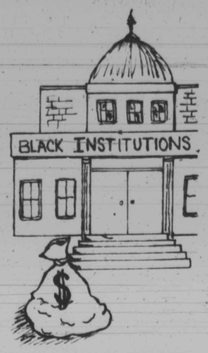
Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

Freezing to death



Annette Stockett

This nation's rampaging inflationary economy is taking its toll.

With prices still soaring, the acute plight of this mightiest of nations is also evidencing itself in little but deadly ways.

There is, of all things, a peanut shortage! Whether it is a fake shortage of a real one is hardly important.

What is significant is that when a modern agricultural behemoth as is the U.S. find itself underproducing a staple, stable crop. We all have for granted, it is a dramatic signal of the kinds of real trouble we are in.

We mean no cleverness but when peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are becoming too expensive for even families of comfortable means, it is indeed time to pause.

Peanuts are a little sign of our predicament. Of larger import is the fuel situation.

Word comes that natural gas will soon be re-regulated and most in the market place are sure that by next winter the price of gas as a heating fuel will be as costly as is oil now.

With the per barrel price of oil leaping still higher we can hardly bring ourselves to calculate the price of fuel oil next winter.

Some 15,000 residents have requested that the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company not cut off their heating services in the last three months the utility company reports.

The reason all these customers give is that they no longer have the money to pay.

Families who had previously considered themselves middle income economically now because of the high cost of energy, are finding themselves sliding over into the ranks of the impoverished. The high cost of energy for transportation and home heating is playing a big role in the impoverishment.

Baltimore has one of the highest per therm rates for gas consumption in the nation. With deregulation upcoming and with the killing winters here in recent years, the prospect of families literally freezing to death moves from abstraction to reality.

While the Reagan administration talks of cuts across the board in government spending, we hear only deafening silence from them on the program of families who need energy (car and home fuel) to survive.

We have no sense of how an energy assistance program, which obviously is going to be a desperate necessity for the average family, can be maintained when the conservatives now in power insist that Americans can and should be self-sufficient.

What also bothers us tremendously is our knowledge that the solar technology, home heating from the sun's energy, is already at hand. The energy industry knows exactly how to heat houses utilizing the sun and has known for some years now.

Some sturdy pioneering individuals have designed their own solar heating systems. But few of us are this inventive.

If we told you that in our recent perusal of a fancy architectural magazine we read some half-dozen pages of an advertisement about home solar heating systems.

You would have to be more than very wealthy to have such a system at this point in time, but the implication of the advertisement was completely clear.

We have the systems figured, we know how to do it, in fact, we have already done it.

The corporation holding all these marvelous patents for heat using the sun was, you may have guessed, Exxon.

Well Exxon is in the oil business right now.

They do not seem to be in any great hurry to rush into the mass production of solar energy systems, the way costs would be cut down to where most American families could afford them.

The Exxon promotional material said they had sun heating all worked out. For those who can afford it. For everyone else, it seems a long way off.

Meantime, the rest of us must somehow ante up for heating oil or gas or freeze to death.

Not even the sun shines for everyone these days.

Offender release -a dilemma

A community of law-abiding Baltimore Countians was terrorized and in imminent danger this week when bank robbers fleeing police invaded their apartments, held them captive and exchanged gunfire with the law officers.

The suspects were identified as escapees from Brockridge, not the toughest of prisons. One suspect is a convicted murdered and the other a specialist in armed robbery.

This week also a Dundalk man was sentenced to a life term. His crime: rape of a young woman hours after he had been released from jail.

The Towson sheriff reports that he does not have enough facilities to hold suspects charged with serious crimes. As a result, a lot are being released on their own recognizance.

Such reports are increasingly in the news.

Our position has traditionally been that the corrections system mission should be that of preparing offenders to be constructive and not destructive upon their release.

This emphasis on rehabilitation is not working all that well in Maryland or any other state.

With a new political majority forming under the general banner of Reaganism, our fear is that a political pressure will mount so great that a great many men and women who are incarcerated will be kept inside even though they could be living lives of greater value if released.

The non-recidivists will suffer every time an unregenerate career criminal who has no intention of remaining inside the law either slips through the corrections release screening process or escapes from a medium or low security prison.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Nixon appointee, this week in a major address to the law community, made no bones as to the direction he would take the High Court.

Less much less emphasis on the rights of the accused, of the incarcerated, and more emphasis on what Burger sees as the law-abiding majority.

Which course translates into stiffer sentencing, less concern with the petitions and rights of offenders, and a diminishing of early-release programs, furloughs and other recent broadening of the corrections approach.

It sounds to us like Burger is trying to un-Mirandize the Mirana Miranda decision.

The liberalization of some penal practices in the last decade could suffer greatly if the nations top jurists influence is to trickle down.

The disturbing legal process wherein a confessed and convicted killer of an miant here in Baltimore won his freedom this week because the confession came 12 minutes after the Miranda ruling governing the rights of suspects will only add fuel to the fire.

Our community has always been sensitive and cognizant of the plight of offenders and ex-offenders because so many of our friends and loved ones have been convicted, because of their race and lack of legal resources, rather than because of actual guilt.

But legalisms so abhorrent to Justice Burger and improperly managed release programs just may be combining to harden our own community attitudes about the plight of offenders.

The dilemma for us as a community is that blacks constitute the majority inmate populations and we understand and resent the reasons for this political and economic situation.

We also understand that the career criminals who get past the corrections evaluation invariably end up causing the rest of us harm, since they come back into our neighborhoods to wreak violence.

For us, the offender problem is concern co-mingled with fear.

It is a terrible dilemma.

MADELINE MURPHY

The baby with the bath water

By Madeline W. Murphy

Did you know that only one group can fire the president of Morgan State University and that's the Board of Regents of the institution?

Did you know that since MSU became a university that it has had no funding to gear up for university status?

Did you know the role that MSU plays as a black institution is unique in that it provides a setting, a staff and goals that are most relevant to the education of black students?

That although Governor Harry Hughes added $1 million to MSU's budget, $3-$4 million more are needed to meet its basic minimum needs?

That MSU's declining enrollment, its problems of cuts in staff and faculty are endemic in the total university system of the State of Maryland?

But despite the former problems, $1 million is slated to be cut by the legislature from black colleges—more than others—where $430,00 of that amount is slated to be cut friom MSU's budget unless blacks in the community raise a unified protest aimed at the legislature with calls, visits, letters and telegrams to forestall the imminent cut.

These and other points were discussed recently at a meeting at the beautifully appointed home of Jewel Marsen, who hosted 30 prestigious Maryland- black movers and shakers.

It is far more likely that unless there are more such meetings, more cooperative efforts among a broad group of responsible blacks, the mixed signals presently received by the legislature from disgruntled agitators might well "kill the goose that lays the golden egg".

We must realize that controversy over the president and zeroing in on him at budget time with hidden agendas and petty bickering, give those who resent the mere presence of Morgan State University, a field day, leaving it vulnerable to underfunding and its ultimate demise. (Like "throwing out the baby with the bath water", to borrow a quote from the opposition!)

If protests had been made about the quality of education, the controversy might have seemed more rational. And perhaps the reports in the daily press might have more accurately relayed the real message, rather than create subterfuge that sensationalizes half-truths.

The president of the Board of Regents, David Johnson, reported, "We are making serious decisions, the unpopular but necessary decisions. Dr. Billingsley is giving leadership. The board is giving him assistance and backing. We want to let the community know he is our leader."

Further the Board of Regents, whose job it is to hire and fire, is more aware not only of Morgan's present problems, but also those of the future than the general public. As President Johnson said, "We face difficult times ahead to continue excellence while struggling with limited means.

"With the future direction of Morgan in view, of declining enrollments, we must revise long range plans for smaller enrollments. But Morgan with its inspiring history and challenging future, requires special consideration that we must get across to the legislature."

For example, the State Board of Higher Education has approved under-graduate programs in gerontology and telecommunications; graduate programs in international business and management and transportation studies. But these require money.

President Billingsley remarked that although there were those who saw no need for other than liberal arts programs, that MSU can't be what it was or it will die. "Our black students must move into the mainstream of urban causes and technology."

Already seventeen new programs have been instituted in the last five years and a planning grant for a new science building is under way.

At the same time each year, MSU must justify on-going maintenance costs, upkeep of buildings to the legislature. No wonder Maryland is ranked 34th in the nation in support from its legislature for higher education!

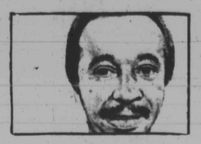
Moreover, there is a great need for alumni and friends of Morgan to follow the lead of the regents in making sizeable pledges for scholarship funds where other funds are either exhausted (or will be scrapped by the Reagan administration) or don't cover additional student expenses beyond tuition.

According to Allen Quille, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of the board, "We should be ashamed at an institution the size of MSU, only $20,000 has been raised for scholarships. The survival or defeat of any college," he warned "is how much each of us does his part."

We talk big. "But it's time," another chimed in, "to not only talk big, but to put our money where our mouth is!"

It is time finally, when Moral Majority waves its "Christian" flag to distort, to lobby its narrow, racist programs, that the black church in Baltimore not dissipate its strength, nor tarnish its credibility, but put forth the front of unity, its glorious history records, to develop broader, less parochial crusades that will rebound to the uplifting of the poor, disenfranchised, jobless among us, in that we benefitting us all. That's where the muscle and clout are needed!.

PARREN MITCHELL



The PACE exam

Walk into any federal agency, tour it, and you will find that blacks are concentrated in G.S. 1 through 5 positions, and we thin out lo only token representation as one moves up through the professional ranks.

Some blacks and Hispanics filed suit in federal court against this professional and Administrative Career Examination (P.A.C.E.). They won the case. Federal District Judge Green has approved a consent decree which would require that the federal government pay $35,000 to each of the plaintiffs and would further require that the federal government move to eliminate the harmful impact that the examination has on applicants who are black and Hispanic.

The issue is now with the new attorney general in the Reagan administration. Will he support the Carter administrationis settlement? Will he drag his feet asking for additional time to study the proposal or ask for an opportunity to talk with the blacks and Hispanics in an attempt to renegotiate the settlement, thereby effectively rejecting the position taken by the Carter administration?

Congressman Augustus Hawkins, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, has sent the following telegram to Attorney General William French Smith:

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, I strongly urge you to approve the proposed consent decree filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in Luevano v. Campbell. This proposed decree would phase out the PACE exam as a hiring tool for federal employment and require alternative testing devices and affirmative action hiring and recruitment procedures to remedy the discriminatory effects of the PACE test.

The adverse impact of the PACE exam on blacks and Hispanics has been clearly established: 95 percent of blacks and 87 percent of Hispanics, as compared with 58 percent of whites, fail the exam. The Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, which I chair, has received extensive testimony going back to hearings in 1975 on the discriminatory impact of the PACE exam. Moreover, a recent Subcommittee report, "Comparison of EmploymentTrends for Women and Minorities in Forty-five Selected Federal Agencies", finds that the federal government has made only limited progress in the employment of minorities and that there continues to be a concentration of minorities in the lower salary grades: 31 percent of minorities are employed at or below GS-4 and 70 percent are at or below GS-8.

Unless serious efforts are made to recruit and hire blacks and Hispanics through mandated affirmative action programs to increase the number of these minorities in federal jobs above the GS-5 level, these minorities will continue to be denied opportunities to advance in the pipeline to the higher levels of government employment."

By the time you read this column, the attorney general will have decided upon what course the government will follow. (The federal government promised a decision to the Court by Feb. 9)

Civil rights attorneys are almost unanimous in their opinion that the Justice Department's decision will give a clear signal as to the Administration's position on civil rights.

The decision will be of great significance for blacks in the Baltimore area. The Social Security Administration is the largest user of P.A.C.E. Examination. The record of S.S.A. is abominable insofar as placing blacks in professional administrative positions. That is an issue I shall attack in the next few weeks.

LETTERS

Wake up, black hostages

Dear AFRO:

There have been many major events taking place recently in America; among them the changing of presidents and governmental policy), and the release of the so-called hostages from Iran. We are now witnessing a wave of patriotism by white people that borders on fanaticism. Yet there is no mention of the over 40 million black people who have been held hostage here— in fact for well over 400 years, and have received no justice since being brought here (in Chains) up to the present day under the leadership of this arch-devil—Ronald Reagan.

But these present day devils are much wiser in the methods they use to trick and enslave black people, than their fathers were.

Where their fathers were only able to enslave our bodies these demons are succeeding in enslaving our minds and our souls, no wonder the scriptures warns us "What profits a man if he gain the world and lose his soul?"

Throughout the history of America, they (the Caucasian race) have kept the black man around as a tool to be used and then discarded at their whim.

We were used on the plantation to work and to make this country rich. We were used in WWI to protect and to defend his nation. We were used in Korea and Vietnam, and when our services were no longer needed, we were again thrown back into the 4th and 5th class citizenship that we had previously occupied, deprived of basic human rights, and killed from one end of this country to the other.

And now Ronald Regan (who still thinks he is in Hollywood and the worlds problems can be solved with some movie-land script), along with his co-star George Bush (the former C.I.A. Director), and his best supporting actor (he war monger Alexander Haig) is preparing for war now.

But this set will not be in Hollywood but the entire world, and when they call for lights, camera, and action; it will be black people who will again die and shed their blood for a land and a people who will never give them freedom justice, or equality; because those rich and middle class white people who wave the banner of America so high never actually go to fight, it is always the poor, black and disadvantaged who feel the sting of war.

Union, but our fight is with America, the most wicked, corrupt feel the stinz of war.

We want you to wake up black man and stop being a fool and a tool for white America. Your and my fight is not with Iran, or the Soviet Union, but our fight is with America, the most wicked, corrupt and diabolical nation that has ever existed in the whole history of the planet earth. Do not be deceived by these devils and their negro imps.

Reagan appointed a lackey Negro to his cabinet, not because he loves Negroes but to deceive you and make you think that you and I have a future in America.

He also has many ignorant Negro preachers to help him deceive you like: Jesse Jackson, Ralph Abernathy, and even some so-called Muslims like Wallace Muhammad.

But the black man's future in America was well demonstrated by Ben Vereen at the Inaugural Gala, where he debased himself by tamming on his knees for his modern day slave master "Massa Ronald" and his wife "Miz Nancy". Anyone with eyes to see knows that this is all devils think we are good for.

Black man! black woman! Stop begging your open enemy for that which you can get for yourself. Come home to yourself! Come to your senses! Come home to the Nation of Islam and live!

EMANUEL ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD
CALIPH OF ISLAM

—MORE LETTERS—

In praise of Vereen, Pride

Dear AFRO:

In reference to the most recent criticisms of both Ben Vereen and Charley Pride, I wish to air my views regarding these criticisms.

I cannot see why these critics find such offense in whatever happened. These men are entertainers and their job is to entertain.

They have not been placed in a position to be role models or spokesmen for the black race in America. Both men have gained whatever successes they enjoy by their hard work and devotion to that end and I see no reason for blacks to chastise them for what is considered a part of the act.

When comedian Red Skelton put on this act as a drunk and acted out the part to perfection, I saw no white person condemn his as belittling the white race.

I hold both of these entertainers in high esteem and will continue to do so, as they are surely not offensive to me in any respect.

I think, we as black people, surely have more important things to worry about than Mr. Vereens or Mr. Prides choice of theatrics or words at the Inaugural Ball.

Why not turn our attention and wrath at the young black hoodlums who are really keeping us behind the eight ball.

GARLAND L. CROSBY

MLK birthday boycott

Dear AFRO:

January 15, 1981 is a day I will long remember. Thank all of you for all you did to make the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. meaningful. Our joint efforts made this day an affirmation of "the love that runs from heart to heart". A letter concerning the day from Tom Presbury says: "This showed true solidarity, our real sense of economic clout, and gave us a sense of self-pride and self-love."

From the early planning last spring to the celebration at St. Mark's United Methodist Church that was shared by a thousand of us, it was a glorious experience. We are aware and grateful for the many contributions of time, money, and personal involvement that went into this celebration.

Too often holidays lose their true meaning. If, as it deserves, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is made a national holiday, I still think we should continue and enlarge upon the meaningful activities that were a part of the observance this year.

MARY CARTER SMITH
PRESIDENT

Teacher, students deplore violence

Dear AFRO:

Our class had been reflecting back on the contributions of a man, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was dedicated to the freedom of all mankind. He felt that non-violence was the instrument to use in making his fellow human beings learn to love and respect each other.

Unfortunately, too many persons are still committing violent acts against each other.

Here in Baltimore, a teacher from Carver Senior High School was shot down and killed in front of her own home.

As a concerned educator, I want to state that I deplore this act of violence perpetrated on another human being and hope and pray that these senseless acts of violence in our community will cease.

The students in my class and I want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and a plea for our society to accept Dr. Martin Luther Kings message of non-violence.

We, as students, want to begin our more toward freedom by taking violence out of our hands and putting learning on our minds.

Frank Pryor, teacher. Students: Clarence Cobb, Teddy Hickman, Lamont Crooks, Anthony Griffin, Thomas Shelton, Purnell Merrison, Alvin Colyin, Curtis Bentley, Darin Smith, Carnell Scott, Antwan White and Clem Clemmons.

In praise of Conaway's agenda

Dear AFRO

As president of the HUB organization, a group committed to community economomic development, the Black Caucus agenda submitted by their leader, Del. Frank Conaway, certainly merits ou supPort as issues that affect us.

His agenda printed in your editorial columns listed ten items, eight of which relates to bettering the economics of the black county.

Minority contracts, minority business, unemployment, state agencies, hiring practices, affirmative action, financial aid for black educational institutions, and retirement pay; all impact the black "economy in exile" from the mainstream.

I commend Del. Conaway as a man of vision. A man with a plan. It is reassuring to note that the Black Caucus has its head together and will work a plan rather than, ad-lib it way through the season.

R. V. HASYBERT SR.,
President, H. G. Parks Inc.

Dear AFRO

After reading an article in the Jan. 30, 1981 issue of your newspaper on the chairman of Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, Del. Frank Conaway I was tempted to respond to Del. Conaway's comments.

Although I was impressed with his comments about his childhood racial discomforts, I was more impressed with his reaction to his colleagues statements on his leadership as the caucus chairman.

I felt his response to their comment was a very positive and had a ringing of political maturity and black unity.

I would hope that the black communities throughout the state and Del. Conaway's black colleagues in the legislature would give him the support that is needed to promote his black agenda in this current session of the legislature.

KENNETH L. WEBSTER

Talking black, spending white

Dear AFRO

Afro-American social and professional organization serious about supporting black business and institutions no longer can use the excuse that such institutions do not exist, or that their services are inadequate in regards to the numbers to be accomodated or as regards the quality.

Within this all-American city, a sufficient number of such institutions do exist.

An aside: A friend of mind likes to respond to the statement that the services are inadequate by saying: What facilities did you use before integration?

Moreover, these black businesses and institutions demonstrate their gratefulness by supporting the social and professional groups through ads in their souvenir programs, by purchasing tickets to their fund-raising affairs, etc.

The black churches and its lodges continue to have sufficient space for large gatherings, with or without charge as a part of the program's activities.

Both Morgan State University and Coppin State College have facilities which will accomodate up to 400 persons for banquets. Founder's Day activities, annual meetings, receptions and the like. For rallies, both have auditoriums that will accomodate 750 or more people.

The Ritz, Odells and Pascals are just three night clubs Afro-Americans may use for large group activites for which these types of facilities are most appropriate.

One of the newest first class Afro-American restaurants where we may convene for our executive committee meetings, small surprise parties or retirement activities) up to 125) and the like is Soul Shack in Lexington Market Green Street entrance leading to the International Shops. This excellent Afro - American owned restaurant offers a menu fit for an African Queen.

One may use the cafeteria service or allow a waiter or waitress to take his or her order. The physical decor is beautiful consisting of African drapes and contemporary American items. It is indeed exemplary of the $230,000 used to build it.

It is easy to talk black and spend white. It doesn't take much energy to do this.

I challenge my fellow middle class Afro-American sisters and brothers to patronize all of the above mentioned Afro-American owned or owned institutions and business. I do not own stock in any of them.

Nor, am I getting a kick back for urging you to support them One reason Asian, Japanese, Korean and other ethnic business succeed is because their own kind support them.

DR. GWENDOLYN J. COOKE

'Ask your police'

By Major Herbert F. Armstrong
Director, Community Relations
Baltimore Police Department

Q. I have a portable stereo player. Are there any restrictions on playing it in public?

A. A City ordinance prohibits the public playing of portable stereos that are tuned loudly enough to be heard fo more than 50 feet after 11:00 p.m.

Q. Our class would like to tour Police Headquarters. How do I go about arranging one?

A. Call 396-2710 and members of the Community Relations Section will give you full particulars.

Q. How long can trucks part in a residential area?

A. A commercial truck is allowed to park for only one hour in front of any building designed to be used exclusively as a residence, except when it is parked for the purpose of doing work, for any party, within a one block radius of a residence.

Q. If I see a crime occurring, what can I do without becoming directly involved?

A. Call the Emergency Police Number 222-3333 and report the incident. Although it often helps the investigation of a crime for the police to have witnesses to the actual occurrence, you are not obligated to give your name when asked to do so.

Q. Why are drunken drivers arrested instead of just given traffic tickets like other offenders?

A. For two reasons; the first is that the intoxicated driver may attempt to drive a vehicle again while still under the influence of alcohol. The other reason is that drunken drivers kill and maim more people every year than all major crimes put together.

Q. Will your radar gun record a stationary object?

A. No. The radar equipment used by the Baltimore City Police Department will record only moving objects.

Q. How often is your Radar apparatus calibrated? (calibrated - certified to be correct)

A. It is calibrated every six months by Police Department technicians, and it is checked by the officer with a tuning fork each time he sets up at a new location, or every hour, whichever comes first.

Q. Is signing a ticket an admission of guilt?

A. No. It is an acknowledgement that you have received the citation. Refusal to sign one could under some circumstances, result in a lawful arrest.

Q. How do I go about getting the police to watch my house while I am away on vacation?

A. Just call the district station in which you live and report the times that you will be away and other pertinent information. The officer assigned to your area will be made aware and advised to attempt to safeguard your house while you are away.

Q. Is having just one marijuana cigarette legal?

A. Under Maryland Law no amount of marijuana is legal.

Send your inquiries about law enforcement, citizens - police relations, your rights, police assistance to Major Armstrong, Community Relations, Police Headquarters.

For All We Know

Reagan cuts rob our children of hope

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

YOU WOULD HAVE CRIED bitter tears if you had heard the youngsters and the questions they asked the day they visited the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

The questions to which there seem to be no answers, came when they gathered in the Senate Chambers, 250 of them, seriously asking legislators what is to become of us all in the day ahead without food stamps, the social benefits that the poor need, sadly and should expect from the government they support.

WHAT IS SO SAD, here are these children whose lives should be filled with the excitement of learning and living and childhood. But, they are filled with fear and burdened with trouble no youngster should have to bear.

AS ADULTS we all wait "The Reagan cuts" on Feb. 18 and we are helpless.

Already these children have endured homes with father and mother unemployed, nights of cold with no heat and little food and deprivation beyond belief.

WE ALL KNOW that suffering in the houses of of poor black citizens this Winter has not and probably never will be told. Many persons have died of cold, frozen to death silently asleep and without a voice to be heard. We have no statistics.

EVEN THE WISEST of us have no answers and the children are left to the saddest fate of all, the worst helplessness they will ever experience.

We may be the worst off however, here are some messages we have found in the Christian Science Sentinel, something that will help. The Sentinel, Feb. 2, Vol. 82, No. 5

Many people today find life filled with storms and stresses, guilts and hurts, mistakes and anguish, worry and disillusionment.

Yet, the understanding of the science of life — the real life you express as God's own idea — unfolds the very kingdom of heaven within you here and now.

LIFE is a great deal more than a chain of mindless tragedies, bizarre misfortunes, cruel failures, erratic illusions, appalling injustices. In fact, man's real life is utterly different from all of these. In actuality it includes not not one of them.

The science of Christ awakens us to the radical understanding that man's life expresses his life in perfection, wholeness, beauty, harmony, immortality.

VERY OFTEN the distress of mortal experience become the prompting for this spiritual awakening. The sharp experiences of belief in the suppositious life as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to learn spiritual life.

Commensurate with the rapture of realizing there is a God we can rely upon for help — a God who is infinite life — is the inspiration of understanding who afid what and why we truly are.

What a relief to learn that we are not a frail bundle of organic matter doomed to extinction, but rather the conscious image and immortal witness of God's infinite nature and being — the pure idea of limitless soul, spirit, mind erasable life.

TRANQUILITY — When one preserves a spiritually based tranquility in the face of adversity, he can respond more intelligently, more compassionately, more effectively.

A cyclist is more poised and stable when he has a forward thrust then when hardly moving. So it is with spiritual poise.

WHEN WE HAVE a degree of spiritual momentum — an increasing understanding of God — the result is a firmness and steadiness of thought on the human scene, whatever the circumstances.

WE CAN CONTROL our thinking. Our thinking influences our bodies, our experience, our usefulness. If our thought is focusing on the spiritual view of ourselves and others, we cannot also be retaining the material view.

One view is always at the expense of the other.

As the spiritual concept dominates thought, our experience and our usefulness will manifest greater goodness and harmony. Christ saw the spiritual universe controlled by God. To him it was the only universe.

This spiritual perception gave him dominion and power over the material counterfeit.

In the midst of a storm that threatened to sink a ship he was on, he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Likewise, by perceiving the real man, he healed a wide range of diseases.

A GENUINE CALM derives from our conviction of man's uninterrupted progress spiritually. It comes from discerning that real identity expresses God.

With our very roots of being in the undisturbed presence, man is secure, his foundation of existence is sure and can not be shaken.

WHEN WE begin to appreciate some of the fundamental truths, our experience is firmed up. We gain a strong conviction that God is carrying out his purpose in our life and that nothing can thwart that purpose.

We are placed on stronger footing. Distressing events — whether major world circumstances or even shocking news about a friend or neighbor — are unable to push us into reacting with fear, passion, misery. When we hold our ground with steady conviction that mind is the basis of all action, evil cannot overthrow us.

Cling to such truths, then hold your ground with the anshaken understanding and you will win.

JUST THINKING

The demise of Black middle class?

By Al Sweeney

To paraphase an exercise usually performed by by budding typists:

"Now is the time for competent black professionals to come to the aid of their people."

Forget the party labels. Forget the past arrogance of self-styled black leaders. Forget the finger pointing and crabs-in-the-basket wrangling for peanuts.

It doesn't take a Harvard, Rhodes or Stanford Scholar to prophecy that the recently emerged black middle class is in the same beat with the downtrodden culturally and economically deprived.

If you have been reading between the lines of this effort over the past year, I believe I have attempted to get the message across that the recent blacks residing in suburbia, the gold and platinum coasts or in high priced inner city condominiums were in for troubled times.

Their failure to actively participate in our civil rights organizations and contribute more than lip service, while permitting a handful of well-meaning but lackluster individuals run the organizations as private clubs left the middle class blacks vulnerable.

Suddenly blacks holding down non-productive jobs in government and industry are in a state of panic.

When President Reagan delivers his Feb. 18th budget cutting message, it will be non-productive offices and organizations in which blacks are largely employed that will face the scalpel of Reagan's economic surgeons.

Many of the offices will be dismantled and believe it or not, upon the advice of black thinkers.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an outgrowth of the civil rights efforts and the creative legislative program of President Lyndon B. Johnson, whose name has been virtually erased from the Democratic National Party's history, is about to be emasculated.

It would have been virtually eradicated out four years ago, if it weren't for the dogged efforts of its legislative creator, Rep. Augustus Hawkins, the wily dean of our Congressional Black Caucus.

Clarence Mitchell, who earned the reputation of the 101st senator, also played a key role in salvaging the agency.

Hawkins, while retaining chairmanship of a subcommittee, now heads a more important House Committee that has much higher needs on its agenda. While Mitchell has left the Washington scene as a full-time operator.

And frankly, EEOC has been a dismal failure. It is a demoralized organization, ill managed and where its almost impossible to track down the progress of grievances that have been in the works for many, many years.

Gone are the creative efforts of a Commissioner Sam Jackson. The missionary zeal for the rights of individuals who are being shafted daily in the job market are being ignored, as a group of yearling procuts of Ivy League lawyers with little or no feeling for problems that are handled for EEOC.

In passing years, there was talk about case backlog. A term describing cases to be handled. By a change of reporting procedure, there is no report of backlogged cases. Such an accounting doesn't exist. Thus, the backlogged ended. The cases to be investigated remained.

Yet, EEOC has a sound structure for processing cases. The new hearing apparach can immediately weed out meaningless complaints.

However, the intrigue among the staff and the internal bickering has made it a Mickey Mouse or Amos & Andy operation.

There is a report that a black woman was to become new head of the agency. Well, someone cracked, I thought a black woman headed the agency in the person of Elinor Holmes Norton.

"We're talking about Shirley Temple Black," said the informant.

Shirley Temple has history making interracial movies it seems. Or have you forgotten Bill (Bojangles) Robinson?

One of Bojangles sickest jokes was:

"Houseman turn the lights my color."

The house would go dark.

As I started out early in this effort, somewhere among the millions of black persons is a black leader who can bring the black folks of all persuasions together before more of "dark days" that Dr. Martin Luther King once predicted envelope us all.

Civil rights offices, as we know them, face the knife. The big problems for many civil right officers in many agencies, black workers would care less.

The low esteem with which civil rights officers are held in the majority of the black federal agencies adds fodder to the effort.

The Office of Minority Business Enterprise is in trouble. Many new black firms across the nation got their start under the Nixon - Stans project.

In the vanguard of those instrumental in bring oon its demise are former federal employees victims of the political change four years ago.

They are bitter. They were victims of plea - bargains who put party label tags on persons rather than evaluating person elects on their ability and productivity.

Meanwhile, it the rumored closing of the Office of Minority Business, Economic Development Administration and Small Business Administration programs come to pass, the general counsel of the surving agency, the Commerce Department, will undoubtedly be George Haley.

Haley brother to Alex Haley, the author of "Roots" is a longtier GOPER and campaigned actively during the Reagan races.

Haley could be invaluable in the salvage of the Black middle class.

The black middle class come out managing social programs. The National Urban League gets a substantial share of its budget from federal programs.

The officials of the league, who are getting decent salaries, are dependent upon the continuance of those programs, which face the axe.

Private industry has already cut back on race relations specialists and the hiring of consultants.

The consulting business with the federal government for seminars, show - and - tell presentations are other fringe handouts that will be curtailed.

The blacks, who were fortunate to move into operations with economic, technical, professional, scientific skills have nothing to fear.

Meanwhile, although the picture is dark, I believe someone will emerge to salvage the delivery side of social programs.

Maybe, all of the fat and administrative layers will be wrung out but the people for whom the programs were intended to aid will be the beneficiaries.

But, what about the Black middle class? That's another story.