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).

Prison mess

The AFRO approved Gordon Kamka's appointment as public safety director.

We regret both his resignation and the speed with which Harry Hughes accepted the leave-takings of Kamka and Edwin Goodlander.

The governor's action may take some political heat off of his office but it does nothing to remedy the Maryland prison mess.

Over-crowding, in defiance of court orders, still exists. Rehabilitation programs, which had just begun to flower under Kamka, had never been a serious element in this state's penal thinking historically.

The preponderance of black inmates in the prison population, the inequitable sentences favoring white over blacks convicted of the same crimes, the predominantly white prison guard system and the simple and inescapable fact that about the only thing Maryland prisons can guarantee is that once many inmates enter the penal system they will return in a never-ending cycle of recidivism.

Which is to say that about the only thing Maryland prisons do to ensure that many beginning criminals become hardened and committed career criminals.

Kamka's notion, idealistic perhaps, was that all this negativism could be turned around.

His work and early release programs were sound in theory—why should an inmate waste time in jail if he can be trained to hold down a job, complete college training and therefore not have to resort to criminal behavior ever again?

We will be the first to admit that corrections personnel who determined eligible some inmates for work release programs made some dangerous errors in evaluation.

The fact that convicted armed robbers, rapists and murderers and narcotics were on daily work study programs on our streets is hardly reassuring. This situation demands investigation.

Whether the selection of obviously unsuitable inmates for early release consideration was administrative error or deliberate sabotage to discredit parole and probation programs generally is not known.

We would hardly be surprised, however, if the inclusion of men who had no intention of curbing their criminality once in pre-release or work release projects was not cynically intended.

There is a high element of risk in any corrections program that emphasizes rehabilitation.

We have heard much these past few days about the 27 work-release inmates indicted for violent crimes while on work-release but we have had only silence on the many, success stories such programs foster.

We find this hardly coincidental.

Crime and our community

Only the most fascistic would maintain that prisons are a solution to criminal behavior.

Some men and women, for reasons of mental, emotional and sociological damage, are a clear and present danger to the rest of us and must be removed from society for their own protection and our protection.

That is the fundamental purpose of prisons.

In America, however, prisons go many steps further and are used as instruments of social control over black people, black men, usually and mainly.

The cycle begins with juvenile offenders. Penologists will tell you once a young black boy gets into trouble that first time the likelihood that he will continue to move through the prison system well into adulthood is highly probable.

The fear of the black black man has long been white America's chief psychosis.

The modern American prison system, in Maryland and in most of the states with large black populations, has been specifically modified to ensure that as many black males are controlled through incarceration as possible.

The beginning controls, of course, welfarism, poverty, substandard housing, insufficient education and lack of economic opportunity. The police, the judiciary and the corrections community itself are of course powerful handmaidens to this beginning set of racist constraints.

The late inmate activist George Jackson, in his powerful writings on prison life, stated quite accurately that most blacks in prison were "political prisoners—for racism is not only a mind-set but a conscious political approach to maintain control and power.

Jackson was a minor hero of the Sixties.

But these are the Eighties and while Jackson's perceptions had a strong evocative spell about them what we must face now is that a distinctive and dangerous minority of criminals has developed in the generation since George Jackson tried to explain the reality of prison life to his brothers and sisters.

You cannot help but notice that young offenders today give a damn for no one.

They prey on the elderly, children, women and not content to rob for money, then kill the victims once the money has been turned over, when no resistance has been offered.

We are at a definite watershed.

These young, violent men are mainly black and mostly they are robbing and killing other blacks.

They are harming our mothers, sisters, brothers, fathers and if our sense of our community is at all near target, there is enormous concern over this phenomenon and much bewilderment as to what to do about it.

Obviously we cannot rationalize this kind of violence away with the historic shibboleths of racism or deprivation.

We are being confronted by our own children.

They are hurting their immediate families, their neighbors, and the broader family of black America.

We are at a watershed of decision.

We are going to have to face the fact that crime within our community is in large degree a "family" affair and its solution depends on just how strongly we can pull ourselves together psychologically and politically to attack the terror within.

APRIL 4, 1968

"We shall never forget"

TOMLIN

MADELINE MURPHY

Disparity in sentencing

The round-up of 27 Brock-Bridge work release inmates seemed much too pat and orchestrated for television, given the resentment of the Commissioner of Police Donald M. Pomerleau over the so-called liberal prison reform policies of former Superintendent of Prisons Gordon Kamka. But it was effective enough to cause Kamka's resignation.

But even though some were considered to be dangerous with a litany of abuses ranging from murder to larceny, the verdict is not yet in as to whether this round-up was done because other inmates had not been in school where they were supposed to have been, whether they had taken a detour to their homes; whether their breaking the law was merely a technicality.

With the recent attempt on the president's life, the murders brutally committed on Charles Street, it may not seem appropriate to talk about prison reform, but this is just the time before we become part of the hysteria and concentration camp syndrome that will surely spread through the land.

A recent draft copy on the disparity of sentencing to be released soon, may give some indication of why so many blacks in prison are not only resentful, and frustrated, but also anxious to escape and prone to violence.

Most damaging in this report is the confirmation of our conjecture that blacks "are most likely to be incarcerated than white offenders across all types of offenses" and that "differences in rates of black and white incarceration are statistically significant for all offense types, except rape, and that black offenders are generally less likely than whites to receive probation."

For example, in Baltimore City, black persons arrested for burglary are more likely to be convicted than their white counterparts in significant numbers. Also, they are less likely to receive probation if convicted.

Even more alarming, however, is the arrest, conviction and lack of probation of blacks in Prince Georges County, which outstrips the dismal record in Baltimore City and would lend credence to the principle that more black judges are needed to try to dispense equal justice.

The fact that the majority of black judges preside in Baltimore, may have a salutory affect upon officers of the court in lowering the numbers incarcerated in other types of crimes.

Whereas in Prince Georges County, where the population is hovering toward 50 percent black, where there are only two black judges, race, according to the report, is the viable predictor of incarceration.

It should be added here that this study was the result of an amendment made by Del Howard P. Rawlings, to the governor's bill to study the corrections system, enacted last year.

In addition this study of sentence disparity also documented that where "offenders used alcohol, had had previous incarceration, had committed serious offenses, or were black, had higher probability of incarceration than those who did not possess these characteristics," especially in Prince Georges County.

When 30 percent of those interviewed in the control group "used alcohol occasionally; and 16 percent were habitual users the contradictions of society are blatantly evident, since most of the licensees for alcohol are in the inner city.

Where alcoholism is our main problem; where it increases the vulnerability of offenders to be incarcerated, indicates society's insensitivity to a disease run rampant that also becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy that insures imprisonment.

It is the ultimate inhumane tactic to get potential unemployed "troublemakers" off the streets. We cannot for one minute deny that there are some mean characters in the street who need to be locked up for life, but there are also those, as verified by this report, who could have at least been treated even handedly and fairly as the white offenders.

It is interesting to note in this regard how gently news commentators spoke of the would-be assassin of President Ronald Reagan; their incredulity was all too obvious when they spoke of his upper middle class background. Their cautioning that we must not judge him because he is still innocent until proven guilty, is a rare constraint, in light of such a dastardly act. Compassion directly related to color and class?

It is not hard to imagine, however, given white society's attitude toward the black offender, what would have happened if the alleged assassin had been black. All the while the identity of the person was not known, I prayed that he would not be black. For I feared that the officers would have shown him no mercy, nor would the press have shown him similar compassion.

Those of us who hear the frustrations of black prisoners, who cry out for justice, cannot help but wonder how many are languishing in crowded warehouses because they fall between the cracks of the justice system.

While we deplore the recent acts of violence by inmates in the work release program, we must be careful not to generalize about the black prison population nor ignore those who deserve our attention.

We must not abandon our work in prison reform for work release, for rehabilitation, for halfway houses, for there are hundreds of prisoners unlike the recent killers, who deserve our care and compassion; who are there because justice is not blind.

PARREN MITCHELL

Yet another committee for oppression?

By Parren J. Mitchell

Recently, my office has received a great deal of mail concerning terrorist activities both here in America and abroad. The letters call for the establishment of a congressional committee to investigate terrorist acts. My answer to this is a resounding no.

The arguments against such a proposal are substantial. First, and most obvious, the House Committee on Government Operations, the House Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs have jurisdiction in all matters concerning domestic security. The addition of yet another committee, as you can see, would be unnecessarily redundant.

Second, stepped-up enforcement of domestic surveillance measures in the name of national security often lead to the unintended repression of civil, religious, and human rights, as guaranteed by the first, fourth and fourteenth amendements to the Constitution. While our country's internal security is crucial to its strength, that security should not be subordinate to the freedoms blacks fought and died for throughout America's checkered past.

Recent Supreme Court rulings circumscribing civil liberties (i.e., Snepp vs. the United States) indicate that many legal precedents established after the courageous freedom marches of the civil rights era are in jeopardy. Certain members of the Judicial Branch have chosen to attack our hard-fought gains; therefore, we cannot allow the establishment of yet another structure within the legislative branch a congressional committee on internal security to erode our efforts against racism and oppression.

Third, and most importantly, over-zealous enforcement of current security status would respond to a symptom of America's weaknesses, not its causes. Rather than attempt to excise terrorism, as a surgeon would use a scapel to dislodge a cancer, we should educate our fellow citizens about the dangers inherent in sitting idly by as terrorist hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or the American Nazi Party agitate tensions within our communities.

A well informed society with a working democratic system in which all Americans can participate-not just the rich, the white and the powerful is the healthiest, most cost effective form of internal surveillance.

This is an era in which many assert that government has grown beyond its prescribed boundaries. I am not one of them. However, it would be blatantly unfair to eliminate or reduce government services to those who desperately need them while we create bureaucracies which threaten liberty and toleration.

I reject the premise that we must fan the fires of cruelty in order to attain a so-called level of "national security." I will not contribute to the suppression of a diversified society. I refuse to allow America to revert back to the ante-bellum, plantation mentality which perpetuates servitude and makes a mockery of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Therefore, I say no to the establishment of yet another congressional committee which will not feed, clothe, and sustain the needy.

Reagan gun control

With President Ronald Reagan having been shot, do you think there will be stricter gun control laws?

ROBERT W. PAYNE, 61, retired — Yes, they need to get rid of all those guns. There's too much crime today.

DR. J. MITCHELL, 51, physician — I doubt it seriously because the Republicans don't want it. There should be one, but it probably won't do any good, because only the law abiders won't have guns, but the criminals will.

GENE ATKINSON, 47, laborer — No. People always are going to have guns. How about the hoodlums who break into peoples' homes? You still need something to protect yourself. People still should have something to protect themselves.

BRUCE COOPER, 21, state worker — I don't think so. It isn't going to make any difference. You can buy a gun anywhere, hot, cold, anyway.

PAULA McCOY, 32, student — No, because it's like a system. People who own gun stores aren't going to stop selling guns. They may step up his (President Reagan) security as far as gun control goes through.

JOYCE FOSTER, 32, receptionist — No, I don't think so. He's not for it anyway. There's too many pros for it. People want guns in the home and they want to go hunting.

Cancer in men

Over 100 of Baltimore's business leaders gathered at the Convention Center Wednesday, April 1 for a breakfast sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Milton B. Eisenhower, the honorary chairman of the Society, served as host for the affair and Judge Joseph H. Young chaired the conference.

According to a twenty-five-year study on cancer which has been recently released, men stand a greater chance of cancer incidence and death, while the figures for women have dropped during the same period.

Two cancer specialists, Dr. David Eddy of Stanford University and Dr. Gerald Murphy of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York, were the main speakers.

The two doctors pointed out that although there still is no cure for cancer, early prevention and treatment is the best way to counter the malady.

The doctors cited antismoking clinics as an example of education as a main deterrent to the disease, and urged local businessmen to institute anti-smoking or cancer awareness programs of their own for their employees.

Literature distributed at the conference explained that lung cancer, which stems primarily from smoking, is still the largest cancer-causing killer among men, while colorectal cancer ranks second.

Young men in the 29-35 age group are most susceptible to testicular cancer, while prostate cancer also accounts for a large share of victims.

The doctors said that 60,000 men die annually from cancer, while another 120,000 suffer from cancer incidence.

But physical debilitation is not the only negative result of cancer. Family trauma, the loss of income of a particular member of a family group, and higher insurance costs are all implacment results of contracting the dread disease.

Over $3 billion annually is lost to the nation due to cancer-related illnesses, said the two physicians.

The doctors urged men to use the example of women who seek annual PAP smear tests and who have learned how to give themselves breast examinations. The two reiterated the importance of early diagnoses as a vital first step in beating back the disease.

How can men guard against cancer?

The obvious first answer is to stop smoking. Eighty-three percent of lung cancer incidents are caused by smoking. To diagnose colorectal cancer, which causes 55,000 male deaths a year, citizens are urged to have a guaiac test and ask about a proctoscopic exam. This form of cancer is especially hazardous to men over 50 years of age.

68,000 new cases of prostate cancer are expected to impact upon the nation's male population this year, and a digital recal exam is one of the best means of detecting symptoms of this type of cancer.

Testicular cancer, which mainly affects young men, can be discovered by monthly testicular exams, which involves touching one's testicles to feel for lumps or pain.

Men are urged to know the seven warning signals of cancer, which include a change in bowel or bladder habits; a sore that does not heal; unusual bleeding or discharge; thickening or lumps in the breast area; indigestion or difficulty in swallowing; an obvious change in a wart or mole; or a nagging cough or hoarseness.

If you have any of these symptoms, the American Cancer Society urges you to see your physician.

Besides asking the businessmen to attempt to institute anti-smoking and cancer prevention programs at their firms, Dr. Murphy urged those present to study and act upon the reduction of carcinogens or cancer-causing substances in their businesses. The need for management to encourage and give time off to employees for regular examinations was also stressed.

The program was sponsored under the auspices of the Baltimore Conference on Cancer in Men.

Tony Brown's Journal:

The murder of Malcolm X

"For more than 10 years now, I have been conducting journalistic investigations into the death of Malcolm X. And unlike the assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy, and Martin Luther King to some extent, the assassination of Malcolm X gets very little official notice.

However, each new development while seeming to further complicate the mystery does seem to shed new light, and insights.

Recently, the only man convicted of killing Malcolm, who admits that he is guilty, gave us his first filmed interview. And the interview after 14 years of silence provided a new way of looking at the case.

On Feb. 21, 1965 one of five men who were part of the team that assassinated Malcolm X was caught red-handed at the scene of the crime in Harlem. He was identified at the trial as 22-year-old Talmadge Hayer, also identified as Thomas Hagan; his new name is Muhahid Abdul Halim.

Subsequently, two other men were convicted along with Hayer Norman Butler, now Muhammad Abdul Aziz, and Thomas Johnson, now Khalil Islam.

With hopes of freeing Butler and Johnson, Hayer consented to this exclusive first interview. Hayer insisted at the trial that neither Butler nor Johnson were with him. Four others were, but he would not name them.

Not only did he name them on the television program, but he explained the strategy. "That morning, I would say really, the night before, me and the other individuals that I mentioned, we had decided that we was going to move on Malcolm. We was going to kill him it we possibly could, on the 21st and we drew up a strategy, how we was going to go into the ballroom, where we was going to sit, and what we was going to do. And, knowing that there would be a crowd there, we figured that it was a possibility that we could do it. That's what we did."

Hayer now suspects that he could have been selected as a "pawn" because of his deep religious convictions. "Because of the conflict between Malcolm and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, most of the Muslims at that time just actually felt that Malcolm was slandering the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, that he was defaming him, that he was lying, and this led to me really getting involved," explained Hayer.

"Do you believe that you were used? That your deep devotion for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad was used to manipulate you?" I asked. "It's possible. At the time, you know, no one could convince me that was the case, but I realize now that it's possible.

It's very possible that I could have been a pawn. It's very possible that someone just knew I was a good candidate to, you know, do this, and I could have been manipulated.

"It's hard for me to say, I couldn't say who may have done this. I really couldn't tell you who handed down the order to move on Malcolm. I was approached. Somebody approached the people who approached me, you know?

And I can't say who approached them."

Hayer's admission has created some new questions and placed others in a new context. If he is telling the truth, the implications are frightening. It means that the Muslims were so infiltrated that many of those in the Nation of Islam were government infiltrators who could commit crimes and destroy the Muslims simultaneously or individuals who could profit from crime in the name of their alleged faith. In short, the Muslim organization was exploited.

My investigation could find no definite link to the Muslims, but a lot of new evidence that produced a lot of new questions. Who was the "thin-lipped, olive-skinned man, with slanted eyes" who followed Malcolm in Africa and Europe and fit the description of the mysterious second man allegedly arrested at the scene of the crime?

Was there a third man arrested at he scene of the crime as the early editions of the New York papers said? If so, and he disappeared while in the custody of the police, was there government complicity in the murder?

Hayer's naming of his co-conspirators now even shirs up the tempest further. He says he's not sure who above him in the Muslims gave the order if indeed it was the Muslims.

It's possible that we may never know for sure who killed Malcolm X. But those who love freedom and justice should never stop trying. If what Malcolm stood for can be silenced by intimidating his intended beneficiaries into silence, then he lived and died in vain. He didn't.

The great actor Ossie Davis, in giving Malcolm's eulogy said:

"Malcolm was our manhood, our living black manhood. And in honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves."

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

For all we know

Will they give up their humble American way of life now that the cuts are coming?

DO YOU REALLY THINK citizens will let go of their American way of life very easily? We will have to witness it before we believe it.

STOP, THINK. (At this point we are talking about folks on the other side of the color line.) They do not take change so easily.

Now when President Roosevelt was faced with Depression he found a way to maintain some standard of living for the poor by providing government funded jobs, public works jobs, called the WPA and paychecks kept coming in.

TAXPAYERS have a right to expect something from the government, the Roosevelt administration said, and they had a successful plan.

The nation was put to work busy as bees were all the needy men and women too, building roads and parks.

Nurseries and daycare centers were established.

Mrs. Roosevelt went through the countryside seeing to it that Outdoor Powder Rooms were built where needed, some of the first the poor ever had.

A FEW DAYS AGO, Dr. Pearl C. Brackett, a Red Cross administrator and highly informed executive, revealed at a women's conference that Labor Dept. statistics show the majority of the people and those who require food stamps and welfare is composed of the white race.

MANY PERSONS do not realize that the largest number of U.S. citizens still resides in small towns across America. And, their income is far, far below standard according to U.S. Labor Dept.

HUMBLE PEOPLE, as American as apple pie, these people are becoming more and more dissatisfied with things as they are today.

They were unhappy with welfare and food stamps to begin with but somehow they managed to maintain some trace of the meager life they lived before that.

HERE'S HOW they lived peacefully as possible — Saturday nights "going to town," some of them to the neighborhood beer garden, that's what they call it, for drinks and square — type dancing.

From the kids there were always ball playing in the field near the house, an ice cream cone or two, gathering after school with neighbors, a big dinner on Sunday after Sunday School and church.

Parents looked forward to the children trying to finish the 12th grade before they got married but if it didn't happen that way, there was always a fine wedding according to their standards.

HOUSEWIVES were content with washing windows and hanging fresh curtains, a kitchen door garden for onions and parsley, linoleum on all the floors with a rag rug to scrape your feet on at the front and back doors.

RARELY did anyone go out of his own neighborhood and certainly nowhere near the "Quality Folks" up on the hill.

Quality Folks on the hill went out of town to shop for clothing and sent the maid or cook downtown only for vegetables and canned goods.

NEVER did the two factions meet and nobody cared.

There was a saying that these citizens of lesser means, some of them, never went out their backyard.

HUMBLE FOOD kept their stomachs from growling and eating the kind of meals "nobody else would eat" they grew rosey cheeked and roly-poly.

THE HOUSE was sparkling since the housewife had married young, never finished high school and could do nothing else.

WHEN TV came in, the set was always in the front room and even as today, the housewives wept and cried with all of the Soap Opera characters every day.

THEIR PERSONAL lives were as spicy and X - rated as the characters in the Soaps but that too was the way of life.

The teenaged girls all wanted to be blue-eyed and blond and someday "go to Hollywood."

TRUCK DRIVERS passing through town pulled up at a truck stop and always some girls ran away with them only to return before winter expecting and disillusioned. But life went on.

THOSE CITIZENS joined church but rarely had any sort of social life like bridge, fraternities or sororities.

Their churches have as yet to form Civil Rights crusades for their race to rise above that form of class segregation they still suffer.

THEIR BOYS "joined up" with the military forces when they had no education nor skill for jobs if any were offered outside their usual lowly occupations.

Beer and the dance hall, a pickup truck for a hotrod car, a souped up used car, that was their way of life.

NO BRACES on their teeth, no ballet lessons nor piano, no hairdressers (instead, Ponty home permanents, a and home curlers, eyelashes and nail polish, rouge and lipstick when they could afford.

Nights were spent in the backyard all summer hoping for a cool breeze since fans and air conditioners were not a way of life.

THERE WERE, however, always a washing machine and a refrigerator, two items of great pride. A vacuum cleaner was and still is a great luxury. The broom, dust mop, rag mop and scrub brush were and still are OK.

Some are said to change sheets every month whether needed or not. Men slept in their underwear.

WELL, it's all according to what you're accustomed too.

There's nothing in the Bible that says a person's way of life has to be vitamins, orange juice, clean sheets every day, psychiatrists, trips abroad, three balanced meals a day, ballet and piano for the kids.

Not required were or are a college education, a career, a bedroom and bath of your own, a TV in every room, trips to the museum, fine and proper underclothes and pajamas, etc, etc, etc.

GO BACK to our first question. Do you think ordinary Americans will give up their way of life easily?

THE ANSWER IS NO.

WITHOUT FOOD STAMPS, welfare, the old job and the old paycheck every Friday "like it's been for years?" Without beer, square dancing, Saturday nights going downtown, a dress for the girl for the prom, a guitar for the boy, a pickup truck for Paw, a full pantry for Maw?

ARE YOU KIDDING?

Those folks are madder than hell at the cut back prospect and they're going to FIGHT. You wait and see. They're already hot without a job and no paycheck.

When the food stamps are gone and they can't get any more welfare, they'll let you know they can't stand another thing.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES are already calling the U.S. a nation of terrorists and president-killers, you know.

TURN THE PAGE

NOW, LET'S GO BACK to our Big City ways and see what's on the news front locally for now.

BALTIMORE HARBOR CRUISES LTD has the 1981 premier cruise aboard the Port Welcome set for April 16.

BY INVITATION ONLY there will be dancing and dining while cruising the harbor and Chesapeake Bay. Castoff is 6:30 p.m. sharp from the Inner Harbor West Bulkhead. Return at 9 p.m.

OVER THE NEXT few weeks, thousands of sea creatures from Florida to Massachusetts to California will be trucked and flown into Baltimore and settled into their new home — The National Aquarium in Baltimore.

The Aquarium, under construction on Pier 3 of the Inner Harbor, is currently over 80 percent completed and slated to open July 1.

APRIL has been designated as Cancer Control Month.

In Baltimore, 15,000 volunteers will begin "the door - to - door" campaign on Sunday, April 5.

More than $11,000,000 is expected to be raised through public contributions to the American Cancer Society this year.

Nearly 80 cents of every dollar contributed is spent on approved cancer research, public and professional education, cancer patient services and rehabilitation.

WOODWARD & LOTHROP is planning a get acquainted party April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at The Doughoisters Children's Museum, Baltimore.

Cong. Parren J. Mitchell (D - 7th Md.) announced today his finalized assignments for the 97th Congress.

MITCHELL has been elected by the House as the first black to serve as chairman of its full Small Business Committee.

He will also be the chairman of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on SBA, SBIC Authority, Minority Enterprise and General Small Business Problems.

The Maryland representative has been reelected to serve as a Whip - At - Large, a position in the House leadership structure.

Other assignments for Mitchell will be service as a senior Member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee through three of its Subcommittees, i.e., Domestic Monetary Policy, Housing, and General Oversight.

He also will serve on the House - Senate Joint Economic Committee through two of its Subcommittees, i.e., Investment, Jobs and Prices, and Trade, Productivity and Economic Growth.

CONG. MITCHELL will continue to serve as a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and chairman of its Subcommittee on Minority Enterprise, Economic Development and Housing.

It is also announced that the Washington office of Rep. Mitchell has been moved from its location in the Cannon House Office Building to room 2367 Rayburn House Office Building.

The locations of Mitchell's Baltimore district offices will remain the same:

George Fallon Federal Building
Room 1018
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(301) 962 - 3223.

1901 Bloomingdale Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21216
(301) 962 - 4331.

Mrs. Lillian Vaughn is continued to Lutheran Hospital. She is the wife of Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Church.

NOTICES

THE CONSUMER Protection Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office has ordered - PACEY'S INC., 3313 - 15 Eastern Ave. Baltimore to appear at a public hearing set for 1 p.m. April 27 to respond to charges it is violating the state's Consumer Protection Act by failing to obey the Maryland Layaway Sales Act.

The hearing will be held at 26 South Calvert St. 8th Floor, Baltimore.

PACEY'S, INC. specifically is accused of:

a - failing to provide customers with proper layaway agreements; and

b - failing to refund the entire amount of money due customers who defaulted or cancelled their layaway agreements; and

c - used a sales agreement which tends to mislead or deceive customers.

THE HEARING ON 27 April is being held to determine whether a Cease and Desist order will be issued by the Consumer Protection Division to correct the alleged violations.

Any person with personal knowledge of facts concerning the allegations against PACEY'S, INC. may qualify as an interested party and appear as a witness at the hearing, which is open to the general public.

A person wishing to qualify as an interested party should notify the main office of the Consumer Protection Division in writing before April 15, 1981. The Division's address is 26 South Calvert St., 8th Floor, Baltimore.

This notice of hearing is provided in compliance with rule 02.01.02 - 12, rules of practice and procedure - cease and desist order hearing - public notice provision.

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office has ordered Gerald Boyar, Jay's Apparel Inc., t/a Jay's Designer Fashions, 1404 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, to appear at a public hearing set for 1:27:81 at 9:00 a.m. to respond to charges he is violating the state's Consumer Protection Act by not providing consumers with layaway and purchase disclosures as required by the Maryland Layaway Sales Act.

The hearing will be at 26 South Calvert St., 8 Floor, Balti-

LETTERS

Black Americans in Holy Land

As a Black American, I am concerned about the treatment of Black American people around the world. It saddens and angers me to know that in 1981 black people are still being harassed and humiliated solely because of our race.

Black Americans pay taxes on $70 billion dollars that flow through our communities which inturn makes up millions of dollars in aid to Israel. Africa gets pennies by comparison. It is obscene therefore to be told by an official that you can not enter the Holy Land on assumptions that you might be there to join the Hebrews in Dimonia. (AFRO Story Feb. 17).

What valid reason would the Israeli government have to deny any black American entering into Israel? What do Black Hebrews have that causes so much fear in powerful Israel? If they are not afraid, why don't they expel all the Black Americans.

You are fully aware that there are few black news publications that serve in the best interest of our people. For the most part we have to depend on media that is owned and controlled by the very ones that hate us. The very ones that brought us to this country in the first place.

Consequently a newspaper such as the AFRO plays a vital role in informing the black community of what is actually happening to those Hebrews in Israel.

SANDRIA WINFIELD

Monumental Health plan

We said at the beginning that the Black-operated Monumental Health Plan was an ambitious necessary institution that would give black Baltimoreans more control over not only the quality of their health services but would generate economic benefits for our community.

We have heard court and other testimony concerning Monumental's mismanagement and incorrect administration. It is inconceivable that a operation lauded for its health care delivery and quality service could be dealt the final blow by a judge who made such praises in her own court ruling.

Monumental's demise was not one of total mismanagement and financial problems. Instead it appears to have been a systematic slow death that came at the hands of a federal agency that talks out of both sides of its mouth.

The federal authorities would have you believe that minority-owned health maintenance organizations are a high priority on their lists. Yet, they afford very little in the way of aid and technical assistance to those health plans.

And if the agency did place minority-owned health plans so high on the priority list, why are there only three black-owned and operated federally qualified plans in this country when there are more than 100 white-owned plans of the same type, priority? Where?

Monumental was a growing operation. It seems oh-too coincidental that the federal government did not begin to find severe problems and exert pressure on Monumental until it began to successfully compete in the private sector.

Our conclusion is that the federal government could have saved Monumental were it of a mind but the federal government supports, only with the greatest reluctance, any health maintenance operation that would not be under white domination.

Monumental was deliberately killed, as are so many black funded organizations, by bureaucratic technicalities and roadblocks.

Our position is that Monumental or a similar health maintenance program must be launched again and soon and that we all support such an effort.

Handgun control

An attempt to take the life of President Reagan was tragically predictable. There are 60,000 handguns floating around our society. Another two million handguns flood the unrestricted market every year. There is no uniform law to curb handgun trafficking. Thus, no state law can be fully effective.

President Reagan joins 250,000 other citizens who will be threatened, injured, or killed in 1981 by persons using handguns. About 11,000 men, women, and children will be murdered by handguns this year.

It is time for America to rid itself of this madness. Legislation has already been introduced in both Houses of Congress to curb handgun trafficking while protecting the rights of hunters. We need Congressional action now.

No handgun control law will immediately erase murder and mayhem. Guns won't disappear overnight. But restriction of gun ownership and the monitoring of gun sales will diminish the problem in time. Today is the day to begin.

CARLTON E. SPITZER,
Board Member,
Handgun Control, Inc.