Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1892-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1922-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

AFRAM—our weekend

One of the coordinators of the upcoming AFRAM Festival at the Inner Harbor this weekend quite calmly told listeners at the project's kick-off luncheon that he expected perhaps a million people.

We are hardly suprised.

AFRAM has become perhaps the largest public celebration of black America's culture in this nation.

Each year its participants increase, as performers, exhibitors and part of the on-surging crowd.

AFRAM is many things. It depends on your point-of-view. To some it is simply fun and games. To others it is a massive coming together of our community in a spirit of unity, love and joy that we have survived all that this nation has thrown at us and thrown us into.

Some see it as prelude to positive political action others as a summertime sportic to take our minds off things.

But no one, cynic, optimist, can be neutral about AFRAM. Its dimensions have become staggering. That many folks in one place at one time.

A million?

Come on down to Rash Field Mingle, participate, get involved.

Enjoy the art, the fellowship, the performers, your brothers and sisters and the city.

Media controversy

Whatever else it was last week's NAACP-hosted workshop on local media and its relevance to our community, was not dull.

There were a myriad of agencies exploding in this lively brain meeting format.

The daily media, TV and print, was taken to task for its very poor hiring record as regards minority communicators. TV station managers and newspaper editors had to answer or non-answer as to the degree of the commitment to hiring of black professional personnel.

The numerical totals of black professionals at the three local commercial television outlets and the public system were woefully low by any standard of measurement and the mass media executives on hand hardly served their cause adequately by utterances about their search for qualified black journalists and other species of communicators.

By all that is holy we thought white folks had stopped using "qualified blacks" and scarcity of white as an apology way back in the early Sixties.

To hear this lame excuse at this late date shows us, at least, just how far away from the Age of Enlightenment some of our associates in media remain and how much work apostles of affirmative action have cut out for them if they are to bring any rays of people-style democracy to bear on our local networks and newspapers.

It is our feeling that the Baltimore NAACP chapter showed great courage in working with the Association of Black Media Workers to surface the personnel practices of daily media. The NAACP has always been at the forefront of the struggle to implement affirmative action.

Yet we are not quite persuaded that all of those who constructed what in retrospect must be judged a failed meeting were operating on the high level of struggle that characterizes the NAACP's approach to equal access for minorities in all corners of the employment market.

Nor are we convinced that the very important questions of accountability and responsibility in the communications industry, to our community, especially the news-gathering aspect of that mammoth business, the ostensible theme of the workshop, was all that paramount in the minds of some of the principals.

There were substantive issues to be explored in such a setting but this focus was never established. Instead the real conflict developed between welfare rights activists and young people of the New Left on one side and middle-class blacks with specific personal career interests in the mass media particularly in the glamourous TV end of the rainbow.

The mass media executives found themselves in the middle of these class contradictions and, once these dynamics became clearly operative, they were let off the hook.

Elsewhere on this page, we publish a letter highly critical of this newspaper. The writer sets his arguments forth clearly, something that always pleases us even if we disagree with what is being said, and he too wishes us we do that the meeting on media had taken us, as Sly Stone used to sing, "up a little higher."

It did not. The welfare rights activist who asked the TV execs when were they going to stop giving black people "garbage" for the Jeffersons and some honest programs about our community got no answer.

Nor did the questioner who wondered why black news personalities were being purged, shifted or demoted on the local news shows was this part of a "master plan" she got no answer also.

These two questions may seem opposite.

They are not, both dealing with surface symptoms of the mass media's historic racism.

If this latter concern, the messages being sent into our community, their relevance, their accuracy, their potential for harm, their real purpose, and their power to control our thinking as to subvert our valid aims, this is the area of substance we must explore and from which no media should be exempted.

We think the NAACP can cut through to some of these answers and we are ready to help however we can.

Violet Hill Whyte

—A remembrance—

By Louise Kerr Hines

While an AFRO reporter from 1944 to 1960, I learned much of the stern realities of life through my associations with the then policewoman, Mrs. Violet Hill Whyte.

I mourn her passing and treasure all the associations I had with this great lady.

Often she would single me out to accompany her on her rounds. Quietly she would explain that she depended on the AFRO to expose undesirable conditions and to let people know about them in an effort to effect an improvement.

I've sat in juvenile court hearings as Mrs. Whyte gave a graphic and comprehensive report of some unfit home condition and neglect that resulted in charges against some youth. Candidly objective, she spared no details, giving a graphic and comprehensive report that left fledgeling social workers wide-eyed with disbelief at the facts she could pick up on a case in a matter of minutes.

I recall Mrs. Whyte taking me into a tiny court where a starving, naked baby, lay lolling in its own feces on a bed of newspaper on the floor and crying endlessly. The mother, a known prostitute, had not been seen for days, according to neighbors who reported the case.

I've seen street "wines" doff their hats in respect to Mrs. Whyte. I've heard her wise words to distraught mothers; her sound advice to wayward girls, kind words to the elderly.

Mrs. Whyte was a legend in the old Northwestern Police Station in the 1200 block of Pennsylvania Avenue with an absolutely no-nonsense approach to her job.

Quietly authoritative, Mrs. Whyte was a beautiful lady. She was serene of countenance at all times. Dressed always in dark clothing, she usually wore a white blouse and a close fitting hat over immaculately groomed hair. This officer never raised her voice which could assume a steely edge when the occasion warranted it. When Mrs. Whyte said, "Let's go" someone went.

Soon after her appointment as the first black policewoman, Mrs. Whyte earned the awed respect of offenders and the admiration of her co-workers and the community. It was apparent that she meant business. Knew what she was doing and was unrelenting in pursuing her goals.

As a pioneer in her field, Officer Whyte (finally Lt. Whyte) set high standards for herself and left an enviable record for others to follow.

Humbly, I pay this tribute to a great lady, who indeed in her 30 years of service to the city of Baltimore, made it a better place in which to live.

Memories of her life and accomplishments are as a benediction.

LETTERS

Slamming the AFRO's media story

DEAR AFRO:

Your article headlined, "The People Blast TV News-paper Treatment of Blacks," (19-26) was far more enlightening than you intended. While your reporter mentioned a lack of talented black writers and reporters was an issue at the NAACP meeting, the article itself was the best illustration of that point.

The fact that something was amiss was apparent almost immediately, at the beginning of paragraph four. The preceding paragraph ended by stating, "...one of the main concerns was the transience of black reporters at local television stations."

An interesting point that begged further explanation. Yet paragraph four continues on an entirely different vein, with the previous statement never to be explained. In addition to being poorly written, the article was carelessly edited, at least two paragraphs begin in mid-sentence.

particular outlook regarding Baltimore's blacks."

Finally, your reporter concluded with the remarks of the AFRO's Ralph Matthews saying how wonderful the AFRO has been to the black community, and how this paper will surely report "...all that happened during this program."

The article did exactly that.

Unfortunately, the skills used

Neither did you neglect any mediums most feared taboo: error of fact. Malcolm Potter is the station news manager for Channel 11, not Channel 13. Since the two stations are fiercely competitive, it seems essential to accurately connect a particular station with a

were secretarial and not very journalistic. Anyone proficient at shorthand could have highlighted the arguments that took place at the meeting as your reporter did.

A journalist would have transcended the verbal battles and used the space to seek answers to some pertinent questions: did those who participated feel any accomplishments resulted from the discussion? How much influence can and should a community have in the decision-making process of news editors? What is needed most in Baltimore: black reporters or reporters who can interpret black issues?

The article was not only a disservice to those who attended the NAACP meeting, the entire community was slighted as well. Baltimore residents would probably like to believe our city's news editors and managers are not simply faceless, "white men on the panel."

As a black journalist, it depresses me to see one of the nation's few black publications consistently void of any semblance of reportorial skills. It is a matter that should take precedence over your readers' concerns of smeared ink and blurred pictures.

BILL BRITT, JR.

Big Chiefs in Pentagon

The big chiefs in the Pentagon are like fans at a basketball game yelling defense, defense, while defensive readiness is more important to the country than it is to the Knicks. I think we're going about it the wrong way.

Over the past decade our military budget totaled a trillion dollars, yet 50 Americans are hostages in Iran and the Russians are in Afghanistan.

Superior military power doesn't guarantee control of world events.

Shifts in world-wide economic relationships — especially the rise of OPEC demonstrate that we can no longer dominate the world stage

Julian Bond sees blacks retrogressing in 1980s

By Yvonne J. Carter

"We must complain, plain blunt complaint, ceaseless agitation, unfailing exposure of dishonesty and wrong. This is the ancient unerring way to liberty and we must follow — W.E.B. DuBois

"Despite a decade-long increase of about 150 percent of black people holding public office, despite the ability we've now got to sit, and eat, and ride, and vote, and work in places that formerly lacked black favor, in a very real way in the first decade of the 1980s, we find our condition unchanged."

These are the words Julian Bond used to describe the condition of black Americans in the United States today. Speaking at the National Alliance of Business National Conference at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel last Friday, Bond, a spell-binding orator, captivated his audience.

"A quick look at every kind of statistic that measures either how well or how poorly a group of people is doing, the kinds of figures that measure infant mortality, median family income, life expectancy, these will show rather clearly that while our general condition has improved a great deal, our relative condition has actually managed to get worse," Bond told the audience.

While everyone else is rising to the top, we are sinking into a sea of joblessness, rising inflation and hopelessness. In such a climate, yesterday's gains become suspect. The bus front seat loses meaning for people whose longest trip is likely to be from the futile system of the rural South to the more mechanized high-rise poverty of the North, he said.

"The right to an integrated education may lose meaning for people forced to choose between "tweedle dum" and "tweedle dee" between "grits" and grecian formula no. 2," Bond said.

Bond spoke primarily about the 1980s, what the new decade holds for blacks, and how it compares to the 1960s.

"It is clear the greatest advances for blacks and poor Americans was the period of our purposeful militancy, the decade of the 1960s. Current revisionists would have us believe that the urban violence of the late Sixties and early Seventies precipitated unparalleled improvement in conditions for American blacks," he said. "But it was not in fact northern urban rebellion which erased 100 years of jim crow customs from the nation's minds, but rather the peaceful non-violent confrontations that forever altered the public relationship between Americans of African descent and the spiritual descendants of those who kidnapped us and brought us here."

Bond pointed out that since the 1960s some serious negative changes have happened to us all. With the Nixon era came a national "negative mind - set." Idealism and vigor were replaced with cynicism and narcissism. Young people abandoned the war against racism and colonialism, and turned to lift the "lid" on their "id." The "me" generation had homesteaded the new frontier.

"The 1970s became a decade of reaction and self indulgence, a retreat from responsibility. In Washington the great society was replaced with "benign neglect," he said.

But, Bond said, in 1976 black Americans found a new hope and turned to the polls in record numbers to elect a man who clearly knew the words to our hymns.

MADELINE MURPHY IS ON VACATION THIS WEEK. HER COLUMN WILL RESUME IN OUR NEXT EDITION.

"In less than a year he had forgotten the numbers on our paychecks," he added.

Black adult unemployment is as high as 18 percent. Forty percent of our black teenagers will continue to be unemployed. White women and Hispanics will enter the labor force at even greater numbers competing for new jobs in private industry, freezing out more blacks. Bond warned.

Between 1973 and 1977, for example, 53 percent of all jobs went to white women, 26 percent to white men and only five percent to blacks, he said.

Although census people predict that blacks will increase in numbers and percent, and although economists insist that the black portion of total money shares will increase, black wages will continue to shrink below that of whites, Bond forewarned.

While the movement for social justice has made some progress, it is quite obvious that a great deal more has to be done," he said.

There are nearly six million black families in this country, more than on fourth are on incomes below the poverty level. Only six percent of white families are so situated. More than one-fourth of all black youths left high school last year without graduating. Our family income last year was only five percent of the income white families earn, he said.

Bond stressed the need for a revival of a partnership of black and white, of business and labor, of church and the civilian society "that worte the civil rights laws of the 1960s in the streets of Selma and the sidewalks of Birmingham."

"We need an economic bill of rights. We need an economy pledge to back full employment—the only economic remedy to fight inflation and the inadequacies inflation causes. In the great Depression 50 years ago, one out of every four Americans was unemployed; those figures hold true for blacks today," Bond said.

When the president announced in January of this year a 13 billion dollar cut in the budget, he made it absolutely clear that most of the money would be taken away from those citizens least able to enforce their claim, he pointed out.

On April 22, Jimmy Carter told us that "there are far more human economically sound solutions to curbing the inflation than enforced recession, unemployment, monetary restrictions, and high interest rates," he said.

"Unfortunately that was April, 1976, when we were promised a government as good as we are," Bond added.

"The president told us in his State of the Union message that the country was strong, vital and dynamic; that the American people were confident, hard-working decent and compassionate. That was the height of the Carter in January, 1978," he emphasized.

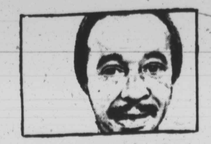
A year and a half later when the president descended from Camp David, "we the people" had become a problem. We suffered a crisis of confidence. We were selfish, he said.

"I would suggest that a crisis does exist, but it is a crisis of confidence in our leadership and their inability to create a world where we can have both peace and plenty. We must wonder, if the struggles of the past decades have been worth it. We must wonder if the black American's struggle for full equality has produced a national unity strong enough to prevail," he continued.

There is a challenge for black Americans to organize our political resources, to help make the most of our number. To prepare and enhance our traditional alliances we need to prepare to resist new onslaughts against yesterday's success and continue the age old tradion of complaint, blunt complaint, ceaseless agitation and unfailing exposure of dishonesty and wrong, Bond urged.

PARREN

MITCHELL



The Youth Act

This month the Congress will vote on a bill known as the Youth Act of 1980, House Rule 6711.

I support this bill, which will address the employment and job training difficulties which many of this nation's youth face. Title I of the Act revises existing youth employment and training programs, and Title II establishes a new educational program to increase the employability of disadvantaged youth.

The need for improved programs to help alleviate the grave unemployment burdens faced by many of our nation's minority youth is obvious.

The Committee on Education and Labor, which handled this bill, reported that 25 years ago the employment percentage of white and black youths was nearly the same.

Today 65 percent of white youths are employed. Only 41 percent of black youths are employed. Last year the unemployment rate for white teenage males was 13.5 percent. The unemployment rate for minority teenage males was 34.4 percent.

Something must be done!

Title I will retain current Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs under Title IV-A during fiscal year 1981. Beginning in fiscal year 1982, the Youth Employment and Training Program and the Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects will be combined into one basic grant program which could include work experience or career opportunities, as well as remedial education skill training and support services such as child care and transportation.

The Youth Act will also establish uniform eligibity requirements for those programs. Generally, eligible youths are those who are ages 16 through 19. Those youths who are 20 and 21 may be eligible if they are in high school or an equivalent program, and 14 and 15 years old can qualify only for support services and career counseling.

Up to 20 percent of these funds may be used for youths who do not meet the income eligibility test, but who have faced significant barriers to employment such as handicap, drug abuse, or language difficulties.

Prime sponsors will be required to develop an employability plan and achievement record coordinated with the school of each student.

The records must concern the student's skills, interests, and barriers he or she faces in securing employment and advancing in his or her job, and career objectives.

The funds for basic grants will be allocated to states by a formula which considers the number of unemployed persons in the state, the number of unemployed persons living in large unemployment areas in the state, and the number of very low-income families in the state. It is estimated that this Youth Act will require over a $3 billion budget for each fiscal year, 1981-1985.

Title II of the Youth Act creates a new school-based program which is intended to assist secondary school students in acquiring basic skills, and skills needed to find and keep a job. Vocational education will also be provided under this plan.

Funds for the Title II program will be distributed to counties. The majority of those funds will be targeted to those with the largest number of low-income or low-achieving youth.

A school is eligible to receive funds if it provides secondary education for grades seven through 12 or is an area vocational school for students ages eleven through 21. That school must also submit to its local education agency, a three-year plan describing short and long term goals and methods for achieving these goals, as well as an outline of how the school will seek to involve the CETA prime sponsor and private industry in providing work experience and cooperative vocational education.

A school council representing the school's student population, teachers, parents, and various community groups, prime sponsors, and labor organizations will advise the school during planning.

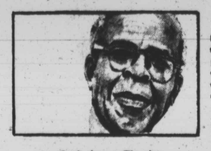
Although this Youth Act of 1980 could use improvements in certain areas, it is acceptable as a whole. However, no matter how good or effective any government plan appears to be — or in fact is — it will not work without the effort of all sides concerned.

But it is the student who must work to benefit from this program. Because nothing is free in life, the students must pay the price for this program. That price is their work and diligent efforts to gain as much as possible from this Youth Act.

It is time, however, for action to replace words. It is time for employment to replace unemployment. Hopefully the Youth Act will help do this.

G. JAMES

FLEMING



Reagan-Bush vs Carter-Mondale

By G. James Fleming

If nothing else, there will be a real contest in the coming and current political campaign. There will be no taking either of the two major candidates for granted.

Even among blacks, usually stalwart Democrats, the Reagan-Bush Republican ticket will not be dismissed lightly, or dismissed at all.

Of course, there are more than two challenging tickets this year, with the intrusion of the strong independent movement of Congressman John Anderson, usually a Republican from Illinois. Although Anderson is not expected to win the presidency, he may present one or the other of the two major candidates from achieving the necessary majority in the Electoral College.

The consensus at this time is that Anderson will cut most into the Carter majority, thereby helping Reagan.

But, for the time being, it is the Reagan - Bush combine, and memories of the rip-roaring oratory of its chief protagonist, that is the center of conversation and concentration—and how this ticket came into being, at the end of much clumsy wheeling and dealing.

Despite such wheeling and dealing over the vice-presidential spot, however, the Republican Party is united as it has never been since the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Right in this country is better organized and better "heeled" than it has ever been. The GOP is also prepared to make an all-out pitch to black voters, especially to those suffering from high taxes, high interest rates and from unemployment.

How blacks respond will help the Reagan-Bush ticket, but could also hurt the Carter-Mondale ticket.

While blacks have been staunchly Democratic since 1936, they did turn to Eisenhower in large numbers in 1956.

When blacks who vote are "better off" economically, they also tend to vote very much like all other "haves" vote, in contrast and opposition to the "have-nots".

On the plus side of the Carter-Mondale ticket is the long years of giving high priority to the poor, including blacks, on the part of their party; the fact that the party is incumbent in the White House; that it has a majority in the Congress; and that it benefits from over two million men and women working for the government.

The key to the support which blacks will give to Ronald Reagan is the extent to which he and his sponsors can "sell" his record as governor of California to black voters.

The keynote speaker at the Republican Convention claimed that Reagan had appointed more minority persons to office in California than any other governor in the history of the state (of course, in California "minority persons" covers a multitude of meanings).

Another key to the outcome of the 1980 election is the extent to which black "leaders" continue accusing Carter of not having done enough for blacks, thereby "stabbing him in the back," as one Carter loyalist puts it.

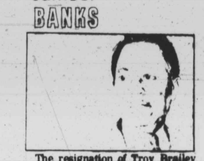
There is also the matter of how many blacks will be enticed to support whatever ticket evolves from the Anderson third party movement.

If Senator Kennedy performs a miracle and wrests the Democratic nomination from Jimmy Carter, the nation will be faced with a brand new ball game.

Whatever way we look at it, the coming campaign will be one of the most spirited, colorful and accusative in a long time.

A NEW DAY BEGUN

Samuel BANKS



The resignation of Troy Brailey as a member of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus has been an occasion of incredulity, surprise and fulmination.

At a time when the majority of 450,000 black Baltimoreans and more than 200,000 blacks in other sectors of Maryland are reeling from the effects of institutional exclusion, denial and prejudicial treatment, Delegate Brailey's resignation is ill-conceived, ill-timed and ill-executed.

The black citizens of Baltimore and Maryland have urgent and pressing need of Delegate Brailey's services, in partnership, as in the past, with his brothers and sisters of the former 20-member Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. The time, in short, has come for Delegate Brailey to return home.

The forces of reaction, repression and institutional denial and exclusion rejoice in the possibility of Delegate Brailey's resignation and other possible defections within the Legislative Black Caucus. This, to be sure, must not be permitted to happen.

Just as one can never really "pay his-her dues" in full, it should also be observed that individuals who comprise minorities cannot effect the kind of substantive changes needed in our society in isolation or working in splinter groups.

The group that has the greatest potential forging and sustaining

Troy Brailey come home!

a socioeconomic agenda geared to the felt needs of over 650,000 blacks in Maryland is the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

As a united and cohesive group committed to serving the socioeconomic needs of its constituency, the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus can negotiate and bargain within the legislative process to ameliorate the lot of Maryland's black citizens and provide them direct access to the loaves of power.

Solidarity within the ranks of the Legislative Black Caucus is essential in the Maryland General Assembly if black Marylanders are to have clout and secure their legitimate and just share of the "legislative pie."

The Legislative Black Caucus worked its will in electing Delegate Frank M. Conaway as the successor to Sen. Robert Douglass. The Caucus, fully aware of the legislative records and abilities of its membership, worked its will decisively.

All members of the Caucus, including the highly revered and esteemed Delegate Brailey, given the pressing and burdensome socioeconomic conditions that weigh so heavily on more than 650,000 black Marylanders have a moral obligation to forgo personal ambitions and ego trips and close ranks.

Troy Brailey is an honorable, magnanimous and distinguished nationally-known black American who has long been in the forefront in the struggle for human rights and equality of opportunity.

It is to be hoped that Delegate Brailey will, upon further reflection, come to understand that his resigning as a member of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus can only serve to enfeeble the organization and serve the interests of reactionaries and advocates of institutional exclusion.

In any organization, there will be "family disputes." However, family quarrels or differences must not be permitted to obscure or interfere with the larger goals and objectives of the organization in terms of serving the socioeconomic needs of its constituency.

The often quoted credo of the Congressional Black Caucus is apropos: "It is not the man, but the plan. It is not the rap, but the map."

On the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's decision, after much delay, to permit black soldiers to fight in the Civil War in 1863, Frederick Douglass made an impassioned statement, "Men of Color to Arms," that I believe has compelling pertinence:

Remember Denmark Vesey of Charleston; remember Nathaniel Turner of Southampton; remember Shields Green and Copeland, who followed noble John Brown, and fell as glorious martyrs for the cause of the slave. Remember that in a contest with oppression, the Almighty has no attribute which can take sides with oppressors. The case is before you. This is our golden opportunity. Let us accept it, and forever wipe out the dark approaches unsparingly hurled against us by our enemies. Let us win for ourselves the gratitude of our country, and the best blessings of our posterity through all time.

Troy Brailey, come home and in this time and place, win "the best blessings of our posterity." Troy Brailey, come home; we have a deep need for you to resume your work now with your brothers and sisters of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE CONSTANT CARE health center feature printed recently has received a great number of compliments and congratualtions for Dr. Harvey Webb Jr. and his superior staff.

The growth of the center is phenominal and due mainly to the mastery of Dr. Webb who takes the health of each citizen to heart. He also brings to Baltimore the widely accepted practice of holistic medicine, cure for ones mental condition as well as the physical being.

I HAVE been closely connected newswise with the health center since it was in its infancy on Edmondson Avenue as "Provident Comprehensive Health Center."

I RECALL vividly the role one person in particular played in establishing the Advisory Council. The pioneer planner and founder is Josephine Rogers Sloan, wife of Attorney David E. Sloan.

"Jo" as she is fondly known, is now an executive (and a hard-working one) with the Red Cross.

IN A CHAT with David recently, we recalled those days when he used to drive Jo on her many visits to neighborhood and professional meetings after work and after dinner, to talk up and organize the Edmondson Avenue people.

MANY CITIZENS will recall how devoted Jo was to the cause of the health of others, especially those in great need.

THERE WAS A DAY way back there when the Provident Comprehensive Health Care Center was threatened with "no funds" and the whole program left in danger of being destroyed. Underlying was the lack of community involvement.

IT WAS at that point that Jo Sloan led the drive to create the community-based Advisory Council.

AS A highly trained and efficient social worker with several earned degrees, Jo was able to call on friends, students and co-workers in the social service profession.

That is how Provident Comprehensive was slaved and was still alive to later become Constant Care under Dr. Webb's direction.

WE SALUTE Jo Sloan for that reason. And, another I would like to cite.

AT THE AFRO we receive emergency calls winter and summer from human beings in distress. During the time Jo Sloan has been at the Red Cross we have been able to get directly to her 24 hours, around the clock and on weekends, for help.

IN RECENT blizzards, floods, fire disasters and even the instances of evictions, tragedies and other misfortunes, Jo Sloan has always found a way to bring immediate help when called.

THERE ARE others who do many unselfish services for our brothers.

ANTOINETTE PHILLIPS, daughter of the late Mary E. Hawkins, established her now famed "We Need Prayer Altar Call" in her mother's name.

THIS YEAR, Saturday, July 26, the Citizens Salute Committee will host a Prayer Breakfast at St. Johns AME Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave., with Dr. Walter Thomas, pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church as keynote speaker.

The breakfast is a prelude to the 5th Annual We Need Prayer Call to be held Saturday, Aug. 2 in Druid Hill Park. There were 1,000 present last year.

AS WE ALL KNOW this project is the result of Antoinette's vision and hard work over four years. The popularity increases day by day.

ANTOINETTE is asking that YOU become a sponsor for the Prayer Breakfast. Come out at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, bring a contribution or send a check to: WE NEED PRAYER Headquarters, 912 N. Gilsor, Baltimore 21217. Earla McKinney is chairperson along with Leah E. White, co-chair.

Straight Talk About Aging

To lose a pound of fat

By Dr. Matthew Tayback

So you are overweight?

And because you believe (as well you should) all those warnings about the causal relationship between obesity and heart diseases, you have decided to lose weight.

Just sitting still, your body will "burn" about 100 calories an hour. That is obviously not enough, because just sitting around is what has helped you get fat in the first place. So let's move on from there.

An hour of brisk walking will consume 210 calories. Speed up your pace and you will use 300. An hour of gardening will burn 220 calories. Spend an hour square dancing or playing a good game of volleyball and you will burn off 350.

Lest you think I have suddenly become an exercise expert, I must reveal that I found the above information in a little pamphlet called "Nutrition and Your Health."

It is a small pamphlet, with only 18 narrow pages, but it's filled with good advice about your food and your health. I have merely related a part of the section on maintaining ideal weight. Some of the other sections deal with food variety, with the need for starches and fiber, with fats and with the importance of avoiding too much salt.

The pamphlet is free for the asking from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Additionally, for further information and another free pamphlet called "Active People over 60," write Mrs. Agnes Taylor, Physical Fitness Coordinator, Maryland Office on Aging, 1004 State Office Building, 301 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Dr. Tayback is state director on aging.

Mel de Rutledge Jr.

Urban America Housing Report

Zoning: How to get what you want!

Suppose you own land that is zoned for residential use, but you want to use the land for commercial or light industrial purposes. What can you do?

Well, if you can make a good enough case for why you should be able to deviate from the prescribed use of your land, you may be able to convince the local zoning authority to grant you a variance.

We will look at the variance as a form of administrative relief from zoning restrictions, and see what it is and how it can be obtained. We will also look at its companion, the special permit, to see how that can be used to help alleviate zoning problems.

VARIANCES

The variance has been characterized as an escape hatch from the literal terms of local zoning ordinance that, if strictly applied, would deny a property owner all beneficial use of his land and would therefore amount to confiscation.

A variance is an administrative grant (issued by the local zoning board), authorizing an individual to use his property in a manner prohibited by the zoning ordinance. It is a right granted only when a property owner can demonstrate that, with regard to his particular property, the zoning ordinance should not be literally applied because such strict application will cause him to suffer unnecessary hardship (undue hardship, practical difficulties, or special conditions, depending on the particular area).

To be granted a variance, the property owner must demonstrate that (1) the unnecessary hardship is unique to his property, and (2) the granting of the variance will be in keeping with the intent of the zoning ordinance.

You may have an undue hardship that would justify a variance in the case of an odd-shaped area that cannot be used effectively for anything permissible under the zoning ordinance and in a situation in which the proposed development would not seriously impair the purpose of the zoning ordinance.

Another proper situation would include a vacant parcel that is surrounded by legal nonconforming uses so that it could not reasonably be put to the use for which it is zoned.

Illustration: In Indiana, a developer owned land that was zoned for residential use. However, because of variances granted to other local owners, the area, despite its official residential designation, had in fact become commercial.

The local zoning board refused to allow the developer to put his property to commercial use because, said the zoning board, it wanted to maintain his property as a buffer between the commercial and residential areas. On this basis the variance was denied.

The developer appealed this decision and the court held that the classification, due to previous variances that ineffect changed the area, was meaningless. The court concluded that in refusing to grant the variance, the board in essence denied the developer the possibility of any reasonable use of his land.

SPECIAL PERMITS

As we have just seen, the variance allows a property owner to use his property in a manner that is forbidden by the zoning ordinance. A special permit, on the other hand, is a form of administrative relief in that the variance permits an otherwise proscribed use, while the special permit allows the owner, upon application and without a showing of undue hardship, to use his property in a manner permitted by the ordinance.

An applicant will be granted a special permit if he can show that the standards set forth in the ordinance have been met. Ordinarily, these standards are less stringent than those imposed for granting a variance.

WHEN A SPECIAL PERMIT IS USED

The special permit is ordinarily used for the purpose of controlling troublesome uses, such as gas stations, drive-in movie theaters, parking lots, bowling alleys, marinas, and golf courses.

When granting a special permit to allow such a use, the zoning board of appeals may impose specific conditions in order to protect the neighborhood or district from hazards that normally accompany such uses.

The special permit is used where special-use properties are required by the community, but control in locating these uses is necessary so that adverse effects on adjacent property owners will be minimal.

Thus, "where public convenience and welfare will be substantially served," the board of appeals may issue special permits to hospitals, libraries, convents, public utility substations, etc.

If you are proposing a use that the municipality is likely to favor, or want, the better route, whenever possible, is to apply for the special permit rather than the variance. This is because variances with their standard of undue hardship are more difficult to obtain.

Glossary of real estate terms

Cash flow — The spendable income from an investment after subtracting from gross income all operating expenses, loan payments, and the allowance for the income tax attributed to the income. The amount of cash derived over a certain measured period of time from the operation of income-producing property after debt services and operating expenses, but before depreciation and income taxes.

Certificate of Occupancy — Written authorization given by a local municipality that allows a newly completed, or substantially completed structure to be inhabited.

Certificate of Title — A statement furnished by an abstract or title company or attorney to a client stating that the title to a piece of property is legally vested in the present owner.

Chain of Title — The history of all the documents transferring title to a parcel of real property, starting with the earliest existing document and ending with the most recent.

Chattel — Personal property.

Closing — The conclusion or consummation of a transaction. In real estate, closing includes the delivery of a deed, financial adjustments, the signing of notes, and the disbursements of funds necessary to the sale or loan transaction.

Closing Costs (Borrower's) — Money paid by the borrower to effect the closing of a mortgage loan. This normally includes an origination fee, title insurance, survey, attorney's fees, and such prepaid items as taxes and insurance escrow payments.

—MORE LETTERS—

'Help us see the light!'

Dear AFRO:

The voices echo black unity, black unity in the shadow of time. Our lack of ideology poses our most serious handicap in establishing a workable unity. With black people, from the grassroots to the high echelon, adhering to an ideology, we would be nearly politically invincible.

The world advances through consciousness - raising, political change and old world powers readjust political perspectives to accomodate a changing international political order, yet we continue to live in the past like typical white Americans.

Our opportunistic so - called black leaders keep promise principles like typical white politicians who bounce from one position to another. What manner of Tom is this?

The grassroots and the so - called leaders do not think in terms of needs or means employed to satisfy those needs. When internationally respected Brother Andrew Young gets shouted down by the grassroots in Miami, then our leaders had better check themselves out to determine whose interests they uphold.

When the grassroots pelt Carter with rocks and jeers, then our leaders should question support of this president. Reality speaks for itself in the streets, and the grassroots need not lie about their feelings.

In an interview printed in the AFRO on May 13, Carter told AFRO executives, "One of the main things you have to remember is that I have appointed more black federal judges than all the other presidents in 200 years."

These appointments are insignificant when weighed against the employment and inflationary prices which confront the grassroots daily. We need meaningful jobs to put money in the pockets of desperate men so the judges won't be necessary.

Oh God, help us to see the light. Help us to see ourselves and what we do to ourselves.

We are America's most prized political fools. We fall for the white man's tricks every time. They parade the carrot before the stick, and off we gallop like donkies each election time.

An ideology would offer cohesion in its principles. With all the intellectuals, sociologists, psychiatrists, historians, and Godsent messengers from God and Allah, surely we can transform 400 years of white American abuse and our own self abuse into an ideology of black love, respect, community and national self help, international awareness and participation, and moral sanctity.

Our contemporary disco generation wears its morals like a loose garment, and we are lost if we lose this generation to the immorality of a white culture in decline.

So - called black leaders must stop laying regressive political games in a world of progressive political change. And we black people in America are the trojan horse of the world.

An ideology would reveal who our friends really are, as opposed to those who stand as patient enemies.

If you got a mind, think about that.

WILLIAM A. CURTIS

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.