# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Still Doubt in Edwards Case

We will not argue with the decision of the two-judge court which found Thomas Edwards guilty of the Glen Burnie twin-slayings; but we are glad to see that an appeal is forthcoming, inasmuch as we do not feel that he has been proved guilty "beyond reasonable doubt."

That there is still a question is evidenced in the words of Chief Judge W. Conwell Smith, who in announcing the the verdict which he and Judge Charles E. Moylan had reached, said:

"Limiting the testimony, as we were required to do, has left a case which is largely one of circumstantial evidence; but we have concluded that it is sufficient in law to convict."

Many a man has paid for a crime which he committed, because he was convicted by circumstantial evidence. Other men have paid for crimes which they did not commit, because circumstantial evidence was against them.

At this point, we are not arguing as to the innocence or guilt of Edwards. The court has ruled him guilty, and its findings will be ruled upon by a higher court.

As we have said time and time again, we hold no brief for any criminal; we feel that laws were established for the protection of society and that men who violate those laws should be punished to the full letter of the law.

During the seven-day trial of Edwards, the defense raised a number of questions which were not answered at the first trial and have not been answered to date.

Especially is it important that there be no unanswered questions where a man's life is at stake.

The conduct of this second trial of Edwards's, the admission of some evidence and the throwing out of some other, the lack of the hysteria which accompanied the first trial, all point to a desire on the part of the State to mete out justice fairly and squarely.

Our respect for Maryland justice is admitted; and because we believe in justice, we feel that the Sate herself wants these unanswered questions answered.

It is our hope that when the case of Thomas Edwards is appealed, the appellate court will order a new trial, if for no other reason than to have these issues resolved, so that Edwards will be innocent or guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

## City Employment Picture Reported to Be Brightening

Employment in the Baltimore area is increasing, according to the State Department of Employment Security.

The report stated: "Employment reached a total of 461,200 in May as more than 10,000 workers were recruited into the ranks of gainfully employed nonagricultural wage earners and salaried workers during the 60-day period of March to May of this year. A loss of almost 5,500 had occurred during the same period last year.

"Gains this year were buoyed by booming activity in construction, steel and aircraft, affecting many allied industries; by continued high levels of consumer income and demand; generous credit terms and the absence of serious differences between labor and management.

"The decline in unemployment among semi-skilled and unskilled workers was less marked than among the skilled group. Job seekers in professional, clerical and sales occupations, on the other hand, increased somewhat in numbers.

"The unemployed, as a whole, are still job hunting, either because they fail to meet experience, age, and physical hiring requirements, or are normally employed in industries which are currently in a seasonal slack or have been employed in non-expanding industries where employment opportunities are not too sizable.

"Tighting job opportunities among white workers have created an over-supply of chemists lacking specialized experience; personnel workers, office managers, salespersons, and clerks of all types.

"The recent upsurge in industrial activity in Baltimore is reflected in a rising level of manufacturing employment. A total of 4,800 workers were added to manufacturing plant payrolls between March and May bringing employment to a level of 161,800 in the latter month.

"The 299,400 workers employed in non-manufacturing activities in mid-May represented a net gain of 5,400 since March. The major portion of this gain occurred in the construction industry where employment rose from 26,900 in March to 34,00 in May.

"The construction boom in the Baltimore area covers all types of building, including homes and apartments, churches, schools and hospitals. There are job opportunities, particularly in skilled occupations such as bricklayers, blocklayers carpenters, painters, plasterers, plumbers, and operators and semi-skilled helpers.

"Increased automobile traffic has expanded employment opportunities for automobile mechanics with specialized experience, and stockmen and salesmen experienced in the wholesale distribution of automobile supplies and service-station attendants.

"Jobs are available for bindery workers in the printing trades; cutters in shoe manufacturing; cabinet makers and upholsterers in furniture, and cylinder pressmen and box makers in the paper industry.

"Opening of new retail food stores has increased the number of jobs available for experienced meet cutters, countermen, produce and grocery clerks, checker cashiers, and routemen. Hospitals are seeking orderlies, nurse's aides and kitchen help.

"Employment Service job placements jumped to a record peacetime high for May. Reflecting improved economic conditions, the Employment Service placed more than 5,550 workers in jobs during the month of May, a gain of almost 79.5 per cent over the number of placements made in May a year ago."

## 53 State Reserve Units Set for Camp

Approximately 2,000 Army Reservists under direction of the Maryland Military District will attend summer training cycles this year, Col. Arthur L. Shreve, chief of the District, announced.

Represented in this figure are 53 of Maryland's Army Reserve units.

A nationwide total of 50,000 officers and enlisted men of the Army's Organized Reserve Corps will attend camps this summer.

This practice of field training was inaugurated to give Reservists practical experience to go along with their winter and spring classroom lectures. Local Reservists will train at various Regular Army installations on the East Coast.

**Training Begins June 25**

Local anti-aircraft artillerymen will take off for two weeks of firing at Fort Miles, Del., on June 25. The field artillerymen will do their shooting at Camp Campbell, Ky.

The Rossford Ordnance Depot, Toledo, Ohio, will be the scene of activity for three ordnance units of the District. Other ordnance units will train at Fort Meade and at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Quartermaster units will train at Fort Lee, Va., and the engineers at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Transportation men will go to Fort Eustis, Va., except the amphibians, who will train at Fort Story, Va.

**Some at Fort Meade**

Members of the 815th Heavy Tank Battalion will join the Regulars at A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Va., while the 319th Parachute Infantry Regiment will see action at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The chemical units will go to the Army Chemical Center, Edgewood, and members of other Reserve units will train at Fort Meade.

In a recent appeal to all employers, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson urged that civilian soldiers be given "liberal" consideration in their requests for military leave.

At this time, he said, it is even more important that peacetime soldiers be kept up to fighting trim, in the event of any national emergency."

## A Tragic Warning

The deaths of three small children who suffocated in an improvised playhouse they made out of a discarded ice box in nearby Tauxemont, Va., are shockingly tragic.

Coming as it does just as thousands of children are being released from the protection of the public schools for summer vacation, this occurence serves as a grim warning to parents that they must be unusually vigilant to insure that tragedies of this type are kept to a minimum.

It is natural that children felt to their own devices will seek many outlets for their pent-up energies.

The risks of rearing children weigh heavily upon families like the Leon Proctors of Tauxemont, where, in order to make ends meet under the present high cost of living, both parents are forced to work out.

Thousands of families in the capital find themselves in the same situation and there are practically no day-care facilities where parents can find relief from anxiety.

If the Tauxemont tragedy does no more than spur the agitation for more Federally or municipally operated day centers where low income families can place their children during working hours, this unfortunate trio will not have died in vain.

## 'Deathway' Toll Rises

Just about a year ago, the NAACP was pressing its court suit against conversion of Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloh St. into through-city speedways.

The court case was defeated and the conversion was made despite protests of the victimized residents who pointed out the disadvantages they would suffer.

Among their stated objections was the fear that increased traffic on the "deathways" would result in more property damage and more injurious accidents.

Their predictions have come true. Within the past six weeks, there have been at least six outstanding accidents along these thoroughfares.

Ironically enough, the damage, victims have included not only the automobile of the NAACP attorney, but the very front steps of the NAACP office.

Now that, the summer vacation is here, and so many children are at play in this area, motorists should employ every precaution to keep the accident toll from mounting.

## The Elusive Butterfly

## Speak Your Piece

**Hold War Inevitale**

Dear AFRO: In your editorial of June 6, AFRO readers were urged not to sign the peace ballot. This advice was based on the incredible thesis that war is inevitable.

Since a third world war would mean complete destruction to our country, we believe every effort to prevent war and forestall destruction must be pressed.

The idea "inevitable," which you attribute to unnamed "experts" is akin to the idea of the inevitability of jim crow in our society.

**Fight With All Weapons**

All forms of expression against these twin evils must be encouraged. Every citizen must have a voice by casting his vote, and the peace ballot is one of many such efforts being put forth.

We deplore your editorial as one of the many unwitting sparks, which, if unarrested, will set off the conflagration of World War III.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF BALTIMORE
Ward Club 13

**Civic Group Grateful**

Dear AFRO: I want to express my personal thanks and that of the board of directors of the Association of Commerce, for the fine co-operation given our Clean-Up Paint-Up Fix-Up Campaign by the AFRO-AMERICAN.

We are also very grateful for Mrs. Wood's leadership and want to take this opportunity of wishing you and her the greatest of success in your Clean-Block Campaign.

C. R. ZARFOSS, co-chairman
Clean-Up Paint-Up Fix-Up Campaign

**Kindle Also Modest**

Dear AFRO: In William E. Clarke's column about me in the June 17 issue of the AFRO, it was stated, "In addition to his duties at the Druid Hill branch, Mr. Kindle helped found a branch at Turner Station."

I really had no responsibility for the development of that project. What little I contributed there was wholly unofficial and incidental.

Carlton Harrison, who at the time was general secretary, and L. B. Twist of the Metropolitan Community branch, worked officially with a local committee at Turner Station in setting up the branch.

—WILLIAM H. KINDLE
executive secretary
Druid Hill branch YMCA

**Byrd's Feathers Ruffled**

Dear AFRO: Sunday editions of our daily press carried the account of Mrs. John L. Whitehurst's observation during her recent exposure to one of the basic problems facing the world today.

Contrast in the coverage of this talk in our local papers was so outstandingly different to me that it seemed to have spelled out the distance we must travel before we can arrive at a noble concept of the one world, governed by the true brotherhood of all mankind.

It is significant that Mrs. Whitehurst made her discovery only as a delegate to the third assembly of the World Health Organization.

**Local Scene Lacks Impetus?**

Of course it would have been much more significant had this distinguished committeewoman been moved to make such an appraisal of the same problem as a member of the University of Maryland's board of regents.

The degree to which these new found friends of the true brotherhood of all races are converted depends largely upon their inborn character, spiritual and cultural development.

I am quite interested in what the lady had to say and to whom it was said, because there were many high city and State officials present, including the president of the University of Maryland.

Could it be that those in influential positions are too close to the forest to see the trees? If that be so, I advocate that every high official be required to travel before settling down to spend the taxes coming from the people.

—Dr. EUGENE D. BYRD

## The Big Spiel

**Writing Numbers Down on Gay St.**
**Look Out, Boys, Here Comes Competition**
**Who Are the Cheapest Numbers Men?**

By Biddy Wood

Don't look now, but everybody's writing numbers in Baltimore — now. Don't say it ain't so, 'cause a bona-fide illustrated newspaper article exposed it, this week.

Kinda thought that, the way certain police have been searchin' and seizin', the boys uptown, that they were the only ones in the lucrative business.

But, look-a-here, some rebel done gone and blowed the lid right off the barrel — he spent a day with a numbers writer — white, that is.

**Gay St. Pudding Burned**

And where did this particular numbers writer live? On N. Gay St. — no less. Seems there was a big spread in this sheet two months ago, that stated an AFRO reporter had played a number on Gay St.

'Course, lots of people just cackled that off as a fabricated tale designed for interesting reading. But look here now — that Gay St. pudding the AFRO warmed up has got burnt — but good!

Well, the boys uptown had better get their heads together and map strategy to combat this "new-found" competition. Now, now mustn't laugh too loud. This is serious business.

**Penny-Ante Stuff Taboo**

And another thing, they'd better stop doing is accepting two and three-cent numbers plays. According to the illustrated article, "lowest amount most white writers will accept is 5 cents."

Don't be letting these people who "just started" in the numbers business get high class on you.

The AFRO'S record of numbers arrests since January shows 418 colored persons nabbed and 58 white. That proportion doesn't even look right.

'Course, now that a day's been spent with a downtown numbers writer, guess the score on arrests for lottery violations will be evened up.

**Never Can Tell**

Can't ever tell though! Seems the uptown section is where Captain Emerson receives most of his "complaints from neighbors."

But let's don't hear any more of that, "You folks write all the numbers in the city." It's a darn lie! (Pardon the Southern accent.)

Now, don't be misled. It's only right that the city should be rid of illegal operations. But just remember, if something's against the law, it's just as illegal if it's pink or any color.

**They say the inside story on a recent stick-up is a honey. There's talk about one of the victims being unable to go to work. He was just plain scared, they say.**

## newsbeat

By Rufus Wells

Twenty miles of death.

That's an appropriate name for the 20-mile stretch of Washington Boulevard where 24 persons were killed and 204 injured in 377 traffic accidents during the first five months of this year.

The 20-mile stretch of highway begins at the Baltimore city line at Caton Ave., and ends at College Park. It is considered one of the worst highways in America as far as fatal accidents are concerned.

But there is good news about the highway this week. State's Attorney Daniel M. Murray Jr., of Howard County, said he will request jail terms for all persons convicted of speeding along the dangerous stretch of road.

Mr. Murray said he is convinced that a large majority of accidents on the boulevard are caused by speeding. He plans to appear personally at accident cases where speed is a contributing factor and request the magistrate to impose a jail sentence.

Already one man has been fined $100 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. No doubt there will be others to follow. But if Mr. Murray's plan saves one human life, it will be worth his efforts. More power to him.

## Scratch Pad

**Eating and Sleeping Come First**
**Get in On the Ground Floor Now**
**Start Finding Out the Score**
By Mae Morris Medders

Sure, slum clearance is a good idea.

But what I don't like about the city's first two projects along this line is that they may hurt the very people they aim to help.

Seems unfair to move 900 families out of the Broadway area and put up new facilities for only 200.

And it seems more than unfair to move more than 100 families from the Waverly section and build new facilities there for whites only.

**Where Will They Go?**

What's to happen to these people? The city says it will find homes for them in new projects being erected by the Housing Authority.

But this building program is far from being under way. It was delayed further only last week by a court suit.

Meanwhile, many of the persons living in the areas involved in the slum clearance proposals are confused and bewilded.

**Helpful Agencies Listed**

They should get in touch with groups which have interested themselves in the matter, so that some organized presentation can be made when hearings are held before the City Council on June 29.

Among these groups are the Urban League and a delegation of East Baltimore citizens headed by John L. Berry.

Sure it's important to co-operate with the city's improvement plans.

But when it comes to having a roof over your head, it's best to look after first things first.

## Gadgets' Cost Dampens Desire to Own New Car

By AUDREY WEAVER

*"The road is wide and the stars are out*
*And the breath of the night is sweet;*
*And this is the time the wanderlust*
*Should seize upon my feet."*

Devoid of poetry, my wanderlust was caused by the sweet spring air and instead of seizing my feet it gave me a sudden urge to own a car and zoom down the wide roads.

This urge was given impetus by the sight of the beautiful, luxurious cars in the recent automobile show in D.C., and the fact that most of my friends were turning up daily with new cars.

On a very beautiful day, three weeks ago, and ad appeared showing a sweet-looking 'job' with a list price of $1768. The fine print explained that State and city taxes were extra. That seemed a reasonable price in this inflationary era so I dashed to the sales company with the paper under my arm.

**Only Motor, Body, Wheels**

The salesman was graciousness itself and inquired about the size car I would prefer. "How about the car that was advertised today for $1768," I asked. And then the bombshell! But it fell by degrees.

"Oh, that is only our two-door six-cylinder standard model," he answered, adding, "it is not equipped with heater, radio, hydramatic, sun visor, air-foam cushions, directional signals, clock, etc., etc." He should have said it was only a body and a motor at that price.

"Well, how much is a four-door, eight cylinder, deluxe car?" I inquired. The deluxe jobs are the snazzy cars displayed on their folders). He explains that the list price for those is $1983. And since I would like to own a car equipped with something other than a motor, he added:

"Hydramatic will cost you an added $158.50; heater, $67.75; radio, $69.90; directional signals, $14.65; gas filter, $3; tags and title, $17.25; and there is the 2% sales tax." A few other incidentals were mumbled and the total was near the $2,342 mark.

**Cost Increased 20 Per Cent**

Then something about white wall tires, fender guards, seat covers and a couple of other gadgets was mentioned and the total jumped into the $2,500 class. And just remember, the list price was $1683, plus tax.

If this is the way things total up in the low-priced car field, the high-class field must be territory reserved strictly for the rich. Now with my newly gained knowledge, when I see all of those Cadillacs cruising down the Stroll, I wonder what that owners used for money.

**One Rallying Point for Pride**

In making a plea for the Virgin Islanders to stick together, Sam E. Zack, chairman of the Jury Panel of Labor Arbitration, asserted that there are five million Jews in the United States and that a shot that hurts one, hurts all.

With its "Uncle Toms," "lukewarmers" and real fighters for equality so greatly divided, the colored population isn't even in this league. But every once in a while a small incident occurs which reflects some racial solidarity and brings forth pride.

Earlier this month, when the Dodgers played the Cincinnati Reds in Crosley Field in Cincinnati, there were 30,865 fans on hand. An estimated 24,000 of these were colored and they were all rooting for the Dodgers. When the Reds won the game, there was no cheering, only moaning for the liberal Brooklyn nine.

**No "Anti-Red" Hysteria—And Yet . . .**

During a radio interview with Edward Murrow of CBS, this spring, Gov. Earl Warren of California told the nation that there was no "Red" hysteria in California; no witch hunting such as in other parts of the nation. And yet . . .

Professors of the University of California must sign pledges of loyalty (created since the 'Red' scare began); and Mrs. Charlotte Bass, owner of the California Eagle, has suffered severe consequences because she dared to express through the pages of her newspaper, praise for the Progressive movement in America. Advertisers who considered the views too leftist, withdrew advertisements.

## Hodge Podge

By BOB MATTHEWS

Have you ever stopped to think of what would happen to our American, civilization if there were no newspapers?

Can you forsee the far-reaching results?

The newspaper has become so firmly entrenched in our everyday lives that survival without them is doubtful.

**Contents So Much Tripe**

Naw! I don't mean the editorial content nor the sports results—I mean the paper itself.

Why? Just think:

What would housewives put on the kitchen floor just after it is waxed?

What would fish dealers wrap the fish in?

What would you line the dresser drawers with?

Important as these items are, there is a use of newspapers which far supercedes all others named. It has been a source of constant amazement to me—a physical phenomenon as positive as the stars and moon.

**Relied on by 8 in 10**

Let me set the scene:

It is a clear bright day, oh, about 3 in the afternoon. The housewives are out in full force, shopping frantically before time to rush home and open the beans for their husband's dinners.

Suddenly, the heavens cloud up and a deluge of rain descends upon the hapless females.

As if on a given signal, 8 out of 10 women will have a newspaper covering their coiffures (That's French for two hours at the beauty shop).

The mystery to me is—Where did they get the papers? There's not a newsdealer in sight.

Quien sabe? (Spanish: translated—Beats me).

## Airport Dedication Set

President Truman will head the list of officials scheduled to attend the dedication, Saturday, of the Friendship International Airport.

The terminal building, constructed at a cost of over $3,000,000 will be open to the public at 7:30 Saturday morning.

Jet planes and fleets of private planes will fly across the airport most of the day. On the field, a pageant will depict the progress of American aviation.

**Bargain Prices During Day**

President Truman is scheduled to arrive aboard his plane at 11 a.m. Throughout most of the day, commercial airlines will be offering flights at bargain prices to the public.

At noon, Mayor D'Alesandro will present television sets to the Children's Hospital School and the Kerman Hospital for Crippled Children.

## Health Pamphlets Free

The Maryland Rheumatic Fever and Heart Association is making available to the public free pamphlets which cover in brief, some of the more common forms of diseases of the heart.

Included in the group are: "Diseases of the Veins," by Dr. Nelson W. Barker of the Mayo Clinic, and "High Blood Pressure," by Dr. E. V. Allen of the same clinic.

The pamphlets may be obtained by writing to the Association at 32 E. 25th St.



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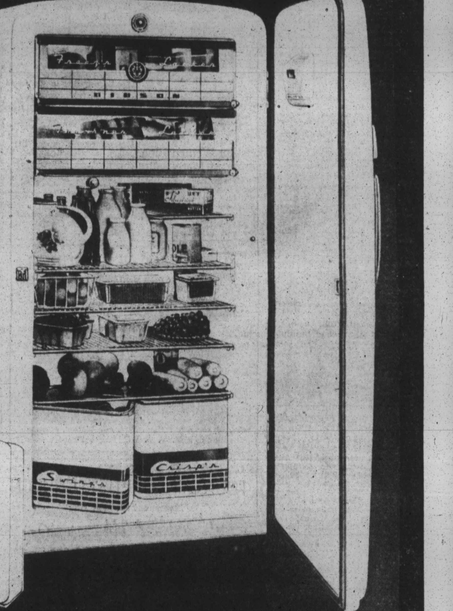


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