Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Carter's troubles

President Jimmy Carter came back to Washington triumphantly, in an international sense, from his visits to Japan and Korea, but the president is still getting low ratings in the polls and in the chit-chat reports from around the country.

Thousands of American voters, who were enchanted by his political promises three years ago, currently are distressed and disappointed by the failure of the White House to solve the simple problems that are chaos in the domestic front. Black voters, who admittedly were the major factor in the president's election, comprise a large percentage of those disappointed voters.

The clock is running out on the president. The trouble stems from the fact that the president is getting bad advice and, seemingly, is unwilling, or unable to do anything or take any steps to get rid of those who provide that advice, notwithstanding the fact that his child-like adherence to the advice has frequently put his programs in a state of debacle.

A clear example of what is happening to the president's program is the decision, made in Korea, to admit thousands of refugees to the country. America, historically, is a country of refugees, but at some point the invision has to end, and this is especially true, when the administration's policies and procedures have been unable to solve the present domestic difficulties.

With the unemployment situation having reached the crisis porportion, especially in how it relates to black youth, it is ridiculous to overload the work market with thousands of new refugees who will be candidates for the same jobs. In the long run, this could create a disastrous situation for America.

It is no exaggeration to view this intrusion of a new minority into the job market as a new humiliation to the hoped-for progress of blacks who must compete with these refugees in the quest for employment. Instead of overcrowding the job market at this crucial period in America history, it would seem that the White House and the agencies involved in helping to solve the unemployment problems would be taking steps in an entirely different direction.

The fact that nobody in the president's cabinet, or in his advisory corps, seems to take the domestic problems seriously serves only to further alienate those who believed the pre-election rhetoric of the president from his present actions. Frankly, many of them think the president has abandoned most of the principles, programs and ideas that attracted blacks and other minorities to him and gave him the votes that put him in the White House.

That is why black leaders such as Vernon Jordon and Benjamin Hooks have been expressing doubts about the Carter administration's policies. They are not alone, and much has to be done before 1980 if Carter expects to hold onto the constituency which made him president.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Shameful admission plan

The president, the board of regents and the administration of Maryland University are firmly and actively committed to a strict policy of affirmative action. Yet, today, this State University has adopted a shameful and unconscionable new admissions policy that will prohibit thousands of black students from entering the school in the Fall.

By blindly and deliberately placing unrealistic emphasis on archaic, "culturally biased" factors the black, and economically depressed youngsters will be unfairly deprived of the opportunity to attend Maryland University.

This bewildering, insensitive policy makes a mockery of the University's publicly stated goal of boosting minority enrollment. This policy must be reversed. Discrimination must give way to reason, sensitivity and compassion, and our institutions of higher learning must lead the way to a more enlightened society.

There can be no question that the black community cannot be expected to tolerate these thoughtless, inconsiderate, and discriminatory actions. We must not allow an unconcerned, unfeeling and uncaring group of school administrators to force an unwanted return of racism on this or any other campus.

It is deplorable, and distrubing to us to learn that Donald Giffin, Director of Academic Services has publicly acknowledged that "the University does not currently fill all the available slots that have been set aside to admit 6 percent of the incoming students as "special exception" students. The public has a right to ask, if the University does not make the necessary effort to fill the slots under the existing admissions policies, what reason can we possibly find to believe that a sincere effort will be made to implement this "special exception" section of 15 percent of the incoming students under the new tougher and more discriminating admission policy.

The lame excuse that blacks can and do go to Morgan State and Bowie as valid reasoning for the University's failure to vigorously implement its announced affirmative action program is sheer fantasy. Meaningless rhetoric must be replaced with sincere dynamic, energetic and forceful policies. There is no better nor more rightful place for this enforcement than in our nation's colleges and universities.

Maryland University has a proud and glowing athletic "image" throughout the community. But its "equal-opportunity" image in the community leaves much to be desired. The university must immediately rescind the admissions policy changes and institute other steps aimed at doing everything possible to match that positive athletic image in all its racial policies.

The community can expect nor accept anything less. The institution of this policy of limiting entry by blacks will prove a most severe deterrent, resulting in irreparable harm not only to the black students themselves but to the entire black community.

We recommend that instead of taking up valuable time and energy in such outrageously, non-productive exercises as this continuing senseless feud with Mr. Kenneth Morgan, the management of this University should devote their time and talents to the creation and promulgation of more meaningful programs designed to rid the university of its last vestiges of insidious racism.

RICHARD N. HAMILTON
President,
The National Black Veterans Organization

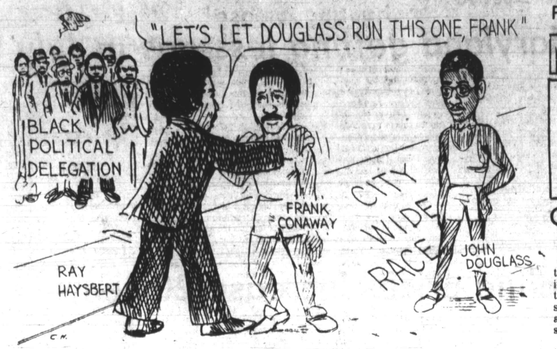
Give us peace, please!

Dear AFRO:

Our great country has no reason, as yet, to engage in war — so it gives to its people the "realism" of a recession; the "threat" of a depression; the "scare" of Three Mile Island; the "inconvenience" of a lengthy gas line; and "continuing" poverty.

Our great country has not, however, "appraised" us of peace!!!

LORETTA CRYOR TAZWELL



MADELINE MURPHY

Monarch butterflies

Madeline Murphy is on vacation. This column is reprinted from the Oct. 26, 1973 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN and is as appropriate now as it was then.

The swarm of Monarch butterflies in lat September, flitting over garden flowers and trees, not only forecasts their death knell as they begin laying eggs for the coming spring, but also brings to mind the amazing story of metamorphosis and how it relates to adolescence.

From egg to caterpillar, the formant chrysalis, and finally to a brilliant, flourescent adult insect, seems a clinical picture if one reads about it in a sceintific journal.

"Well and good, so that's how it happens," a curious reader might say, then close the book to forget it until the sight of the orange and black delicate tracery attracts his or her attention the following summer.

But then as one compares the butterfly to human growth, the egg becomes the child in the womb; the caterpillar, the ever hungry baby; and the dormant chrysalis, the waiting period between childhood and puberty.

This puberty is a time when blind obedience gives way to rebellion, independent thought and willful choice. When the hovering parenthood of decision making must give way to the emerging need for self-determination on the part of the young adult.

And it is precisely at this tie, in the metamorphosis of the butterfly from chrysalis to adulthood, that compares painfully with this stage in adolescence.

In' earlier times, the life expectancy was 35, when day to day survival was more hazardous and brutal, when class distinctions were more easily recognized, more stringently divided, adolescence was unheard of.

But today adolescence is lengthened to satisfy a shrinking job market, and a burgeoning youth population gluts the market. Thus it lengthens the custotial relationship and postpones the flight from the nest of young, ready fledglings.

And within this complex relationship, the time of decision, about college and career; about pre-marital sex; about trend tasting—drugs, alcohol, tobacco; about mobility—driver's licenses, co-ed dorms, apartments, is most pressing.

This is where the struggle of the chrysalis is so similar to youth's, for the Monarch butterfly must force itself out of the hard shell of the protective chrysalis, which has now begun to crowd its growth, to suffocate it. It moves with slow cautious effort, first breatking, with its head, the translucent tip. Slowly it slides upward, still moinst from its air tight enclosure. One quick move, one foreign substance that would puncture its gradual evolution would kill it.

No hand must touch it, no strong wind must shatter it, if it is to enter the world unscathed, undamaged to fulfill the beauty of its finely designed, yet mysterious aeronautical perfection; its destiny to perpetuate the life cycle.

Only the force of its distended stomach, the moisture of its body will perform the miracle of its freedom from the constraints of its chrysalis. It must do this by itself.

To watch this sturggle, to become involved with its monumental effort to freedom is not unlike watching our youth divest themselves of parental restraints—beginning to make decisions that proclaim them adults.

How difficult it is, not to force too much of our will upon theirs; our modes of life upon them; our fears, founded or undounded, upon their actions.

Yet, like the Monarch, we can kill them, we can maim them, we can injure them for life, it we help too much, protect too much, force too much; imprision them too much with our management, with—"our way is right."

How great it is to see the fruits of their lonely struggle as they, like the Monarch, emerge glistening at first, hanging by a thread, not knowing where they'll go, what they'll be, with damp wings, not yet ready to make the first flight.

Then gradually flapping and drying their gorgeous wings, in an ever widening arc, becoming clearer in color and confirmation, sailing forth on their maiden voyage to adulthood. Now they are confident, if we have let them be, in the lesson of their own self-determination, self-confidence, self-assurance; self-reliance. After all, they did it themselves, and from that struggle they'll continue to make it on their own!

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

PARREN MITCHELL

Critical legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives has acted upon several important pieces of legislation in the past few weeks. I thought you should know about that legislation and why I supported or did not support the various bills.

1. SYN FUELS: The House took the lead in passing bold new legislation providing for the start up on a joint government-private industry effort in the development of synthetic fuels. The bill sets a production goal of 500,000 barrels-a-day crude oil equivalent within five years; 2 million barrels-a-day within 10 years.

With some misgivings, I voted for the legislation. I was concerned that this might, in effect, be another subsidy for the oil corporations, but protections were built in. When weighed against the prospect of las lines for the next 10 years, I voted for the Synthetic Fuels Bill.

2. WINDFALL PROFIT TAX: The House considered a bill to tax domestic crude oil to recover part of the extra revenues oil companies will collect as a result of the President's decision to decontrol prices. The proposals before the House all called for a stiffer tax rate thatn the President's and will net between $25-$30 billion over five years depending on the alternative chosen.

Before voting in favor of this bill, I supported an amendment which would have fixed 80 percent of the windfall profits. That amendment was voted down. The bill passed by the House, and I ultimately voted for setting the tax at 60 percent.

3. BUDGET RESOLUTION: Congress adopted 1980 spending gargets of $532 billion; slashing the deficit to $23 billion, thelowest in six years.

I voted against the budget resolution because it ruthlessly and needlessly slashed many of the human welfare programs so necessary for the survival of so many people. While slashing those programs, the budget for the military was significantly increased. I had no choice but to vote "no" on the Budget Resolution.

4. PANAMA CANAL ACT: The House advanced an administration priority in passing implementing legislation for the Panama Canal treaties. The bill provides for the operation of the canal on a self-sustaining basis with maximum protection of U.S. property and control of expenditures by Congress.

In my opinion, America cannot assume an imperialist stance such as Great Britain, France and Germany had in the past, and for which those nations now pay a price in international economics. The Panama Canal treaty was long overdue. Time and changing world events made the treaty mandatory for us. So I had no problem in voting for the legislation to implement the Panama Canal Treaty.

5. EGYPT-ISRAEL AID: A bill in a joint House-Senate conference authorizes $1.47 billion to support a total program of $4.8 billion in economic and military aid to implement the recent peace treaty between thses nations.

I addressed the U.S. House of Representatives on this issue, pointing out that I entered Congress as a peace candidate and that I desperately want to see a world at peace. However, I also pointed out to the Congress that I could not vote for this money when the House had just passed a budget resolution cutting funds for housing, education, health, jobs and job training.

6. ZIMBABWE-RHODESIA: The House considered a bill to life sanctions by Oct. 15, 1979, unless against U.S. interests.

President Carter has already announced that premature lifting of sanctions would not be in the best interests of the United States. Not a single African nation has recognized the resatz-Smith-Muzoreawa government. I was able to vote for this compormise bill which I hoped would offset the action taken by the U.S. Senate which called for the immediate lifting of sanctions.

However, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain has announced that her government will lift sanctions. If Great Britain does indeed suspend the sanctions, given the mood of the Congress, it will be exceedingly difficult for America to retain sanctions against Rhodesia.

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

LETTERS

Bring off-track-betting to Maryland

Dear AFRO:

Horse racing, like anything else, is good in some states, average in some states, mediocre in other states, and in some states it stinks to high heaven.

I think horse racing in Maryland is average, but I think racing in New York is good, maybe even excellent, if this word can be applied to horse racing.

New York seems to have more control over the security of stable areas; New York seems to have more strict laws concerning dishonesty around the race tracks, and seems to exert more effort in enforcing these laws; New York has the best facilities for horse racing; and New York has a larger handle than other states, with the possible exception of California, and therefore can offer larger purses, which in turn attract the best horses.

And most importantly for the better, the comparative high quality of racing in New York contributes to more successful handicapping, and consequently, horse players like to bet New York tracks.

It is naive to concider the possibility that Baltimore horse players do not use information published in local newspapers to bet New York horses with bookies. But the trouble with this is that because of the odds limitations imposed by bookies, it is birtually impossible to come out on top on straight bets, and mathematically impossible to come out on top on doubles and exactas.

Conversely, the off-track-betting agency places on such limitations on odds because it establishes its own betting pools.

Since New York has the best racing, and since horse players cannot possibly win with bookies, I think Maryland should open off-track-betting offices in this state for bettingon New York tracks...

I would like to see off-track-betting on Maryland tracks too, but I doubt if the present Maryland Racing Commission would back this.

I think arrangements can be made with the state of New York, which would be acceptable to both New York and Maryland, to allow off-track-betting in Maryland on horses running in New York State.

Since horse racing is such an important part of the Maryland economy, this state's negative attitude toward the upgrading of racing is hard to understand...

It is evident that Marylanders, in recent years, have developed a craving for excellence, which promises to enhance the quality of life in this state for years to come, but in the area of horse racing, even though all the facts about the upgrading of this industry have been talked to death, nothing is being done, and I doubt if anything will be done as long as the present people reign in the Maryland Racing Commission.

It seems incredible that Maryland, a state which has made great, courages strides in other fields, can tolerate the present condition of horse racing in this state, but Maryland officials are not prepared to act. So I think that until these officials make up their minds, Maryland horse players should be allowed to bet on horses running in New York State, which has a capacity for excellence in horse racing—something which Maryland officials refuse to offer to Marylanders.

RICAHRD C. RIO

'New' City College without library

Dear AFRO:

As a member of the task force for education at the new City College I am deeply concerned by the lack of concern by the 25th Street administration for the educational program at this school.

In September two grades of highly motivated students are scheduled for classes in the "new" building — a building without a library.

Bureaucratic red tape, personnel cuts and administrative lethargy have caused this situation to arise at a school which is building a program of educational excellence.

Just because the keys to the building will be turned over to the city on or about July 16 does not mean that the library will be ready for use in September.

More likely, given the above mentioned stumbling blocks, the library will not be open to its students until May 1980.

Baltimore's best has obviously not been enough for these students.

BEVERLY H. LAPINSKI

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.

G. JAMES FLEMING

No over-shouting, please!

Do not let us over react to the Supreme Court's decision in the Weber case.

It is a step in the right direction, but only a step. It does not pronounce "the law of the land" beyond recall. While it takes some of the sting out of the Bakke decision, Bakke, too, is law, upheld constitutionally, by the same court.

In the case before the court, one Brian F. Weber, white, charged his employer and his union with, cooperatively, practicing "reverse discrimination" against him, in violation of the 1964 Civil Right Act.

Answering Weber were the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. and the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, which organizations had jointly launched a training program for Kaiser employees, with blacks being given preference, regardless of the seniority they held — seniority based on historic Louisiana-style employment practices.

The court rejected the claim of Weber.

It is easy to agree that civil rights gains would have dropped backwards if Weber and his supporters had won, but the Weber case victory must not be overraced.

To the average layman it must appear that the Supreme Court, as it is, is a bit uncertain as to where it stands on affirmative action. To be more charitable, the Court has taken one position where public funds are involved and there is no history of past racial discrimination. Therefore, the decision in the Bakke case.

The Court has taken another position in Weber where the principals in affirmative action are using private funds and where there has been a history of past racial discrimination.

Any action, on any level, which undermines Bakke, is an action to be praised. But, the affirmative action pendulum is still swinging and no one can tell where it will settle.

A mere act of Congress can undo the 1964 Civil Rights Act, on which the Weber decision is based. Congress may declare its intention to be more in keeping with the minority opinion of the court.

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, in an outburst of enthusiasm, described the Supreme Court's majority opinion as "probably the most important civil rights decision in recent history."

We prefer the restraint of Jack Greenberg, director of the NAACP Defense Fund, and of George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, who both hailed the decision as "a victory for all who are committed to private voluntary action to end discrimination."

Hispanic and women's organizations also have been outspokenly pleased in their reaction to the Weber decision.

Most commentators recognize that the court has given civil rights organizations and employee groups a new key with which to open the doors to affirmative action and equal opportunity, without discrimination based soley on race, religion, color, sex or age.

Employers, who want to train their own employees for upgrading, without discrimination, will now have the law on their side.

There will be more suits against affirmative action, however; and there will be changes in the composition of the court and in the composition of the Congress.

As in all liberal governmental actions, laws, edicts and programs, they will not enforce themselves. Those who believe in equal opportunity will have to close ranks; they will have to be vigilant. They will have to remember that "with all deliberate speed" may mean no speed at all.

The different minority groups will also need to guard against engaging in internecine warfare as each fights for the crumbs from the declining economy (and in a society where blacks may not continue to be the largest minority group).

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

by Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

CONGRESSMAN Parren J Mitchell is main speaker tonight (Friday) for the Alaskan Black Caucus Solidarity Banquet in Anchorage, Alaska. He will return Saturday after visits to Fairbanks and other spots on a jet whirlwind tour. The dinner tonight is attended by 2,000 persons.

My Fisk U. roommate, Mrs. Mahalia Ashley Dickerson is aprominent attorney there, has a ranch, a gold mine and downtown building in the heart of Achorage.

What an experience for Con. Mitchell who is again and again chosen to represent the U.C. Congressional Black Caucus on an important mission.

However, he is hurrying back to be present here in his hometown to take up the cross for our people who are in such desparate need of support.

BY THE WAY, the Ku Klux Klan members who attempted to bomb the Jewish synagogue last summer have been sentenced to eight years. Court records say two of them tried to bomb the synagogue two times and when the first bomb did not go off, drove to the Carroll County home of a black family and burned a cross there.

THEY'LL BE TRIED for that crime son and then they'll go to court for trying to burn a cross at Con. Mitchell's home.

I recall that instance when Col. James Watkins responded to the scene within seconds and then the FBI and the state police arrived in minutes.

With real good service, they got the evidence.

ANOTHER TIME LAST YEAR, the Federal government got the drop on the KKK'ers who had planned to do violence to the congressman.

A LOCAL BLACK policeman did a good job in this case and you'll hear more on that when it goes to trial.

ANYONE who even lets it pass through his mind that any harm can come to Con. Mitchell or any other government servant can be sure the police are watching before it happens, every hour of the day and night. The maximum penalty goes to life in prison or death in the gas chamber.

THE SECURITY Con. Mitchell is afforded is as tight as that around President Carter and Sen. Ted Kennedy. You should see him take off from Andrews Air Force Base on official mission. Here in our town, there are eyes watching you would never suspect.

EARTHA KITT in Timbuktu is magnificent. The whole production is beautiful, romantic, classy, superb and even those words do not describe it.

GEOFREY HOLDER, the famous director, choreographer and costumer is responsible for the storybook-kind of settings, gowns, robes, the big umbrellas, the gigantic statues, the glow, sparkle and jewels.

EACH MEMBER of the cast is an example of talent beyond imagination. In all my travels around the globe, I have never seen a more colorful and grand production. If you miss it, you'll be sorry for a lifetime.

BRUCE A. HUBBARD is my choice of the No. 1 star other than Eartha. What a magnificient man.

He has everything, sex appeal, voice, physic, poise and ability as an actor. He can not be surpassed.

The ladies in the interracial audience Wednesday signed and moaned at the sight of him.

TIMBUKTU takes place in the ancient empire of Mali, West Africa in the year 1361 and features gardens, courtyards, palaces, princesses, kings, nobles of the court, ladies of the Harem and the city marketplace.

Something about it reminds of "Camelot" and the "King and I." You'll thrill at the songs, "Stranger in Paradise," "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" and that goergous man, Hubbard, singing "Night of My Nights". It's all heavenly.

WE'RE going to do color photos so my daughter Marsha can arrange for TIMBUKTU to go to Hawaii. The theatre there is a volcanic creater which holds 75,000 under the Honolulu moon. When I was there on time, I saw Elvis Presley do his thing and Chicago (rock group) pack them in, a fantastic sight.

PROBABLY NEVER BEFORE have we had such exciting response over our features on the two Virginia families, the Taylor-Hicks family of Brunswick and Lunenberg and the Carter-Curry family of Northumberland County.

One outstanding result in the planning of the November, 1979 meeting in Baltimore of the Taylor-Hicks clans which include the famed actor Bill Cosbyand tennis champ Arthur Ashe. Now we discover through Rev. Dr. Alfred C. C. Vaughn, that the first black judge in America, Judge William Davenport of Detroit, is a direct descendant.

Also, we'll have you know, Del. Frank Conway, member of the Maryland General Assembly, Mrs. Carl Adair, wife of the noted Baltimore Republican and businessman are descendants.

DR. VAUGHN called after reading last week's ALL WE KNOW about Carolyn Harcum's research on the family at the Library of Congress.

HE THEN added his research which reveals his mother Mrs Mildred Conaway Vaughn is a Harcum and consequently is in the Taylor-Hicks clan, the largest family on record in the USA numbering over 4,000 living relatives.

REV. VAUGHN'S grandfather, Spencer Harcum, left hundreds of acres of land to his children, a place now called Harcum Hill in Northumberland County.

The Harcums were merchants. Rev. Vaughn's attorney is getting all the data from the books back as far as the 1700's, over 200 years.

Rev. Vaughn's grandmother, Elizabeth Harcum, was wife of Robert Conaway, a captain who ran his boat up and down the Potomac, fishing.

The Harcums are cousins of the Taylors, keep that in mind, the group that met here and was featured in an AFRO tabloid, Great Families of Virginia.

IN BALTIMORE there is a group called the Northumberland Club with Mrs. Doris Williams, a vice-principal, as president. After we see her, we'l have much more to ell.

SME OF THE members of this big family own extensive land of the Chespeake Bay and there's a Blackwell's Wharf and a Taylor Beach.

Mrs. Thelma Doswell an administrator in the D.C. schools lists over 3,000 of the Blackwells, Taylors, etc. and we'll see her soon for more information. (It's almost out of hand since our Richmond AFRO carried the original story)

THE NORTHUMBERLAND CLUB is really the "Shiloh Benefit Club" which meets to aid the Shiloh Baptist Church in Burgess, Va., the most outstanding Baptist Church in the nation.

THE FIRST SUNDAY in November, the Shiloh Benefit Club meets there in Burgess and by that time you'll really see some relatives.

By Marion M. Banfield

Year of the Child—Part X

By Marion M. Banfield

What does the Middle East oil crisis have to do with today's children?

Why is Iran a country to be studied?

Why is the black-white struggle in Rhodesia an important topic for families?

Power is the theme with which we must become more aware.

Our children need to be made aware of power while they are in elementary schools.

How is power used in your family? How much power do children have? What are the power games played in your family?

The Middle East oil crisis needs our attention. When Arabs invest millions of dollars in our country, we face the prospect of power just as foreign countries had to face this country's control. When Arabs manipulate oil export, we as blacks are affected as are other citizens.

The powerful revenge of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is a warning that extreme power, be it military or religious, is destructive of humanity.

President Carter recognizes that the black elected officials have too little power in Rhodesia.

We as black citizens have not recognized the power we can use at the ballot box and in the economic sphere. Until we do, our children will continue to be inadequately educated, poorly housed and fed, and will remain at the bottom of the job market.

We need to broaden our areas of concern. We need to pressure black-oriented radio stations to offer less musical junk and more survival substance. We need television programs more geared for our welfare.

We need to talk about world affairs and recognize that our power can maintain a democracy. We need to have schools encourage our children to ask questions, to seek a variety of answers.

Our children need to have their minds trained to comprehend problems of the world. Our children must be taught to analyze human behavior so that they will not be corrupted by demi-gods.

This is the native land of our children; we owe them a better use of our black power.

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

—MORE LETTERS—

Teacher questions city

Dear AFRO:

I heartily agree that Mayor Schaefer has done a beautiful job in remaking "Baltimore's Image" in the past few years, yet I cannot help notice that many of these beautiful new projects have been initiated using the educational funds, thus stifling any thought of a decent pay raise for teachers.

Every taxpayer's child is entitled to quality free education. In order to give that quality education, there must be a motivated work force. The city must spend money, not only on supplies, but also to hire and keep quality teachers.

Many excellent, dedicated people have left the system in the past few years, because they simply could not afford to stay.

As far as I am concerned, there is no need for a taxpayer to feel compelled to send a child to private school in order to get that "quality" education.

This year we (teachers) receive a 3 percent raise. This was not 3 percent of our present salary, but rather a three percent incremen on a probationary level.

We (teachers) lost union representation for three years. Thus, the mayor and City Council did as they pleased in relation to any raise during this time. We have received a mere pittance.

I don't feel that there is a need to go into the area of inflation at this time, because I'm sure everyone knows only too well the cost of a pair of children's shoes in 1979 versus 1974.

Whenever I read articles regarding the struggle that the city policemen and firemen have had to obtain a livable contract, I cannot help but think "God love them," because they deserve so much more. Both fractions of the city work force are absolutely indespensible and should be paid accordingly.

Yet, for some reason, the same does not seem to hold true in the case of good, dedicated teachers. A good teacher is not just a babysitter. He or she is a motivating factor in preparing every child for the world to work.

As the school year ends, I do not know one teacher who is supporting a family, who has not had to either get an extra job, or take out a loan to get ther family through the summer.

I have heard of a possible 2 to 3 percent raise for next ysar for city teachers.

What a sad state of affairs, taxpayers, when your children are in the hands of their teachers more working hours of the day, in some cases, than elsewhere. I'm sure many more city teachers will be looking for other means of employment if this happens.

SUE RUHL

Trying to beautify a street

Dear AFRO:

I live in a predominantly black street (And have been living here for 25 years). My neighbor, all home owners, trying to make a living, caring for their homes, trying to make living a little more pleasant, have been unsuccessful.

Just the other night, some low-life crept up to proches adorned with lovely plants hanging from newly-covered porch tops, and stole all the flowers and plants.

How can you try and beautify a street when certain lice won't let you!

I bought an umbrella, table and two chairs, but am afraid to put it out in the back yard because I know it will be stolen.

Parker B. Douglass' memories of Baltimore

This is the conclusion of a two-part article featuring Parker B. Douglass, a Baltimore City school volunteer who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Imagine if you will how the Falls Road area just near the Poly-WESTERN High School and the Village of Cross Keys, an exclusive shopping and business mall, might have looked like at the turn of the century.

Parker B. Douglass, who in May turned 100, for the last seven decades has resided in the Falls Road area and remembers it as a community of farm land.

"Fall Road was just an ole' dirt road," reflects Mr. Douglass. "Everybody 'round here had chickens and hogs. Just down the road was a toll gate and the only thing that passed up and down was a four-mule team from Rockland Mill.

"I used to live back up there is the grove. The city line sed to be right up at the top of the hill," says Mr. Douglass, pointing out of his kitchen window to the area of Coldspring Lane between Falls Road and Roland Avenue.

Before Mr. Douglass moved to the Falls Road community, he grew up in South Baltimore with his family, one of seven children who instead of going to school, worked around horses with his father.

One would hardly realize when talking to Mr. Douglass with his sharp wit, instant recall and pleasing humor, that he only reached the second grade.

"I only went up to the second grade," he says thinking back to his childhood. "They passed me on to the third grade but I never went back."

Mr. Douglass, a kindly gentleman anyone would love for a grandfather, drove a cart for one dollar a day which was "good pay in them days," he quips.

Around the age of 20, he worked at the Charles Street santiarium in the 2700 block Charles St. While working there he was offered a job with the son of Robert Poole at his home.

According to Mr. Douglass the Poole home is now the location of the Robert Poole Junior High on 36th Street near Falls Road. And it is at this same school where he is currently involved as a volunteer for an oral history project with the Poole students.

Although he admits he "didn't realize it at the time" but Mr. Douglass was soon to marry Martha May Street who also worked for the Pooles.

He and his soon bride-to-be began their lives together in one of the most memorable years of Baltimore history, the ear of the Baltimore Fire.

The fire which destroyed major parts of Baltimore in February 1904 was soon followed by the Douglass marriage in May.

In 1908, the Douglasses had the first child, Carl, and some years later had another son. He died at the age of 29.

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

FATHER AND SON—Parker B. Douglass, (R), 100-year-old school volunteer, is joined by his only son, Carl, 74, at a recent birthday celebration honoring the elder Douglass.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Douglass, who bargained for the ground, a two-story house was built at the location where Mr. Douglass still lives, 4639 Falls Road.

He opened the basement of his home as a grovery store in 1930 and maintained it seven days a week until 1968.

With the consumer prices constantly rising, it is almost hard to remember that food used to be much cheaper and Mr. Douglass has first hand proof of that.

"I sold pork chops for 10 cents a pound.

"And I sld many a pound of chip beef for 15 cents a pound and made money off it."

Located just next door to the Douglass home is the Falls Road A.M.E. Church which was built at that location in the 1920s.

"I can remember the ministers who would come to the church on Sundays from different cities. They used to come in my store and talk with me until the 11 a.m. service started," explains Mr. Douglass who was first brought to the attention of the Robert Poole Junior High faculty by Rev. Joseph Cashen, current pastor of the church.

Mr. Douglass is a member of the Trinity Baptist Church at Druid Hill Avenue and McMechen Street and has seen seven pastors come and go.

The church honored him last year, with a banquet celebrating his 99th birthday. However, he pointed out that he was "very disappointed" that a similar celebration wasn't held this year, since this was a more significant birthday.

Mr. Douglass lived in his FALLS Road home with his wife until she died in 1952. He now lives alone and aside from a hearing problem, manages to take care of himself very well. He is aided from time to time by his son Carl, now 74, and his niece, Evelyn Douglass.

Just recently he ventured alone by bus to Annapolis because "I had never seen it before and it was a nice day."

Maintaining his youthful appearance, Mr. Douglass looks more like a brother to his son.

When asked what is his secret to life, he quickly says with a smile, "Ain't no secret . . . ain't no secret what God can do. What he's done for others, he'll do for you."

Then thinking back over the years, he adds, "I've been a good citizen and never been in any trouble. Never even got a parking ticket.

"I don't smoke and I'm not a drinker. Only got drunk once when I was young," said Mr. Douglass, rather proudly.

His involvement with the program at Poole has given new meaning to his life and he says he enjoys working with the students who have also expressed their pleasure of listening to Mr. Douglas speak of the history of their city.