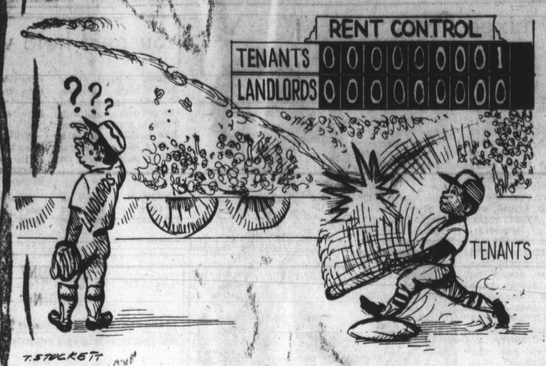
Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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People's victory!

Baltimore will have a rent control law because black voters turned out in sufficient numbers to vote yes to 'Question K' in the city elections this week.

An analysis of AFRO precincts shows that the vote for rent control was three to one.

Some 76 per cent of voters in these predominantly black areas wanted rent control.

Even in black neighborhoods where there were substantial homeowners the pro-rent control vote proved the margin.

All this to say that black people, by and large, knew what they wanted and voted accordingly.

No political leaders could sway them away from voting for rent control.

No high-powered propaganda campaign such as the landlords mounted, with at least a quarter of a million dollars spent to stop the rent control referendum from coming to pass, stopped our community.

This was a victory won by little people such as the elderly who must live on fixed incomes, low-income families who must rent because of scant housing opportunities.

This was a victory for grass-roots organizers of the Peoples Campaign for Rent Control, led by Bob Cheeks, and the parallel Rent Control Campaign organization.

The victory will have ramifications beyond the immediate issue of rent control.

First, it shows once again that when the issue is important enough people will vote forcefully in their best self and group interests.

Secondly, it proves what we have long maintained; often the so-called 'little people' are well out in front of their so-called leaders on important issues.

No politician in our community was very vocal or active in support of rent control. Nor did any, save perhaps St. George Crosse, take a public stand that gained any attention.

Where black politicians, as was the case with Ms. Marguerite Campbell, did oppose rent control, their efforts were smashingly rejected by the voters they claimed to represent.

Finally, the hard-working volunteers who campaigned for rent control in the neighborhoods which delivered the victory, now comprise a political force to be reckoned with in this city.

Operating with a nearly-zero budget and scant staff the pro-rent control forces show that it is possible to get folks to vote when the issue is dramatized properly and the fight for votes goes directly to the front door of the so-called little people.

Organizers of the successful rent control election campaign represent a fresh new force for political change and if they develop the same kind of momentum among the people on their vital interests then traditional old-line political groupings are going to be faced with strong new challenges to their leadership.

We are in for interesting times as the politics of the Eighties begins. The rent control victory is but one indicator.

Congratulations

City-Councilpersons elect Norman V.A. Reeves and Kwiesi Mfume have our heartiest best wishes and congratulations on their successful election bids.

These two young men, we feel will pump some badly needed life into a City Council that too often, when not being a creature subservient to the Mayor is just a clown-show pure and simple, is dead as a doornail.

From their actions thus far as aspiring candidates we know both of them to be particularly articulate on many municipal issues, we know them both to be men of their word and we know them to be impatient with the kinds of foot-shuffling, acquiescent political shamming that has too often passed for political leadership in our community.

Both of these new council-persons are well-versed in urban issues, black needs and feelings, and we are counting on them to help bring our Council completely into the 20th century and to develop programs that speak to the needs of the majority of people of this city, not just a privileged few.

We do not expect to always agree with Reeves or Mfume nor do we expect them to always go along with us but we do know that we will be with them and vice versa on the basic issues affecting our community.

Thus far they have been unbought and unbossed and we further expect them to build on their first victories.

We congratulate our newest councilpersons and we also salute the many voters who feel as we do that new leadership must rise in our community as the old warriors tire of the battle.

Salute to Crosse

We are amazed and delighted that St. George Crosse did so well in his bid to become City Comptroller.

He began with nothing and managed to overcome obstacles that would have a lesser man bowing out early on.

First he dared change his party allegiance from Democrat to Republican this year. This is a town that is traditionally Democratic.

Then he began a campaign with a war chest of pennies, literally, against a powerful incumbent.

He had scant media coverage, no propaganda budget for TV and radio, and not many bucks for the necessary precinct workers.

Yet by stint of his imaginativeness, energy and high good humor, Rev. Crosse managed to get over 40,000 Baltimoreans to vote for him in the general election.

Our study of AFRO precincts showed that Rev. Crosse won 53 per cent of this vote after only two months of campaigning whereas Del. John Douglass, after almost two years seeking the comptroller's seat and with widespread Democratic support got only 76 per cent of the vote.

St. George Crosse certainly made an impact on Baltimore and from all sections of the city we hear nothing but positives about how he raised the issues and fought the good fight.

Seeing as how he came from literally out of nowhere to stage a good election fight, we can only wonder what Crosse will be able to accomplish when he has a good campaign chest and sufficient time to mount another offensive.

We salute him and know full well that we have not heard or seen the last of this gutty campaigner.

Two parties

The Crosse showing should be a strong reminder to thoughtful citizens that a good two-party political system would be in the best interests of our community.

We think this last election indicates that voters, especially black voters, have no hang-ups about party affiliations when they see that what the dominant party, in this case the Democrats, wants is not in their best interests.

This was the case with rent control.

We favor a strengthened Republican party in this town so that black citizens can have options.

Mayoral candidate Samuel Culotta hours after his defeat this week has urged that Republicans give serious thought to developing urban agendas.

Perhaps Culotta, even in defeat, saw that Republicans can raise issues that traditionally non-Republican voters can respond when the occasion warrants.

Black citizens never ought to be in the position of having to vote for a particular party even when that party is moving against our best interests.

There is room in this city for new Democratic political groupings, the election of Reeves and Mfume proves that, and there is also room for an enlightened liberal Republican thrust as well.

Only out of such new forces and realignments of old forces will be our political agenda be served.

Madeline MURPHY



Outside agitators and dirty tricks

By Madeline W. Murphy

In the recent rent control battle, the clear evidence of lots of money being poured into the fray by the realtors, harkens back to the Nixon dirty tricks days.

First of all, those who backed the media blitz against rent control had been imported from San Francisco and had had a few successes in major cities with the same kind of deception.

They could also be justly called "outside agitators". How come that fond racist appellation of the Civil Rights era was not tagged upon them?

To complete the scenario, Walter Orlinsky, incumbent President of the City Council, and former Mayor's specialist, Marguerite Campbell, black 6th District City Council loser became local, vocal opponents. This illustrated how strange bedfellows and their ambitious desperation can so easily desert the rank and file tenants of this city.

But even worse, those realtors included a great number of absentee landlords who own thousands of houses in Baltimore.

It was interesting to hear complaints from a young resident of Horison House the so-called luxury apartment, of housing violations — roaches, leaking drains, — while the owners had contributed much needed bucks to the tune of over $7,000, to the campaign to defeat rent control.

The scare tactics on television advertisements also contained misleading information and only pointed up those areas of rent control that would influence voters against the bill.

If you have copies of their earlier mailings, you will note the selective way in which the intent of the law had been grossly distorted.

Leadership in this move showed the hand of California's Howard Jarvis of Prop. 13 fame who developed a brain-washing technique so common among the right wing Nixon crowd, of Orwellian "group think" and "double speak".

They capitalized upon voter's ignorance, who can be so easily victimized by scare tactics. This should be a lesson to us all.

Even the establishment TV, greedy for the money, ran those ads without fear of contradiction until at the last minute, the proponents pressured for equal time.

However, the most insidiously deceptive and was the last mail blitz.

Brown window envelopes simulating tax bills with a counterfeit City seal enclosed a projected cost by 1989 to tax payers of a quarter billion dollars in additional taxes, attached to a computer written personal letter to compound the deceit.

No one mentions, however, the billions of dollars that realtors stand to gain when allowed to operate out of control.

So we must paint all those who had a hand in this deception with the brush of naked opportunism.

First, financial backing was assured for Mayor William D. Schaefer while he remained conveniently silent about the purloined City seal. Instead he was free to skulk in the background, play innocent while wooing taxi cab owners in his ceremonial pose as huckster for Baltimore City — above the madding crowd.

Then promises he may have dangled before the ambitious eyes of Orlinsky, Campbell and company.

Finally compounding the lies, allowing the realtors to use them as witting tools keeping the black-white division solely in focus by sending their letter in black neighborhoods over the signatures of Orlinsky, Campbell and Lucille Gorham; and in white neighborhoods, over the signatures of Councilmen Gallagher, Curran and Fitzgerald.

In regard to housing, however, what Baltimore really needs is less influence in the courts by landlords; less collusion between the city housing department and landlords; tighter enforcement of housing codes; a cease and desist on wholesale destruction and neglect of present housing stock.

Above all, we need control over the blatant buying of political influence through campaign contributions by the real estate cartel.

Are you keeping score for '83?

For in a corrupt society like ours, the tug of war must never cease between the reformers, greedy landlords, and corrupt politicians. In the end the people must prevail.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urban League response to black-Jewish rift

Dear AFRO:

In a recent edition of your news.a.er, there were references made in both the commentary, "Black Split on Mideast", that the Urban League's position was partly based on preserving financial contributions from the Jewish community.

I feel compelled to echo Mr. Jordan's statement on this assertion as "One of the most vicious distortions of the media in recent days has been the claim that black leaders' positions are being framed with monetary considerations in mind."

Mr. Jordan has made the Urban League's position clear in recent days. As a matter of record, I am attaching this affiliate's policy statement as it relates to the supposed tension between Blacks and members of the Jewish community.

I am also attaching a copy of Mr. Jordan's statement which was made in Chicago concerning the League stating its position based on principle not monetary considerations.

In short, the Urban League is not for sale!

TRAVIS W. VAULS
President
Baltimore Urban League

(ED. NOTE: following is the Baltimore Urban League's statement and Jordan's statement.)

Speaking in behalf of the Executive Board and staff of the Baltimore Urban League, Inc., Travis W. Vauls, President, re-emphasized the good working relationship which this agency has with members and organizations in the Jewish community.

The League and Jewish organizations share a mutual respect for each other. On numberous occasions, we have combined forces for the benefit of our constituencies. Such a combined effort will take place, as far as the League is concerned, whenever the situation warrants such action.

As head of this organization, I nor my staff have experienced any reluctance on the part of members of Jewish organizations who we interface with almost daily, to continue working with us.

The Baltimore Urban League is an organization which firmly believes in working with other concerned members and organizations in the community towards the solution of problems which continue to plague this city and state. We may not always agree on every issue; however, when we disagree, we do so as friends who have a great deal of mutual respect for each other.

To imply that there is a rift between the two communities is not accurate. In the League's view, it is more a fabrication of a very few persons with loud voices who wish to create friction between the two communities.

The Baltimore Urban League will continue working with our friends in the Jewish community towards the solution of problems which deserve our utmost attention. Any other consideration is absurd in the League's opinion.

Vwrnon E. Jordan, Jr., President of the National Urban League, in a speech delivered before at the University of Chicago, Wednesday, October 17, 1979, made the following statement.

One of the most vicious distortions of the media in recent days has been the claim that black leaders' positions are being framed with monetary considerations in mind. That is a vile falsehood. Those who went to the Middle East, did so out of a sincere effort to encourage peace. And those like myself who disapprove of dealings with the PLO do so out of concern for principle.

But since the dollar sign has been raised aloft by the media, let's get the facts straight. The National Urban League has an operating budget of $6 million. Almost all of it comes from business, foundations and the government. Only $200,000 comes from individuals, and perhaps a fourth of that comes from identifiably Jewish contributors. Thus, less than one percent of our budget comes from the Jewish community. So principle, not money is the basis of our stand. We are not for sale!

More on rent control

Dear AFRO:

After watching recent television debates, I was under the impression that Question K (Rent Control) was detrimental to poor, black city dwellers as there was something written in the bill that voters did not understand.

After reading the entire bill and since I am not an expert in legal language, I might still be missing something.

I am somewhat confused about a community leader's position on the bill. I have always tried to respect a community leader, even one under the "direction" of our city mayor; and I try to keep in mind any leader's most valuable asset, strong political alliance.

However, I can no longer keep silent about some coummunity persons' obvious manipulation by their more "influential supporters". It is sad that one would not first consider the many black lives affected by Question K.

When every day each of us can personally site persons living in our community who are being evicted due to rising rents; who are unable to properly feed and clothe themselves and their children because of escalating rents; and who live in units unsuitable for human habitation due to a greedy land-lord's refusal to make necessary repairs, I can not understand a community leader's stand against what I too consider a first step to right some of the above wrongs.

I would think that this community leader would tell us poor, black people what is precisely wrong with the bill. Be specific so that we can understand what our yes or not vote will mean. Yes, we understand that the city public dwelling units are not included (and the federally subsidized units), but what about those many thousands of substandard units that are covered many occupied by poor blacks?

Since these units are presently unprotected from the greedy slumlord, should not some step be taken to help them? Grant you, a many of these persons are not registered voters, but I still consider them human.

C.D. Green

Bauman and senior citizens

Dear AFRO:

I feel that Congressman Bobby Bauman should change his voting record to better reflect the interests of our senior citizens. When the National Council of Senior Citizens rated the voting records in Senior citizens news our Republican Congressman scored a zero rating in 1978.

True to his right-wing ideology, Bauman has opposed hundreds of pieces of badly needed reform legislation that would help the poor, sick, unemployed, and the elderly. Bauman supports the interests of Big Business with much more attention than the interests of us little people.

With Bauman, campaign funds from the powerful few find a happy home. Needless to say Bauman is totally opposed to public financing of Congressional campaigns. He must know he would lose in a fair type of election with an equally well funded opponent.

Stephen S. Crocket

Use your mind

Yes, we are free, but only physically because we don't wear the chains, so learn to also be free mentally and stay a step ahead of them with your mind. Your mind is too beautiful to waste!

PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM

Adults need skill center

Dear AFRO:

After reading the article "Westside Skill Center Is Coming," in the "Baltimore City Public Schools" newspaper, I was very disappointed to find that the center will only provide vocational-technical skills training to benefit students in comprehensive high schools.

There must be hundreds of adults in the Edmondson Village area, who are very interested in furthering their education in a school of this type, but circumstances and commitments prevent them from doing so during the day and evening hours.

The center offers fifty specialized laboratories, such as Office Occupations, Trades and Industry. With opportunities of this caliber, adults could benefit from it, just as well as the teenage population.

Late evening and Saturday classes for the adults should be arbitrated for one year, and the results should be evaluated at that time.

Barbara J. Mason
Edmondson Village

Pope not a leader

Dear afro;

The pope has come and gone. His trip surely cost millions of dollars. He told us absolutely nothing we do not already know, and know better than he. Hunger—crime—mind-boggling problems.

He did smile a lot. But we already have our own smiling head of government (Jimmy Carter). Enough of the smiling and showing of teeth!

We have a crisis of leadership worldwide, and the pope has shown he, too, is not a leader. He does not have solutions, anymore than I have. But I am not a leader. He professes to be a leader!

One (of many) problem is POPULATION EXPLOSION—bringing with it hungry and sick millions, whic if not checked will become billions. He admonishes the haves to share their food with the hungry, but I vpsh he would tell us HOW. Oh, yes, he said he was against abortion. I wish he had plugged for birth control measures, thus obviating the need for abortions. But this is too simple!

B.J. Small

G. JAMES FLEMING



At Long Last, Kennedy

By G. James Fleming

Now that Senator Kennedy is a declared candidate for the presidency of the United States, this column finds itself repeating itself.

In the past we have said that:

1. No one man (or woman) can run the government of the United States, regardless of his or her party or leadership abilities.

2. Many of the problems confronting the United States are problems not of its own making and beyond its power to correct, of itself.

3. The value system of the American democracy, and what its citizens demand, put the United States at a disadvantage in its relations with most other pivotal nations.

4. More specifically, the strangulation of America's "intelligence" apparatus has placed such intelligence operations as there are in a goldfish bowl — an exposure inimical to America's short-run interests, although laudatory from a moralistic standpoint.

We must add:

5. Regardless of who is President, the temper of the Congress is such that, in our day, no Chief Executive will be able "to have his (or her) own way" — to govern — without what the White House always regard as congressional "obstructionism" (Even President John Kennedy did not get his major programs through Congress, although he was very successful in giving the American people a tremendous shot in the arm).

6. The United States must examine a new whether too much individual freedom and liberty is more than most human beings can handle for the common good.

Whether it is Carter or Kennedy, we do not see the numbered factors changing, or changing very much. Carter" is accused of not showing "leadership qualities" or "having no leadership prowess." His "goofs" have been highlighted. He has been unsure in many instances. He has shown "bad judgement," depending on who is talking.

But, Senator Kennedy can also be charge with bad judgement, with committing "goofs" and with lack of leadership in so far as getting his health bill adopted by Congress — a Congress in which his own party holds the majority and in which the Kennedy name still has a certain magic.

All we are saying is that, as the campaign bristles, Senator Kennedy will lose some of the advantage he has enjoyed as a non-candidate. He will be reminded of many things. He will be taunted with the fact that the popularity and personalities of his brothers, John and Robert Kennedy, did not necessarily rub off on him.

Unless Jimmy Carter loses all his old campaign tenacity, the Carter-Kennedy battle won't be one-sided.

The real fight, of course, will be in the nominations Democratic National Convention and the outcome will have to wait on the deciding ballot.

Just as unpredictable as the Carter-Kennedy confrontation, more predictable is what will happen in the national election (November 1980) when the Republican Party pits its "best man" against the Democratic "chosen one."

As many times in the past, the Democratic fear is that the Carter and Kennedy factions will so decimate each other ("chew each other up") that any Republican (except Regan, perhaps) might be able to win over either Carter of Kennedy.

There are too many Republicans aspirants at this time (eight or nine) to indulge in any guesses as to who will be the front-runners at the Republican National Convention. These aspirants should be taken seriously, however, because the next President of the United States may again be a member of the Grand Old Party.

A footnote to history comes to mind. Over three years ago, then Senator Edward Brooke (Republican of Massachussetts) predicted, hopefuily, that Jimmy Carter would be a one-term President.

On the other hand, as this column has suggested in the past, "Don't Write Carter Off." Let us remember Harry Truman and how nearly everybody who was anybody predicted he could not be returned to the White House in 1948. That is everybody except Harry Truman and the rank and file of the voting public.

The most important consideration in 1980 is not the particular man who will become President, but whether any man or woman, in the present era, can administer and lead the United States, amid all the domestic and international problems which impinge and impound on the nation.

—MORE LETTERS—

Reform the bail system

Dear AFRO:

How many times have the underprivileged been oppressed by excessive and unreasonably high bails? The Eighth Amendment clearly states excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

In my opinion, the judicial and legislative branches of our government should implement standards, procedures, and-or policies regulating the set amount of bail posted against the alleged defendant.

For example, is it equally fair to impose a $25,000 bail against a seemingly lower-class or poor individual, and by the same token placing the same amount of bail against an upper-class or rich individual? I would think not.

This amount is considered an extremely small amount to pay for the freedom of those who can afford it, not to say of what the freed defendant can accomplish in his or her own behalf while awaiting trial.

Indigents are put at a substantial disadvantage under the present system, because defendants who remain in jail are deprived of their ability to earn a living, help in the preparation of their defense and to communicate effectively with their counsel. Statistics show that incarcerated defendants are more likely to be convicted or sentenced to jail.

Why not determine the amount of bail by calculating the family's income? If the family's total income is $15,000 at 20 percent.

In the past those families that could not afford to post bail without the aid of a bondsman, can now afford such an ordeal, with the understanding that the monies posted would be returned upon completion of the court proceedings.

This decreases a burden to the taxpayers who pay for the housing of the defendant, while he or she awaits court proceedings, and it further prevents the possibility of another overcrowding issue at the detention centers.

It also gives the defendant sufficient and ample time to adquately prepare for his or her defense, thereby decreasing postponements of court cases.

This may or may not be the best solution to the problem, but at least it's something to think about.

LARRY J. WILSON

Boycott Olympic Games

Dear AFRO:

It distrubs me, as it must all decent thinking people, that during the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, millions of dollars will pour into the treasuries of a government that imprisons and tortures Soviet Jews, political and religious dissidents, plus the fact that slave labor is being used in the construction of buildings for the Games.

Because of the Soviet Union's blatant violation of individual rights, the cruelty imposed upon free thinking people, I fail to understand why, in the first place, Moscow was ever chosen to stage the 1980 Olympic Games.

Because of the essential reality of that submerged and hidden world, the Soviet labor camp system, there should be a boycott of the Games — especially by Americans.

We have to befriend the persecuted — they who speak the truth under tyranny. We have to support those who have the valiant courage and struggle to cast a ray of light into the darkness which is the Soviet labor camp system.

Let us keep on with this work.

I have registered my strong disapproval with the U.S. Olympic Games Committee and to the International Committee in Switzerland.

Dr. Sheila Waters
Director,
The Society for Humanity and Social Reform,
International,
and P.O.W. International

Fannie Lou Hamer memorial fund

WASHINGTON

Fannie Lou Hamer, born in Montgomery County, Mississippi in 1927, became the most dynamic woman to emerge from the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s. Her willful stride from a share-cropper on a Mississippi plantation to founder and vice chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) in 1964, leaves an indelible mark of black pride and determination on our lives today.

Mrs. Hamer and the MFDP first came to prominence in August, 1964 when she led a delegation of Mississippi citizens to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J. They challenged the seats of the regular Mississippi Delegation and sparked the unprecedented pledge from the National Democratic Party not to recognize delegations that excluded blacks at the next National Convention in 1968.

Today, almost three years after her death, Fannie Lou Hamer is still the victim of undue persecution. Her grave site, in a small cemetery in Ruleville, Mississippi, is in jeopardy of being desecrated if a monument is not erected over it before the third anniversary of her death in March, 1980.

The Fannie Lou Hamer Living Memorial Fund has been organized by Linda Malonson of Houston, Texas for precisely that reason — to commemorate the life and civil rights efforts of this black American, and to save her final resting place from extirpation.

Concerned citizens of the Fannie Lou Hamer Living Memorial Fund have organized a fund raising benefit to be held Monday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m., at W. H. Bone Restaurant, 401 M St., S.W. Donations are $10.

Honorary committee members include Roscoe Dellums, Larry Bryant, Barbara Dandridge, Eileen Boyd and Jacqueline Moore.

For futher information, call Muriel L. Cauthen at 363 - 2382.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Vision loss could begin at 20

By Dr. Matthew Tayback

Do your know what one of the earlies "symptoms" of aging is? One that could well begin at the tneder age of 20, or even earlier?

You'll probably not be able to guess it, so I'll tell you: it's loss of vision.

If you're chickling over "getting old at 20," don't. So many people let early, gradual loss of vision go unchecked that by thetime they reach their older years they can't see at all—and that's no laughing matter.

In fact, half the blind people in the United States are over 65, even though the 65-plus age group constitutes eleven percent of the country's population.

Fortunately, these facts need not be as alarming as they appear. That's because they are in indication of a problem among older people which can be substantially prevented rather than an indication of a problem among older people which can be substantially prevented rather than an indication that blindness is inevitable for thousands and thousands of the nation's elderly.

As the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness has observed: "The important point is that eye problems are failing vision in the older person can often be prevented and should not be shrugged off as 'the price of aging.' Early detection leading to prompt treatment, through regular professional eye examination, is as important at 75 as at five...Half of all cases of blindness can be prevented."

It is worth noting that regular eye check-ups are particularly important for the elderly for a reason that goes even beyond attention to vision. The interior of the ye is a unique place in the body where the 'blood vessels can be seen in their natural state; thus, examination of the eye can aid in detecting such diseases as diabetes, high blood pressure, hardining of the arteries and even some brain tumors.

What are some of the most common age-related eye problems?

Presbyopia is one. Not a disease actually, it is a gradual loss of elasticity in the crystalline lens. This impairs an individual's ability to change focus from far to near (or near to far) objects. To one degree or another, it's experienced by everyone. Fortunately, it's effectively corrected with eyeglasses.

Cataract is probably the best known eye problem among the elderly. Some physicians go so far as to say that everyone will get cataracts of they live long enough. Like Presbyopia, a cataract affects the eye's lens, clouding it, rendering it increasingly opaque and thereby impairing vision.

Fortunately, fewer than five percent of all cataract cases require surgery. For those that do, modern surgical techniques have made the operatio far less traumatic than it used to be. In fact, recovering patients are usually up and walking within 24 to 48 hours. Only the eye from which the cararact was removed is covered. The other is allowed to remain open and function normally.

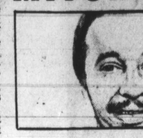
Glaucoma is a third thief of vision. Its symptoms include unexplained blurring of vision in one or both eyes, occasional headaches and the seeing of rainbow halos around bright lights. Unhappily, and herein lies the insidious threat of glaucoma, once symptoms have become noticeable, the disease has often progressed to a dangerous, sight-robbing stage.

A definite fing of glaucoma can be made quickly and painlessly by an ophthalmologist or optermetrist with a tonometer, an instruent which measuess the pressure exerted upon the eye by the fluid which fills it. (It is this higher-than-normal pressure that is responsible for damaging the optic nerve and causing loss of vision.) Once diagnosed, glaucoma can usually be controlled indefinitely with medication.

There are, of course, other diseases or conditions that attack the aging eye. Macular degeneration is one; detachment of the retina, another. Some can be treated. When treatment is not possible, certain aids to vision—high-intensity light, for instance, or mounted magnifiers—can be of considerable help.

The most important thing to remember when thinking about protecting your eyes and conversing your eyesight as you grow older is the need for regular eye examinations. The time spend with your ophthalmologist or optometrist can mean saving your eyesight for the rest of your life.

Parren MITCHELL



Unemployment Costs

On Wednesday, October 31st, I held hearings for the Joint Economic Committee on the issue of the social costs of unemployment. The focus of the hearing was to identify the physical and mental disorders associated with unemployment variation.

We received testimony on the correlation of unemployment and criminal activity. This testimony revealed that without the costs of these two elements incorporated in the calculation of unemployment costs, unemployment is grossly understated. At issue is the question of whether pockets of unemployment create an atmosphere that costs society. Are there hidden costs to unemployment?

We had previously held hearings in this committee to identify the factors that cause unemployment. We had identified and held hearings on education, occupational trends, discrimination and the sundry factors that are correlated with unemployment. This committee has received testimony relating the costs of these factors to the economy. At the October 31st hearing we received testimony on the costs associated with unemployment.

A study, recently completed by Coopers and Lybrand, indicates that it costs New York City $71.87 per day or approximately $26,0.. per year to keep a prisoner locked up. Studies completed by the Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office indicate that it costs between $191 - $241 per day or $78,000 per year to maintain a patient in a hospital. If unemployment is highly correlated with crime and physical as well as mental health then we, as a society, are absorbing the real costs of unemployment.

We first must be able to identify these factors and secondly, we must be able to associate a cost with their existence. The economics of unemployment must be investigated by this committee, not only to find the answer as to why it persists but to measure the degree of its pervasive existence.

We heard from two witnesses who have researched two specific aspects of the social costs of unemployment. Dr. M. Harvey Brenner, who is an Associate Professor in the Division of Operations Research at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, has done research correlating mental and physical pathology and socioeconomic status. Dr. Ann White, who is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has written extensively on the issues of criminal activity and unemployment.

Dr. Brenner's testimony was based upon his study "Pathology and the National Economy." The essence of Dr. Brenner's study is summarized as follows:

"The findings support the principal hypothesis that rapid economic growth, unemployment, and short - term income loss are significantly related to pathological indicies. In one test, only mortality data in general and for specific causes generally associated with psychosocial stress was used, including suicide, homicide, cardiovascular disease, and cirrhosis of the liver. It can also be seen that the statistical significance of the lag of mortality rates by cause to changes in the unemployment rate various by cause of death. Thus the theoretically slower reacting chronic diseases, indicated by cardiovascular cirrhosis and total mortality, often require that the lag estimate an average impact begin with the second year and end in the fifth. The theoretically "quick" reacting causes of death, such as suicide and homicide, require that the lag structure include the early years (0 and 1); indeed, the predominant impact is seen during those years. The implication of these findings is that, as hypothesized, while both rapid economic growth and unemployment are positively related to pathology, the impact of unemployment lasts for several additional years, particularly for the chronic illnesses. These findings further explain why it has appeared to some observers using only graphic techniques or simple correlations (i .e., not using multivariate procedures) (15, 43) that the heaviest incidence of increased mortality occurs during upswings in the "economic cycle."

In response to my questions, Dr. Brenner stated that insofar as Blacks are concerned, the impact of unemployment on such things as suicide, homocide, circulatory diseases and mental illness, is more than likely to be four times as great.

What does all this mean? Well, it simply means that because of national policy to keep unemployment rates high and because Blacks have the brunt of this policy as evidence by our present high unemployment rate, we can expect an increase in suicide; homocide; mental illnesses; and circulatory diseases, and these increases will be directly tied to the unacceptable, and unjust levels of black unemployment.

Black-Jewish split over Middle East affects Baltimore's black community

by Adrienne Manns
AFRO Staff Writer

Local concern for the reported "split" between black leaders and Jewish leaders is apparently very real judging from some of the AFRO's recent letters to the editor.

Some say the whole thing has been blown out of proportion and others say our leaders should concern themselves with problem.. at home and let those who make national policy decide what happens between the United States and the Middle East. Others say the average black person could care less.

It is ironic that Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, two leaders quoted and hailed by significant numbers of black people, both spoke out on and were committed to concerns outside the borders of the United States. They were both criticized for doing so by segments of the black community who, after the two were dead, revered them for their internationalism.

There is no doubt that the issues raised by Vernon Jordan, Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Walter Fauntroy, Benjamin Hooks and the others involved in the reported black-Jewish rift, effect us right here in Baltimore.

In the first place if there is a major war in the Middle East and the United States gets involved, black men will be sent to fight. We can expect another Vietnam. With Baltimore's high unemployment rate we can expect a large number of volunteers from the black community. And if the draft is enacted, the poor and black will carry the weight.

Not our leaders, but the common man (and possibly woman) on the street, who some claim could care less about what is happening in the rest of the world, will suffer the loss of life and sanity which a war in the Middle East would bring.

In the second place is money. Most of the major black civil rights organizations in the United States get significant financial support from Jewish philathropists. If these philanthropists cut off their funds, will that mean an end to the black struggle for equal rights and a reversion to segregation and economic oblivion?

Does this mean that the black community should expect its leaders to keep their mouths shut about anything that might offend their benefactors?

If this is the case, how can we ever expect to be "free" or "equal" or any of the other avowed aims of our times?

The final issue is the moral issue.

Israel has a military treaty with apartheid South Africa and provided with-all to produce an atomic bomb.

Israeli, German, Japanese and U.S. investment, helps keep white South Africans the richest whites in the world. These investments help keep a minority in power and the blacks living in concentration camps and under indescribable oppression in their own country. Why haven't our leaders asked American Jewish leaders and philanthropists to demand an end to Israel's compliance with black genocide in Africa?

Jewish leaders in America are willing to take action to help Israel. But many of our leaders seem to stop short of taking any action. Is that because they, and therefore we, are that much weaker economically and politically than the Jewish community, or is it because we do not feel the same commitment to Africa as they feel to Israel?

As for the black leaders who seem to be courting the Arab world, what have they to say about the Arab oil producers' squeeze on African nations, a squeeze that is aided by the American oil companies, but about which the Arabs have done next to nothing.

What has Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization done about the cultural nationalism that many Muslims have used to oppress non-Muslims in Africa and in their own countries?

It is reported that in North Africa and in some parts of the Middle East today light-skinned Arabs keep black-skinned Africans as virtual slaves.

Palestinian refugees were pushed off their land to make room for the Jewish immigrants from Europe after the Nazi era. But Great Britain, the colonial power that "owned" Palestine after the second world war, considered Kenya as a Jewish homeland and even parts of South Africa. They were willing to give away African and Asian land to solve a European problem.

It happens that because of their historical and Biblical roots that Jewish leaders preferred Palestine. Nevertheless, even Moshe Dayan, the former Israeli defense minister, disagrees with Israel's hard line on the Palestinian land question.

He has even resigned over the issue.

Are black American leaders willing to brand the PLO as terrorists and insist that their demands are a manisfestation of anti-Semitism and hatred of Jews and never criticize the oppression of the Palestinians and the color discrimination that is reportedly practiced to some degree in Israel?

Our leaders should at least ask questions and not blindly follow the line of any set of benefactors. It is significant that Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP supports a homeland for the Palestinians even though he criticized Jesse Jackson for the latter's peace initiatives in the Middle East.

The point here is that black people in the United States cannot afford to ignore what happens in the rest of the world because world events are for us often a matter of life and death. We should ask of all our allies, potential or real, that they refrain from racist acts and policies and stop giving "aid" to "friendly" African countries and black American organizations while they take the lion's share of profits from our resources and our labor. This, it seems, is the least that we could do for ourselves.

Mays and the Commissioner

Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn has just about kicked Willie Mays out of baseball because the black former outfielder is to do work for a legalized gambling operation.

Kuhn leaped on this incident with what seemed like fiendish delight after being accused of doing nothing in serveral previous situations that called for his action.

Kuhn also apparently is conveniently forgetting that many baseball owners are associated with gambling operations in dog and horse racing.

Meanwhile, Kuhn supposedly is investigating the latest fracas involving former New York Yankee Manager Billy Martin, which got him fired from that post. Martin's past performances have brought nothing but embarrassment and disrespect to the game. Yet Kuhn has seldom spoken out against Martin's behavior.

Mays has brought nothing but honor and respect to the game on and off the field. His ban from the national pastime smacks of racism in its most blatant form. Baseball Commisner Bowie Kuhn has just about kicked Willie Mays tut of baseball because the black former outfielder is to do work for a legalized gambling operation.

Kuhn leaped on this incident with what seemed like fiendish delight after being accused of doing nothing in serveral previous situations that called for his action.