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).



## Good police work

We are usually very critical of police departments in general and the Baltimore County force in particular but we must give credit where credit is due.

While county investigations of such homicides as the Sandra McMeckin Pikesville Hilton tragedy two years ago and the baffling James McAllister riddle, leave much to be desired, County police work in the recent gang attack on a young Morgan State student as he was leaving his job at a can factory has been exemplary.

That two of the principals have been arrested and charged with attempted murder and that both defendants are white is in itself encouraging.

Race may have been a motivating factor in this vicious attack and any Baltimorean will tell you that the Dundalk area has a strong racist element but this did not deter the county's investigation.

Swift, sure investigations such as this one with positive results will do much to heighten confidence (in our community) as to the professionalism of Baltimore County's law enforcement agency.

## Hooray for Tony

When young attorney Anthony Robinson was vying for a councilmanic seat in the last election his 4th District supporters were heard to say they wished Tony would be a bit more visible.

With his leadership in the recent coalition effort protesting Baltimore's so - called International Festival Robinson has come of age politically.

Confrontational politics is always risky.

One wrong move and the cause can get confused, the issues blurred, violence can replace peaceful protest.

Robinson and his co-leaders never let this happen.

They manned their picket lines with discipline and dignity.

Robinson proved he could articulate black concerns with clarity and authority.

None of his many white opponents ruffled him or caused him to waver.

News this week that Robinson and CSSA will increasingly devote their attention to the non-representation of blacks in the decision making process of this city is indeed welcome.

CSSA dramatized the common ties between blacks in Baltimore and in South Africa.

Now Robinson and his organization intend to dramatize inequities rampant in Charm City.

One more articulate, aggressive young politician is on the move which should have us all cheering.

## Hughes promise

At a meeting with civil rights and legislative leaders this week Governor Harry Hughes gave assurances that he was sensitive to the plight of black state employees who may face the budget axe and lose their jobs.

Caucus Chairman Frank Conaway is very optimistic. He is confident that Hughes will struggle mightily to save as many black jobs (proportionately) as he can.

We do not know if the governor committed himself to the degree chairman Conaway thinks he did but we feel Hughes will do what he can.

Just the same a goodly number of black state non-classified workers will lose their jobs and we have to be prepared for that reality.

Our hope is that they can be placed back on jobs within a reasonable amount of time.

Credit for bringing the case of these workers, whose combined salaries bring some $20 million dollars into our community, directly to the governor's office must go in part to Delegates Rawlings and Douglass.

Their constituents sought their help and they went to work which is the way politicians must perform if they are to be measured effective and worthy of re-election.

That they have the support of their caucus is also very important. Too often, alas, the Caucus has not been running on all of its cylinders. This time, apparently, consensus prevailed. Good.

## Atlanta musings

A beautiful young Atlanta black woman stared into a national network news camera one night this week and said there was no way she would ever believe that Wayne Williams or any other young "brother" could have killed one or more of his fellow blacks.

We do not have the slightest idea of Williams innocence or guilt but we do know that the disbelieving young sister has little or no knowledge of violent crime in the U. S. or other nations.

It is an awful truth but most homicide victims, regardless of race, are killed by someone they know or someone who is indigenous to the victim's environment.

To put it more simply most blacks are killed by blacks, most whites are killed by whites.

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, killed prostitutes in Yorkshire his home environs.

Ted Bundy, the young West Coast all American boy, charged with multiple homicides (the total number of murders of which he is suspected total 38 young women) chose victims who were young white females, of a particular height and hair style.

Atlantans feel strongly that more than one killer is involved, we may well be dealing here with a conspiracy of madness but one of the critical dangers to our community is the view expressed by the young women that we could not do this to each other.

Black on black crime is at a point of extreme emergency in all of our communities.

We are robbing each other. Our elderly, our infirm are being maneaced constantly, our children are harming each other. We are selling lethal drugs to each other.

To be blind to this calamity is to leave reality altogether.

If the Atlanta tragedy does nothing else maybe it can help all of us focus on helping each other instead of hurting each other.

In Atlanta as everywhere else we have to make living and living well, not killing, our highest minority.

## College aid offered to high schoolers

If you are now a high school junior, this announcement is for you. Help your college planning now. Gain experience for taking a test like the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Give yourself the opportunity to enter the scholarship competition administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

By taking the 1981 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test on Tuesday, October 27 or Saturday, October 31, eligible black students may enter the 1984 Achievement Scholarship competition.

To obtain information about eligibility for Achievement Program recognition and scholarship, write: National Achievement Scholarship Program, One American Plaza, Evanston Ill. 60201.

*Many groups and individuals are "leaning on" President Reagan as he considers a replacement for retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart. The president must have his eye on this historical fact: Many qualified blacks and women have been deliberately shoved aside so that the court could remain essentially white and exclusively male for nearly 200 years.*

MADELINE MURPHY

## Dealing with the Meshuganah

The preemptive strike on the Tammuz nuclear reactor complex in Baghdad, Iraq, by the Israelis, flying American made F-15's and F-16's, on the 14th anniversary of the Six Day War, indicates how far chauvanism and the blind side of nationalism goes in the so-called defense of Israel.

Shunting aside the criticism of the world, in a Time magazine article, when asked how Israel would respond if Libya got the bomb, Menachim Begin replied, "Let us deal with the meshuggener (Yiddish for lunatic) Saddam Hussein (of Iraq). With the other meshuggener (Libyan leader Ilmammar Gaddafi) another time."

Implicit in the development of Israel as homeland is the theme "never again" that strengthens the resolve of a people to not suffer again the atrocities of the holocaust that exterminated 6 million Jews.

But not mentioned are the atrocities committed against the Palestinians, their displacement, their dispersal, their disenfranchisement justifying this theme.

Not long ago, it was reported that in the city of Hebron, a rabbi had systematically appropriated the homes of Palestinians, running them out while moving in Israelis, as the Israeli courts upheld this action, leaving more homeless disenfranchised Palestinians.

The blind side of this theme also indicates the utter disregard for other peoples like the 2 million Gypsies who were also exterminated in Hitler's gas ovens along with four million others of German, Polish and Catholic origin.

Not to mention the millions of Africans being displaced, slain or starved, or the black South Africans (where Israel is a staunch ally of the apartheid regime) who have no homeland.

Evidently it is a combination of might making right.

The cry "never again" has yet another appealing ring to us blacks in this country, whose 14 million forebears were unceremoniously dumped into the ocean during the infamy of slavery, who now only enjoy second class citizenship.

Could not the American Indian also do well to shout "never again"?

And the warring peoples, never-ending, all over the world seeking the return of their homelands, popper the pages of history, all moving nationalistically, all moving to solve their problems individually, none banding together in their common plight to wage peace and not war.

Because the greedy power games of wealth, control of the earth's resources, minerals, oil and chrome, have more to do with the safety of this planet than the peaceful co-existence of its inhabitants. (Does not George Bush's campaign rhetoric of a five per cent survivability in the first strike nuclear confrontation still ring in our ears?)

And naturally with any nationalistic movement, one is either friend or foe, depending upon where the criticism is directed. Not uncommon will be the cry of anti-Semitism (although the Arabs are Semites too) that is used to stem the tide of criticism and to silence the cowardly into following along with Begin's dissembling.

Some sage once said, "If you wish to make a man your enemy, just tell him, 'you are wrong'. This method works every time."

Although Begin justified this act because he said that the Iraqi government swore that its potential for devloping the bomb would be directed against the "Zionist entity", it was later revealed that Menachim Begin fabricated this threat out of whole cloth.

To throw the world dangerously and fanatically into nuclear confrontation on the mere suspicion that one nation would attack another is dangerous precedent for all of the 36 nations of the world who have 830 nuclear reactors; for those eight nations who also have the bomb.

Further, the United States is the culprit along with the Israelis when it continues to arm a nation that has promised to use the war machine that the US has furnished only for the defense of its borders, but flouts its agreement, refuses in addition to allow inspection of its nuclear research facility at Dimona in the Negev Desert, or sign an international non-proliferation treaty, but will act purely to insure the re-election of Begin.

Under these circumstance all Hell can break loose.

The problem with Israel is Menachim Begin. He with that Stern Gang syndrome, is an hysterical leader who would falsify information that make it appear that hidden beneath the Iraqi reactor were supplies of plutonium and other materials ready to make the reactor "hot", just to insure his re-election.

Moreover, Begin's secret action, while he publicly diverted our attention toward Syria and the threat to bomb its border missiles, is the true act of a "Meshuggener" in this mad struggle within Israel to hold on to the reigns of power.

There are those among the Israeli opposition, like leader Shimon Peres, who wonder if as a result of this action Israel may become a "lonely shrub", that Israel will become more isolated while polarizing the Arabs into a unified front.

How like the oppressor, the oppressed have become in their quest for lebensraum.

How really different is the chosen people chaim from Hitler's master race?

One wonders as we hover precipitously on the brink of nuclear holocaust.

## LETTERS

## Reader responds to editorial on International Theater festival

Dear AFRO:

We are shocked and outraged at the callousness and insensitivity and naivete displayed by the Morning Sun in its editorial of June 18, 1981, entitled "The Killing of Godot."

In that editorial, The Sun critized Anthony Robinson and the members of the Coalition In Support of the Liberation Struggles In South Africa for protesting the performance of the Baxter Theater Troupe from South Africa.

The Sun accuses "The Coalition" of being a minority that is not representative of the majority of blacks in this city. Well, since when did the Sun's editorial staff become majority black?

In other words, when did the Sun become an authority in knowing what the feelings are in the black community?

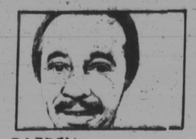
Likewise, when did Hope Quackenbush, Sandy Hillman and others associated with Baltimore's Theatre and his majesty, the Mayor, become experts on knowing what the black community desires? What blacks were on the planning committee of this International Theatre Festival?

The Sun's editorial suggested that the Coalition did not have the support of the black community, but did the Sun realize that the majority of the city's black council representatives supported those goals by voting for a resolution introduced by Councilman Mfume against those performances?

Did the Sun know that the aims of the Coalition were supported by the black community's largest civil rights organization, the Baltimore NAACP?

Did the Sun know that the Coalition was supported by the

(Continued on Page 5)



PARREN MITCHELL

## Reagan domestic and foreign policy

Reagan's domestic policy centers on reducing government spending. To accomplish this he and the Congress are savaging human resources programs by slashing away at the budgets of programs for children, youth, senior citizens, veterans and the unemployed.

I predict that inevitably, these actions will come back to haunt the administration and the Congress. These actions are causing and will continue to cause untold hurt, pain and frustration in our communities. Insofar as the poor, middle class and this nation's minorities are concerned, the present domestic policies are a complete disaster.

At least we can say Reagan is consistently bad. His foreign policy thus far is one based upon militarism, tough talk, and establishing "closer relations" with repressive, totalitarian governments.

Ronald Reagan campaigned on the theme of building America's military might. To accomplish this he plans to spend 1.6 trillion dollars for military purposes over the next five years.

I said trillion not billion. There are at least three major flaws in this approach. First, the military simply cannot efficiently absorb such astronomical increases in such a short time period. Second, with all that enormous build up, strategically and politically, those forces cannot be used without the danger of triggering a nuclear war. We did not deter our military might while hostages were held in Iran and we could not use it, in retaliation, after their release. Third, American and the U.S.S.R. have a first strike nuclear capability which will destroy one third of both nations.

The tough talk is scaring the daylights out of those European leaders allied with America. They can be reached by conventional Soviet land forces fairly easily. They live in the direct shadow of nuclear missiles. Their course for survival is through diplomatic negotiations, not through international threats.

I fear the leaders of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain will age prematurely because of the president's threats, half-threats, and warnings. The world is not a place in which a leader draws a line in the dust and says, "I dare you to step across." Perhaps Huckleberry Finn could do that, but a national leader cannot.

In one fell swoop, this administration has abandoned America's stand for human rights; embraced totalitarian government; and seeks a marriage with the most racist nation on the face of the earth, the Union of South Africa.

We must understand that the courting of South Africa is directly related to protectionism for America's giant corporations which have heavily invested in that country, as well as the militaristic approach to international problems used by the Reagan administration.

So now we tell the Botha government in South Africa that we will go along. The fury, frustration and disappointment of the black African nations is easily understandable. Now America explains its understanding of the evolutionary process to solve South Africa's racial problems.

This is precisely the same kind of understanding given by insensitive American leaders in the 1950's and 1960's to the racist practices and policies of our southern states. Indeed this dreadful accommodation to South Africa sends a clear signal to all third world nations.

But the children of Soweto get the signal first, the signal that says there will be no help to you. And the victims of the vicious apartheid system get the signal early, the signal that says America will accept man's inhumanity to man.

And the ghost of Steve Biko roams restless and troubled.



## City Council notebook

# Council reluctantly passes 'power' bills

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

By now, it is an accepted fact that the city will be leasing space in the newly -constructed credit union building downtown at a cost of $500,000 annually.

The city provided funds for the construction of the building by granting $10 million in the form of an industrial development revenue bond for what became known as the Armistead Partnership Project. The legal basis for the issuance of the money, Ordinance 123, was signed into law by the mayor in July of 1980, and before long, credit union employees as well as employees of other city agencies, will move into the new building.

The issue has stirred mild controversy in City Council. Last week, Councilman Nathaniel Irby (D-2nd) said for the record that the decision to lease space in the new building was perhaps not wise in light of the fact that city schools and libraries are suffering financially.

In an interview with the AFRO, Irby said that the city did not know how to best use its dollars, and that by sharing space in schools and other faltering buildings in the city, much could be accomplished.

But even Irby acknowledged that his statements could be viewed as being rhetoric, not able to change the tide of things.

"There's no use discussing it," Irby said after this week's session at which an amendment to the original bill granting the money to the project and setting interest rates was postponed for further discussion until later in the week.

"The matter is a "fait accompli," he said.

It seemed that nobody in particular was gloating over the passage of the bill or the fact that the city will have more office space. According to Thomas Waxter, the Council was opposed to the building ever being built. The question was set before the Council in 1979 over whether or not the hotel which formerly sat on the Fayette-Guilford corner (the present credit union building site) should be demolished or refurbished.

Waxter says the Council wanted the hotel refurbished, but that Charles Benton, the city's finance director and also the chairman of the city's space committee which decides who will rent what space where, had already decided that the city needed more space for the credit union.

"Mr. Benton wanted the building torn down...President Orlinsky didn't want the city in the project at all," Waxter recounted. "The council decided to back Orlinsky, but Benton won out."

Some council members balked. Waxter included. They wanted a study of how the building would be used, in addition to housing the credit union, which had already been decided.

But because there had been no formal decisions, written down, on which city agencies would be housed in the new building, the city was able to protect itself from inquiry by saying that "nothing had been decided."

Technically, they were right, even though everyone knew Benton and the finance department had decided who would move into the new building.

Waxter, still determined to know exactly what was going on right under everyone's nose, said he subpoened records from the finance department to see what the city was going to do with the space in the new building.

But the city's lawyer, Richard Case, apparently came back with the same front: that since nothing had been officially decided, the Council and Waxter basically had no case.

Technically, since a private company has purchased the building, the city council, Waxter says, can only inquire so much.

But, says Waxter, inquiries or not, it is known by now that the city has somehow managed to contract eight floors of the new building for leasing, a decision that will cost the city $600,000 in rental fees at a time when it is screaming for help. Some employees will move from the Municipal Building to City Hall, some to the new building. And some agencies will move from City Hall to the new building.

The net result will be vacant space in some buildings downtown while the city pays higher rates for the privilege of moving into the new building. Waxter thinks that somewhere along the line, the residents of Baltimore are going to have to pay for the move.

Waxter is also upset over another bill, which, he says, was also pushed by Charles Benton. The bill, which will allow the city to sell a parcel of land known as Incinerator No. 4 to a private company for $2 million, will be voted on soon; it is sure to pass.

What is involved here, Waxter said, is that a private company has purchased city property and will lease it back to the city. The city will get $2 million from Whiting-Turner, and exclusive rights to the incinerator for 15 years.

The private company will get an attractive tax break, a "write-off" as the paper value of the land depreciates over time while the actual value increases.

Waxter is not sure what will happen to and for the city during the 15 years or afterwards.

"The director of public works has not been involved in all this, and he is the man who's responsible for moving the trash in this city. What happens if the private company does not agree to move the amount of tonnage he feels necessary to move on a daily basis in order to do his job? The company will have that right; it won't be under any obligation to obey the city."

Waxter thinks that both decisions apparently made by Benton and too few others, were merely business deals. The private companies involved will benefit, but Waxter is not sure about the people of Baltimore.

"I honestly don't think," he said, "that the welfare of the people of Baltimore was taken into account when these deals were made."

"And I do think," he said, "that the people will feel the brunt of these decisions as time goes on."

## Too much power?

While City Councilman Thomas Waxter is concerned about the bills concerning the new credit union building and the parcel of land known as Incinerator No. 4, he has a greater concern, one which he blames for the bills ever having come to be in the first place.

"The worst problem we have here now," he said, "is this power thing."

"I think Mr. Benton...thinks he has the divine right to decide what's best for everyone."

"There are two major powerbases in City Hall...the mayor and Charles Benton. Benton is more dangerous than the mayor. He can't be voted out of power. The mayor can."

Waxter attributes the presence of the two bills before the Council this week to an "abuse of power."

"That is the kind of thing that happens when too few people get too much power."

Because Benton, as finance director, controls the money in the city, there is an air of political fear that pervades Council chambers. Nobody particularly wants to get on his bad side. Perhaps for that reason, Waxter surmised, Benton has never had to come to a council meeting to either defend or explain any of his projects.

"The City Council sets a ceiling on what can be done here," Waxter said, "but Benton does what he wants within the limits set by the council. Because he is so powerful, Waxter said, nobody challenges him.

"He's a businessman...sometimes I don't think he has the best interest of the city at heart.

"But that's what happens," Waxter said, "when too few people get too much power."

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen.

The stained glass windows glow with myriads of colors and hues.

THE PASTOR, Dr. Vernon Dobson, wearing his robes stands to the right of the pulpit.

The pews in circular rows were filled with members of the congregation Sunday when I chanced to stop by.

THE PARAMEDICS were summonsed to attend to Mrs. Clara Fullwood who had collapsed in her pew. They were assisted by a member, Dr. Uthman Ray, who worked equally as hard to revive the lady who was taken ill during the 11 a.m. services.

The choir continued to sing softly and the sermon proceed as planned.

I am sure the ailing lady could hear the message of the songs distantly as sweet aspiration. (WHITE REPELS heat far better than dark colors.

The fantastic concert arena under construction at Harbor Place is of white plastic and it's almost dream-like, something from another world.

Ella Fitzgerald is due to come soon for Baltimore to enjoy.

SUMMER NIGHTS will certainly be mystical in that new addition to Baltimore's wonderland on the port.

You have to see that outdoor concert auditorium to believe it. A multi-million structure no doubt.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD D. CALDWELL proudly announce the marriage of their daughter Dorothy May to Mr. Andre' K. Rush on June 27, at Sharon Baptist Church.

Rev. Dr. James L. Moore will officiate with Rev. Theodore D. Addison assisting.

Organist Charles Sloan, soloists Miss Elaine Taylor and Mr. Andrew Giles, Mrs. Esther Brooks coordinator complete the participants.

THE BRIDE was graduated from Eastern Senior High, June, 1973 and attended CCB for a short period before entering the ranks of steady employment.

THE BRIDEGROOM was graduated from Northern Senior High, June, 1973 and attended Morgan State University for three years before becoming employed at the W. R. Grace as a chemical research technician.

THE BRIDE'S WEDDING PARTY is of the rainbow colors of her choice.

Joann Christopher is the maid of honor Juanita Moses Wanda and Harriette Caldwell are her bridesmaids.

Arthur Reche Rush II is the best man for his brother. The ushers are Vincent Moore, John Cooper and William Brandon Little Miss Exnovia Reed is the flower girl and Master Ron Saunders the ring bearer.

ANYONE interested in Baltimore's new $100 million mortgage program are invited to a public information meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, at the War Memorial, Lexington and Gay Sts.

Housing and Community Development Commissioner M. J. Brodie states that the meeting will deal with qualifications for the program, the procedures, and where to apply for a mortgage loan.

A COLORFUL cargo of music is coming for kids this summer when the Clothesline Caravan featuring Lenore Blank and Harriet Lynn makes its way to the Inner Harbor's noontime Little People's Program and Kid's Stuff at 7 p.m.

THE CLOTHESLINE CARAVAN opened at noon June 25 at the Harry D. Kaufman south shore pavilion and continues for eight performances.

Clothesline 'Caravan is highlighted by three humorous programs: 'A Little Ditty", a story about imagination and how to use it, "Mix and Match Medley", a lesson in understanding the value of being unique and "Sci Fi Hi", a comic science fiction spoof.

PERFORMING artist Lenore Blank brings much expertise to the Clothesline Caravan. Ms. Blank is presently director of the Young People's Theatre of Center Stage and has been connected with children's theatre for over ten years. Prior to this, Ms. Blank taught high school and was the producer-director of the theater company, The Original Bananas.

HARRIET LYNN, the other talented partner of Clothesline Caravan, has a 15 year career that has spanned stage, film, television and radio.

Here is the schedule. All shows are free.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S PROGRAM Tuesdays and Thursday noon

June 30 - "Mix and Match Medley"

July 16 - "Sci Fi Hi"

July 21 - "A Little Ditty"

August 6 - "Mix and Match Medley"

KID'S STUFF - Tuesdays 7 p.m.

July 7 - "A Little Ditty"

July 28 - "Mix and Match Medley"

August 11 - "Sci Fi Hi"

## For all we know

SHELLY DENISE LUCAS, Dunbar Sr. High School

ANNDELL LAWRENCE, Clifton Park Junior High School

For information and other children's programming call the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism at 685-TOUR (6687).

LOOK and you will see on this page the graduates who were saluted last Sunday by their church, Grace Memorial Baptist.

They are Shelly Lucas, Dunbar; Beatrice Trinkler, Middle River Jr. High; Robert Cuffie, Lombard Jr. High; Angela Waugh, Walbrook; Anndell Lawrence, Clifton; Kevin Dotson, Lake Clifton; Corrogan Vaughn, Greenspring Jr. High and Robert J. R. Hector III, St. Frances Charles A. Hall High.

FAMILY DAY BAZAAR at 1205 Eutaw Place is given by the men of Hiram Committee and Queen of the South Palace Saturday, June 27.

FROM NOON to 7 p.m. there will be fun, laughter, good food, a flea market, music, dancing and prizes.

Also health screening, blood pressure, dental, vision and sickle cell anemia by Constant Care Community Health Center.

THE BUILDING FUND drawing will be at 6 p.m. Call 523-2800 if you want to know more. Be sure to go.

GRACE MEMORIAL CHURCH graduates shown with pastor Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn are Kevin Dotson, Lake Clifton High; Corrigan R. Vaughn, Greenspring Jr. High; Robert J. R. Hector III, St. Francis Charles A. Hall High.

## Tony Brown's Journal

# James Earl Ray incident

James Earl Ray was stabbed 22 times by three black convicts and one white convict at the Brushy Mountain Prison where he is serving a 99-year sentence for killing Martin Luther King, Jr.

What makes this incident so unusual is the flurry of recent revelations and allegations about the Congressional investigation of the King murder and the peculiar chain of events associated with Ray's incarceration.

Ray's wife, however, says she knows why the stabbing took place. Anna Sandhau Ray said the attack stemmed from a recent trip she made to New York to talk with a publisher about an upcoming book about King's "real killer." I don't believe it.

Why would Ray wait 10 years to spill the beans? He wouldn't. He's a 53-year-old small-time crook doing a 99-year sentence. And why would the former television station artist marry a man doing a lifetime jail sentence? She could be using the attack to build up interest in the book.

But how does one answer some of the other nagging questions about Ray — going all the way back to the killing? In 1977 he managed to escape from the same prison in which he has now been attacked. And he now has access to all prisoner-areas. Why?

Why did Jesse Jackson feel it necessary in 1978 to visit with and speak out on Ray's behalf? Jackson says he was "compelled" because of a conspiracy.

To take a step as drastic as defending the man convicted of killing his former boss, Jackson should have then — and should now — share his conspiracy information. Instead, he has behaved improperly without any public disclosure. Or does Jackson know something that we don't?

Hosea Williams, another one of King's inner-circle, challenged the House Assassinations Committee's conduct of the investigation of King's death and its findings. Williams told me on a television special that he was barely contacted and brusquely interviewed.

He was willing, he said, to explain that there were probably informers among the SCLC insiders prior to King's death.

This line of questioning was conspicuously absent from the committee's published report and the unpublished records have been "sealed" for 50 years. Another convenience?

Not only have some of us become suspicious of these and other events associated with the King murder, but many are outright defiant towards the official conduct in this case. In a television poll conducted on my program on King's death, 70 percent initially did not believe that Ray acted alone.

Gene Johnson, the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Select Committee on Assassinations, however, reassured us that they found no evidence that there was a conspiracy. "We have not been able during the two years that we investigated the assassination, to come up with any corroborative evidence to support the conclusion that in fact there were co-conspirators."

However, Rev. Williams, who was at the Memphis motel where Dr. King was shot, did not believe that Ray pulled the trigger. Williams said he was certain that Ray did not act alone and thought that "the investigation was a whitewash." Williams also contended that although the investigation stated that Ray escaped from Memphis in a white Mustang, he firmly believed that Ray's car never left Memphis.

The allegation that a power struggle was going on inside SCLC and that certain members of the organization were guilty of misusing SCLC funds was also discussed. Atty. Johnson responded by stating that he and all of his distinguished colleagues, which included Chairman Stokes, gave the investigation everything they had and that there was no evidence to support the claim.

On the other hand, Rev. Williams again flatly stated that the investigations were not true: that he himself, a top official of the SCLC and a witness to the crime, was not thoroughly questioned. Williams said that he had information which he tried, repeatedly, to get to the authorities but was unsuccessful in his attempts.

After listening to Williams and Johnson and the opposing arguments, the audience was asked the same question again: "Do you believe James Earl Ray acted alone in the shooting of Martin Luther King?"

This time, a commanding 83 percent answered "no" to the question.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Saturday, beginning August 29, on WBAL-TV 11 at 2:00 p.m.

## Law and social justice

# Injustice in the grand jury

By Alexandria R. Jones

The grand jury system is unjust, originally formed to protect the reputation of innocent citizens if investigated by the government, the grand jury system has turned into a tool too often abused by government prosecutors to harass outspoken individuals and groups.

During many grand jury proceedings, individuals and groups have been forced to suffer through long and damaging investigations, harassment on the witness stand, the suspension of certain Constitutional rights, and disruptions of the group's activities and programs.

Most ironic and unjust of all, though, is the tens of thousands of dollars these individuals and groups have spent in legal fees even when no wrong doing was found.

But what exactly is a grand jury?

A grand jury is simply a special jury which determines whether or not evidence presented by a government prosecutor, about a person or group, warrants a criminal trial. If the jury feels the evidence is convincing enough, then the person is indicted.

One recent example of this system gone awry is the case of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. A civil rights group based in Alabama and serving more than 30,000 people, the Federation became the target of a grand jury probe in December of 1979.

Just weeks ago, after lasting a year and a half, the investigation ended. There will be no criminal trial. Yet the FSC must now confront the disruptive effects the proceedings have had on its activities, and must find some way to make up for the over $40,000 spent in legal fees.

In introducing a bill to prevent such abuses, U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D - Mich) stated, "I am offended when the judicial system contains within it gross injustices, as it does with the grand jury system today."

Legal scholars, civil libertarians, representatives of the business community, and others, have all sounded the alarm on the departure of the grand jury from its original design. It is time that the Congress responded to that alarm.

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# —Theater festival

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black community's largest religious institution, the Bethel AME Church?

Did the Sun know that the Coalition's aims were also supported by the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization and many other smaller groups both black and white?

In addition, for those who opposed the resolution introduced by Councilman Mfume on the grounds that the City Council has no business meddling in foreign affairs, remember this: the Mechanic Theatre is city owned and supported, the Center Stage is subsidized by the city, and finally, the International Theatre Committee itself was subsidized and officially supported by the city.

Baltimore, a city majority black, where the majority of the city's residents are not represented on the city's boards, commissions and other committees as well as its elected bodies where policy decisions are made, can "meddle" wherever there is a need.

Maybe John Kani and Winston Ntshona saw this and used that, parthetd Baltimore USA style, as their reason for deciding not to perform.

GEORGE N. BUNTIN, JR.