Baltimore Afro-American

# OPINION

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## Colson must go!

William Donald Schaefer, it is said, is loyal to his friends and rough on his foes.

Charles Colson, the mayor's choice to be chairman, acting chairman of the City Planning Commission that is, has to be a good friend of the mayor or at least a staunch crony, because there is no way Colson could have ended up in the important Planning boss chair otherwise.

We questioned Colson's appointment at the outset.

How could a man, one of the leaders of the anti-rent control forces, objectively sit down and deliberate on plans for improving the quality of life in this city when his views are in diametric contradiction to the needs and wishes of almost three-quarters of the city's population.

Accumulated data on the number of citizens for rent control average out to 3 out of 4 residents being in favor of some kind of control and protection for tenants.

Colson was opposed to all these folks and savagely fought against rent control.

Now, thanks to evidence gathered by the Rent Control Organization, we know the real basis of Colson's opposition. He is owner of considerable rental property.

And if only half of the Rent Control Organization's evidence is to be considered, Colson has not been an admirable landlord.

Ironically, Colson was treasurer of 'Keep Baltimore Best' the anti-rent control organization, while operating as lord and master of some pretty shabby real estate and so far as we can determine, an unresponsive landlord.

Many of his tenants are poor and black.

We could go on.

Charles Colson has no place on any of this city's governing boards.

If the mayor resists demands for Colson's resignation then all the burgeoning complaints about Schaefer's turning over great chunks of our city to narrow, monied interests at the expense of the black and the poor are going to have the sound of truth.

So sensitive an office of Planning Commission chairman should be filled by a citizen without warts. Plenty are qualified, untainted

Charles Colson has to go.

## A new bank?

Some black legislators say they voted for the highest credit interest bill that has now been approved in both houses of Maryland's assembly because they were assured that the long-planned Harbor National Bank would receive a charter if delegates vote yes for higher rates.

We do need a black owned bank, a full service bank, and launching Harbor has long been a community goal.

But higher interest rates will affect a great many more money-pressed people than Harbor will be able to serve. Delegate Troy Brailey refused to vote for the increased interest rates, maintaining that poor folks will get the brunt of this credit hike.

The bill is charged by consumers) are going to cost the poor more under the new legislation.

If, on the other hand, higher credit interest rates will curb the tendency of folks to buy now, pay later that might be a plus.

We just wish the legislators had been able to win a charter in some other way.

Nor are we convinced that a charter will automatically be forthcoming. At presstime Governor Hughes expressed grave concern about the ethics of state officials lobbying for a higher credit interest law and offering bank charters for favorable votes.

A black-owned financial institution yes

Our concern is the price that has been exacted for same.

At best this is a mixed blessing.

## Rinaldi's victory

Dr. Robert Rinaldi has won a substantial court settlement for being fired as a public school administrator here.

The School Board and Dr. John Crew have been dealt a heavy blow for their handling of Rinaldi.

We suggest that our mayor was sick and that Rinaldi's public airings of how special and handicapped children were faring in our public schools and gave the order for the activist educator's career execution.

From the Jury's verdict, Crew and the Board botched up the contract rather badly.

We think Rinaldi's vindication is also stemmed from the fact that he was a partisan of former school superintendent Roland Patterson and as such represented an entity or friends.

thorn in the side of incoming Commission chairman Mark Joseph and Patterson's successor, John Crew, and their patron, Schaefer.

We applaud Rinaldi for raising critical issues about the Schaefer forces constrictive approach to our predominantly black public school system. He has proved his point.

On the other hand we see little point in Rinaldi's going back to his old post if the court did so rule for him on that issue.

There is some tranquility in the Department of Education these days and this new peace should afford the system's leaders opportunity to see if they can get our schools moving again.

It's time for someone else to be the unlikely petrel of local education.

Rinaldi's great service has been in creating an atmosphere where teachers can tell the public the truth about the state of our schools without worrying about City Hall ordered career executions.

We think public servants ought take some heart in realizing that if they (meaning the city fathers) want to shut you up they must pay dearly for the privilege.

We just cannot afford too many Rinaldi cases nor can we afford public officials who want to keep the truth away from the public.

## Justice for Ja-Wan

Ja-Wan McGee, paralyzed and slowly recovering after being shot in the back by a policeman who "thought" the teen-ager was going to rob a pizza parlor, has yet to be interviewed by investigators.

At latest report, police are waiting for McGee's condition to improve.

We wonder about this.

Ja-Wan was able to explain his misfortune in a televised interview almost two weeks ago. He sounded thoughtful, coherent and perfectly plausible to us.

The officer involved is still assigned to administrative duties.

We think there is some foot-dragging going on here.

There is no reason for any further delay of this inquiry that would better serve the ends of justice.

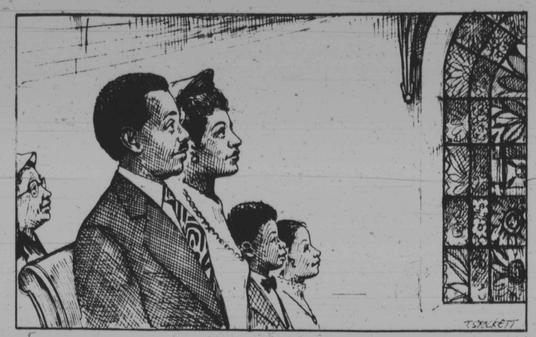
## More on Ja-Wan, Cornell

We urged Cornell Estes, wrongfully imprisoned for a murder he did not commit, to seek legal redress for damages and violation of his civil rights by the Baltimore County Justice system so-called.

No move by the Estes family thus far but the family of Ja-Wan McGee, it has best been announced is suing the city of Baltimore and the police officer who shot him in the back for $15 million.

We think this was the only road to the McGee family and we think they are acting responsibly and appropriately.

*Happy Easter! Take you family to church*



## MADELINE MURPHY Pacem in Terris

It has been 17 years since Pope John XXIII's encyclical of Easter week provided impetus for the Peace on Earth Convocation two years later in New York, February 1965.

Among the eminent participants from all over the world, in that movement, was the Hon. George F. Kennan, former ambassador to the Soviet Union during the late 40s. He was the one who had outlined the policy of containment of the USSR "by the adroit and vigilant application of counterforce at a series of constantly shifting geographical and political points, corresponding to the shifts and maneuvers of Soviet policy, but which cannot be charmed or talked out of existence."

His policy was the forerunner to the Cold War of the '50s and the infamous brinkmanship employed by the then Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

If now, however, George F. Kennan, with his later support of peace; recent, constant alarms about President Carter's brinkmanship toward the Soviet's interest in Afghanistan, seems to be a paradox, then read on.

For just last month, in Lenten services at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, Kennan reiterated his plea for sanity; for maintaining peace; and developing co - existence with the Soviet Union.

When one hears Ronald Reagan, George Bush, President Jimmy Carter and Edward Kennedy saber rattle, stir up the blind patriotism of the populace with threats of war, wouldn't it be better if they would have Kennan's yearning for peace? Wouldn't it be ideal if they followed his advice by first cutting military budgets then provide needed social programs for the poor, unemployed and disadvantaged in this country?

History has taught us the lessons of war but we fail to heed them. But George Kennan, not known to be liberal in any sense, has given us all who are thinking, food for thought.

He said in his address, the following:

"Now this century, as we all recall, has already been marked by two great wars . . . They brought a fearful genetic loss . . . the flower of the male youth of the peoples involved. . . They brought immense physical damage, including the destruction of great amounts of irreplaceable historical and cultural treasures. And they brought to the peoples of the principal participants the deepest sort of psychic injuries. . . . could anyone seriously believe that this civilization could endure a third such orgy of violence and destruction in a single century and still remain what it is?

"I raise (these questions) even without reference to the nuclear weapon. . . All this weapons does is to confirm what should have been evident to all of us even without it: namely that all - out war between great powers in the age of advanced industrialization and high technology is simply not a rational option. It is impossible to think of circumstances in which it would have any sense.

". . . the weapons race has gone on at an accelerating tempo, consuming greater portions of the resources of everyone concerned; and in our own country there has been a steady increase in the militarization of thinking about the Soviet - American relationship — an increase in the concentration of public discussion and attention on the military balance, and a corresponding neglect of the more hopeful possibilities, as though it were accepted by all of us that only by these military realities is the future of Soviet - American relations to be determined — that nothing else really counts — that all other factors are relevantly insignificant."

In the April Life Magazine the feature story," Arsenal of the '80s" winds up with a nude soldier under a shower, the title: "decontaminating the Ultimate Weapon . . . "The soldier stripped, the title: "Decontaminating the Ultimate Weapon." . . . "The soldier stripped off his protective suit in careful stages; he will rinse himself completely before removing his gas mask." So much for acceptability and inevitability of a nuclear World War III.)

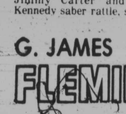
Kennan concludes his address this way (and in a way that we all should follow):

"I would like, therefore, to call on our national leadership — executive and legislative — to help us to break out of these sterile, futile and fateful fixations. I would call upon them to put themselves to a task of the creative imagination, and to come up with bold, generous and realistic concepts which would take into consideration the interests of others beside ourselves, which would accept some of the smaller risks for the sake of avoidance of the greater ones, and which would reveal to us all at least a conceivable route of exit from the pit into which we have recently been descending.

"I have no doubt that such an effort would produce that response among our allies which our purely negative and punitive measures have been unable to produce, and not only among our allies but among Third World countries. A world resulting of us what we so desperately need: . . . the confidence that we are not the helpless victims of a hideous form of weaponry . . . but that the designing of our own fate, and that of the civilization to which we belong, has been restored, at least in reasonable degree, into our own hands."

Let us work for Peace on Earth, now!

## G. JAMES FLEMING



Now that the 1980 Census is out of the way so far as most individual citizens are concerned we may turn to some other matters worthy of our attention.

Foremost on my personal list is the resolution to do everything possible to insure the election of Judge Robert M. Bell to the Supreme Bench to which he was recently named by Gov. Harry Hughes.

Judge Bell has already made a name for himself as a District Court judge—by his leadership in making new interpretations of the law; by his challenging traditional practices of most seated judges and by upholding the principle that even the least of his fellow-citizens is innocent until proven guilty.

In addition to all of this he has a brilliant mind. He was one of my students when I taught at Morgan State University and it was a challenging pleasure to face him in a class in political science. He was graduated with honors including being elected head of the Student Government Association.

He went on from Morgan to the Harvard University Law School where again he was known for his leadership and achievement. He was graduated in due course and returned to Maryland soon to pass the state bar examination.

Judge Bell was a pioneer as an associate in one of the leading downtown law firms but he never forgot his people in the "inner city." Indeed for a few years he also conducted a community law service in East Baltimore.

Robert Bell who needs your vote in the May primary cannot boast of winning into the world with a silver spoon but he is a telling example of the possibilities in Baltimore despite all the historic handicaps.

Judge Bell has been my personal candidate for reaching high places even since he was one of my students. He deserves your vote on May 13 even if you vote for only one judge.

It so happens however that AFRO readers and their friends can vote for more than one. There is the easy opportunity to elect also William H. "Billy" Murphy Jr. — the young, activist, fighting criminal lawyer known also for his popular TV program, "Sunday Live," until he gave it up a few months ago.

There is no law that only one black judge may be elected at any given time. There are compelling arguments, however, to support the proposition that there should be more black judges on the Supreme Bench. At present, out of a total of 23 Supreme Bench judges, only five are black — in a city which is about 55 per cent black.

There are other candidates black and white but if the vote of the black community is not to be fractionized it is necessary to put first Bell and Murphy—both eminently qualified and both of whom will do honor to the legal profession and to their city. Most of all both will be fair and will balance both sides in dealing with the men and women who come before them.

Man cannot live by judges and politics alone. Worthy also of your support is the upcoming benefit dinner in honor of the Rev. Chester L. Wickwire founder and director of the most effective tutorial program in Baltimore City and perhaps in the entire country.

From his base as chaplain of the Johns Hopkins University Dr. Wickwire for more than 22 years has brought more than 340 black young people to Levering Hall and other places to receive special tutoring in the basic subjects such as mathematics English and reading.

This program has saved many hundreds—yea thousands—of young boys and girls. At the same time it has given other young people—students from the Hopkins and from other colleges black and white— the opportunity to extend the helping hand to promising black high school and elementary school students (currently mostly elementary-level students in an attempt to get to the promising early).

Other organizations have nibbled at tutorial programs or have conducted them for a time. The Levering Hall project leads all the rest so far as is known.

All monies raised at the May 4 testimonial at which Bayard Rustin will be the principal speaker will be devoted to the tutorial program to insure its continuance and to pay for bus transportation for the tutorees for learning material and for other needed necessities.

## Worthy of your support

# LETTERS

## Government worker objects to SSA editorial

Dear AFRO:

It was with no small amount of alarm, indignation and sadness that I read your recent editorial (March 22, 1980) titled, "Woodlawn Mess."

Can it be that the erstwhile defender of the poor, the downtrodden, a champion of black rights would seemingly denigrate, lambast, slander, and otherwise do harm to the reputations of thousands of federal workers of all races?

I refer of course, to those parts of that editorial in which you ascribe by the tone of your editorial, the activities of some few individuals you describe as "sub - human," "ignorant," and "criminal" to a significant part of the Woodlawn workforce.

If I read the article correctly, your contentions are based primarily on the complaints of " . . . veteran black employees at SSA . . ." Even if these veteran black employees are above reproach, both morally and ethically, and I have no reason to believe they are not, it seems to me to be patently unfair for the AFRO to leave the impression that there is substance to the notion that rather wide - spread instances of sexual misadventure, wife swapping, group sex, drug use, and extra - marital activities make up the normal fare at the Social Security Administration.

I don't know that I am any less astute a judge of character, and certainly no more so, than the employees the AFRO received its information form. The point is, in all likelihood, the statement as presented in your article is based in subjectivity.

I would be remiss if I did not note here that your article also makes mention of the fact that the majority of SSA employees can in no way be accused of these excesses; however, that is hardly the point.

The fact of the matter is that the AFRO has wide circulation and many people place credence in everything they see in the AFRO, including unsubstantiated opinion. When your article goes on to imply that there is a possibility that SSA employees are demi-ons of Peyton Place, probably wife swappers, potential devotes of group sex, maybe drug users, and most likely career philanderers, all this while they may be at the same time transforming " . . . our agencies into illicit pleasure gardens . . .

AFRO, I ask you, where does innuendo end and truth and substantiated fact begin? If in fact, your article is based on fact, then by all means expose the substance of that fact, make your case, place the blame where it belongs, pillory if necessary, but by the same token, exonerate the innocent. When you fail to do this you become guilty of the most blantant type of tabloidism.

In that same editorial your technique of alternately "lambasting" and "damning with faint praise," SSA employees, could lead the less discerning reader to the obvious conclusion that such activities are so wide - spread as to pose a serious detriment to the successful discharge of the Agency's mission, as indicated in your statement that " . . . everyone can see that Woodlawn . . . has gotten out of hand."

In another article in your paper under the headline Social Security drug raid Nets 18, after reporting the facts of that raid the writer goes on to note that "Drug pedling is only one of the problems that exist at Social Security." The writer than recities a litany of events that certainly happened at SSA, or to SSA employees, but were in no way linked to the drug raids, no symtomatic of problems unique or endemic to SSA.

Those events included computer fraud and several unfortunate murders, not related to each other and certainly not typical of SSA. Oh yes? The writer does quote the Commissioner of SSA as praising the pride and dedication of most of the employees, but again this is down - played when compared to the lurid details of the other, unrelated events.

Finally, in the aforementioned editorial the writer wraps up the acticle by donning the mantle of the righteous, indignant taxpayer, foregetting that all of the government employees that were held in such unfavorable light for most of the editorial are also taxpayers.

Therein lies the rub: Why does the writer supposes for one minute that when one becomes a government employee, one is immediately divested of all human frailties?

I must chide you AFRO, for resorting to the very trick of innuendo and unsupported allegations that have illserved black people so often throughout their history. Come on AFRO, be fair!

JOHN STANLEY

## SAMUEL BANKS

### A New Day Begun— Stand up and be counted

For the past 190 years, what is now referred to as the "big Count," has been going forward every decennial or 10 years in the United States. The Federal Constitution in Article I has required the Census enumeration or count since 1790.

The Census count is particularly significant for blacks and other racial minorities who have, historically, been undercounted. As a case in point, more than 5 million blacks were "invisible" or unaccounted for in the 1970 Census COUNT.

The devastating and debilitating economic pressures, the social and political inequities in our society and a lack of trust in the "power structure" have contributed to a lack of black accessibility and frequent movement. This has been particularly true for a broad spectrum of blacks sequesterd, isolated and forgotten in large urban centers.

The black poor, as in the case with other impoverished groups, have a way of making themselves visible and accessible when they perceive it is in their best interest to do so. Baltimore has a disproportionate share of poor blacks: over half of the 450,000 blacks in the city, who need to become visible in the Census count. A reasonable extrapolation suggests that approximately 60,000 or more black Baltimoreans remain "invisible" or statistically lost.

The black leadership of this community, in partnership with other persons of good will, must take the initiative in a concentrated endeavor to make sure that every black Baltimorean is counted. The stakes are simply too high for any black not to be counted because of distrust and fear.

The point that must be made crystal clear to all is that there are "GOODIES" or "BENEFITS," based on population needs, which are acquired by communities in terms of congressional representation and representation in state legislatures and local councils, funds for schools, parks and recreational services, care for the elderly, and state monetary allocations, health services and other grants and services.

The message for black Baltimore and blacks across the United States, grossly underrepresented in the past, is unmistakable and urgent: Stand up and be counted. You owe it to yourself, your children and posterity.

It may be, owing to a variety of reasons known to you, that you did not receive a Census form and return it on April 1. It may also be true that you do not understand, if you received a census form, the procedure for its completion.

Whatever the situation, it is most important that you contact the local U.S. Census Office in order to complete a census form. Census takers are also available to households which did not receive census forms.

The law, too protects your privacy or confidentiality. If there was ever a time you became visible; it is now. It is not too late to be counted. You have the ability to strike a blow for freedom and a better quality of life for the total community.

## —MORE LETTERS— Lauding courageous lawmakers

Dear AFRO:

On March 2 in a daily newspaper, Clarence Mitchell wrote of the courage of the late Rep. William M. McCulloch. Mitchell lauded the congressman for persuading 11 of the 15 Republican members of the Judiciary Committee to join him in sponsoring a bill which preserved a vital part of the Voting Rights act of 1965. Rep. McCulloch had only a handful of blacks in his district.

There are only a handful of blacks in Baltimore County. In the Baltimore County Senate delegation only the two Republican members exhibited McCulloch-like courage, when it came time to vote for the "entitlement" legislation.

Andrew Oliver has written: "Politics is the most hazardous of all professions. There is not another in which man can hope to do so much good for his fellow creatures. Neither is there any in which by a mere loss of nerve he may do such widespread harm."

Congratulations to Sen. Bob Stroble and Jack Bishop for the courage to do what is inherently right for Baltimore County.

The harm done by the six Democratic senators who failed to vote for "entitlement" lies not so much in the estimated $6 million which we will lose annually from the federal government, but more so in the perpetuation of bigoted narrow fears.

G. DARREL RUSSELL JR.

## Praising a legal giant

Dear AFRO:

In a television interview conducted by Mr. Frederick Breitenfeld Jr., on Channel 67 of M.C.P.B. on Feb. 15, Mr. William L. Marbury, one of the legal giants of the Maryland Bar, was honored for his outstanding and enduring public service rendered gratis to the state of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, extending over a period of 50 years.

His father, Mr. William L. Marbury Sr., was also a distinguished lawyer, and a leading Maryland supporter and advisor to Woodrow Wilson in his two successful presidential campaigns in 1912 and 1916. Mr. Marbury Sr., was also the principal founder of the renowned law firm of Marbury. Gosnell and Williams which subsequently evolved into the law firm presently known as Piper and Marbury.

Also in the further interest of current professional, communal and historical accuracy, it should be recorded that in the 1930s Mr. William L. Marbury and his partners were among the first, if not the very first, to open that traditional oriented law firm to young lawyers who, whether male or female, black or white, were recruited from the widest range of religious, racial and economically disadvantaged ethnic minorities.

Solely in the furtherance of the well-being of our community, the law firm of Piper and Marbury again asserted its leadership in establishing a branch law office in East Baltimore, designed primarily to serve the poor, without inquiry being made to the origin or the class composition of its impoverished clients.

Perhaps nobility of conduct may, the mercy, be "twice blessed." The father, Mr. William L. Marbury Sr., by personal example, transmitted to his son a prized legacy of nobility of conduct. The son received this rich heritage and applied it vigorously and wisely to his law firm.

He and his partners whole - heartedly sought new associates in order to democratize their law firm, and especially sought out those young lawyers, who were not born to the purple or were not related by birth or otherwise had elite ties to the four - flagging members of the establishment.

At that time, in the midst of the 20th century, the established law firms, and other professional associations, had to meet squarely the issue of rendering justice to the fair and decent treatment due the large disadvantaged class of people in our community who justly sought the economic and cultural advantages in being fully recognized and accepted as first - class citizens in a democratic society.

The future of Baltimore City is brightened considerably when born of Mr. Marbury's quality and attainment, with a genuine love of the principle of nobility of conduct both in their private and public life, dedicate themselves to uphold our rich heritage, by daily raising the hopes and sights of the less fortunate citizens in our midst.

AVRUM K. RIFMAN

## Vets can apply for discharge review

Dear AFRO:

We would like to call to the attention of your readers the fact that veterans seeking a review of discharge now have until April 1, 1981, to apply for such a review.

The Department of Defense on Dec. 17, 1979, extended the about - to - expire program provided by Congress in 1977 under Public Law 95 - 126.

This additional 15 months was granted by DoD in response to the request of the American Veterans Committee, AVC, and other groups concerned that only a very small number of the veterans eligible had made applications under that program.

AVC is very pleased that the Department of Defense has recognized the situation and provided the additional time for veterans with less - than - honorable discharges to apply for review under uniform published standards.

The opportunity extends to all veterans separated before Jan. 1, 1965, whose statute of limitations of 15 years would have precluded their application. Also, veterans who had applied previously to Discharge Review Boards and had been turned down are eligible to reapply under this program.

The American Veterans Committee hopes that your readers will pass this word to any veteran who is eligible for the program.

Thank you for bringing this important information to the public's attention.

DAVID A. COLE,
American Veterans Committee.

## Criticism for AFRO columnist

Dear AFRO:

Sam Banks' column which appeared in the AFRO - AMERICAN on March 15, 1980 was a waste of space that could better have been used for information that could have helped the public rather than raise a dead issue to no avail.

I commend him for his "salute" to the Cherry Hill residents for enduring three days of cold weather while the boilers were being repaired following a fire. I, too, salute the residents for being understanding, patient, flexible and adaptable in an inevitable situation.

I give them credit for listening to the reasons for the breakdown and for having faith in the mayor and housing management that repairs would be made as expeditiously as possible, for they know that any machinery, as well as the human body, is subject to a breakdown, especially while under constant operation and stress.

In this case, however, it was the fire that precipitated the boiler breakdown. The colder the weather, the more strain there is on the system. We read in the newspapers and watched the slow days of progress when the water main broke downtown. It takes time to do anything well.

I give the mayor and housing management credit for CONTROLLING the situation It takes skill, tact, diplomacy, and much more to control 6,000 persons in one relative location.

Did Mr. Banks HELP to do this or did he sit back and watch, only to complain after the fact? The mayor and management were able to control this situation because rapport with the tenants had been established years ago and is consistently maintained on a daily basis by working WITH the people.

I give credit to Jay Brodie, housing commissioner, for his fine leadership in this respect.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Banks did not have the foresight that the tenants had, to raise the questions to the people who could supply the answers. Open - ended questions printed in the newspaper, after the problem has been solved, serves no purpose except to show the limitations of the writer.

I suggest that Mr. Banks contact the Housing Authority for answers to his questions since he seems to be the only one still pondering over a two - month - old resolved issue while more relevant issues are more significant.

I further suggest that Mr. Banks makes sure that, in the future, he is more informed about his viewpoints so as to make better use of newspaper space that will help the people more. HELP is needed, not meaningless criticism.

(MRS.) VELMA EVANS
assistant professor of education,
Delaware State College

## Praising a leader

Dear AFRO:

I would like to commend Mr. Samuel Banks for his article in the March 15 issue of the AFRO - AMERICAN.

Mr. Banks' article was a timely and accurate account of the situation that existed at the Cherry Hill Homes during the recent cold spell.

Mr. Banks' article was a refreshing change from the usual negative articles that appear in the AFRO - AMERICAN.

Mr. Banks' article was a positive article that showed the cooperation that existed between the residents and the housing management.

Mr. Banks' article showed that the residents and the housing management were working together to solve the problem