John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board Publisher
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Jack L. Hodge
Assistant to the Publisher

Editorial Page

The Afro-American

"There are two prescriptions for success — Faith and Industry"

John H. Murphy
1840-1922

Douglas stands alone

Del. John Douglas ' claim that blacks are passed over for leadership positions in the General Assembly is serious. His allegation that black former legislators are often ignored when it comes to filling state jobs is serious as well.

But the most serious charge is one we must make. No other legislator, white or black, spoke up regarding Douglas ' statements. At his Tuesday press conference, Douglas stood alone.

Does the lack of support indicate that Douglas ' charges are groundless? We doubt it.

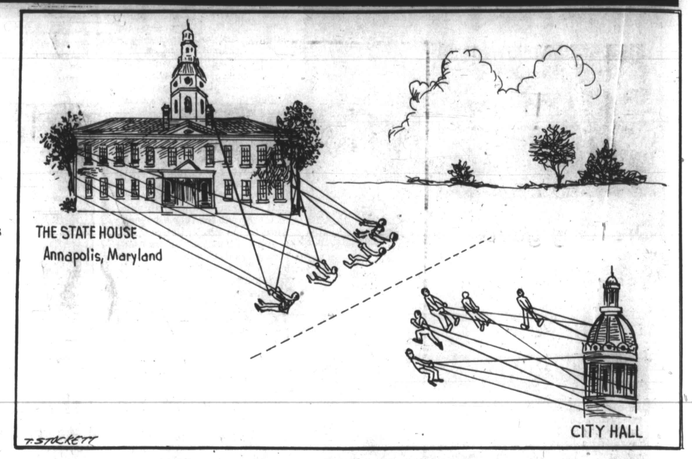
The list of whites who received state jobs after either retiring or being turned out of office indicates no single criterion for their employment. They have different education backgrounds, different levels of expertise. The only unifying factor is race — they are all white.

We must question a system which allows men of talent, such as Douglas , to languish, while those with lesser talent continue to dine at the state trough.

In some cases, the public has voted to rescind the public trust they placed in these individuals when they were elected, yet we as taxpayers are saddled with these same men, who are allowed to remain in public service.

But more importantly, we must question the silence of the Legislative Black Caucus. Does the silence of Douglas ' fellow legislators indicate that what he is saying is true or false?

Either support the man or censure him. But the issues he raises are too important to be swept under the rug.



Schmoke shows muscle

Maybe the city learned a lesson from the Barbara Green flap this week. Green, whose appointment to the city's Zoning Board was initially held up by Third District City Council members, won approval to that body Wednesday night.

The deadlock reportedly was broken after Mayor Schmoke met with Third District councilmen and promised to open lines of communication with them.

The Green incident was the latest in a series of nasty squabbles between the mayor and the City Council as Mayor Schmoke attempts to establish himself.

An emerging bloc of young whites in the council apparently believe the new mayor is vulnerable, and have taken several opportunities, including the Green nomination, to exploit that perceived vulnerability.

Councilman Joseph Landers' decision to question the eligibility of School Board President Meldon Hollis, Jr. is another in a series of challenges the mayor has been able to beat back.

We hope that Mayor Schmoke has learned from these challenges that an open dialogue must be maintained between his office and the Council.

But we also hope that the council has learned that behind Mayor Schmoke's trademark smile lurks a will of iron..

His apparent kindness should not be mistaken for weakness.

King made a difference

Amid all the hoopla and celebration surrounding the birthday of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, one fact stands out. King is one of the few American heroes who was not a man of war.

Lincoln was commander-in-chief during the most bloody war the nation has ever witnessed. Washington dragged the fledgling nation through the crucible of the American revolution.

But King fought no battles, won no wars, and commanded no armies.

The only war King is associated with is the Vietnam War, a conflict he stridently opposed.

The celebration of King's legacy says a lot of good things about us as a nation.

It says we are maturing beyond our worship of cowboys and generals, and instead are learning to appreciate real leaders who make a real difference in our daily affairs.

Our Readers Write

Congratulations

I want to congratulate you and your staff for the great improvements made in publishing our newspaper.

The printing is more readable, the articles are well written and the appearance of the entire paper is beautiful. Keep up the good work.

Again, congratulations for a job well done!

Mrs. Evelyn Sawyer

Kudos to Mfume!

It was refreshing to read Congressman Kweisi Mfume's salute to Victorine Adams, Lena K. Lee and Verda Welcome.

Seldom in the media does one read or hear black males paying homage to the leadership of black women. I personally have learned much from each of the female leaders who Congressman Mfume cited as "wise."

What causes me to have a warm place in my heart for each is that their wisdom is grounded in an understanding and appreciation of their African heritage. Using various strategies, each has and continues to be first-class power brokers.

Kudos, Congressman Mfume!

Gwendolyn J. Cooke
Baltimore

The great USA

They call it inflation, but I call it outrageous. The reason for inflation is greed. We have to be self-critical, and analytical. The United States looks like a puzzle on the map, but she is neither a puzzle, nor a continent. However, she has made continents states. She is basically in North America with a couple of other greats.

James G. Stovall, Jr.
Baltimore

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. Write
The AFRO-AMERICAN
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Certainty and uncertainty

Arguments about certainty and uncertainty may sound like material for the back pages of a philosophical quarterly rather than general news.

But such a feeling may indicate a misconception about the world-wide conflict that is occurring. The conflict is not between aircraft carriers and missiles or tanks and cannons. It is not even about economic superiority.

It is a philosophical conflict waged with books, magazines, newspapers, televisions and radios.

In this conflict between certainty and uncertainty, between authoritarians and democracies, the authoritarians have enjoyed a great advantage. Citizens in democracies have unthinkingly acceeded to the basic premise upon which authoritarians have built their philosophical facade.

"Uncertain" brings into question this basic premise of certainty, without which the facade must fall.

Marshall Powell
Rockville, Md.

Addison praised

I would like to commend the AFRO-AMERICAN and your writer, Eric Addison, on the very fine Dec. 15, 1987 articles about Associated Enterprise, Inc.'s 10th anniversary and the profile of its president, Leonard Blackshear.

The focus on our success and our commitment to possibility thinking is the kind of message I believe will encourage other African-Americans to pursue business ownership as a viable career alternative.

While all the folks at Associated are working hard to build an even better business, we recognize that the company consists of caring people who believe in building a strong but still caring community. As such, I am pleased to see an article designed to inspire our community to become better and better.

Leonard A. Blackshear
Annapolis

Unite behind Dukakis

Marylanders should unite behind Mike Dukakis. Every day it is becoming clearer that he is the only real alternative to eight more years of Reaganism.

Governor Dukakis has turned rust-belt Massachusetts around. Last month's unemployment figure for Massachusetts is an astounding 2.7 percent, the lowest of the 11 largest industrial states. The other Democrats running have nothing even close to this important credential.

The choice is becoming simple: Dukakis with his excellent imagination and compassion, or eight more years of bungling selfishness.

James A. Hoage
Severna Park

HODGE-PODGE

By Jack L. Hodge

Assistant to the Publisher

Real people are imperfect

Last week's snowfall, and the minor inconveniences it caused, brought back memories of some real people. The funny thing, however, folklore sometimes gets in the way when you're talking about real people.

One old man I met sometime ago just talked too much, or so I am told.

He owned the biggest house in town, and just about every house on the street where he lived. He used to deal in garbage, picking up refuge and trash.

The story goes that he went to a town meeting. During the meeting town officials were discussing the need to borrow $50,000. And the man in the trash business, wanting to do his civic duty, offered to lend the city $50,000. City officials declined, so the story goes, but shortly thereafter the city went into the business of pickup trash.

When silence is golden, it is folly to talk.

Remember how deep the snow was when you were a child? It snowed for days at a time. It was knee deep, and sometimes waist high. Or depending on the area where you grew up, it was so cold your fingers were subject to frostbite before you could get them out of your pocket.

Well, I remember Charlie Harris, the school bus driver. Charlie Harris, the friend to the children in his care.

Charlie always was on time. The snow didn't get too deep for Charlie. Nor did the roads get too icy, or slick. Like the proverbial postman: Neither rain, sleet, snow . . . . keep Charlie from his appointed rounds.

There was something else about Charlie. He reportedly wrote numbers on the side — to augment his salary as bus driver. If that were true, he probably made more as a numbers writer.

If Charlie wrote numbers, as a side job, he was in good company.

Even the deputy sheriff wrote numbers. Each day he parked his maroon Ford under the same shade tree, wrote his numbers and watched the cars go by.

Occasionally, he would write a "speeding" ticket. The motorist, to qualify, had to have out-of-state license tags.

One time Deputy Dave stopped a car. The driver, it turned out, was a Treasury agent who gave Dave $10 for "doing a fine job."

Crime wasn't a big problem, so Dave had a hobby to keep himself busy. In addition to writing numbers and sitting under the tree, he also repaired radios.

Those were the good old days. Hitting the numbers big meant collecting $4,000 to $5,000. Now that just about every state in the union has discovered the numbers, the jackpot begins at $1,000,000.

The numbers were big business. Coal was king, but the numbers ranked high — right up there with the railroad and the board of education — as an employer.

The numbers kingpin's infamy and fortune went hand-in-hand. Depending on who was doing the talking, he was saint or sinner.

Runners reportedly dumped the day's receipts into bushel baskets — a basket for each denomination from coins to bills.

The kingpin also ran various and sundry other businesses, from real estate to nightclubs.

It was his real estate ventures, many believe, that started his downfall.

One day a drifter showed up in rags, eating from garbage pails. Before you knew it, the rag-tag drifter was a fat cat numbers kingpin.

Prior to his real estate ventures, the numbers kingpin ran untouchable gaming houses. The Feds would stage raids, only to find an establishment "clean as a whistle." Minutes after the Feds left town, it was business as usual.

It was something about that neat row of houses along the main highway, built by a black man, but only whites could rent. The natives were restless. And law enforcement agencies began to get the edge.

There was the first tap on the wrist as the kingpin's money was being spent outside of the county. There was a slap on the wrist as a tile roof was imported from Italy. And a double slap in the face as a mansion was built out of state.

And soon the Internal Revenue Service began taking its due. And when the IRS finished its job, the overflowing cupboard was bare.

What goes around comes around.

But not quite. The kingpin came to town a rag-tag derelict. He went to jail in the finest clothes money could buy.

The moral of these real people stories?

There's more to garbage than stench. And the lottery is just another way of saying: The numbers by another name is just as lucrative.

Page Opposite

Kweisi **Mfume**

Member of Congress
Seventh District
Maryland

Dr. King gave us something to believe in

On Monday, Jan. 18, we will once again pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The national holiday that has been declared in his honor serves as an annual reminder of the greatness of the man, and the cause for which he is immortalized — justice and equality for all.

Growing up in Baltimore during the 1950s and 60s, I found myself in need of a role model and mentor. Like so many others of my generation, Dr. King was the man whose example I chose to pattern my life after.

Here was a man of African ancestry who dared to tell America that the dream of justice, freedom, and equality was meant for all of us.

Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington is the most renown and thought-provoking address of this century.

By leading hundreds of people in non-violent demonstrations in such cities as Montgomery, Atlanta, Selma, and Memphis, he made a reluctant America realize that a change was finally going to come.

Breaking down two centuries of legal discrimination on the basis of race would be a formidable task for any leader, but Dr. King faced it head on with a sense of determination that even his sharpest critics must have admired.

That determination was most evident in the fact that his renowned "Letters From A Birmingham Jail" were written during a stint in prison when he refused to be released on bail.

Dr. King was stabbed in New York and stoned in Illinois. Moreover, he and his family lived with the knowledge that an assassin could possibly strike at any time. Still, like a man with a mission, he pressed on.

His efforts to ensure that his "dream" would become a reality were motivating forces behind the passage of such crucial legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

On Jan. 12, 1988, the "Once-In-A-Lifetime Ceremony Implanting the Martin Luther King Jr. Time Capsule" was held at Washington's Western Plaza.

His widow, Coretta, government officials, workers, and students attended this event which culminated with the lowering of the national touring Time Capsule into the ground for 100 years.

Before it began making its rounds last spring, Baltimore was the Time Capsule's first unofficial stop.

A draft of King's Noble Peace Prize acceptance speech, his Bible, and the robe he preached in as a young minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta were among the items entombed.

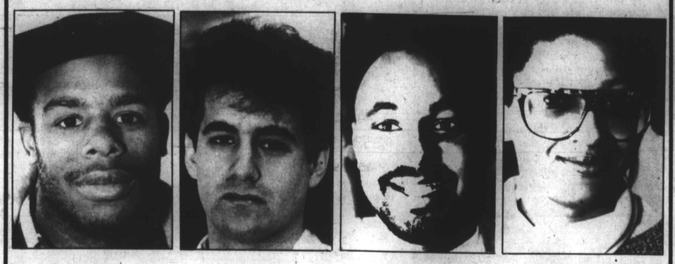
Hundreds of other events honoring Dr. King have been scheduled worldwide this weekend.

In his last speech, on April 3, 1968, Dr. King said that he didn't want to be remembered for having won a Nobel Peace Prize and countless other awards.

But I can't forget those achievements any more than I can help remembering him for his gift of hope. Dr. King gave millions of us something — and someone — to believe in.

Suffice it to say thank you, Martin. We miss you.

AFRO SURVEY



Ronnie Miller — Lou Weiss — Dewey Thomas, III — Linda Threat

What do you expect from the General Assembly?

This week's question to the man on the street was: What do you expect from the 1988 Maryland General Assembly?

Ronnie Miller, 23, laborer. "I think education is the main priority."

Lou Weiss, 25, manager. "I think that we should get a football team here. It would bring money into the city."

Dewey Thomas, III, 26, entrepreneur. They should do something for the young people in the community in terms of education. Everything else should trickle down from there."

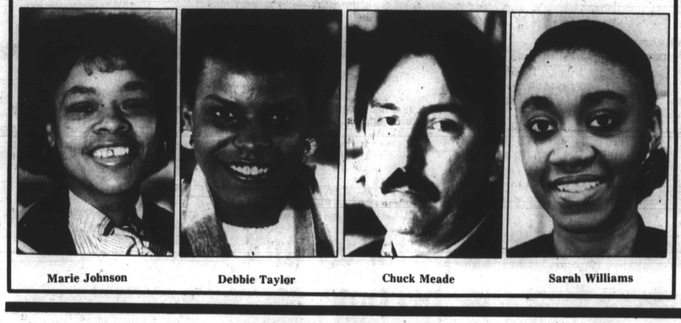
Linda Threat, 28, system manager. "I expect a plan for day care for working mothers and split families. Prison reform and higher pay for teachers are important. Teachers have been taken for granted for a long time."

Marie Johnson, 35, unemployed. "Education is the main goal, and too many people are being laid off."

Debbie Taylor, 25, salesperson. "The legislature should do something about people abusing the Social Security System."

Chuck Meade, 35, district manager. "Housing for the homeless and food for the hungry are important. Boarded houses should be fixed up."

Sarah Williams, 22, assistant manager. "The educational system needs to be worked on."



Marie Johnson — Debbie Taylor — Chuck Meade — Sarah Williams

St. George I.B. **Crosse**

Manager,
Baltimore Field Office;
HUD

HUD helps house the homeless

America has homeless people. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is working to ensure that the homeless are not helpless.

In December 1987, HUD Secretary, Samuel R. Pierce, Jr., announced the award of almost $70 million to local and state governments, as well as various non-profit programs, throughout America to assist homeless.

The money was made available through two special programs that benefits the homeless transitional housing and supplemental assistance for facilities to assist the homeless.

Funding for the programs was made possible through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Act which President Reagan signed into law in July 22, 1986.

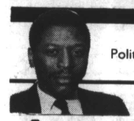
The release and award of the money is timely. HUD is doing its part in Maryland, and the nation, to help the homeless.

The Baltimore Field Office of HUD, has worked with various local jurisdictions, state government and non-profit organizations for the distribution of more than $1.3 million to assist programs that benefit the homeless.

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Act is a start, and the Baltimore Field Office of HUD is happy to be a part of this effort.

HUD has granted millions of dollars to state and local governments in 1987, with timeliness and deliberate speed, to prevent further distress.

Operators of facilities that serve the homeless who are interested in augmenting capabilities to assist this segment of the population should contact local governmental representatives to find out about eligibility and availability of funds.



Political Consultant

Anthony Armstrong

Black leaders: a report card

These are questions that must be asked and answered because leadership is nothing if not action; and actions will not be launched if the leaders can't overcome the life or death fears about their own safety.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a lot of things to a lot of people. What he most was to a large number of Americans, who feared his presence so much, was someone who could and did make people who had no love of civil rights, nevertheless, love fair play and righteousness.

Martin had reversed the trend, and instead of being lead by American values, he re-set those values. For this, the ability to work such an effective mind game on so many people who had never before considered the rightness of the message, M.L.K. was murdered.

Martin Luther King was shot dead because he offered the continuing promise of such positive leadership that his message was starting to have the potential for changing the entire social order in America.

Certain political and economic interests found the possibility of Martin's wide acceptance on the American social and political landscape so challenging to their continuing power that they simply had him killed.

John and Robert Kennedy, though both their deaths are still shrouded in unrelated mysteries, evoked the same kinds of fears. Though we are told that neither brothers' death was part of any conspiracy, the unspoken consensus among many observers was and is that both Kennedy(s) so unnerved the status quo as to be considered "too dangerous" to continue to be allowed such national forums.

The issue in the case of M.L.K., as well as the Kennedy brothers, was not life or death; the issue was leadership and the impact their leadership was having on the character of the nation.

Leadership is an active process — in short, the leader has to do something that adds solutions that improve the value of the lives of those he leads. Since there are always many more problems than solutions, the role of the leader remains constant; and there can never be too much real leadership.

You can't be a black leader—in America or anywhere else—if all your substance is derived from the essentially white economic structure of America. How can a black leader oppose the creation of duel systems—one superior, the other inferior—if that black leader is forced to choose between what's right and whether he continues to have a job or not.

It's a noble thing to do and say, that you walked away from your job because of continued discrimination. In the perception of most black leaders the position would be, "what value is there in quitting, nothing can be accomplished by just walking away." What, in fact, they usually mean is, "I'm not giving up my good job just for some high sounding principle".

As they trade principle for security the idea of leadership goes right out the window.

G. James **Fleming**

Dr. King was a citizen of world

"World Citizen," "Man of the People," "Man of Peace" are some of the fitting designations given to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday the nation celebrates this month.

He was interested in people where ever they might be and where ever they call home. There were no limits or boundaries to his concern for all human beings.

His first interest was in black Americans because they were in the greatest need, but he never descended where he would hurt or discriminate against white people because of their race, background or religion. His oft-repeated creed was "Let's hate the deed but never the perpetrator."

When the Bull Connors unleased bulldogs against him, or gored his people with electric prods, or pelted them with stinging water hoses, he never spoke a word of hate against Bull Connor and his uniformed or civilian stooges.

When the Vietnam War persisted and Martin Luther King was faced with taking a position, this "Man of Peace" knew where he was compelled to stand. He was opposed, just as millions of other Americans were opposed.

As was true in other times, when the racial diehards had trouble accepting that a black American could be the kind of man that Dr. King was — upright, courageous, cultured, charismatic, peace-loving, and law-abiding — they did not know what to make of him. So, they called him a communist and charged that he was being supported by Communists.

The millions throughout the world, however, paid these charges no mind. They sensed that here was an honest man, a man of history, one to be held in high esteem to be adored, to be honored, to be cherished with the immortals of all the ages.

Testimony to this world citizens status of Martin Luther King Jr. is the number of nations which issued postage stamps in his memory; the schools, avenues and special buildings named after him; and the children given some part of his name.

Further testimony is evidenced by the number of honorary degrees bestowed on him by some of the most prestigious of educational institutions. Highest of all has been his being awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964.

But Dr. King also bore witness to his universality in his awe-inspriing, provocative, and prophetic "I Have A Dream" oration which he delivered in front of the Lincoln Monument and before a quarter million men, and children — not including the countless millions who viewed and listened on TV and radio — in the historic March on Washington.

On Martin Luther King's Day, it is for the millions of people of Goodwill everywhere to rededicate themselves to the "dream of this man the likes of whom graces the world only rarely.

Parents should tell their children of the life and works of this good man and of how, from the very beginning, he gave himself to help others.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of the people — his people — but also a citizen of the world.

JAN 1988