Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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An announcement on political solidarity

We are foregoing our usual editorial comment in this space to make a special announcement.

In the interest of community and political solidarity, concerned parties have counseled and mediated with Delegate Frank Conaway and Senator Verda F. Welcome to help resolve differences involved in current litigation.

To this end, the parties have agreed to the following statements:

"It is evident from newspaper accounts that my action in contacting the police have been misunderstood and the conversations have been misrepresented to Delegate Conaway.

"At no time did I accuse Frank of intending bodily harm to me, and if any misinformation has caused mental anguish to Delegate Conaway or anyone else, then I regret the misperception."
— SENATOR VERDA F. WELCOME.

"It was not and is not my purpose in filing suit against Senator Verda F. Welcome to attempt to degrade her or to act in a manner less than gentlemanly or polite toward her. It was and is my purpose to make very clear my right to engage in confrontational political activity.

"I want for the black Baltimore community and for black legislators collectively a stronger, more effective, more responsible voice in our State's affairs.

"Responsive to the pleas and counsel of persons — friends, leaders of my constituency and co - legislators — whose opinions I respect, I am instructing my attorney to take no further action in pursuing my claim to judgment regarding this matter."
DELEGATE FRANK CONAWAY

Reagan -NAACP

The faucet on President Reagan's so - called charm as an engaging communicator evidently malfunctioned when he addressed NAACP delegates at their convention in Denver. These delegates were polite but courteously restrained which conveyed their attitude toward Mr. Reagan and his social proposals. He failed to woo the members of the most revered civil rights organization.

To be sure, the president touched on all the right bases crucial to the black community, but his remarks were couched in generalities that sounded good to a naive ear. He was far from being specific on any one subject.

On the basic issue of voting, Mr. Reagan was fuzzy with the lame excuse that the matter was being studied. This was met with dismay because we have often had disastrous results with issues that are being "studied," "under consideration," or "being taken under advisement." To the black community this means that nothing will be done once the heat and intensity subsides.

The president was apologetic and unconvincing when discussing his controversial social programs. He failed to offer adequate rebuttal to critics of the proposed cuts in job training, student loans, food stamps and health services. These programs are the lifeblood of the black community and encompass the entire spectrum of its existence. Somehow it comes through that Mr. Reagan fails to really comprehend the depth of feeling among black people on these matters. Certainly presidential advisers should realize how crucial these issues are to this segment of the population.

On the other hand, one feels that Mr. Reagan is somehow trying to avoid offending white reactionary politicians who have become extremely vocal due to the so - called right - wing climate. This climate has encouraged religious and hate groups to emerge from their cocoons and spread venom and hate without fear of accounting for their actions.

To aid and abet this climate, the old coalition of southern Democrats and Republicans in the House have formed an alliance similar to the one years ago that bottled up civil rights legislation. In the Senate, we had Bilbo, Eastland and other reactionaries, now we have a strident Jesse Helms, a caustic Strom Thurmond and a not so subtle John Warner. These men collectively advocate a rollback in educational benefits, welfare reform and curtailed busing.

It is not enough for the president to denounce critics as demagogues or urge black people to get on the economic ladder when the very programs that will help them do this are being scuttled. Mr. Reagan's sincerity will be believed when he actually spells out what his programs are doing to benefit the disadvantaged he proclaims to be so concerned about.

Although this is far from the hectic sixty years, black people are not only just as militant, they are much more sophisticated. This attitude was succinctly voiced by the astute Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson in her introductory remarks when she said: the views to be expressed by the president are not necessarily endorsed by the NAACP. The current corps of civil rights leaders will not urge their constituents to remain passive while hard - won gains are whittled away.

Assassination hoax

In the wake of worldwide bombings, terrorism, assassination attempts and other attacks on public officials, which seemingly are always followed by telephone calls to radio and TV stations and newspapers, it seems odd that every precaution was not taken by the three local stations who were hoaxed on the now famous false report of an attempt on the life of Mayor Marion S. Barry, Monday night.

It is also indicative of the fact that we have — this city as well as elsewhere — a lot of sick people out there. People who will go to any lengths to "get back at some one" or just have some fun, not realizing the pain and strain it causes a whole city not to mention the heavy cost to the city budget in investigating the false report.

It is good to learn that police, at least at the time of the writing of this editorial, have a suspect in mind. Whoever "James Taylor" is, he must be shaking in his boots by this time, and if caught, should be given the full punishment of the law if and when found guilty. This kind of game playing is irreprehensible and should not be tolerated.

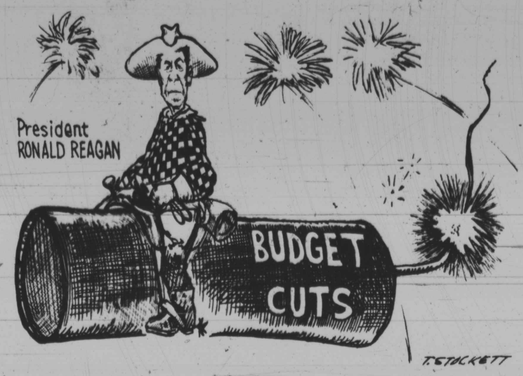
Now let us take a look at the lack of accurate reporting by the TV stations. Those of us who are in the journalism business may well understand the urgency of news reporting via television, but we also are aware of the necessity and need for proper checking prior to going on the air with news reports of the magnitude of such involving the assassination attempt of the top city official.

Two or three minutes later for the report would not have made any appreciable difference and certainly the listeners over whatever channel the report came would still be listening. At least they would not be listening to another channel at the same time, and if the report had been true, would have known where they heard it first.

The irony of the whole mess, however, is that nobody at any of the channels involved took the time to call District police, the mayor's office or the real Mayor's Command Center for confirmation until after the false report had hit the air waves.

The competitive urgency also came into play sometime back when President Reagan's chief press aide (Brady) was originally reported "dead" from gunshot wounds in the assassination attempt on Mr. Reagan.

Normally there are rules and regulations about checking all stories prior to airing them, and we have to believe that these channels have such rules. If so, it is simply a case of somebody not doing his or her job properly.



MADELINE
MURPHY

Pulling out the stops

To make the music louder, the organist pulls out all the stops.

To make his program more palatable to blacks, President Ronald Reagan, speaking at the NAACP convention in Denver, this week, pulled on the heartstrings with convoluted reasoning.

He quoted heavily from all areas of black history, particularly Harriet Tubman's journey to freedom, characterizing it as "the glory of the American experience." Garfield Langhorn, the black hero of Vietnam who fell upon a grenade to save his fellow soldiers, was quoted as saying while dying "you have to care."

Langston Hughes came in for his poem on America "what will America be?"

While Reagan emoted in sonorous, tremulous voice, like the actor he is, using a script so cleverly teleprompted that it reeked of phony humanism, his inhumane budget cuts had been accomplished. His sincerity was all the more deceitful considering his hit lists of all those in Congress who are dissident.

What we heard was a man whose public image is tailored to be the voice of humility and reason, who employs the slickness of a snake oil salesman, while his private machinations are cynically orchestrated to benefit his campaign contributors, the wealthy merchants of war, the industrialists, the oil barons.

For if fiscal responsibility and budget balancing require radical surgery in social programs, one wonders who is keeping track of a military budget gone haywire, with a history cost overruns, with Dr. Strangeloves running out of every nook and cranny of the Pentagon, touting overly technical equipment that works less than 60 per cent of the time.

(Recent reports of the failures of the so-called technical advances in military hardware make one think these militarists are playing some giant Atari.)

At the same time, a 60 Minutes rerun does 45 minutes emphasizing the need for militarization, bemoaning our unpreparedness in chemical warfare warfare on the East German border.

It glorifies the Blue Angels, a crack Air Force acrobatic team, that stoically overcomes the real and present danger of its zealous antics, justifying the military implications.

Never mind that 26 former comrades that had been burnt up in exhibitions since its inception. Never mind the billions of tax dollars, "well spent" according to its leaders.

Constantly we are being assaulted with military documentaries, news stories, setting an atmosphere of fear of our national security, and at the same time the last refuge of scoundrels is heightened in their maudlin patriotism; in their inflamatory jingoism; their greed for more money from the public purse.

Yet Ronald Reagan, in stentorian tones, absolutely ignoring the obscene expense and inflationary implications of the war machine, that manufactures unconsumable goods except in the case of war (God forbid) with forked tongue preaches bootstrap remedies for black Americans.

The trickle down theory in his reliance upon free enterprise shows his callousness. We are far from midstream in a rising tide. We shall not be the ones in boats that will lift with it. We are the ones who have been floundering in that leaky boat, who are sinking fast.

When Reagan derides dependency upon government, what does he say about the huge numbers of government workers, local, state and federal who must necessarily be laid off, on the dole, with this budget cutting? Can they wait until 1984 to be fed, clothed, housed? There is no plan nor proposal for this obvious increase in dependency.

When Reagan talks about busing, doesn't he overlook the fact that desegregation (not integration) gives us an opportunity to receive equally those goods and services made available to whites? There is an implied threat here of reversal of civil rights, affirmative action, through those endless study committees and impotent task forces.

Moreover, with the recent rubber stamping of the Stockman budget, with hastily added cuts, not known or reviewed, we must now wonder what he promised the conservative democrats in regard to the renewal of the Voting Rights Act, expiring in December, as we wait for the other shoe to drop—the specifics of this misplaced austerity.

Further, we see a dangerously inequitable plan to cut from under us all the gains we have made in those states, counties and cities where heretofore we had been disenfranchised.

Now we see that all the stops are being pulled out and the din of insincerity and brutal unconcern are blatantly deafening.

As if we might be soothsayers however, we must know that the web of deceit shall boomerang. How it shall hit will be up to us.

We have received the signal that we must bombard the president, the newspapers, the Congress with our protests, our demonstrations, for indeed our lives, our survival, depend upon activism.

PARREN
MITCHELL

The impact of federal cuts on education

On June 17, 1981, the Committee on Education and Labor, in response to the requirements of the First Concurrent Budget Resolution (H.J. Res. 115), marked up its reconciliation proposals. Those proposals included cuts in programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education amounting to $1.306 billion.

It is important that we all note and understand exactly where and why these budget cuts were made. In an effort to apprise you of this, following is an outline of areas affected by those budget cuts and a brief synopsis of the administration's rationale for doing so.

H.J. Res. 115 assumed savings of $1.38 billion in programs authorized by the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education with a majority of the reductions occurring in Guaranteed Student Loans (GSLs) and PELL GRANTS (formerly Basic Educational Opportunity Grants).

While the Subcommittee was unwilling to totally accept the assumptions for cutbacks in financial assistance, it did made substantive changes in current law affecting both programs and achieved a combined savings of $923 million. By also making significant reductions in other areas of Postsecondary Education's jurisdiction, the Subcommittee was able to come within $80 million of the overall target figure.

The Pell Grant program is the foundation upon which all student aid packages are based. It was the opinion of the Subcommittee that the federal government's commitment to providing "access" to low income students should not be sacrificed even in times of severe budget restraint. Changes in Pell Grants were designed to see that low-income college students would not be harmed in the process of achieving overall savings in the student assistance area.

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program presented a more difficult problem for the Subcommittee than did the Pell Grants. The Budget Resolution assumed a savings of $504 million in GSLs. However, the total fiscal cost of the program is only $665 million. This would mean that the $504 million in savings would have to be subtracted from $665 million. The remaining funding in the program is attributed to interest subsidy and special allowance payments.

The authorizations for the College Work Study Program was reduced by $50 million from the 1981 current services level. This leaves a remaining authorization of $500 million which could be constant for the next three years.

In the area of higher and continuing education, the Subcommittee achieved a total of $79 million in cuts. This was accomplished by reducing Cooperative Education from $23 million to $12 million; eliminating funding for Teacher Corps; and, eliminating funding in the area of construction. Further savings were accomplished by funding all other programs at the fy 1981 level without inflation allowances.

The Subcommittee has also reduced the funding for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Although these reductions appear modest in comparison to the Administration's recommendations, they will have a serious effect on the programmatic efforts at both Endowments. Obviously, general operating grants to local museums will be drastically reduced.

Savings were also reduced in the area of college and public libraries. Funding for college libraries was reduced by a total of $4.5 million. Public libraries which receive federal monies through the Library Services and Construction act, had that funding reduced by $24.3 million.

In answering the question "What impact will the federal budget have on education?", it is simplest to say that under our present administrative, circumstances, the efforts of our educatory systems and our students' educational aspirations are definitely curtailed.

LETTERS

All God's children?

Dear AFRO:

Over the past few years I have been watching the citizens of Maryland being put out in the street, hungry, without clothing, and their children not being educated properly.

During the past three weeks, I have paid numerous visits to the housing authority, City Hall, and even to Parren Mitchell's office concerning housing. Each time I called or went to one of these offices, I was told either that they could not help me or to go see someone else.

According to their statistics, they say they have nothing available for displaced homemakers, low income, and single parents.

But each time I read the newspapers I see their assets outweigh their liabilities. Just recently, in just city and state taxes alone, Maryland grossed three million dollars from the Inner Harbor.

In my case alone, I have three children. The apartment which we reside in has been burglarized fifteen times in the past three years. Each winter that we have been in this apartment we suffer from no heat. My youngest son has been hospitalized with a torn tendon in his hand from glass in the yard surrounding the building.

During the past Christmas holiday, and the few months thereafter, we were without hot water because the landlord had the entire building's hot water system hooked to another tenant's gas meter.

The tenant, not knowing this, continued to get high gas bills, which he refused to pay, resulting in the turn off of his gas, leaving the entire building with no hot water.

Why is it that the city of Baltimore cannot help people like myself who are in dire need of decent living arrangements? It appears to me that being in the classification of low income, etc., means to live like animals.

When will the people who make Maryland a state of beauty be treated the way any human individual has a right to be treated?

Why do the low to middle class people have to live in projects where they must watch their children's every move because they don't know whether their children will be killed, raped or God knows what else?

Why is it when you go in buildings like Bolton Hill or the International you have guards, 24 hour service, cleanliness, janitors, and all around better living conditions?

There must be someone out there who cares for God's people more than money and prestige.
SHEILA RHYNE

More opinion

Cable TV mess

Let's cut through all the rhetoric, posturing and contradiction rising out of Baltimore's attempts to create a cable television capability.

The decision by the city's cable TV commission to give one large company a franchise to install and operate all cable television on a city-wide basis in conjunction with a "minority" junior partner, means in fact, that one or two principles will have a monopoly on this communications network for almost two decades.

A powerful communications system would therefore be under the control of a private company, franchise legalisms notwithstanding, rather than the citizenry.

In the cable television commission's plan "minority" is vaguely defined.

We are not going to assume that minority necessarily means black in this instance.

Councilpersons Mitume, Reeves, and Mitchell are correct in their expressions of outrage.

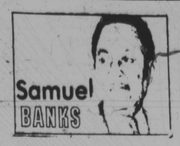
We can only wonder what in the world was really on the minds of the black members of the cable television panel who, save for one, agreed to go along with the single-franchise concept without having the good sense to air the ramifications openly.

They knuckled under to Mayor Schaefer, plain and simple.

Our thought is that the commission recommendation favoring the single-franchise system needs to be withdrawn for further study.

As it stands, black Baltimore has been completely frozen out of the cable television picture.

As it also stands, if the mayor has his way, it will be almost two decades before the majority population of this city could do anything to overturn what at this writing looks like another giveaway project to help the rich get richer.



Samuel
BANKS

Independence Day, 1981: Time for reflection and action

The annual observance of Independence Day signals a period of national exultation, revelry, rhetorical exercises focusing on the lofty promises and ideals of our nation a general "rites of passage" associated with a cornucopia of summer festivities.

In the midst of the forensic forays and perversive merriment relative to the establishment of our nation 205 years ago, it is a cruel irony that 31 million black Americans and over 25 million Hispanics and poor Americans are reeling from Reaganomics and an endemic disinclination on the part of the majority white society to affirm, in demonstrable deeds, "liberty and justice for all."

The prognosis on this July 4, 1981 is that socio-economic conditions will worsen before they improve.

The parlous and bleak economic and political conditions here in Baltimore tend, to a substantial degree, to mirror the desperate and melancholy state of 31 million black Americans throughout the United States: AN UNEQUAL STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL.

The manner in which the elderly and the young are treated reflects the level of empathy and compassion of a society. The devastating effects of the Reagan cutbacks are clearly shown in terms of severely reduced opportunities for a significant number of over 35 million elderly citizens and over 41 million youngsters enrolled in the nation's public schools.

The severe cutbacks in nutrition programs, the school lunch program, school aid for the economically disadvantaged youngsters (i.e. Title I), the food stamp program, the evisceration of CETA jobs for the young signal an egregious pullback in regard to support for blacks, Hispanics, the elderly, the young and the poor who inhabit the United States on this Independence Day.

No immediate relief is forecast for these groups. The troubling and searing quality of Independence Day, 1981 is that the nation has not shown a proclivity toward the hopeful and euphoric sentiments expressed by Emma Lazarus in 1883 concerning the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor:

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

The cruel and lacerating quality of the socio-economic cutbacks affecting black children and youths ensures a state of powerlessness, despair and poverty. Supply-side economics as propounded by President Reagan and his technocrats, principally David Stockman, executive director of the powerful Office of Management and Budget means in reality, continued depression level unemployment for black youths.

Then, too, the drastic reductions in Title I allocations for poor school districts and stringent limitations on assistance for minority and poor students in higher education bode unfavorably for the nation's black, Hispanic and poor youths.

Thoughtful and rational citizens in our nation must be insistent and relentless in making sure that the Reagan administration does not turn its back on minority and poor youths. I firmly believe the poignant and moving message of George Benson in the widely acclaimed song, "The Greatest," has redemptive and ennobling pertinence:

"I believe the children are our future,
Teach them well and let them lead the way.
Show them all the beauty they possess inside.
Give them a sense of pride, make it easier.
Let the children's laughter,
Remind us how we used to be.
I decided long ago,
Never to walk in anyone's shadow.
If I fail; if I succeed,
At least I'll live as I believe.
No matter what they think of me;
They can't take away my dignity."

Our nation, mighty and formidable in the family of nations, 205 years after an audacious and extraordinary proclamation of freedom to the world in 1776, has a golden opportunity to refuse to turn its back on the contemporary huddled and disillusioned racial and poor masses who seek the opportunity to live in dignity and decency.

The time, Independence Day, 1981, represents an auspicious opportunity to proclaim anew with vigor and determination for all 227 million Americans as inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall in Philadelphia: "Proclaim Liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof."

We must muster now the will, courage and resources to be about this transcendent and necessary task. Then, on this hallowed, historic and highly revered day in our collective national history and ethos, there will be an occasion for genuine national exultation and jubilation.

Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois, a titan in world letter and a redoubtable battler for human rights, stated in his Niagara Address 75 years ago a ringing affirmation of universal liberty and opportunity in the United States: "We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America."

On this Independence Day, rational, decent and humane citizens, amidst the national celebration and merriment, must continue to "assail the ears of America" until equality of opportunity and social justice are realities for all Americans.

For all we know

By Elizabeth Murphy Oliver, City Editor

This coming Aug. 13 the AFRO reaches its 89th birthday and opens its 90th year so, we will have a Going - On - 90 Birthday Edition.

THE NEVER - BEFORE EDITION will contain 90 years of history "The Times of Your Life" in memorable photos and stories.

YOU WILL WANT TO BE included in it so send in history, photos, stories of Old Baltimore, the good old days and become a part of this immortal history.

THE EDITION, on the street in August, will be one you will be proud to keep on your parlor table for years to come.

THE AFRO'S Going On 90 Birthday Edition will be in every library, school, church and home across the nation as a FIRST.

You and your children will be proud to have it to hold and to cherish because YOU will be in it.

THE DEADLINE is July 18 so HURRY.

FOUNDED 1892

AFRO FAMILY HISTORY — As the AFRO heads for its 90th year, three grandchildren of the founder are corporate officers, John H. Murphy III, chairman of the board; John J. Oliver Sr., president and Mae E. Dyson, secretary. A grandson - in - law, George Lottier, is treasurer.

FAMILY HISTORY which stems from the founder John H. Murphy Sr., a slave, includes eight generations of descendants many of whom are today associated with the paper.

REV. WILLIAM ALEXANDER, a better pastor than publisher, sold the AFRO - AMERICAN to Murphy, who had borrowed $200 from his wife to purchase it at auction.

TODAY, "see what the AFRO says about it," is more than a passing phrase.

It is the best yardstick for measuring the confidence and loyalty of thousands of readers who look to the AFRO each week to bring balanced news and views of the world.

Three men — two clergymen and one a Sunday school superintendent, all with a single hobby — were responsible for the AFRO's birth.

The Rev. William M. Alexander, pastor of Sharoff Baptist Church organized a provision store and on Aug. 13, 1892, printed a four - page sheet, the AFRO - AMERICAN, to advertise church and community enterprises.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., a whitewasher by trade and superintendent of St. John AME Sunday School, wanted to unite state Sunday Schools into a convention (on the order of the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor.

He purchased type fonts and a press, put them in his cellar and printed his small paper named the "Sunday School Helper."

ABANDONING the whitewash brush, Murphy turned his attention for the next 25 years to printer's ink, and, when he died in 1922, left a successful newspaper to his sons and daughters.

THE MARVEL is that Murphy was past 50 when, overnight, he became a newspaper owner with $200 borrowed from his wife's savings.

When he took over, the AFRO had a circulation of 250, chiefly in Maryland.

TODAY, the number of copies sold is over 75,000.

THE AFRO regards the Eastern Seaboard, from Maine to Florida, as its special territory. In this area it sells twice as many papers as any of its competitors.

In the earliest years of the AFRO, the editorial page carried this line — "Independent in all things, neutral in nothing."

Tony Brown's Journal

'Reagan made me do it'

There are some things in life that defy all logic. For example, I fail to understand why the Reagan administration recently announced that it would give Jesse Jackson's PUSH-Excel failed school program an additional $825,000.

On three previous occasions and reports, independent evaluators have said that the sometimes civil rights leader has failed to create an effective program. The technical reason given by the president's spokesman for handing over more of the taxpayer's money for poor performance, at best, leaves me ambivalent.

I cannot escape wondering why Ronald Reagan's people have not appointed Dr. Gloria Toote to some prominent position. Toote, you may remember, was promoting Ronald Reagan for president way back in 76 when she delivered a nominating speech on his behalf at the Republican National Convention. Needless to say, this did not make her popular in the black community.

But when the dust had settled, Jesse Jackson, who frantically warned of a racist warmonger called Ronald Reagan, got the loot and Toote got the wrong end of the stick, makes you wonder if there is any real difference between white folks called Democrats and white folks called Republicans — when it comes to loyalty to blacks.

Which leads me to another question: Is Ronald Reagan the real problem?

Blacks are largely of the opinion that the president is a racist. And they are of this opinion because of the Carter campaign rhetoric. In many black minds, Reagan is a racist because of his conservative philosophy.

If we lived in a logical, sane world, that would certainly not qualify as basis for racism. But in a highly political world of demagoguery, illogic suffices. Let me continue. Blacks are being deprived of "the great gains" of the 60's because of Reagan's policies, the charlatans preach.

But this summer alone the so-called civil rights leaders and progressive black civic leaders will march thousands of blacks into conventions in Hilton, Marriott and Hyatt Regency hotels to unload millions of dollars into the coffers of the white establishment's "enemy" they gathered to strategize against. The excuse: "Reagan made me do it."

One New Yorker, black liberal leader who makes mountains of verbiage about human rights and freedom of speech and refers to Reagan as a fascist tried to stop the publishing of a column of mine because it criticized the policies of Jesse Jackson. "Scratch a liberal and you get a reactionary," they say. I say, you get a fascist.

Patricia Harris and Andy Young are, by all white establishment accounts, black leaders. Both owe their prominence to other whites who have made them prominent. Both are directors and supporters of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. LDF, run by a white man called Jack Greenberg. The LDF is the momentum behind the legal action that results in black colleges being turned into white colleges in the name of desegregation.

While the establishment blacks give lip service to maintaining the very black colleges of which they graduated, they give money to the NAACP LDF, the very organization whose "liberal" policies reduce the chances of their children ever finishing college. But Ronald Reagan must somehow be responsible, they argue.

While we march against the KKK and the Nazi Party and their white supremacist ideas, we support "black leaders" who argue that black children are mentally inferior and must be bused to sit next to the superior white child for a quality education.

But because Reagan is against busing, he's a racist, the same culprits argue.

What is inescapably clear is the fact that blacks are leaderless and those who say they lead are presenting no plan, no alternatives and, most seriously, no hope. The same lack of leadership created the bland political situations of blacks that they now blame Ronald Reagan for.

The blame does not lie with Reagan, it belongs to a community that allows men and women with little vision to pass as men and women of knowledge. It belongs to a black community whose resources are used to support the white liberal establishment and individual white liberal aspirations.

The president and all of his men and women cannot do for blacks what blacks must ultimately do for themselves. Reliance on any president or administration is futile and politically naive.

Power for blacks will not come from party loyalty or loyalty to the bankrupt policy of integration for the sake of being with white people. It will come from an adherence to power.

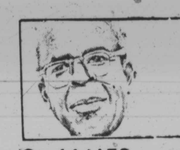
"Power concedes nothing without a demand," Frederick Douglass reminded us. More importantly he said, "You may not get all you pay for in life, but you will certainly pay for all you get."

Put those two reminders together and you'll find the solution to the problems of blacks.

President Ronald Reagan is not the problem, he's a reminder of a reality that is inescapable.

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

Atlanta can be repeated in every city



G. JAMES
FLEMING

It cannot be repeated too often that what has been happening in Atlanta, Georgia, over the past two years, can happen in every populous city. In fact, on a smaller scale, or less noticed, children are disappearing all the time—by the thousands nationally.

The files of the police are replete with the names of children — black and white — reported missing and who have never been found, or reported found. These boys and girls are classified as "Missing", meaning that no one knows whether they are dead or alive.

Ever so often, the electronic media plays up the news of some older teenagers who have fled home and school deliberately, to start a new life, to seek their fortune, or in protest against too much parental discipline. The female of the species (and some males, too) often end up as prostitutes in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington and other metropolitan cities.

So widespread is this teenage problem that several organizations devote themselves to finding these children or, at least, helping to keep them out of brothels and out of the hands of the law. One program specializes in steering wandering adolescents into simply calling home and telling mother and father that "I am all right" or some such words of assurance.

It is not these older young men and women that have caused the writing of this column. We are writing, as many others are thinking of the mere tots who disappear—some of them really babies, as young as six or 10 years of age; others between 11 and 15.

Just as in Atlanta, these minors are largely the children of the poor; the boys and girls who "hang around" shopping centers, who can be seen loitering even during school hours. Sometimes, they "pick up some change" loading groceries into cars; most of the time they seem to be doing nothing attached to nobody, and not being cared for.

In most places, these children, seen after dark as well as during the day, force one to ask "Where are the parents?" Or, where is the one parent most of them have? Or, what plans do working parents make for their sons or daughters when they (the parents) must be away at work—or just be away? What has happened to the TV needling which once used to inquire, "Do you know where your child is at this hour?"

The sociologists and apologists explain that the "street children"—such as those in Atlanta—are what they are because they are from poor families and that "the system" forces them to make a dime or two wherever they can.

There is some truth to this kind of explanation. But present-day poverty is not the whole answer. Neither is blaming the "broken family" the whole answer. Something deeper, something more pervasive is probably also responsible.

One must look in the direction of the entire reordering of priorities among adults, including fathers and mothers and their lack of commitment to being parents and their unwillingness to sacrifice time and attention for the sake of their children.

It may also be that most parents, those poor and those much less poor, do not start early enough setting high standards for their children, especially in the area of setting examples—good examples. Someone has said that training a child in the way in which it should grow, and go, begins the very day the baby is born. Age 3, or 4, or 8 is already too late to begin.

Sorry for this preaching. Nevertheless, children with little or no attachments who care are the first-line victims of the marauders who seduce or kill young boys and girls.

LETTERS

The Graham crusade had its purpose

Dear AFRO:

Dr. Samuel Banks is a friend and I admire him very much. Yet, after reading his comments about the recent Billy Graham Crusade I offer another point of view.

I do not think any religion makes massive changes overnight. I confess to being lukewarm in my feelings about Billy Graham after he became such a close friend of Richard Nixon.

Yet I attended one of the meetings and felt differently. Being there was a positive, uplifting experience for me.

Just to see so many thousands gathered because they were interested in God was impressive. That choir of thousands sang the old songs that really left me with a warm glow. I heard that courageous young woman, Joni Erickson, paralyzed from the neck down and that black woman, Myrtle Hall sang until you just had "goose pimples".

The message was simple, Biblical, and not too long. The man was talking not about church, not about religion, but about a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

As I watched streams of people leaving the stands and standing on the grass, desiring to know the way to the kingdom, I thought, "There is no wrong way to come to Jesus Christ." He is the way, the truth, and the light. Knowing Him and following His precepts changes a person's entire life.

I know our church has been in contact with at least fifteen people interested in joining who came forward during the crusade.

With people turning to drugs, alcohol, etc. seeking answers to life's problems, I think Christ is preferable.

I believe God is using Billy Graham, you, me, whoever will allow themselves to be used as his disciples.

The Best I can say is, if you haven't tried Jesus as saviour, don't knock it!!
MARY CARTER SMITH

Unconcern for blacks by white officials?

Dear AFRO:

It is difficult for me to believe that in 1981 this country is regressing to an era where the Ku Klux Klan and its racial hatred, reigned as the power structure in American cities.

Our cities are besieged by a pollutant far more damaging than twenty such accidents as occured at Three Mile Island.

The racial violence perpetrated by whites against blacks is as a cancer which has metastasized - spreading its dreadful venom throughout the country.

The abuse one of our city's school teachers received from police officers, the Morgan University student who was brutally beaten by eight white men, and numerous cross burnings are all symptoms of a white society gone mad again.

Recently, my husband became a victim of their madness. As he was preparing to enter his car he was accosted by ten white men who clubbed and kicked him. He had just completed a shopping trip in the Irvington area where we reside. This attack resulted in a five day admission in the hospital. My husband had to undergo surgery to his jawbone, and also received twelve stitches in his forehead. Needless to say he experienced a great deal of pain.

An officer was given a description of the two assailants and we informed him of how he could obtain further information to enable him to apprehend several of those involved. This information was completely ignored. Had the situation been reversed some black male "fitting the description" would have been picked up.

The officer did suggest that should my husband return to the area and is able to recognize any of his assailants, he should call him.

So long as there is a total disregard of blacks as human beings, these types of incidents will continue. Why can't we live where our money permits; worship where our hearts dictate, and work where our education and qualifications allow us to?
MARY DOZIER

Unity in the 40th District

Dear AFRO:

I am a recent graduate of Morgan State University, and while at Morgan I witnessed firsthand the outward contempt and dislike for our president, Dr. Andrew Billingsley.

And now the clash between Del. Frank Conaway and Senator Verda Welcome has arisen.

My heart and soul are saddened by these constant feuds among black people.

How can maturing young people determine what it means to have unity in the home, school, church and community, when there is consistent division among our leaders?

When this type of dissension exists in the black community, the white press capitalizes upon this negativism. No one can save us but us.

Sister Welcome, apologize publicly to Brother Conaway; Brother Conaway, forgive Sister Welcome. And let us go on with the business of upbuilding young black men and women of great character.
LEON MILTON SHADE
Eastern United Methodist Church

AFRO welcomes letters

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