Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The champ

"Sugar Ray" Leonard understandably is the pride of Palmer Park, Md., situated just outside Washington, D.C., but we are not about to let any other territory claim all of the new welter weight boxing champion of the world.

Baltimoreans took the new champ to their hearts early on in his career and the support of local fans and city officialdom surely helped Leonard in his quest for the champion's belt. Some of his first professional triumphs were here and we still remember Sugar in public training sessions at Mondawmin Mall.

As a challenger he captured the imaginations of many youngsters and his cheery-gentlemanly manner can only be a good role model for our kids to emulate.

As a champion we know he will wear his crown well.

He is a beautiful boxer and we know he will be a graceful champion.

His victory over the stylish young Benitez was a classic example of the manly art. We congratulate the new champ and since Baltimore has always been in his corner there is nothing else presently to say.

Except of course that he was our champ from the beginning.

Renters' rights

The City Council this week approved a bill that would give tenants first opportunity to purchase the house in which they live if the owner decides to sell.

This is a just law which gives renters rights previously not protected under law.

Often folks who rent homes or apartments within houses put a lot of their own sweat and finances into the improvement of the property which represents an investment over and beyond their responsibility.

When a house-owner decides to sell the property the renter is preemptorily forced to move out with nothing to show for his or her own commitment to the property that had been home.

With this right to first refusal statute on the books renters will be able to go ahead and purchase the property and protect both their emotional and economic investment in a specific living place.

We urge all renters who can so afford to take advantage of this option when it presents itself.

We commend the City Council for this enlightened legislation and look forward to its becoming law at the earliest possible time.

The bill as passed has some flaws, such as the definition of a "reasonable" cost in the real estate market and who will determine the current market.

The bill as written allows 30 days after passage before it goes into effect and it is hoped the new Council will use that time to correct the legislation so that it serves citizens most effectively.

The right path at MSU

We fervently hope that the Morgan State University Board of Regents move this week to appoint a five-member panel to study the chargers and counter-charges surrounding the administration of Dr. Andrew Billingsley is the right step, ensuring calm evaluation of whatever problems exist and sane solutions to said problems.

We hope further that in what possibly is a conflict of acam academicians that the needs and aspirations of the Morgan student body will not be overlooked. It may sound like a platitude but the real business of Morgan or any other seat of learning is teaching people not maintaining professionals on payrolls for its own sake.

We finally hope that the MSU regents panel will ensure that the public has full access to its findings and recommendations.

General Motors Layoffs

This state's economy has been dealt yet another hard blow.

General Motors, one of the area's largest employers, will lay off some 2,300 employees in January. GM cites declining sales, higher borrowing rates and astronomic gasoline costs for its decision to eliminate workers.

The GM action will affect many working people in our community which is already devastated by massive joblessness.

In 1978 unemployment among adult blacks locally rose to 18.3 percent compared to a four per cent level for whites.

The jobless rate among our teenagers is even more dismal. It is presently at 22.8 percent or worse.

The GM decision augurs for an even rougher winter and we presently see no end to our troubles.

Guns in school

Even the idea of pistol-wielding teenagers invading public schools and shooting students is awful. When it actually transpires as was the case at Eastern High this week, it is horrifying.

The incident screams for strong gun control measures. Where do kids get revolvers is the first question? The second question is what we do about them once they are armed and ready to settle all and any disputes with bullets?

We have a short-range answer and that is to urge the School Board to take whatever stringent security measures it deems necessary to keep armed thugs out of our classrooms and to protect the well-being of all pupils.

Over the long haul the fact that there are young people of a mentality that persuades them that violence is acceptable behavior is a problem to which we must all address ourselves.

That problem can only be dealt with by parents, the schools, law entorcement agencies and concerned citizens and organizations working together.

The new city council

Swearing-in ceremonies for the newest edition of the Baltimore City Council were held this week (December 6) and while we were Reeves we could not help but regret that the city's governing body is still not representative of this city's population.

The Baltimore City Council should be majority-black and reaching that goal in the next election is certainly one of our top political priorities.

The time to begin is now!

Be thankful

Dear AFRO:

In this age of man's existence he must learn to say thanks to God for giving him the knowledge of the attributes of Himself (God), and the ability to recognize God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Let mankind be thankful that Christ's return if Bahaiillah - The Greatest Name. He suffered and toiled for the whole of humanity. His outlook was world - wide; His teaching from beginning to end was universal.

The destination of His Revelation from all before it is that by Ancient Decree of God, it is to be accepted by all humanity.

Through the Supreme Advent of Bahaiillah it is completed by a new and crowning bestowal of the grace of the everlasting God and of His Holy Spirit. When everywhere are now to believe, and know at last, the truth of the old revelation that there is one Father of us all, that Earth is one home, and that all men are brothers.

S.G. MILLS
Member of the
Baltimore Bahai
Spiritual Assembly

DEAR AFRO

Cambodians speak

Dear AFRO:

We, the Cambodian Americans and Cambodian nationals in the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area are concerned over the current grave situation in Cambodia.

The mass media, particularly the newspapers have been reporting vigorously about how Kmer Rouge Army and civilians alike have started a mass exodus west to border towns in Thailand. This mass exodus did not happen overnight. It has been going on for some time when the fighting resumed bewtween the forces of the old Pol Pot regime and the Vietnamese - backed government of Heng Samrin. Reports coming from Cambodia and Thailand estimate the total number of these refugees to be up to 100,000 camped in Thai border towns.

We are appalled at reports of great numbers of children and adults dying of malnutrition, hunger and disease. We are even more concerned at the news that Vietnamese forces were building up their supplies by confiscating relief supplies and foreign food supposedly distributed to the refugees.

Approximately two to three million Cambodians face possible starvation if relief is not forthcoming. The problem is further exacerbated by the fact that Vietnam is trying to get international recognition for its puppet regime in Cambodia led by Heng Samrin.

We do not condone these brutal acts on our people in Cambodia.

We urge the Government of the United States and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China to assist Prince Sihanouk who is leading a Khmer National Liberation Movement to remove the government of Heng Samrin and to replace Pol Pot's delegates in the United Nations. Only by extending official recognition to Prince Sihanouk's third party liberation of his embattled country through military and financial assistance will he succeed in regaining his true and old leadership in Cambodia.

Our group is small and has no voice in influencing foreign policy. But we are writing to express our concern in the hope that the human rights which are espoused by many nations are also applied to Cambodia.

HUON DE MONTEIRO
For the president
Cambodian Association

Black men and women

Dear AFRO:

Regardless of age, the younger woman has the advantage over the older. First of all, the black women of today have to get into themselves. They are suppose to be proud and beautiful at the same time. Learn to deal with other women in the way that they are as good as the next one. Try to program yourselves by keeping up with the next one, because you are the same as the next woman, a woman.

Try to get a man mentally and not physically. Getting him with your mind is the only way you will hold on to him. Having him physically is giving him the opportunity to use your body. The black woman's body has been used enough, because they had no choice (think back during slavery time).

Take this advice and try to be what you want to be and stop letting someone or something cause you to be what you are not.

The same applies to the black man.

The key to every Black man's success is the Black woman. She is the backbone, because she has the strength to push him on to his goal. She also has the ability to make him what she wants him to be.

The black man needs to seek for this strong woman if he doesn't have her. Then again the both of you can start together by getting into yourselves. Face it, we need more strong black men, because the majority of them are gone. But life goes on, so try to stick together like we are supposed to.

PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM

Deaf have rights

One thing I cannot understand about the AFRO. They talk about discrimination against minorities; but never a word about how deaf people are discriminated against by the news media.

I have been deaf for nine years. I have written every one in authority to try to get them to show one newscast captioned. They claim when they caption the news, hearing people complain. Because of the fact deaf people are minority; they are given no consideration.

They have a morning program in sign language which is wonderful for the people who were born deaf, but people who have lost their hearing in later life cannot keep up. I read lips very well, its impossible to keep up with the announcers, they are timed and talk too fast. Since losing my hearing, I have learned deaf people are too silent.

The only program with news captions is 11:30 p.m. over the P. 13 S.

The stations are licensed by the L.C.C. and they should compel the news media to caption at least one program a day.

It seems that we are not considered citizens; although, I vote, pay taxes like everyone else but get no enjoyment from the T.V. except baseball, I do not need my ears to watch the games.

I am writing to bring it to your attention how this group is discriminated against and the paper never mentions it which, I think is unfair.

MYRTLE G. LYLES

Swine flu negligence

On July 16, 1979, I and eight other members of Congress wrote to the Justice Department urging the Attorney - General to concede causation and negligence in all Guillain - Barre cases brought against the government under the Swine Flu Act of 1976.

We requested this action by the Justice Department because three thousand or more people contracted Guillain - Barre disease (a crippling disease which results in partial or full paralysis or death) as a result of taking swine flu shots at the urging of federal, state and local governments.

Over 3,750 claims have been filed under the swine flu program of 1976. These claims seek damages totaling over $3.3 billion. To date, over $1.5 million has been paid to compensate victims of the Guillain - Barre syndrome.

These payments represent only a small fraction of the amount of claims in the instances where settlements have been reached. We have attempted to reach settlements in a much larger number of claims and cases but have been unable to reach fair settlements.

The Department of Justice has now taken the position that persons who contracted the paralyzing disease as a result of administration of the vaccine during the swine flu program and not be required to prove negligence in order to obtain compensation.

This is a significant break because it would be costly time - wise and money - wise for a person to obtain a lawyer and go through a series of hearings to prove that the government had been negligent in the administration of the swine flu program.

In our letter to the Justice Department, we urged that the government concede causation in all Guillain - Barre cases brought against the government under the Swine Flu Act of 1976.

The Justice Department refuses to make this concession. The Justice Department's argument against concession is as follows:

"The Guilain - Barre Syndrome is known to occur naturally. In addition, it is known to be associated with conditions such as certain infections and alcoholism.

"Especially when a period of time passes following administration of the vaccine, no relationship has been demonstrated connecting the occurrence of the unfortunate illness in individuals with administration of the swine flu vaccine.

"While I sympathize with the plight of individuals who have contracted the Guillain - Barre Syndrome, or other illnesses, the Congress has not authorized compensation to be paid for illnesses which are not caused by administration of the swine flu vaccine."

The gist of this argument is that since the disease can occur naturally, the person who took the vaccine and later contracted the disease may have gotten the disease even if she or he had not taken the swine flu shot. The argument is one of causation.

We who wrote the Justice Department believe that the Department's position is wrong. We believe that if there is doubt as to causation, the benefit of doubt should go to the person who contracted the disease.

It was government carelessness in the administration of the swine flu program which is the issue. We who initiated this effort in Congress to secure compensation for these victims will continue our efforts until equity is achieved for all.

Members of Congress involved in this fight for Justice are, Congresswomen Fenwick, and Oakar, and Congressmen, Edwards, Weiss, Brodhead; DelaGarcia; Kemp; Dellums; and me.

Thank you

Dear AFRO:

The Community Residence Center, Inc. would like to thank you for the wonderful coverage at our First Annual Salute To Successful Ex - Offenders. The article and pictures were very well presented and the responses have been great.

Thanks again for the fine story.

JEROME D. WRIGHT
Executive Director

By G. James Fleming

Small can be powerful

Small is not only often beautiful; it can be powerful. This is the lesson of the confrontation between the United States and little Iran, as it has also been the lesson of Castro's Cuba against the United States. Our country should also have learned this lesson in the war it did not win against Korea and Vietnam.

How come the United States has stood stymied, really helpless, as Cuba has become an unfriendly power in the Caribbean and a belligerent leader in the Third World, sending its fighting men and women to several countries of Africa?

How come the United States is heart - breakingly helpless in reference to Iran, while the Ayatoullah Khomeini and his Revolutionary Council held 50 Americans hostage in the U.S. embassy?

The naked truth is that military might has become obsolete, as the Quakers and other peace advocates have been telling the world (and America) for many years.

Of course, the United States could blow up the Ayatoullah and his Council to kingdom come. But, what would that mean? Our hostages would be blown up, too. Iran's Islamic neighbors would rise up against America in numerous ways, and a good many sources of oil would be closed to us. As with our use of the atomic bomb against Japan, the black and brown world would charge the United States with racism, quick to use its ultimate weapons against non - white peoples.

Last, but not least, the Soviet Union would be sure to enter the fray on the side of the "underdog" and against the United States. World War III might be here!

The matter of whether or not to return the shah to Iran is not chiefly a question of morality. It is a question of national self - interest. It is not just the problem of dealing with the body of one man — a very sick man. It is the fear that the price the nation may have to pay, regardless of how we dispose of the shah. We, the United States, will be "damned if we do and damned if we don't." Even the American people are divided and confused (although more united on the Iran issue than on any other).

Some people have reduced the American - Iran stalemate to a game of numbers. Why risk the lives of 50 Americans for one shah of questionable repute?

Some want to settle the problem by enticing the Bahamas or Bermuda to give asylum to the shah, without thinking of the impossible security cost and responsibility on these very small countries. Then too, any such pressure would rightfully be labelled neo - colonialism.

One lovely American lady would send the shah "anywhere, to stay forever, with David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger."

Many people ask how smart was it for the U.S. government to allow the shah to come to New York "for medical treatment. Why did we not send some American specialists to treat him in Mexico?" Others point to the fact that our neighbor to the south "has many outstanding physicians and hospitals."

In other words, did President Carter use the best judgment in approving the coming of the shah?

On this count, some commentators have held that the CIA had furnished the administration with a report which warned of what might happen if the shah were given haven in the United States.

Perhaps, it is this same report that caused the government to refuse asylum to the deposed ruler in the first instance.

In the meantime, President Carter is doing all he can do, short of attempting military might. What the future holds can only be guesses.

Perhaps some country, such as South Africa, will open its doors to the shah, as President Sadat of Egypt has already promised (although this column does not think that Sadat can afford the luxury and risk of entertaining the shah).

The ayatoullah may release the hostages under one of the plans suggested. In that event Congress may promise an "investigation" of the shah; or, the president may publicly indict the shah or criticize former U.S. administrations for putting the shah into power and arming his regime.

The point of this piece, however, is to call attention to the reality that, in a few short years, there has been the end of an era. The day is past when the United States can "Send in the Marines" in order to "protect our national honor." History also seems to say that the atomic and hydrogen bombs and their bigger brothers have become white elephants — but, what death - dealing elephants to both masters of the bombs and their victims, if anyone is foolish enough to use them.

By Elizabeth M.Oliver

The 100 special people of the 1970's *Part One*

These Special Persons of the 1970's are listed among the 100 Marylanders selected by this columnist at the close of this decade.

Printed here today are the first 50 of the group. The next 50 will be listed next week in For All We Know. Each person cited has accomplished much more, we know, however there have been outstanding reasons that have merited special notation and highlight the years 1970-79.

SPECIAL MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DECADE

MRS. MAGGIE FULLARD, - mother of five missionary worker and the superb cook at Loyola College who is beloved of all the students.

WALTER J. WADDY, the quiet but tireless labor leader and advocate for the rights of all people as the director of the 7-state area Region III, AFLCIO.

MRS. MATTIE PRESE, librarian at Hollendar Ridge Housing Project, Christian Science practitioner and designer of hats in her own business for 60 years.

OSBORNE A.PAYNE, owner of a chain of McDonalds ,provider of scores of jobs for young people.

SISTER PAUL AND SISTER REGINALD administrators of the Oblate Sisters outreach and restoration project near the Penitentiary in old East Baltimore.

MRS. ELEANOR D.POWELL and DEL. TROY BRAILEY whose efforts in establishing Family Day legally in August in Maryland have had far reaching effect in keeping families together.

HERSHEY RICHARDSON, the ILA (International Longshoremens Asso. vice president and second head of the Port of Baltimore in the port's history.

DUVALL PARRISH, the first ILA administrator of the multimillion dollar Guaranteed Annual Income Fund for the thousands of men on the Port of Baltimore.

MRS. VIRGINIA KIAH, founder of the Lillie M. Jackson Museum, the first of its kind in the nation.

COL. JAMES H. WATKINS, the retired police officer, recipient of many awards for service.

CARROLL GREENE JR. , head of the Maryland Commission on Afro American History and Culture, the only state commission of its kind in the nation.

THOMAS STOCKETT, award winning artist whose paintings have made immortal Baltimore 's inner city white marble steps and other traditional neighborhood scenes.

RILEY FEREBEE, the 10th Grade Pomonkey, Md. student whose composition on Blacks in America won first place in the Black History Essay Contest.

REV. CLARENCE POOLE, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church and his historic congregation which has continually attracted scores of young people and adults to membership.

MARY CARTER SMITH, widely acclaimed griot, poetess and dramatist whose efforts have brought dignity to black folklore and folktales.

MRS. JEAN WALSH of the Catonsville Historical Society for her tireless efforts in bringing the film on the life of Benjamin Banneker starring Ossie Davis to successful production.

MRS. MARGARET MITCHELL, principal of Gist Elementary School, a humanitarian and inspiration to hundreds of parents and students.

RAYMOND V. HAYSBERT, head of Parks Sausage and leading business and banking executive.

DON MILLER, the Baltimore Neighborhoods administrator and pioneer for equality in housing ownership and rental in Baltimore city and County.

MRS. BETTYE LAW JOHNSON, brilliant leader as president of the Maryland women of the United Baptist Missionary Convention.

MRS. BERNICE WHITE, longtime Social Security Office of Governmental Affairs administrator whose efforts have benefitted public relations and employment.

OTTO SILVA, former AFRO carrier , who is now head of the Steel Workers Union at Continental Can Co.

MRS. JUANITA MILLER, the efficient and tireless person who is first to become Grand Jury clerk.

JUDGE U. THEODORE HAYES, the retired Juvenile Court jurist, who continues beneficial interest in the plight of disadvantaged young people.

MRS. DOROTHY BENNETT, the Elementary School 63 principal who is not only interested in her pupils but the elderly of the entire community.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BISHOP ROBINSON, longtime Police Department officer who has come up through the ranks to become second in command of the third largest police force in the nation.

REV. ST. GEORGE CROSS, Republican and minister of Lewin Methodist Church, a civil rights crusader and often the long advocate of unpopular causes.

MAYOR HARRY KELLY of Ocean City, founder of the People to People program which annually gives a unique summer resort vacation to needy Baltimore young people.

REV. KELLY L. JACKSON, the retired Methodist minister who spearheaded the new $ 6 million project to build the new N.M.- Carroll Home for the Aged.

ROBERT CLAY, the resourceful young businessman who has built his family' contracting firm into a $multi-million establishment.

DR. HARVEY WEBB, head of Constant Care which provides services for over 250,000 persons in all areas of health and introduced the holistic health movement to Baltimore.

DR. JOHN L. CREW, head of the Baltimore schools, who has successfully administered the program of this, the nation's third largest system.

MRS. HELEN V. BENTON, longtime Baptist member, who has overcome severe illness and is energetically serving as president of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

MRS. SAUNDRA BANKS who won election to become the first woman chief of the Court of Common Pleas.

EARL KOGER, pioneer journalist, president of the local Business League which was founded by Booker T. Washington and outspoken advocate of black ownership and employment in business.

JOSEPH LEON CLAYTON, Department of Education electrical division administrator, lifelong member of Metropolitan Methodist Church and vibrant member of the Methodist Men and Usher Board.

MRS. VICTORINE Q.ADAMS, City Councilwoman and longtime leader in civil rights and register to vote programs.

REV. W.W.PAYNE, minister, who provides food and clothing for thousands of needy persons on holidays and the year around in a unique and unprecedented church outreach program.

M. BRADLEY, the longtime civil rights fighter and president of the Metropolitan Baltimore AFLCIO Unions who has taken a front line position on all crusades for equality.

OFFICER EARL NESBIT, president of the Vanguards ,the association of black police officers, who won the suit for equality in employment in the police department.

FRANK M. CONAWAY, the member of the Maryland House of Delegates, whose success in the insurance business has benefitted black policy holders in all walks of life but especially those of the lower income bracket.

VICTOR FRENKIL, noted contractor, whose development and restoration of the Belvedere Hotel and that area has opened the facilities and opportunities for all persons regardless of race.

BISHOP MONROE A. SAUNDERS, brilliant leader of a congregation which now owns the $ multimillion center for religious and child growth on the Baltimore National Pike.

CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL, Maryland's first black congressman, whose relentless fight for underprivileged persons has won for him nationwide respect.

PAUL FAIRFAX EVANS, resourceful journalist, who has authored and published the first book on Baltimore highlights of the eventful period of the 1960's,

JACK TAYLOR of Cherry Hill, the eldest member of the Virginia family, one of America's largest clans, an inspiration to black family history everywhere.

SCOTT J. SOWELL, editor and his staff for the publication of the exceptional Maryland Penitentiary Magazine and other publications which provide worthy expression for inmates, their poems, essays and grievances.

CHARLES G.TILDON, chairman of the board of directors of the Central Maryland Health Systems, who has given invaluable service to the vast program which benefits Maryland's entire population.

Israeli-Palestinian issue and 'so-called black leaders'

Dear AFRO:

Mrs. Murphy (Madeline) is right about so - called "black leaders" being managed and controlled a'la' the mass media. Revolutionaries would say "puppets" or "stooges" or "boot licker" when they describe would - be leaders who would be rhetorically articulating and expounding upon the just grievances and aspirations of their oppressed people, but in practice having visions that extend only to the coffers of their illicit savings account.

Or, while taking a dip in their heated swimming pools, way off in snug suburbia, give rose - coloured interviews to elitist news weeklies which in essence expressed that they, the opposition, have nothing to fear from "the natives" as long as they (Toms, guislings, etc.) got paid.

It is also true that the mass - media mysteriously neglects to mention (as often as it does about the P.L.O.) that Menachem Wolfolvich Begin, under the patronage of the Haganah, and through the terroristically infamous Stern Gang (Trgun Mesh), not only terrorized Arabs who refused to extinguish their country, but also proudly boasted of his bloody hacking - and - carving up of Palestinians to achieve his objectives.

In an interview with TIMES MAGAZINE Mr. Begin gleefully proclaimed: "The legend of Deir Yassin (a massacre in which hundreds of bewildered and defenseless women and children were mercilessly wiped out) helped us in particular in the savings (SIC) of Tiberias and the conquest of Haifa. All the Jewish forces proceeded to advance through Haifa like a knife through butter. Arabs throughout the country (Palestine) were seized by limitless fear and panic and started to flee their lives! How gruesomely true.

Ms. Murphy must not have known that contemporary historians on the Asian conflict have put forth the surmise that, after acquiring and then harnessing the deadly but, effective, use of modern guerrilla warfare, developed in cohoots by warring Machiavellianist imperialists in the first and second so - called World Wars, the Jews returned to Palestine and moved with ruthless, lightning swift speed and precision — like surgeons par excellance — IN EXTRICATING "the natives" from their home of thirteen centuries. In the process they used . . . every tactic and dirty trick of modern guerrilla and psychological warfare, inventing, perfecting, and improving upon method, technique, strategy and execution — all of which are being employed and deployed by today's meanest to mildest terrorists, including, if you will, the P.L.O.

Another thing which is fascinating is that we get a heap of this and lot of that about P.L.O. rapid deployment maneuvers (to use the American pseudonym). But Israel's use of American made, highly sophisticated, F - 5's, 14's, 15's, 16's, and Mirage and Kfir jet fighters - bombers against Palestinians and Lebanese is only given little attention in the American press.

The "official" policy of the Israel government is to blow up Palestinian homes even "suspected" of harboring a Palestine freedom fighter. And if that's not "terrorism" . . .

Billy Carter, brother of President Jimmy Carter, once told a news reporter that the Jewish people in America have a monopoly on the sources of information: the mass - media. I've heard many people make such claims. I wonder, to prove or disprove it once and for all, if Louis Harris took a poll of media executives asking whether they were Jewish or non - Jewish, what would be the results? Would he be hounded and slandered like Billy Carter, or would he get prompt answers, 'yes' - 'no'?

Vernon Jordan. It's no sense that the AFRO surround his boot - licking with embellished words. Doing that sort of thing only invites the pointing finger to the AFRO itself. Vernon Jordan got perhaps millions from rich Jewish groups and individuals — as compared to the ten thousand Jesse Jackson only a couple days ago got from the Arabs. Millions over the years vs. a few bucks in the last three weeks.

Nikki Giovanni would say to that: "Ain't he got no shame!" I don't know what Jackson is, or is not, but I can say that the man, more than any of those robots who claimed in Israel recently that they represent black people, my God! more than Vernon Jordan, is closer to his people than self - and ruling class - appointed idiots.

Ms. Murphy was only too right. I vote her and Ms. Ethel Payne our black spokesperson. Vernon Jordan may have gone to Chicago to "mend fences" but, not unlike humpty dumpty, he will never be able to fool black people again.

JEROME HINTON - HENSON

Jewish relations with South Africa exaggerated

Dear AFRO:

This letter is an outgrowth of a conversation I had with one of your staff writers about the Nov. 10, 1979 op - ed article entitled: "Black Jewish Split over Middle East affects Baltimore's Black Community."

These are the facts; The other point of contention . . . was the treatment of Israel - South Africa relations. The article approached the subject with narrow views of a rather complicated multi - faceted international issue, involving, besides Israel and South Africa, the rest of the world, economically and politically.

I understand the emotions which enter into the picture when we consider the apartheid policy of South Africa, but we have to face facts, in all their aspects as they are . . .

Let me state first that Israel's trade with South Africa is minute in comparison with the trade relations South Africa has with the rest of the world, including 19 black African Nations.

The Baltimore Jewish Times recently published a report by Kenneth Jacobson, an expert on Middle Eastern affairs, based on the latest statistics on trade of the International Monetary Fund (the institution which has a hand in all international trades and exchanges) certainly an unquestionable and authoritative source of information on international trade relations and economic issues.

Middle Eastern (Arabic) countries (such principled friends of African Liberation) trading with South Africa are: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Abu Dhaby. The deal with the apartheid Republic is oil (what else), food and Of the European Nations, most notably France, but also Great Britian, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have healthy trade relations, with South Africa. The U.S. and Canada, Australia and South American Nations trade with South Africa.

Let's not single out Israel! But I have not finished.

Do you know who else has very substantial trade relations with South Africa, 19 Black African Nations, including: Botswana, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland and Zaire.

Israel;s dealings with South Africa are dwarfed by black Africa. Is it wrong for Israel but not wrong for Liberia to deal with South Africa? On the other hand what's good for Nigeria's economy, should certainly not be denied the State of Israel!

Based on reports emanating from the International Monetary Fund, South Africa in 1978 exported $66 million worth of merchandise (Israel, 0.5 percent (one half of one percent) of South Africa's total exports, and imported $28 million worth from Israel, 0.4 percent (4 tenths of one percent) of its total imports. At the same time, South Africa's exports to black Africa total $499 million, 4.1 percent (four percent) of the total exports and imported $230 million from black Africa, or 3.2 percent of total imports.

Exports to the Western Nations (U.S., United Kingdom, Japan and West Germany) amounted to $4.7 billion worth of goods, 39.4 percent of South Africa's total exports, imports from these nations totalled $4.8 billion or 65 percent of total imports.

These figures further demonstrate the insignificance of Israel, South Africa trade relations. Of course they are important for Israel, very important indeed, but for us to make Israel the main "villain" is to fuel the emotions and exacerbate a situation here at home.

The New York Times on April 8, 1979 reported that South African Trade with black Africa is undoubtedly much larger than statistically reported. Since black African countries are officially boycotting South Africa secrecy is politically imperative and expedient. Trading partners include the radical nation of Mozambique and more conservative Zambia and Zaire and the distant countries of Nigeria and Ghana.

The Arab States, too, engage in widespread secret trade with South Africa. (Why can't Israel keep it a secret). It is well known that the Arab countries have purchased large amounts of gold from South Africa over recent years, "in exchange for oil, which South Africa imports at a rate of 400,000 barrels a day from "unknown sources."

(Israel is not an oil producing country, and it if it were many of its actions would go unnoticed, even sanctioned).

To summarize, it is the most irresponsible, misrepresentation to refer to a special Israel - South Africa relation, when more than 99.5 percent of South Africas business in trade takes place with nations other than Israel.

Last, but certainly not least, it is irresponsible toward your readership and insulting to refer to "Israel's compliance with black genocide in Africa."

This is a distortion and a misrepresentation of a most demagogic dimension. Israel opposes apartheid now; as it has through the past 25 years. Its voting record against apartheid in the U.N. is consistant and unblemished.

In South Africa, where the Jewish population is 120,000 a disproportionate number of Jews have always stood and still stand in the forefront of the stuggle against apartheid — by journalists and writers, to professionals in all fields, to students and the man in the street.

When we talk of genocide in Africa, the sad facts are that the Amins and the Bokassas have massacred more black Africans in a relatively short period of African self determination than all the colonial powers did throughout the history of the African continent.

Chad, the Sudan, Uganda, the Biafra are just some few of the known, tragic, examples of atrocities by blacks against blacks.

In contrast of these actions stands the good relationship the State of Israel has had with black Africa during the 1960s and 1960s. The world knows what great efforts the young State of Israel had expended toward the emerging nations of Africa. Black Africans study in Israel, Black Africans attached (there was no oil or gold in the agreements, only human relations).

Israel was involved in programs to eradicate tuberculoesis, to establish forming capabilities in citrus fruit and other commodities; Israel is engaged in medical training, agricultural advice in an eye clinic in Liberia; in construction, in schooling, in engineering.

After the 1973 war the Arab propaganda machine prevailed upon the African Nations to abandon the "Israel connection" in exchange for oil. These nations are still waiting, suffering most from the rise in oil prices and having seen all the worthwhile projects, started by the Israelis, stopped cold in their tracks.

Israel today is again privately dealing with a number of African countries since the Egyptian - Israeli treaty, but black Africa's still reluctant because of Arab pressures.

Says one Kenyan Journalist—he knows the truth because he sees it every day: "The Arabs tried to make slaves out of us 500 years ago and now they are trying to do it again."

The New Slavery referred to by the journalist is Slavery to Arab Oil. "Money which the African nations would have been putting into development, is now going to be used to pay the high prices of oil to the Arabs."

Having said all this, not with glee but with sadness, I would like to add that I believe in people. The world, in spite of the Amins, the Khadafis and the Khomeinis, despite racial hatred, despite the KKK and apartheid, despite the Galags and widespread terrorism, has something positive going for it . . ./

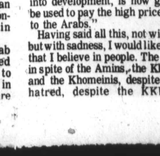
People are people, are people and in the long run people will learn the truth, even if distortions or misinformation cause some delays.

Journalists have the responsibility to search out facts, in order to pass them on to their readership. We need facts not fiction, truths not myths and honesty not demagoguery . . .

The best way to enlighten, not to heat up, the public is the straight path of informative journalism not the curves of misleading detours . .

LEO BRETHOLZ

ED. NOTE: The article referred to by Mr. Bretholz asked why black American leaders have refrained from pressuring the American Jewish community on the issue of Israeli investments in South African industry and Israel's military connection with South Africa, including providing it with the capability to produce an atomic



MADELINE MURPHY Our only privileged class

As the end of a decade approaches, ending also the International Year of the Child, one wonders along with women were the majority labor force that had to reconstruct Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev, after the devastation of the "Unknown War" on the Eastern Front — World War II.

A guide in Leningrad remembered during the 900 - day seige, when she was nine, how clothed in her own as well as her father's coat, she had to step over corpse after corpse in the snow to attend school, too weak to turn aside.

Where a square of bread 1½ inch by 1 inch was food for a day and where factory workers were issued a pint of glue as a bonus food supplement.

Body heat was so diminished by starvation that it could never warm her. Furniture was chopped up for firewood.

No wonder the present privilege of children!

Yet in our land where such devastation has never been experienced, what must it take for us to appreciate and nurture our children?

When shall we defeat the kind of racism and classism that warps our priorities?

Must we continue our task forces that merely underscore what we already know about malnutrition, drug and child abuse, child labor, lowering expectations and educational standards, based upon tax benefits in a have vs. have not society — problems already over - studied but solutions hard to come by?

And as part of the "free" world will our children merely be "free" to suffer more?

Let not this decade close upon the International Year of the Child without some resolve to change our children's plight so that they become OUR only privileged class.

For surely our future survival depends upon them.

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

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