Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The King breakfast

With each year the annual Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast held on the human rights leader's birthday becomes an ever more vital event in Baltimore's spiritual development.

Sponsored by the Young Men's Christian Association of the greater Baltimore area, the Kings Landing Women's Service Club and the Jeffrey Fund, the King Breakfast brings together citizens, male and female, black and white, to gather in homage to the fallen civil rights leader and to rededicate themselves to the principles upon which Dr. King acted on behalf of his people.

This year marked the fifth in this annual series of commerorative breakfasts attended by more than 1,000 Baltimoreans.

Dr. Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, the keynote speaker, was most effective as was expected and this dynamic educator and federal official brought a challenging message to the assemblage.

Recognition must be given A. Paul Moss, coordinator of the annual King Breakfast since its inception, co-chairpersons Supreme Bench Judge Robert B. Watts and WBAL-TV executive J. Sidney King and the many hard-working men and women in the sponsoring organizations who made this event the remarkable success it has become.

When citizens of all persuasions gather in brotherhood as was the case here increasing bridges of understanding so necessary to out survival as a nation are erected andreinforced. We know this is what Martin Luther King would have wanted as part of his legacy.

Park Heights uproar

As this is written the Park Heights Community Corporation, PHCC, board of directors meets to consider the dismissals of two staff members who had worked in thePHCC community organizing section.

Charges and counter-charges are being hurled with PHCC officials explaining that their personnel actions in these two individual cases were well-founded but with the fired workers charging that their dismissals had more to do with intra-agency politics and power struggles than with their job performance.

Just the same some of the accusations bear closer examination.

PHCC is a publicly funded organization created to serve the people of the Park Heights community. This is a section of Baltimore with more than its fair share of socio-economic problems and a community agency charged with helping the Heights develop has an extremely serious responsibility.

There can be no suggestion that officials of this organization have, as has been alleged, acted in personnel matters in any other way than circumspectly.

There can be no hint that the professional staff of PHCC is comprised of conspiratorial cliques that work for the gain of special interests as opposed to the community's needs or that there has been favoritism in hiring of workers to do the important work that must be done in Park Heights (as has also been charged.)

Credibility and constructive projects are what PHCC and similar public agencies must always be about.

We are hoping that the PHCC board moves quickly to reassure the immediate Heights neighborhoods that this is an agency of principle and acute sense of responsibility.

If such reassurances are not quickly forthcoming then we would strongly suggest that the citizens of Park Heights move to secure for PHCC a new spirit and body of leadership.

Heights postscript

Giving credit where credit is due the young people of Park Heights who celebrated their school holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by demonstrating in Mount Vernon Place Tuesday in a demand for jobs are to be commended.

They demonstrated an imaginative and constructive peaceful protest of a crucial issue in our community: the exclusion of Park Heights residents from youth jobs under the government's youth entitlement funds.

Further their demonstration served to underscore the desperate plight of black youth who comprise the highest numbers fo the jobless within our community.

Their spiritual guide in this undertaking was the Rev. Elijah McDaniels, the activist minister and a strong force within the Park Heights Community Corporation.

The Rev. McDaniels had some months ago successfully dramatized the harmful influx of accelerative drugs like "rush" in the Park Heights area and then as now he had rallied many of his community's young people to this battle.

We know the majority of Park Heights want to move on their problems. The Rev. McDaniels has shown that it can be done. Young Park Heights citizens have proved their mettle.

Of this much we are aptimistic.

Year-end report sees mixed 'rights' gains

In its 1979 year-end report, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called 1979 "a mixed year" for civil rights, and characterizes the government's performance on the civil rights frong front as one of "drift."

The 37 page report is most critical of civil rights progress in the area of education, and chargesthat congress "aided and abetted" educational shortcomings by considering eight major antidesegregation bills and amendments.

The commission's report also reviewed national progress in the areas of employment and housing, while calling attention to voting rights, police practices and immigration policies as civil rights issues of overriding importance to all Americans.

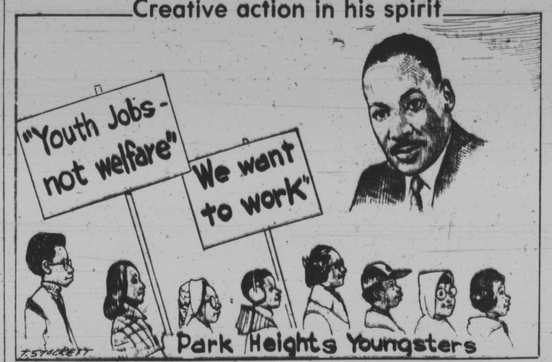
The report notes a "significant disparity" still exists between the employment status of white males and that of blacks, hispanics and women.

The commission applauded the Supreme Court's decision in the United Steelworker's decision against Brian Weber establishing the legality of affirmative action programs in industry.

Sharply criticized however, was the department of HUD's 1980 budget request for public housing, calling it a "severe blow" to the housing prospects of millions of families headed by minorities and women.

The commission's statement, issued along with the report, offers specific recommendations in the areas of education, housing and employment, which it says can "chart a bold course" toward solving those problems -30-

Creative action in his spirit



Truth and the press

Madeline MURPHY

Since the days of the Eisenhower and subsequent administrations, one finds an increasing reluctance on the part of print and visual media to reveal the truth to the American public, in the public's right to know.

During the U-2 incident, Eisenhower lied about our spying ventures over the Soviet Union, until Francis Gary Powers was trotted out as verification.

Adlai Stevenson, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations lied about the Bay of Pigs invasion during the Kennedy administration.

President John F. Kennedy in a speech before the American Newspaper Publisher's Association in 1961 raised the dubious alternatives as to whether it was better to report news or whether instead news items must take into account the "interests of national security".

And so it has gone: with Johnson's bombing of North Vietnam over the Tonkin Gulf incident; with the Kissinger-Nixon secret bombing of Cambodia and Laos; with President Gerald Ford's Mayaguez incident.

Now Carter and the warhawks move closer to escalating war by confusing the persistent request of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union to intervee against the atrocities of the H. Amin Government, with Soviet aggression, despite their treaty obligations of December 1978.

This treaty requested urgent political, moral, economic and military aid from the Soviet Union.

In one recent unusually candid TV news story, those intellectuals, clergy and working people, seen streaming out of prison were the direct victims of the bloody H. Amin regime, supported by President Jimmy Carter. How's that for human rights?

History records all these dissemblings, yet also proves that the people's political memory is short. That in diverting attention from problems of inflation, unemployment at home it can effectively gain support for additional military spending to the tune of $157 billion; for warlike moves in Iran; for so-called sacrifice of our taxes to aid farmers now stripped of grain sales to the USSR.

This does not even take into account the sacrifice in social programs.

One wonders who is being held hostage.

A recent editorial in the Wall Street Journal showed no interest in working through the United Nations, but suggested instead that using military force would resolve the Iranian crisis.

No one mentions that while we beef up NATO with first strike nuclear weapons, the USSR has unilaterally withdrawn troops from Europe.

And in the name of national security, the government becomes the main purveyor of news. No wonder then that the TV networks have been ousted from the Kurdistan province of Iran, because the Kurds feel they are not honestly reporting the news.

Not long ago, it was reported by reliable sources that the CIA used news personnel of great popularity to work for them in foreign countries.

Before we hysterically acquiesce to the stringent measures put forth by the Carter administration, it would behoove the "nervous Nellies" in Congress to open investigations into the warmongering brought on by this recent perfidy in Afghanistan. An election year notwithstanding!

Otherwise the cold war now falling into place will only move us closer to mass destruction; will make the poor and black cannon fodder; will escalate a no-win situation where a Neutron bomb will be the answer to all our troubles, preserving buildings while killing people!

SALT II therfore must be ratified to stop the proliferation of sophisticated weapons of mass destruction.

For while words of peace flow trippingly on the tongues of our leaders, war, war, war is the constant drumbeat of their actions.

We, the people, are the ones who make must make peace a reality and sanity in foreign policy an actuality.

But we must demonstrate our feelings to those in power. We must reactivate our work for peace and demand that our repreetatives fulfill our desires.

First of all we must learn the truth, for certainly in no other time in history is it more accurate that the truth shall make us free.

FOR THE RECORD

A resolution supporting the autonomy of Morgan State University

Whereas, The Metropolitan Baltimore Alliance of Black School Educators regards the options presented in the memorandum dated Dec. 20, 1979 from Commissioner Sheldon H. Knorr regarding Higher Education in the Baltimore Metropolitan area to be a misguided attempt to eliminate rather than strengthen the quality of education provided at Morgan State University.

Whereas, The overt racism of the Plessy-Ferguson decision specifically denied underprivileged black social mobility, the new racism would strip this oppressed group of the institutional underginding which they need to stand on their own as productive and contributing citizens to stand as neither the victims of enforced segregation nor of enforced integration but as the determinants of their own higher educational destiny.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Baltimore Alliance of Black School Educators decries the Knorr proposals which include admissions quotes and limits based on specific indices for admissions, indices which test what students have learned instead of what they may learn and which give not weight to the role of character, personality, and motivation in gaining for these citizens an opportunity to overcome the disadvantages imposed by society.

Whereas, Racial discrimination in Maryland's system of higher education, despite efforts at integration, is evident in the systematic denial of blacks at all levels, especially in the granting of doctorates and first professional degrees and the granting of equitable salaries, promotion and tenure to black faculty and is evident in the calculated ignoring of the black university and college as a supportive psychological and academic seeding ground of candidates for graduate and professional schools.

Whereas, The Knorr memorandum is clearly a racist document in that it ignores the past quality of service rendered by Morgan State University and recommends that Morgan State University be merged with two relatively new institutions under control of a Board of regents with a history of denial of concern and service to black citizens of the state.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Baltimore Alliance of Black School educators supports the preservation and expansions of historic black institutions with proven records of achievement.

Whereas, Morgan State University has historically taken, sometimes, poorly prepared students and transformed them into productive and responsible citizens; now, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that we the members of Metropolitan Baltimore Alliance of Black School Educators, having determined that, there is a need for Morgan State University and for its commitment to providing aneducation for blacks, other historically oppressed minorities, and other citizens in an emotionally and psychologically supportive, yet demanding, setting, do support all efforts to insure the continued existence and strengthening of both the undergraduate and the graduate programs at Morgan State University as independent entities and do vigorously oppose any proposed merger with the traditionally white institutions in the state.

Resolved that we oppose the enrollment limits proposed for Morgan State University. To suggest such a limitation at a time when schools and universities address problems of declining enrollment is at best irrational, if not racist; and

Resolved, that we do support the need for study and the development of strategies to insure proper management of higher education institutions faced with declining enrollment and decreased funding; and

Resolved that we do support increased funding for a strengthened and expanded urban outreach program in cooperation with neighborhood leaders in the church, fraternal and business communities

Resolved, that we shall strenously work with the community to seek adequate funding for the existing undergraduate and graduate programs and increased funding levels for new graduate programs and for first class capital improvements and faculty salaries, appropriations befitting a major university with a research, teaching and service mission.

Hilbert D. Stanley, Ed. D.,
President
Metropolitan Baltimore
Alliance of Black
School Educators

LETTERS

Support legislation for handicapped

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore County Coalition for Handicapped Persons desires to enform the entire community that existing monies can be utilized for many general community activities and specifically for the following eligible community activities relating to persons with handicapped conditions.

These eligible activities are:

1. Removal of Architectural Barriers: Special Projects directed to removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or handicapped persons to publicly owned and privately owned buildings, facilities and improvements, (i.e., ramps for wheelchairs, lighting equipment and teletypewriters for the deaf, audial equipment for the blind and visually impaired, and so on.)

2. Centers for the Handicapped: Any public facility for any single or multi-purpose facility which seeks to assist persons with physical, mental, developmental and-or emotional impairments to become functional members of our Baltimore County communities (i.e., recreational, educational, health care, social development, independent living, physical rehabilitation and vocational rehabilitation and others.) ed housing properties could be acquired or rehabilitated for group homes, half-way houses, emergency shelters for Baltimore County citizens wiwith handicapping conditions.

The Baltimore County Coalition for Handicapped Persons unanimously endorses all appropriate positive actions for Baltimore County to obtain the existing monies of th U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grand, Entitlement Grants.

Furthermore, the Baltimore County Coalition for Handicapped persons urges: The Baltimore County Executive, the Baltimore County Entitlement Coalition, County Council and other local authorities and citizens; the Maryland State governor, legislators other state officials and federal authorities to take all appropriate positive actions (which specifically include Maryland State legislative action to prov ide the county with urban renewal authority) to allow Baltimore County to obtain these existing entitlement monies to be used for general community development needs and specifically for our Baltimore County citizens with handicapping conditions.

We urge all Baltimore County citizens to write to the Maryland State legislators to vote in favor of this critical bill and to inform them that their vote in favor of this bill will be a vote for the handicapped to become more independent and self-sufficient citizens. CHARLES E. SHCOCK, Esq. chairperson, Baltimore County Coalition for Handicapped Persons

Brown on Lewis

Sam Brown's article on John Lewis in the AFRO last week is most unusual and most commentworthy. In the first place, an associate (especially a superior) in any given line of work rarely speaks of a colleague with such unstinted generosity.

In the second place, Mr. Lewis, whom I have never met but admired over the years, is living proof that there is good reason to divide those in the area of "public service" into two classes: the headliners and heartliners. Not many qualify for both groups.

As an American citizen, I offer deepest thanks to John Lewis, and all his tribe! Be ever a heartliner, John.

JOHN W. HAYWOOD JR.

Dr. King holiday

We support Jan. 15 as a national federal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King knew about equality. Correta Scott King, his wife and partner in the civil rights movement, supports the the Equal Rights Amendment. Martin Luther King Jr. knew that race discrimination isn't the only inequality blacks face. He knew that sex discrimination is another link in the chain that holds people in poverty.

Discrimination, like poverty hurts everybody; 38.5 percent of black female households live in poverty. If he were physically with us today he would be marching with us in support of the Equal Rights Amendment but we know his spirit is with us.

Dr. King knew about equality and should be honored on Jan. 15 with an official federal holiday. Rev. Imagene Stewart, American Women's Clergy Association.

Don't mix things up!

By G. James Fleming

There are two highly emotional issues in higher education in Maryland, issues on which the majority of people have taken sides or will take sides.

One is the proposed three-way merger of Morgan State University, the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County into one institution, under one operating agency, preferably the Regents of the University of Maryland, according to the sponsor of the proposal.

The second emotional issue is the move to unseat the president of Morgan State University, Dr. Andrew Billingsley, the most recent move being a vote of "No-Confidence" by a substantial segment of the faculty (123 for no-confidence; 43 against; 16 abstentions).

Both of these matters have sparked much heat, as might be expected, and will cause more heat as the days and weeks go by.

It cannot be repeated too often, however, that these are two different matters, worthy of consideration each on its own merit or lack of merit.

It was taking liberties with the truth when a trio of pivotal Baltimoreans recently publicly accused Dr. Billingsley with having caused the recommendation for merger, as drafted by Dr. Sheldon H. Knorr, commissioner of the State Board of Higher Education.

This idea of merger, or closings, of some of the Baltimore area state colleges has been on paper or in discussion for several years. We recall that, in 1954-55, there were many official voices calling for the closing of Coppin State College (then Coppin Teachers College). Parents' protests and public opinion kept it open. Closing of Coppin has been suggested from time to time since then. Nevertheless, today Coppin has a new campus, some very new highrise buildings, and is not even mentioned for merger in the Sheldon Knorr memorandum.

There have also been occasional suggestions in high places that Towson and Morgan may be merged.

These rumblings and proposals, some rather formal, have been taking place down the years, long before and since Andrew Billingsley came to Baltimore and Morgan, mostly before.

Similarly, there have been many speculations of a State Metropolitan University in Baltimore, in which the local institutions would be components.

It is "dirty pool" and downright misleading to make it appear to the State Board for Higher Education. Who and what at UMBC and the University of Baltimore caused them to be subject to a threat of meager too?

Differing from some of his close associates, Representative Parren Mitchell rightfully said recently that the internal difficulties at Morgan and the new threat of merger should be approached and dealt with separately. In the words of the Congressman:

"Of course, there is a relationship, but not a very strong one. It is important that the community realize this, and not be fooled by the two distinctly separate media."

The threat of merger demands that blacks and their friends "close ranks," lest again we become accessories to our own bitter strangulation. It is true in 1980, as it has always been; that "United we stand, divided we fall."

The temper and consensus of the black community, when not manipulated, is that blacks cannot give up any more of what they have helped to build, what is connected with them historically, and what gives us a chance to develop leadership grounded and rooted in dedication to the black past, black history and black expectations.

Then, too, although the University of Maryland has c hanged for the better, interracially speaking, since the 1940s, it would not be reassuring to blacks having Morgan come under the hegemony of the College Park Institution. Suppose the Maryland pendulum swings backwards in the years ahead.

Blacks must also be strategically and tactically wise in planning that, if merger cannot be prevented, they are ready to bring pressure on the governor and the powers-that-be in the legislature to insure that blacks—students, teachers and administration—do not get the crumbs from the masters' tables in the new institution or institutions.

In overview, it is difficult to have it both ways; to fight to save Morgan and to pull the institution down at one end the same time. It's an ongoing challenge that has become my number one hobby.

And there are many other blacks who have etched their names in Black History that I came across during pounding my various newsbeats. In sports — Josh Gibson, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson — to name a few along with such coaches as Eddie Hurt of Morgan, Johnny McLeodon of N.C. College, Big Jeff Jefferson of Virginia State, Mark Cardwell of West Virginia and so on.

In the entertainment world personalities such as Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Jimmie Lanceford, Nat Cole, Billy Eckstine, Sarah Vaughan are just but a few that come to mind when I handled the theatrical beat.

I could go on into politics, education, religion and other phases of life listingoutstanding black personalities whom I have written about.

But, the greatest of them all.

Dr. Martin Luther King would have to top the list. I was fortunate to be in on the the Dr. King Story shortly after the Montgomery Bus Boycott vegan. I stayed with the boycottastory through the arrest, the trial and eventual legal victory in that case.

The nightly rallies, the marches, the demonstrations led by Dr. King remain a vivid memory.

I recall that a week before his death he appeared in the pulpit of the Washington Cathedral. I was sitting on the aisle as he walked by in recessional after he delivered one of his eloquent messages.

As he walked back, he glanced at me and gave the nod of recognition. The warmth of that gesture will always remain.

A week later, he was slain.

The greatest person I have ever met. Dr. Martin Luther King.

JUST THINKING

The greatest of the greats

By Al Sweeney

"Who is the greatest black person whom you have ever covered during your professional career?"

A lady asked that question, the other day, without batting an eye. She set me up by revealing that she understood that I had been in journalism for many years and filed first — hand reports about many of the historic civil rights events over those years.

There are two black journalists in this town, still active, who have years of experience on me and probably shared most of the same experiences. I wished she had asked Johnson Publishing's veteran bureau Chief Simon Booker or the AFRO's publisher Art Carter.

But, as they would say, she asked me.

Since there is space to fill, I will reply in this manner.

The most cerebral man I have ever met was Dr. E.B. DuBois. I covered a federal case against him, during the era of the Red hysteria, in which he was accused of failing to register as a foreign agent.

The brilliant founder of the NAACP's "Crisis" magazine, the advocate of Pan Africanism way back when Africa was held in contempt by the world powers, during the weeks that I covered the government's unsuccessful case against Dr. DuBois, the many discussions that I had with him left me with priceless memories.

The most intimidating person I have ever met at a press conference was Paul Robeson. I recall during the 1940s, Robeson was campaigning for Henry Wallace, who had been dumped by FDR as a vice president. Wallace was running on the independent Progressive Party ticket for president.

Robeson had been tinged by the press and so most of his conferences were verbal upheavals with reporters baiting the internationally renowned figure.

The best civil rights legal architect was Charles Houston, former dean of Howard University and general council of the NAACP. It was Houston who designed the legal assault on racial barriers that culminated with overturning the "separate but equal doctrine."

The most dedicated person I have encountered was Dr. Mary Church Terrell. As leader of the fight against segregation in the public places in the District of Columbia, I can see her frail body walking the picket lines in front of Thompson's Restaurant on lower Seventh Street during the rain, snow and the heat of summer. It was the Thompson Restaurant decision by the Supreme Court that ended segregated public facilities in the nation's capital.

The most astute woman politician was Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune. She knew how to manipulate the system for racial gain.

The best politician was Rep. William L. Dawson. No black person ever mastered the game of politics better than Dawson. He made the mayor of Chicago. He was a power in the House.

The flashiest and most productive black politician was Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of New York. Much of the federal welfare legislation was enacted during the Powell years. Much of it came out of Powell's Health and Education Committee of the House.

The best teacher I have covered was Dr. Carter G. Woodson. I recall that I was given a feature assignment for the old AFRO magazine. Thesubject was the life and work of Dr. Woodson, father of Black History Week.

He inspired me to intensify my studies into the history of blacks.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

FEBRUARY, Black History Month, has received the highest proclamation in the land, the proclamation of the United States from President Carter.

THE EVENT happened last Tuesday Jan. 15 in the presence of 43 members of the executive boardsof the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, a group founded by Carter G. Woodson.

PRESENT from Baltimore were Dr. Samuel L. Banks, the head of Social Studies for all the Baltimore schools; Dr. Benjamin Quarles, the Morgan U. historian and Dr. Bettye Gardner of the Coppin faculty, each a board member and highly respected among the nation's scholars.

DR. BANKS reveals the board members arrived from across the nation at the Washington Hilton for lunch and then went at 2:30 p.m. to the White House to meet President Carter in the Cabinet Room. Dr. Charles Wesley, age 71, who is probably the eldest and most widely known historian was there. (He was recently wed to Howard University's Dorothy Porter who is 74.)

PRESIDENT CARTER received the distinguished group with great enthusiasm, took pictures with each one of them and spoke of the importance of focusing national attention upon Black History Month. He vowed to continue the fight against segregation and bigotry.

DR. BANKS describes the occasion as a "high water mark" in our history as President Carter pointed up the vital importance of teaching black history in schools across the land. He is quoted as saying, "You cannot reveal the history of the United States without telling of the history of black citizens."

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S birthday celebrations this week have all extended our history into greater propotions. At home on vacation I chanced to turn the TV to WETA Channel 26, Washington at 3 p.m. Wednesday to view for the first time the feature "Great Performances."

THE MOST MAGNIFICIENT thing was on, the Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, a huge group of black, white, Asian and musicians of other races performing in honor of Dr. King. The Show was sponsored by McDonalds and the Buffalo Urban League along with Public TV for the State of New York.

I CAUGHT MYSELF crying without knowing it, tears pouring down, as a grand black man in full dress with ruffled shirt and "Oh, Freedom," and "He's Got The Whole World In His Hand." The musicians spotlighted, by the camera were entranced and showed soooooo much soul as they accompanied him. And the white audience was simply superb.

WHEN THEY ENDED with "We Shall Overcome," there was so much feeling and reverence the audience rose in a standing ovation. There must have been over 250 in that divine orchestra with every known instrument and women and men in full dress. Cicily Tyson read Dr. King's speech given the day before he was slain.

SO YOU SEE how such events are bringing us closer to full citizenship and respect everywhere.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST this past October and November I came to realize pride in history has brought those people thus far on the way. Despite thousands of years of wars and deprivation they still cling to their ancestry and in the face of white supremacy from the U.S. and other nations, they hold fast to their heritage and ideals.

THE EGYPTIANS built the Pyramids and other ancient monuments to perpetuate their family history forever and their lineage has come down 10,000 years to place them on top. In Bethlehem Jesus' descendants although poor shepherds still proudly proclaim their heritage in spite of the much more popular religion of the Mohammadeans. The Jews know every

step of the way since the Old Testament and further back than that.

OUR BLACK HISTORY can keep us going upward and give us something to replace all the things we do not have.

I RECALL in grade school in Indiana my all-white classmates were telling of their coming to America "on the Mayflower". That was their thing and I asked my father, Dr. Jacob B. Oliver, if he would trace us back to the Mayflower.

HE SAID, "No, we have better than that" and told me of our slave ancestry from the Virginia colony back to the Ibo Tribe in Nigeria. Rushing back to school I told my white classmates of our ancestry in such glowing terms that they wished they had such grand heritage.

THE SAME WAY I carried the story to Fisk University where Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, my sociology teacher, gave me a prize. I was the only one who dared mention slave ancestry. The other students tried to shame me into quieting down the slave part but I was proud.

AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, my daughter Marsha had a rough time telling the same story of our African heritage since the era of pride in our black history had not arrived. However, she braved the scorn and her pride was renewed when the Voice of America of the State Department asked her to broadcast her history around the world.

LATER, she appeared as the cover photo for Crisis Magazine, "a girl who could trace her history back to Africa." All that sustained our belief that we have a proud history in those days when our people were denying everything black.

MY PRIDE was again sustained when I went to the

Middle East this fall with an all-white group of editors and publishers.

We spent a month traveling together and in conversation at dinner, each

of them told of their ancestry and the Mayflower popped up again.

I WAS ABLE to gain vast respect when I told them of my African heritage. Another instance came when I told of the AFRO's founding in 1892. The only newspaper editor to beat me was the Sacramento Bee publisher who revealed his great grandfather founded their newspaper in 1880.

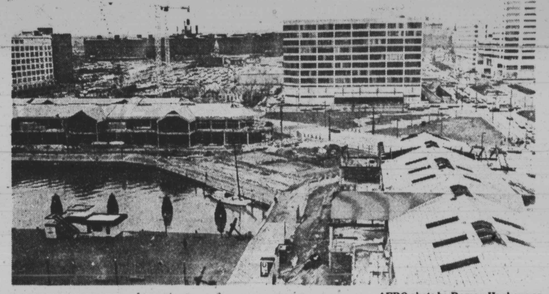
YOU HAVE TO CLING to something and I urge teachers and parents to give every ounce of history to our children so they may have pride when they have little else. This background will help them over the rough spots. And they can stand tall, soar and glow wonderfully. Sometimes that's all you have you know.

LICE in the publi schools? Yes and they have invaded the black schools, an unusual thing since lice are fairly new to our heads due to the hot comb.

Back in Indiana, we were accustomed to knowing our white classmates had lice.

The teacher kept a can of coal oil in the c oat room and when the kids got to scratching too much would take them in the corner and pour the coal oil into their hair. It burned but the lice disappeared.

GIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL youngsters all have to go to the doctor to get attention since the students have been discovered there with lice.



PROGRESS REPORT — Harborplace, the two-building shopping and restaurant complex located at the Inner Harbor, is more than 50 percent complete. This photo, taken from the World Trade Center, shows that the two buildings are under roof. Projected completion date is July 2, 1980. Between 125 and 135 retail tenants are expected.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Black vice-presidential candidate espouses workers' needs

Vietnam vet Larry Holmes holds socialism is the answer for this society

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Larry Holmes, vice-presidential candidate from the Worker's World Party, a socialist organization, says the poor and the disenfranchised are tired of the system, and ready for a change. The current situation in Iran and Afghanistan is seen by Holmes as part of an effort by the United Statesto involve the country in yet another war to relieve the burden of the recession.

In an exclusive AFRO interveiw, Homes discussed his candicacy and the present world situation.

Holmes, who is black, says that he and his running mate, Dierdre Griswold, a white woman, should gain many votes "from people who can see that we're not the typical white, capitalist candidates who have been running this country."

"I'm a worker," Holmes stated. "That puts me ahead of the field in the first place. All working people can relate to an opportunity to vote for one of their own, as opposed to voting for the lesser of two evils."

Holmes feels that now is the time to attract many poor and working class voters whowant a change.

"The consciousness of the working man is changing. It is in a state of transition. This is because the system has not, and will not work for them. We feel people will agree that a social and political order which puts people before profits, is wrong." The candidate dismissed the fact that he had no degrees or any previous experience in government administration claiming "we may not have degrees or that kind of academic credibility, but we are eminently qualified to act in the interest of the people because we are from the people. Even the most learned capitalist politician is not able to serve or represent the people because they serve a minority population, the rich and the wealthy."

Holmes plans on dismantling the current capitalist system of government, and envisions a country where the profit motive, which he says is responsible for most of the nation's problems, is eliminated.

"We want a humane society. Wealth should be redistributed. The exploitation of man would be swept into the dust of history. Yes, I'm for taking over the oil companies and running them on a non-profit system. Illustrating the negative results of a capitalist policy, Holmes says" "Both recessions and depressions are caused by capitalists when they speed up production and work their workers to death. They try to get maximum productivity so that more goods are produced. But when they produce too much, they are laid off. The workers are expected to buy the products, but they are not even paid enough to purchase what they make. But management is only interested in profits, so, instead of cutting back on their products, they cut back on people's jobs. Instead of giving worker's jobs priority, they give priority to their profits."

He says that his party's solution is to give everybody jobs.

"Take the Pentagon budget, take the oil and steel companies. Take all the Fortune 500 companies and use that money to guarantee evry working person a job."

But what will happen to the goods produced if everybody was working?

"We should sell our goods at just enough profit to keep workers employed. The rest of our products, we should give them away to countries that need them."

Touching on his projected foreign policy, Holmes continued. "We should give our excess away, not with any strings attached, but in a humane spirit. The first thing a socialist government would do is begin repaying the underdeveloped nations to try and make up for the wealth that we have stolen from them. We have subverted their economies and locked them into poverty, but we have he means and wealth to feed and develop other nations. We will raise the level of humanity on this earth."

The most pressing threat to the people of the United States and the world today, according to Holmes, is the spectre of war currently being raised as a result of events in Afghanistan and Iran.

"The people are not ready for a war. If the U.S. tries to start one it will backfire in their faces. It took seven years for the Vietnam War protest movement to get its message across, but it will only be a matter of weeks before something happens if a war starts. People are more skeptical now, they're smarter now, after the Vietnam war. Politicians are using the events in Afghanistan and Iran to whip up war hysteria, and to take people's minds off unemployment and the recession. Carter recently the social services budget in order to finance the war industry, and used the lies about a war to do it." "The biggest challenge facing us today is to cut through the lies and propaganda. We need to organize a movement to turn this situation around, and make Carter deal with the real issues-health, education, crossburnings, racism and sexism, and the closing of factories."

Holmes, born in 1952 in Boston's Roxbury section' has been active in the Worker's World Party since 1972, shortly after he was discharged from the American army as being "undesirable" for his anti-war activities while in uniform.

After being discharged, Holmescontinued his activities on behalf of Vietnam era veterans, and helped to organize the 1973 Veteran's March on Washington.

In 1974 Holmeselped coordinate the 1974 National Mobilization Against Racism, and participated in a 25,000 strong march to protest the violence which had accompanied the court-ordered desegregation of Boston schools. has a ring of authority, based on his past endeavors for working class people on an international basis.

In his campaign statement, he sums up his candicacy by saying, "The people of this country don't have to go hungry or cold. The people of this country have no quarrel with the rest of the world. This is a rich continent, and there s no need to exploit poor and underdeveloped countries in order for everyone to have a good life."

"ALL WORKING PEOPLE can relate to an opportunity to vote for one of their own," says Larry Holmes, vice-presidential candidate on the Worker's World Party.