EDITORIAL COMMENT

City's Housing Responsibility

Inasmuch as the City Council has passed the ordinance approving the Broadway and Waverly housing redevelopment projects, it should be clearly understood that the Council and the Redevelopment Commission have taken upon themselves the responsibility for seeing that all persons removed from these two areas are properly rehoused.

For a long time we have felt, as has the Baltimore Urban League, that lack of an overall rehousing plan will be a continuous drawback to improvement of our total housing picture.

Piecemeal redevelopment with little regard to the outcome merely means putting a few persons into good homes while a much larger number are inadequately housed or not provided for at all.

This, in our estimation, is no solution to our housing dilemma.

It is apparent that the pattern of building construction in Baltimore does not follow the population trend of the city. As has been pointed out by the Urban League, the white population increased approximately 7 per cent and the nonwhite population 21 per cent in the decade between 1940-50.

In the first five months of 1950, approximately 8,000 building permits were issued in the Baltimore area for approximately 2,400 apartment units and 5600 one and two family units. The number designated for minority group occupancy was negligible.

According to present redevelopment plans, a total of 1,063 families will be asked to leave the Broadway project and 200 families asked to leave the Waverly project. There are 954 colored families involved in the Broadway project and 108 in the Waverly project, a total of 1,054 colored families.

None of the colored families asked to move from the Waverly section will be permitted to return, according to present plans, and only 178 of the families from the Broadway area will be permitted to return.

This means the uprooting of some 3,000 or 4,000 persons for whom no housing provisions have been made, despite the fact that many of them are financially able to come back into the redeveloped area and pay the rents which will be charged.

While it is understood that efforts will be made to relocate some of these families, the fact that many of them have lived in their present areas for many years apparently has been overlooked. Some of these people are well up in years and moving to a new locality, even where superior housing may be provided, will certainly work a hardship.

At present, the Redevelopment Commission, the Housing Authority of Baltimore and the Office of Housing Law Enforcement, while doing effective work, nevertheless are not sufficiently well co-ordinated to administer the city's total housing program.

It is because of this lack that we fear that the arbitrary removal of such large groups of persons will merely serve to accentuate the acute housing condition in other already crowded and substandard areas.

The fact that the current vacancy rate of rental housing for colored people is less than one-half of one per cent indicates how acute this rehousing problem can become. Even with public housing, the city, will be able to meet the needs of only a very limited segment of the low income group.

We hope that the people who face removal will organize themselves to protect their interests and employ legal counsel to take their case to court, if necessary.

What confronts them in a matter of survival, and while it may be several months before they will be required to move, there still is no time to lose.

Why Not U. of Maryland?

In the light of recent U. S. Supreme Court decisions requiring the States to provide within their own borders equal educational opportunities for all, the contradictory responses, made by the State of Missouri and the State of Maryland seem peculiarly significant.

The board of curators of the University of Missouri, meeting in St. Louis, voted unanimously to admit colored students to the university. The action was in accord with a ruling by Circuit Judge Sam C. Blair that qualified applicants, regardless of race, must "be admitted to the university and its five State-supported colleges for courses not offered by Lincoln University at Jefferson City."

In deciding to admit qualified colored applicants, the curators named a committee of three to implement the program with full powers to make decisions. What has happened in Missouri has already taken place in Oklahoma and Arkansas. These States are complying without quibbling to the decisions handed down by the nation's highest tribunal.

In Maryland the case is different. Plans already are on foot by the State to seek to prevent the admission in the fall of Miss Esther McCready to the School of Nursing at the University of Maryland.

And this is not all. This week the State announced that it was spending nearly $60,000 to pay for out-of-State graduate study for some 427 Marylanders who meet every qualification except that of color for admission to the University of Maryland.

No one in his right mind can fail to see that this is a shameful waste of money—money which could easily be saved by the simple expedient of admitting these applicants to the University of Maryland.

The State of Maryland is spending $25,000 this summer for 177 Marylanders to study at New York University. It is even paying tuition and travel expenses of a half dozen or more students to pursue graduate courses at universities in far off California.

In fact, in the case of these persons, the State is spending more money for them to travel to and from California than it is spending for their tuition.

When one considers that the money being spent for summer study represents only a portion of the total amount spent for study throughout the year, it can readily be seen that an excessively high price is being paid for the luxury of segregation.

As has been pointed out before, this type of discrimination in many instances works to the disadvantage of white Marylanders because many of the institutions to which these colored students go offer courses superior to those offered at College Park.

While we may be getting the better of the bargain in cases such as this, the AFRO nevertheless feels that the time has come for Maryland to face up to is responsibilities and to stop thumbing its nose at the U. S. Supreme Court. The practice is not only wasteful, but undemocratic.

Maryland, as a border State, can well afford to follow the example of Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas and, to bring it closer home, the example of West Virginia and Delaware.

We do not believe that white students at the University of Maryland are one whit different from those in Missouri, as far as their attitudes on racial relations are concerned. But as long as the State permits the university president, Dr. H. C. (Curly) Byrd, to direct its affairs instead of its elected representatives, this shameful condition will be perpetuated.

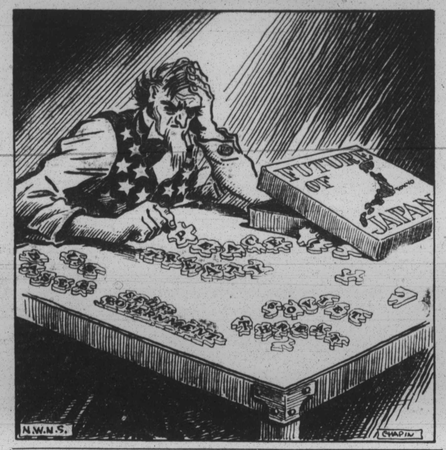
Until he has been removed from office do we think that anything like equality in State-supported higher education will be achieved.

Hail to Our Women Leaders

This week we salute two more of our unsung heroines who will round out a total of 75 years at the heads of two great units of the Baptist denomination when they assemble in national conclave in the near future.

They are Miss Nannie Burroughs, who celebrates her golden jubilee as an official of the National Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, and Mrs. Ella Versa Frye, who completes 25 years as director of the Young People's Department of the same organization.

JIG-SAW PUZZLE HEADACHE



Speak Your Piece

Oldest, Smallest, Dirtiest

Dear AFRO: Very few people are aware of the new star that the Park Board has added to its unheavenly crown. The rank injustice of the park pool renovation program is what I mean.

Of the six city-owned pools that are maintained for colored citizens, the Druid Hill Park pool is the oldest, the smallest and the most unsanitary. It also is the most neglected.

Only One Not Renovated

Now it is the only pool which was not renovated this summer, while its sister pools for white have been re-built with flood lights, water purification and lockers.

The "colored" pool looks like the ruins of the Roman Coliseum.

With such justice, meted out by the Maryland code of "Christianity," I can see why communism and all other "isms" are thriving so well.

STANLEY M. SMITH

SOS for Unfortunates On

Dear AFRO: Reading so often of women leaping out of windows to their death makes one wonder why society has done nothing to assist unfortunate unmarried mothers and others brought to the brink of despair by their troubles.

There ought to be a Child Care Association, with a door of hope for such people, supplying confidential counsel for them, without regimentation and with more dignity than present welfare agencies offer.

As was the situation in a recent case, the victim seemed to need pity instead of punishment. Religious groups should erase their adherence to strict lines and replace it with genuine help, thus displaying true Christianity.

JOHN A. McKENZIE.

Copsey Hiring Suspicious

Dear AFRO: The appointment to guard at the House of Correction of William R. Copsey, former white officer dismissed from the police force after shooting a man, should not end merely with dismissal from his post of the except, called "uncontrolled and unfit for service."

It should cause questions to arise in the public mind as to whether Harold E. Donnell, State superintendent of corrections who approved Copsey for the post has the same trend of thinking as his appointee and whether the superintendent, himself, is not "unfit" for his position.

DR. CYRESS BRIDDILL

Scratch Pad

Politics and Vice-Presidents
Same Old Talk as Always Before
A Short Skit in a Taxicab

By Mae Morris Medders

An aspirant for political office, this fall, introduced himself the other day.

"Give me a plug," he pleaded, "as he ran on and on about "no distinction with race, creed or color — that's me!"

I looked over his literature. One section told how he "elevated himself to the vice-presidency" of a business. Nosey me—"What business?" I asked.

Come to find out the fellow is vice-president of a local cab company with all white drivers.

Don't Blame Me

Well, naturally, I couldn't understand why the company has no colored drivers, especially since the vice-president was so vehement in his talk about "no distinction, race, creed or color—that's me."

But he came up with one of those dilly-dally answers about everybody being to blame for the situation Here is one for the books:

Last week on the outskirts of town, two teenage girls found a frightened 10-year-old child into a wooded area.

When the youth reached what they thought was a secluded spot, they began making advances toward the trembling child. While they were making these advances —another young girl happened by.

Terrified at what she saw, the little girl ran to tell her mother.

The mother stopped her housework and headed on the run toward to spot where the child had seen the youths.

As she was about to enter the woods, the matron espied a young man standing nearby.

No Need to Meditate

"Oh, please help"—the mother cried, "two boys have a little girl in the woods and I am afraid they will harm her."

Waiting for no further instructions, the man dashed in the direction in which the woman pointed.

In a matter of minutes, he was upon the youths. Chasing them away, the man placed the crying child in his arms and carried her from the woods.

Child All Right, Boys Held

Police captured the two youths not long after. They have been held without bail for grand jury action on charges of assault with intent to commit criminal assault.

The doctors say the little girl was not touched—she's going to be all right.

In police court, Monday, the mother who went to the rescue praised the quick action of the man who had answered her call for help.

"I have never seen one man move so fast," she said, adding "I would hate to think what might have happened to that little girl."

If Situation Were Reversed

The hero was a colored watchman on a construction project near that wooded area. All the other principals were white.

That's really one for the books. Don't like to think about what would have happened in certain parts of the deep South—and right here at home for that matter—if the situation had been reversed.

The Big Spiel

Teen-Agers Foiled by Fast Runner
A Tale of Attack and a Hero
South Is South—but Sometimes "Deeper"

By Biddy Wood

Sales Tax Big Issue in Election This Fall

By MARSE S. CALLAWAY

The elections coming up this fall are of vital importance to every citizen, and all must participate if all are to receive the benefit of the right of suffrage.

In this there is no discrimination or segregation. All citizens, irrespective of race, color or place of origin, have the Constitutional right to elect their law makers and their leaders.

If we demonstrate by our vote, that we recognize our responsibility, those who are elected also recognize our ability to reward our friends and punish our enemies.

It is therefore, doubly important for our group to exercise our franchise, more so than any other group.

Sales Tax a Major Issue

Many issues will be discussed this fall—and the greatest complaint I hear from the ordinary citizen is the sales tax and the burden it imposes on persons of low income.

I am not taking any sides about this tax at this time. It may or may not be justified. It may be that it should be repealed in favor of other forms of taxation.

These are vital, important questions which will be debated all over the State from now to Election Day. Our stake in this and other matters is of the highest importance.

There is no discrimination in the payment of taxes. All are subject to it, the rich, the poor, the educated and the illiterate, white and colored.

It cannot be escaped. Therefore, it is our duty to co-operate with other citizens in reducing the effect of the tax on our group, which feels it the most, for indirectly, without knowing it, it reduces our income and substance.

Pacts Between States Can Be Effective

By LESLIE PERRY
(NAACP Legislative Representative)

In 1948 the word "compact" was a fighting word. The Southern States has made it so by trying to get Congress to ratify their point agreement, or compact, for segregated regional colleges.

Fortunately, Congress did not give its approval and granting the Southern scheme to perpetuate educational segregation appears to be just about as dead as a dodo.

However, not every compact between States is bad. In fact, some are very desirable. In the desirable category is the recent one entered into by States which have passed Fair Employment Practices laws—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island.

Trying to Do Better Job

Representatives of these States FEP commissions met very quietly on June 8 in Old Saybrook, Conn. Chief discussion centered around how their fair employment agencies could do a better job of eliminating employment discrimination.

They promptly agreed that each State agency would co-operate with the others in handling all complaints which cut across their mutual State lines. By this action, these five Eastern States in effect, set up a regional FEPC.

The conference also adopted two important policy statements. One dealt with the exchange of information.

Suppose, for example, that a manufacturer in New Jersey is charged with racial discrimination in hiring, and that the same company has a plant in New York or Connecticut.

Either State Made Liable

Under the new policy, New Jersey FEPC would then keep the agency in the other State fully informed as to the nature of the complaint, findings of fact and all important actions taken, or orders issued, in connection with the case.

The other policy statement authorized the FEP commissions to act jointly in investigating and settling complaints against interstate employers.

This is the same employer operates in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, an employee who is discriminated against may file a complaint in either State. Or the Rhode Island authorities could advise Massachusetts to guard against a similar situation.

Good Until Better Comes Along

Job discrimination against racial and religious minorities is neither a State nor regional problem that must be met with a strong Federal FEPC.

But until we can get a good strong national law on the books, sound forward looking action such as that taken by FEPC compact States will help greatly to assure that minorities there will be able to get and hold decent jobs.

Newsbeat

by Rufus Wells

When I was a kid, not too many years ago, the fellas used to take pride in boasting of the things they could do with one hand tied behind their back.

I shall never forget the fall I had from trying to walk a picket fence with one hand. I learned that two hands were needed to maintain the proper balance.

The American operations in Korea remind me of these childhood acts. Here is the most powerful country in the world trying to quell an uprising with one hand.

It would be a lot cheaper in money and human lives if we pitched in with both hands in Korea.

Wants A-Bomb Dropped

Imagine how the people in Western European countries feel to read that vaunted American combat troops are virtually being shoved into the sea by a band of Communist-trained Koreans.

Isn't it logical to assume that we can offer no protection to these European countries against Russia if we cannot defeat the North Koreans?

I think it's time for us to start using both hands, to send General MacArthur enough troops, tanks and planes to do the job quickly, to stop retreating.

I think we should authorize MacArthur to use the atomic bomb if he feels it's necessary to save American lives. We can't impress Russia of our strength by fighting with four fingers and a thumb.

To Adopt a Baby

Adoption is the time-honored answer for married couples who can not have children of their own. Yet, even during this era of enlightenment, there are many misconceptions among the public as to the procedure involved in adopting a child.

Perhaps the most prevalent belief among the misinformed is that adoption is a luxury that only the wealthy can afford. Thus, many childless couples believe that the requirements are too stiff for them to meet.

Wealth and "background" are not essential to adoption. Prospective parents should be able to support a child and to meet ordinary emergencies like sickness, but they certainly need not be wealthy.

Love, Understanding Paramount

They should be people who honestly love and understand children, and are able to share the responsibilities as well as the joys of parenthood.

Seeking responsible married couples who want children in the Baltimore area is the Family and Children's Society, 204 W. Lanvale St. The society has many children under its care who need homes.

Health Aid Better for Southern Area

The City Health Department announces the opening of the new Southern Health District building, 1211 Wall St., last month.

Public Health Nurse service has begun, and there is a well baby clinic.

Complete staffing and equipping the new building is planned for the summer, so that suitable opening ceremonies may be celebrated by the general public in the fall.

The services of the center are for the entire population of the Southern District.

Club Gives to Houston Memorial

Donald G. Murray accepts $10 check for Charles H. Houston Memorial Fund from Mrs. Ada H. Weaver, president of the We Wives Club, a Baltimore social and civic group. Mr. Murray is chairman of the Houston Memorial Committee set up to honor the late NAACP special counsel.

Mate Says Wife Locked Him Out During 'Cool Off'

Testifying that he and Mrs. Mary Moore had an argument and while he went out to "cool off" she locked him out and never allowed him in the house again, Mack Moore of 724 George St. divorced her this week.

The couple had been married three years when the incident occurred on Aug. 15, 1945, the husband said.

Mrs. Margaret Ford of 605 N. Calhoun St., who contested the divorce action of Arthur Ford in his suit on grounds of voluntary separation, withdrew her cross bill this week after an agreement was reached by which he is to pay her $300 and her counsel's fees.

Counter Charge

Mrs. Ford, who gives at 777 W. Saratoga St., said that he and Mrs. Ford had agreed to end their marriage on June 10, 1943, after their marriage on Feb. 14, 1942.

However, the wife filed a counter suit in which she stated that they had lived together, at her Calhoun St. address up until Mar. 23, 1948, and that following that, he had deserted her.

She asked that a divorce and alimony be granted her. Mr. Ford was represented by Roy S. Bond, asttorney, and Brown, Allen & Watts were attorneys for Mrs. Ford.

Mr. Bond also represented Mrs. Pearl Tisdale of Calvert County, who divorced Arthur Tisdale of 1215 McCulloh St., and resumed her maiden name, Harris. She testified that she and her husband voluntarily separated in 1942.

Ten File Petitions

Petitions for divorce were filed by the following 10 complainants: Mrs. Edith O. West vs. Robert Roy S. Bond, attorney; Mrs. Bertha E. Mallory vs. Thurron J., Roy S. Bond, attorney; Julian vs. Mrs. Hattie Tyler, Roy S. Bond, attorney; Willie vs. Mrs. Ethel Jones, Roy S. Bond, attorney; Edgar vs. Mrs. Lillian Petty, Roy S. Bond, attorney; Richard J. vs. Mrs. Gunese L. Brown, William H. Murphy, attorney; Mrs. Vernetta E. Thomas vs. Andrew, J. Howard Payne, attorney; Cleo vs. Mrs. Ruth V. James, U. Theodore Hayes, attorney; Mrs. Bernice M. Jones vs. John, Roy S. Bond, attorney; Mrs. Katie Darden vs. John, J. Howard Payne, attorney.

Bail Binds Va. 'Bishop' Who Hints Cleric's Doom

Pasor Says Man Conspired With Estranged Evangelist Wife to Extort Him of $150

A 60-year-old preacher, who was recently denied a divorce from his evangelist wife, pressed extortion charges against her and a self-styled bishop from Richmond in Northwestern police court, Wednesday.

The Rev. John Rollins told Magistrate Thomas L. Fitzpatrick that "Bishop" George N. Lee demanded $150 from him to save his life during a visit to his home in the 700 block Gilmor St. on Saturday.

Lee warned him, the Rev. Mr. Rollins told the court that he would die within 90 days unless the money was paid.

Pastor Implicates Wife

His wife, the Rev. Mary E. Rollins, 48, who is not living with him, was implicated, the accuser added, when Lee told him he had come from Richmond at her request.

However, Mrs. Rollins said she knew nothing of the extortion plan and had no knowledge that "Bishop" Lee was coming to town.

She testified she had befriended the "bishop" when he came to her home in the 1700 block Baker St., late Friday evening, and requested lodging.

He spent the night, for which he paid her $2 and she had not seen him since, Mrs. Rollins stated.

Held in $1000 Bail

Magistrate Fitzpatrick held Lee under $1000 bail for grand jury action and dismissed charges against Mrs. Rollins.

Policewoman Viola H. Whyte testified that she did not believe that Mrs. Rollins was involved in the extortion scheme.

Mrs. Whyte and Officer Charles Owens told the court that they arrested Lee when he came to the Gilmor St. home, Tuesday morning, and asked for money.

Divorce Plea Denied

It was testified in court that in divorce proceedings in April, when Mr. Rollins had charged his wife, with desertion, he had been denied a divorce and ordered to pay Mrs. Rollins $20 a week alimony.

Testimony further revealed that after the denial of the divorce, Mrs. Rollins kept the Baker St. home and its furnishings.

Mr. Rollins testified that Lee promised not only to save his life for $150, but also to regain his former home and end payments of alimony.

Kept Mum on Methods

The preacher admitted that Lee had offered no method of accomplishing these feats, nor had he stated by what method Mr. Rollins might die.

"All he told me," the Rev. Mr. Rollins said, "was that he had already done what my wife had asked and I would die, if I didn't pay him."

Lee, who identified himself as a bishop in the Pentecostal Church, denied the extortion charges and said he had come as a peacemaker in an attempt to affect a reconciliation between the Rollinses.

Helping His "Old Friends"

Lee said he had several preaching engagements in the city. He admitted requesting a night's lodging at Mrs. Rollins' home.

After learning of the divorce action and the Rollinses' separation, "Bishop" Lee said, he decided to try and help his "old friends."

At the time of his arrest, Mrs. Whyte testified, Lee was carrying cards that read, "Bishop N. G. Lee," and "Dr. N. G. Lee—doctor of hydro-therapy."

A book entitled, "Black Herman The Magician — secrets of magic, mystery and legerdermain — The missing key to success, health and happiness," was also Lee's property, the policewoman said.

Lee told the court he was working on a sermon of "dreams" and was using the book for reference material.

Tallulah Cuts Satchmo's Cake

NEW YORK, (Atlas) — Louis Armstrong, swing band leader and international trumpeteer, celebrated his fiftieth birthday last week at Bop City, with Actress Tallulah Bankhead doing the honors of cutting the huge birthday cake.

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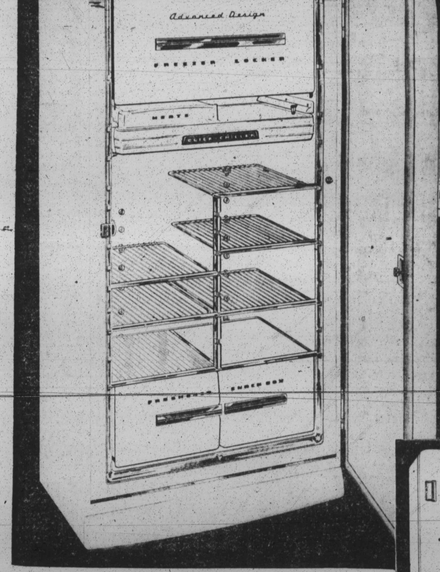

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