation will be made known to the Congress monthly. The course President Carter has wisely laid out, and is following is being accomplished in coordination with the "British government."

Britain has already undertaken similar steps in this march toward an orderly phased lifting of sanctions as the internal conditions justify. There can be no question that the President's position best serves the American interest as well as the interest of our allies. Mr. Carter's approach is a sound one and should serve America's diplomatic ties with the friendly Africa, while at the same time reducing the possibility of any outside power taking advantage of the local situation.

The reality of the current situation demands the President be upheld in his humane quest for an equitable, stable and peaceful solution.

RICHARD N. HAMILTON
President
NBVO

Parker B. Douglass' memories of Baltimore

100 YEARS YOUNG — During one of his several birthday celebrations, Parker B. Douglass who turned 100 in May, holds cake given during a School Board meeting where he was honored. Joining him are his niece, Mrs. Evelyn Douglass and Rudolph DePaola, principal of Robert Poole Junior High where Mr. Douglass is a volunteer.

DOUGLASS HOME — Parker B. Douglass has lived in this house in the 4600 block of Falls Road for almost 50 years. Until 1968, the ground floor of his house which he built was used as a grocery store. The church on the left, Falls Road A.M.E. is the same age as Mr. Douglass . . . 100 years old.

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Parker B. Douglass Jr. remembers a lot more about Baltimore and its history than most people. He's been around for 100 years to see the small Eastern city grow into a large bustling metropolitan area.

This history he has shared with several students at the Robert Poole Junior High School who have been able to write poems and paint pictures of how Baltimore used to be, after listening to Douglass.

A short, medium built, huggable kind of old man, Mr. Douglass was first brought to the attention of Mrs. Margaret Doyle, English department head who was doing a study of the Hampden and Falls Road areas.

While talking with the Rev. Joseph Cashen, pastor of Falls Road A.M.E. Church, Mrs. Doyle learned of Mr. Douglass who lives just next door to the church which is also 100 years old.

Meetings with Douglass, who hardly looks as though he's amassed so many years, eventually led to his participation in an oral history project at Robert Poole where he has worked as a volunteer for the past two years.

Born a century ago in Baltimore, Douglass was one of seven children born to former slaves from Virginia.

Although he has vivid memories of the city and the events that took place during his time, he regretfully remembers very little about his mother who died when he was only two years old.

Whenever conversing he always mentions a poem he made about his mother that seems to be his only tie with the person he feels has watched over him and is partly responsible for his longevity.

The poem goes, "Whenever I think of her so dear, I feel her angel spirit near.

"A voice whispering on the air, reminding me of a mother's prayer."

Having little knowledge of parents was an experience also shared by Mr. Douglass' father who only saw his father once when the man walked 50 miles to see his son, who was only 12 years old.

Growing up in South Baltimore, Mr. Douglass remembers that his father "always worked around horses and I used to be right in the stables with him.

"He lived, worked and played in South Baltimore right where that Hanover Street bridge is now. You know it used to be a small wooden bridge then that went over from Light Street."

Using his hands that show very little age and hardly any wrinkles, he motions to describe the South Baltimore area this way.

"All that land around there where you see the tall buildings, where South Baltimore Hospital is, well, all that used to be open space where I used to mind cows for 25 cents a week."

To that he gives a laugh that shows remembrances of times he holds very dear.

Then a solemn look takes over and he says, "Yes, those were the poor days, people were really poor. They didn't have much money and they didn't make much money."

He then shifts his thought to the means of transportation he used at the time. "All we had were horses and carts. There weren't any automobiles in those days."

In his lifetime, Douglass has seen the car come into use after its invention in 1894, the lightbulb which was invented the same year he was born and radio and television which became popular in households during the 1920s, '30s and '50s.

Just before the end of the nineteenth century, the streetcars were horse - drawn carts.

Douglass points out, "Back then there was a B line, a blue line and a red line.

"The blue line which was for the white folks went up on Madison Avenue and the red line went on Baltimore Street."

As a young boy, Douglass like his father, worked around horses, as he puts it, "when I should have been in school."

Next week Douglass talks of the Falls Road community where he lived before and after his marriage in the same year as the Baltimore Fire.