EDITORIALS

White Voters Challenged

The November 3 election will settle a lot about the future of Baltimore and race relations here.

Two races in particular bear more than passing interest in this regard.

These are the state's attorney race in which veteran and capable Milton B. Allen is the Democratic nominee, and the Seventh District Congressional contest in which the Democratic nominee is Parren Mitchell, a man of recorded ability.

If they were white, there would be no question but that, as Democrats, they would be shoo-ins for November. It would be a foregone conclusion.

But Milton Allen and Parren Mitchell are black.

Therein lies the issue to be settled in Baltimore, a heavily Democratic city nearly half and half populationwise but with considerably more white than black voters.

The question is whether white voters will put away historic prejudices and vote for Allen and Mitchell or switch parties in order to vote white, and to what degree this will be done.

To be clear on the proposition before us, the AFRO knows of no general test that can be used that would not show Allen and Mitchell to be as qualified or more so for the offices they seek than their opponents.

In the past, whites have not voted for black candidates the way black candidates have voted for white candidates.

No one knows and takes advantage of this more than white candidates and white party leaders. That has been part of the reason whites generally have not teamed with black candidates for state, congressional or citywide elections, even for district elections, where there have not been large black constituencies.

All this is part of the reason that black voters have found it necessary to unite behind certain selected candidates of their race in order to win election to offices where they deserve to share as participants in the responsibilities and plums of the Democratic process.

Generally, the most qualified black candidate in the most heavily Democratic situation can count on white voters only for from 15 to 25 per cent of their ballots even though they have to switch parties to vote for a white Republican.

Those of us who have striven to "make it" within the system, to make our Democratic, representative form of government work, both black and white, have considerable at stake in the November 3 elections.

Under the circumstances, we expect more than the usual percentage of white voters for Milton Allen and Parren Mitchell. They can win with what would be a usual percentage, but Baltimore needs to do better.

White voters in Baltimore clearly are challenged in November to show how much togetherness exists here. The outcome will have deep meaning for the city's future.

Bond Issue Boo-boo

It still is a bit hard to understand exactly how and why the Commission on Governmental Efficiency and Economy decided to urge voters to turn down most of the bond issues to appear on the ballot in November.

Worse even than the confused reasoning it gave for being against certain items to appear for voter approval, were the errors in fact made by the experts.

In the past this group, while not always in line with our own thinking on issues involving the future welfare of the city, at least has kept its financial data in line with the facts.

This is not true this time and it is understandable why Mayor D'Alesandro, fighting to keep Baltimore moving ahead, would call for the abolition of the commission.

While the AFRO does not go that far now, on the basis of the shoddy job the commission has done this time, this newspaper urges Baltimore's voters to take a close look at the bond issues, what the monies will be used for, when and how the monies actually will be used and to place more faith in city leaders than in the commission.

At the appropriate time t e AFRO will give its readers its views on which bond issues deserve their support.

Meanwhile, with the interest of Baltimore City at heart, the AFRO urges city voters not to accept the word of the commission at face value. Its position on the bond issues, like its inference that approval of the bonds would hurt the city's credit rating, is of dubious value.

Gracious Brooks Robinson

"It took 25 of us to do the job; it is just great to be No. 1, and I'm going to spend the winter enjoying the whole thing."

That was the manner in which the greatest ball player of the 1970 World Series dismissed the accolades that were being draped around his brow after the Orioles had wrapped up the world championship Thursday afternoon.

Brooks Robinson had been cheered through 45 innings of baseball for his electrifying catches in the field and for the timely hitting which contributed to Baltimore's resurgence from the humiliation of last fall. Yet, the modesty which has always given him stature as the typical All-American Boy came through for millions to see.

The Oriole third baseman, hailed by knowledgeable observers as the greatest in the game's history, had praise for his manager, his teammates and his opponents.

Even if it were not fitting to extol him for his athletic prowess, it would be compelling to salute his character, humility and graciousness.

Perspective

'Cultural Gap' At Jessup

By DAVID E. SLOAN

Once when I was a boy I remember the teacher saying to my grade school class that we would all go the following week to a large high school in the city to listen to a musical concert.

A full-fledged symphony orchestra was to play and this was to be an opportunity for us "to acquire culture."

We went, and all of us listened as the orchestra, in full-dress, etc., played Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Hayden, and several black spirituals by an anonymous author.

* * *

I remember a beautifully printed program with each number's creator listed after a dotted line to the right of the name of the selection — in the traditional way that programs are printed.

Seeing this program arrangement and watching the conductor reappear each time from the wings of the stage, I recall asking myself why the man would have to go offstage after each number.

I soon decided that it was not the same man at all, but rather the respective authors of the selections coming out to conduct their individual creation.

* * *

I then proceeded to tell my seatmate, in an all-knowing voice, "You see, here comes Mr. Beethoven. . .Now this will be Mr. Chopin."

My seat-buddy was convinced too, until I suddenly realized that the man from the wings looked more and more like the same man each time he appeared.

I was too proud to admit my "cultural" mistake and simply fell silent to let my buddy get his "culture" for himself.

For a long time thereafter I thought "culture" was something other people — mostly white — had and for which I needed to go some place else except within myself to acquire.

Now, of course, I realize that what I was suffering from was ignorance based on what I may call, for lack of a better name, a "cultural gap."

* * *

There are still people suffering from cultural gaps, and sadly many are full-grown adults and in positions to hurt other people because of their ignorance.

Some of these are the racist-minded guards whose cultural backgrounds lead them to believe persons convicted of crime are somehow subhumans who are not to be accorded the ordinary courtesies and compassions that other people merit.

That is why this week a delegation of guards called on persons with authority in the Maryland government to terminate Corrections Commissioner Joseph G. Cannon, Jessup Prison (for men) Warden Ralph L. Williams and Jessup Prison (for women) Warden James Jordan.

All these men are professional penologists, and what is more important, they are compassionate human beings who know that misfortune can overtake the best as well as the worst of men and cause them to be convicted of crimes.

* * *

A further cause for the cultural confusion this cadre of ignorant subordinates is experiencing is the fact that all the "good guys" in the prison are not white and all the "bad guys" are not black.

In fact, both prisons they point to as examples of institutions having rampant criminality have good guys who are black in the warden's position.

It is beyond their cultural experiense to have to operate within a situation where the man on top giving orders concerning black men on the bottom of the prison population does not look like the guards themselves.

These same guards complain, for instance, that the comb used to disentangle the Afro hair style is a dangerous weapon.

* * *

Obviously, their cultural experience has not yet brought them up to date about the great care with which black Americans attend their hair and the instruments used in the process.

They do not yet know that when a man has an evil intent he is able to fashion a deadly weapon even from the traditional ivory comb.

Hopefully, I have closed the cultural gap which formerly separated me from concerts, conductors and the great music of the world.

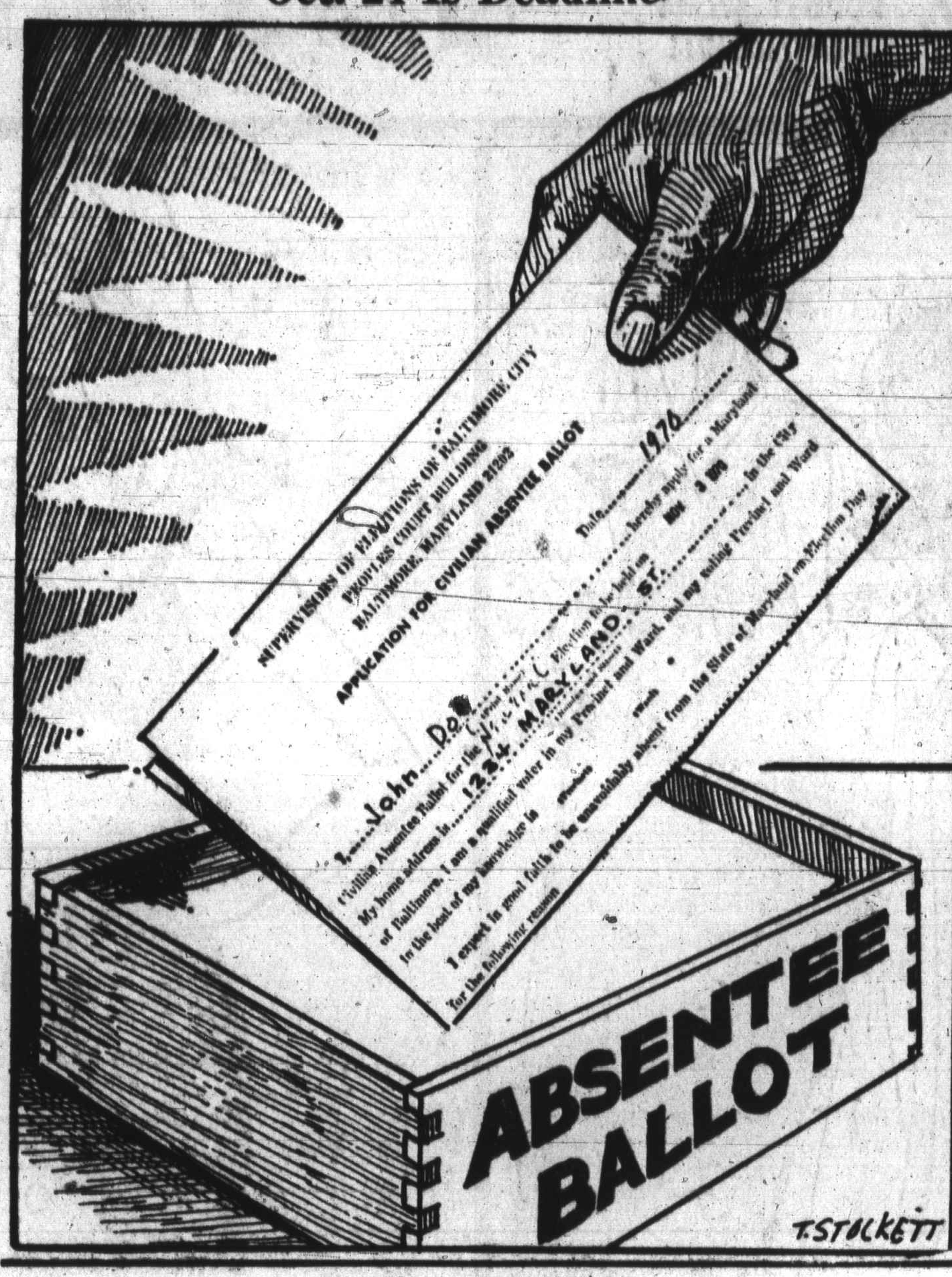
Hopefully, the protesting guards at Jessup and in other places will be able to close the wide space of ignorance which exists between their culture and that of the men they work for and supervise.

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of hate and bitterness." — MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Baltimore Afro-American

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Faher which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher—1889-1967

Oct. 24 Is Deadline



SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OF BALTIMORE CITY
PEOPLES COURT BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
APPLICATION FOR CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT
1970
John Doe
1234 MARYLAND ST.
ABSENTEE BALLOT
T. STOCKETT

LETTERS

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203. . .

'Absolutely False'

Dear AFRO: On October 3, the AFRO carried an article about noncity residents on the City payroll.

It was reported in this article that 17 of the 33 employees of the City's Community Relations Commission live outside Baltimore City.

This information is absolutely false. The Community Relations Commission has 34 employees, but only six of these individuals reside outside the City.

Three of these six employees are professional staff members; three are secretaries.

DAVID L. GLENN, Director
Community Relations Commission

EDITOR'S NOTE: Figures showing a third of city employees living in the suburbs were supplied by the office of the city budget office which pays salaries. That office now advises figures supplied to City Councilman Emerson R. Julian (D.-4th), who made the charge, are now found to be out of date. Mr. Glenn's letter indicates his figures are more accurate.)

Levi Jolley

Dear AFRO:

News of the death of Levi H. Jolley, former AFRO-AMERICAN Editor, brought a note of sadness. He was indeed a colorful newspaper reporter.

It was around 1927 that he and Ralph Matthews, who was city editor of the AFRO, pioneered the integration of the Charles St. double decker buses here in Baltimore. In those days the Charles St. bus was off limits to colored people.

Levi and Ralph would board the bus at Charles and Baltimore Sts. Then would be locked up in the process, then freed. They did this often and as often were taken into custody. Their efforts finally paid off in the 1930's when the buses were integrated.

THOMAS E. ROSS

Baha'is Speak

Dear AFRO:

Thank you very kindly for making the announcement on the discussions of "The Significance of This New Age" available to your reading audience. The discussions will end on Sunday, Oct. 18.

We hope this series has offered the student of religion an opportunity to achieve an elevated plane of spirituality. Past spiritual awakening is not denied but extended through the revelation of a new era of justice and peace.

Millions of people around the world can testify to "The Significance of This New Age."

While wars and rumors of wars are waged, while the moral fabric of modern civilization becomes more and more tattered, while polarization of races and classes become more and more evident, the testimony of these millions of people give new hope for the reawakening of men to the call of God in our time.

To a Baha'i, religion encompasses all of life, it is civilization itself.

DR. EUGENE D. BYRD
Chairman of Teaching Committee,
Bahai's of Baltimore City

CCB Says

Dear AFRO:

Please let me express to you the appreciation of the Division of Continuing Education of the Community College of Baltimore for your cooperation with Dr. Sidney Kobre, Director of our News Bureau, in helping to inform the citizens of Baltimore of the services we have to offer.

Partly because of your policy of public service and public information, more than 2,600 Baltimoreans are enrolled as part-time students in the Division of Continuing Education. This is an increase of more than 500 persons within one year.

Your splendid cooperation helps us to better serve the Baltimore community.

HERMAN E. WESTERBERG
Dean, Division of
Continuing Education

Blount Pledge

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the support and cooperation you gave my efforts.

Throughout the coming campaign for the general election and thereafter, I will endeavor to continue to merit your backing.

More important than my individual race, however, are the almost-overwhelming issues this nation and this state will face in these times of continual crises.

The fantastic potential for disaster, coupled with the great opportunities for meaningful change, will be resolved one way or another by the 200th anniversary of this nation's founding.

Your wisdom and insight, combined with an unending search for truth, will help assure the ultimate triumph of democratic human development.

CLARENCE W. BLOUNT

Delegate Brailey

Dear AFRO:

In my opinion, the number one problem facing the black man in the 70's will be unemployment. We must have all our civil rights, but I feel jobs are in first place.

Modern technology has placed enormous power in the hands of American industry. Machines are not only performing work but are directing and controlling it in virtually every sector of the economy.

To alleviate this problem, I will urge the U.S. Congress to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act by providing for the reduction of the standard work week to 30 hours as soon as practical.

On the local level, I will introduce legislation to increase the minimum wage to $2 per hour. Further, I will repeal certain sections of the present law, which gives the employer the right to deduct from his employees' hourly wage for such things as uniforms, meals, etc.

I will reintroduce legislation to place the burden of proof on the employer when he discharges an employee without good cause. At present the burden of proof is placed on the fired employee.

I will also introduce legislation to re-vamp the entire unemployment system.

DELEGATE TROY BRAILEY
4th District Baltimore

An Election Idea

Dear AFRO: A state's attorney deals with crime — period! If we are really concerned about Baltimore's backlog of cases, let's hire both Allen and Braiterman, split the salary, and get on with the job.

We must stop squandering billions of dollars on senseless politics and use it to build a truly affluent society for al. Crime is Democrat AND Republican! So are education, firefighting, medical care, pollution, poverty, research, etc.

Let's have the grandest election of elections and outlaw our entire antiquated political structure which has outlived its usefulness and in its stead install an enlightened system in keeping with today's needs. — B. J. SMALL

COLUMNS

Political Notebook

State Demos Say: Thank You, Mr. Agnew

By MAX JOHNSON

Here in Maryland in the shadow of Richard Milhous Nixon's Republican Washington regime — top GOP candidates stand to be left at the post in the November elections race.

The current campaign picture is one bordering on utter frustration for most of them.

Almost to a man — they are running like somebody in knee-high water trying to keep pace with a rowboat.

Everybody knows something is vitally wrong somewhere — but nobody on the GOP side appears willing to pinpoint frankly their yoke.

Gleeful Democrats, however, are all but openly saying — Thank you, Mr. Agnew.

* * *

Vice President Agnew thus far has graced Maryland with his presence a few times on behalf of his key GOP candidates — and left them almost wishing he hadn't come.

A lot of people listen respectfully and sometimes emotionally applaud the Agnew rhetoric — but after he has gone, a lot of people in sober reflections get quite frightened.

They see President Nixon behind the Agnew preachments — and they look again with renewed concern toward the Nixon GOP Administration.

And in looking with concern at his top administration — they have been looking also at his administration's handpicked candidates.

In Maryland where Republicans are outnumbered three to one by Democrats—such concern carries a telling effect on GOP top candidates.

* * *

Let's look at the current campaign picture.

Somebody in the Nixon Administration enticed freshman Congressman J. Glenn Beall Jr. to wrestle the U.S. Senate seat from under the Democrats' Joseph D. Tydings.

Theoretically, there could be pictured something quite beautiful in this GOP thinking — but factually little of substance in earthy politics.

First off — Mr. Beall was led into the fight with a short stick, and it hasn't gotten any longer.

He had little going for him outstanding other than an affable personality — and the distinguished name of his father, former U.S. Senator J. Glenn Beall Sr.

Unlike the elder Sen. Beall — young Mr. Beall is virtually unknown in Maryland's black voting community.

He can't possibly win without black votes — black potential votes alienated by the mouthings of Vice President Agnew.

On the other hand — Joe Tydings' name is somewhat of a household name in much of the state's black community.

Even more so than Mr. Beall — Mr. Blair is a stranger to the black community.

So far he hasn't said anything to them — and they haven't said anything to him.

And knowing he was secretary of state under the Agnew Maryland governorship and the Vice President's administrative aide up until entering the race — the black community isn't prone to look eagerly in the direction of Mr. Blair come general elections day.

Besides even in the white community — Mr. Blair also finds himself fighting a gubernatorial campaign with a short stick.

Other than a booming voice echoing to a lesser degree the Agnew preachments — he has offered little to distinguish his bid for governor.

In the vernacular of the streets — it just ain't Stan Blair's year.

* * *

Elsewhere around the Congress campaign circuit about the state — the picture looks but little brighter for GOP candidates.

Of course, Rogers C. B. Morton, national GOP chairman, will hold his 1st District Eastern Shore area with little difficulty.

The Democrats' Clarence D. Long has little to worry him in Repubican opposition in Baltimore and Hartford Counties 2nd District.

The 3rd Baltimore City District sees veteran Democrat Edward A. Garmatz unopposed — for the Republicans couldn't even find a candidate.

The city's 4th District race in which the Democrats' Paul Sarbanes unseated George H. Fallon in the primary poses little hope for the Republicans.

Though the GOP has another primary Saturday in eight city precincts to determine who will oppose Mr. Sarbanes — he can continue to pick his Congress staff.

* * *

In the Prince Georges and Charles Counties 5th District — incumbent Republican Lawrence J. Hogan is likely to face rough going against the Democrats' State Senator Royal Hart, and just might lose.

The 6th District Western Maryland area seat of Congressman Beall is a tossup in what heretofore has been GOP territory.

In Baltimore's 7th District — the race centers between the black community's Democrat Parren J. Mitchell, who unseated the veteran Samuel N. Friedel in the primary, and Peter Parker, Republican hopeful.

There is little doubt at this stage that Mr. Mitchell is the frontrunner — what with the new political impetus among black voters who form over 40 percent of the area's total.

In the 8th District of Montgomery County and portions of Howard and Anne Arundel — the Republicans Gilbert Gude seems quite likely to hold his seat.

Everybody in the ranks appears to be reluctant to say what or who is to blame.

But tickled Democrats aren't coy at all.

They are saying — Thank you, Mr. Agnew.

Student Speaks

That Time Is Not Now

Dear AFRO:

The gesture made by the U.S. Attorney General, John Mitchell is an interesting one.

It should be made clear that the Morgan State decision to reject the Attorney General's bid for a visit to the campus came after the most studied consideration.

I concur with Interim President Fraser's decision as does the Student Senate which just yesterday unanimously gave approval to President Fraser's letter of rejection.

What concerns me about the justice Department's campus visitation program is that while it is an obvious attempt to heal some needlessly inflicted wounds, the Nixon administration has yet to insist on a ceasefire from its chief warrior, the vice president.

There is no meaningful dialogue which representatives from any branch of the national government can become involved in until it is obvious that as a matter of clearly enunciated policy that fire will not be fought with fire, hate will not be returned for hate; and immaturity will not be returned for immaturity.

The mood on the Morgan campus — and perhaps on most campuses — is uncertain.

Many students believe our friends on the Potomac are really our friends.

For the most part, the students have followed President Nixon's injunction to "cool the rhetoric."

When the President's "Gal Friday" follows the "boss's advice," students will be convinced that dialogue with national government officials is well-intended.

* * *

Finally, it strikes me as curious that the Justice Department would be the first wing of the Federal Government to seek dialogue with students.

Perhaps this department has much for which to atone, but the period of atonement must be a bit longer.

In a word, many students see the Mitchell men as a higher variety of policemen.

The average campus simply isn't prepared for the new image which is much too spasmodic. At some time or another visits by Justice Department officials will be appropriate and fruitful. That time is not now!

JERRY C. LYMAS
Vice President,
Morgan State College
Student Government

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Lymas's letter is in response to a recent rejection of Justice Department visit to Morgan by Interim President, Dr. Thomas P. Fraser.

Continue To Prod Us

Dear AFRO: Sometimes in our desire to be in the center of the hurt of our community, we forget that some healing is taking place.

The AFRO has given this community real leaders ip during these days of turbulence, especially through your skillful assessment of our maturing strength as a force for good in politics.

I, along with other clergy of the city, can appreciate your support of Parren Mitchell's campaign for congress, Milton Allen for state's attorney and the judges of color, against a suggested devisive judicial reform that seeks to rob us of our power newly found.

I also know that in a leadership role one's detractors are as numerous as one's supporters.

Continue to prod us to do that which we can and ought for the securing of a sense of commitment to black people and the establishment of a sense of community amongst us.

VERNON N. DOBSON
Minister, Union Baptist Church

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices and prejudice, or compromise.

JOHN MURPHY SR. — 1920

If YOU Ask ME

BY BETTYE M. MOSS

People, places and things

It started Saturday morning at the T[illegible]e, we heard a perfectly beauti- beautiful Jarvis Funeral Home in Washington. ful memorial service for Levi Jolley, longtime newsman and friend.

Jolley, as we all called him, got his start right here at the AFRO back in 1926.

The story goes that his mother led him by the hand when he was just 19 and said to late AFRO publisher, Dr. Carl Murphy, "here is my son. I want him to be somebody."

Jolley indeed became somebody. He never shirked hard work. . . becoming first a janitor, a devil's helper, a copy boy, then an ace reporter, editor and manager for this newspaper.

The Rev. Frank Williams, former Baltimore minister now pastor of Washington's Asbury Methodist Church was there to recall how the Jolley teenage boys (who are spitting images of their dad), and his wife, Catherine, are members there.

He remembered Jolley as a good father and husband.

S. Matthew Hendershott, another former Baltimorean and grand master of Washington Prince Hall Masons, remembered the family.

And, members of Redemption Lodge, led by Charles Scott, Acting Worshipful Master, conducted the impressive fraternal lodge of sorrow.

And Alton Burleigh (son of the late and famed Harry T. Burleigh), was there to recite the moving poem, "Carry On," with a musical background. Mr. Burleigh is a retired schoolteacher.

On Sunday evening at St. Peter Claver Church here in Baltimore we joined family and friends of two pioneer Baltimore families, Mrs. Edna Dyson, longtime resident of N. Carey St., and Mrs. Margaret Thomas, long of Stockton St.

Both had devoted a lifetime to St. Peter Claver.

minded the family and friends that death is not a time for sorrow but of rejoicing.

After prayers, he invited the audience to greet and have a reunion with friends they had not seen for a long time.

* * *

There was this same kind of old home week atmosphere at the Marshall Jones Funeral Home, also on Sunday evening, where friends gathered to say goodbye to Charlotte Wilson Mason, the teacher, civic worker and AFRO columnist (On the Eastside).

The Rt. Rev. Edgar A. Love, retired bishop of the Methodist Church also reminded the funeral audience this is no occasion for sorrowing but rathe rdeath is to release a time of rejoicing and joy as we remember a loved one.

Still later when Frankie Henderson and I gathered together all the Wilson brothers, husbands and wives and grandchildren, it was like old home week.

We laughed about our growing up days in Morgan Park, about how the Wilson girls met their husbands during the war at a USO dance in nearby Aberdeen, how we baby sat the youngest boy, Pezavia (named for late and beloved Dr. Pezabia O'Connell), the brilliant organ professor who lived also in Morgan Park. And little Pezavia is now a grown man with a big job in insurance in N.Y.

Oddity: During the height of our reminiscing, in walked George Brown, a C and P Telephone Co. manager. More old home week: He and Wilson daughter Miriam, now Mrs. William Fields of Dayton, Ohio, were classmates.

People being kind to others: Mrs. Marie Smallwood, long-time friend of Mrs. Charlotte Mason, and her principal, Mrs. Arnita Woodlon, gave the kind Marie, of devoted attention one needs so badly in the last days. God's blessings on them.

Cuff note: If you grew up in Baltimore and were in high school in the early thirties you had to know the Wilson children.

There was only one high school then — Douglass — and the music teacher who kept you, had you liking music and understanding it was W. Llewellyn Wilson.

He was the kind of teacher who could relate to pupils — remember how he kept the class alive with stories that kept us at attention and then went on to explain the music and teach us to understand and enjoy it.

The Wilson daughters (Mrs. Mason et al), was one of his children.

* * *

More sadness and rejoicing: W. Meredith Birche grew up in the 1000 block of Myrtle Ave.

Our family houses adjoined each other. We played together as children.

Meredith had musical talent early. All day (and sometimes most of the night), he practiced on the piano. Music was his life.

In high school, where we were fluence of Mr. Wilson mentioned above. classmates, he too came under the in-

Meredith was the one selected to accompany the school chorus. It was Meredith who wrote the music to the Douglass High School song: "Hail Douglass". James Hill wrote the words.

So it was natural that after he grew up Meredith would become a very fine music teacher and specialist in the Baltimore public schools, and a founder and director of a boys' choir and a leader of his own combo. He was a stickler for perfection in phrasing and performance. He loved music. It was his life.

Meredith Birche sang his last song on Sunday morning. His death brings back many happy memories of growing up here in Baltimore.

A bit about this and that

Yes, there is a mayoralty boom on for George H. Russell Jr.

At the Hilton Hotel on Monday evening, a large and impressive gathering — a broad cross-section of people — gathered to sip, dip and chat and to pledge their money to buy tickets for that Dec. 3rd testimonial in his honor.

* * *

Cuff note: In this space last week we discussed the impact on the Baltimore community of the late Dr. H. C. (Curly) Byrd, long the president of the University of Maryland.

Remember, we detailed how black law students had to go to court to get admitted to the law school? The case was that of Donald Gaines Murray vs. Pearson, president and trustee et al.

We failed to mention where Donald Gaines Murray is today.

Donald who went on to finish the law school, class of 1938, is now on the staff of the Legal Aid Bureau.

By the way, the Gaines in his name is for his late and beloved grandfather, AME Bishop A. L. Gaines. If you do, you can count yourself an older Baltimorean.

In a high school history class last week, the young white teacher announced he did not read the AFRO and did not recommend it because in his opinion this newspaper deals solely with crime or words to that effect.

The 15-year-old is our household and her girlfriends report they were so stunned they raised no question, made no comment.

On this past Monday holiday (Columbus Day), they discussed the matter at dinner table and researched the AFRO and found what most readers know — the AFRO has no more crime headlines than any other large city newspaper and if you put them all together on a newstand on a given day, you can't distinguish the AFRO for crime.

Honest! Try it and see for yourself.

* * *

What this young teacher did is typical of too many of our young people, both white and black, they go off half-cocked and spout inaccuracies like they are gospel.

In this day and time when school classrooms are mixed up, and often predominantly black, they ought to have a knowledge of the total community which will equip them to give a true picture to the young people they teach.

In this present case, the teacher only has to look out his window to see the AFRO building, or walk a half a block to visit us and buy a copy or subscribe to it for his classroom study so there can be meaningful interpretation.

* * *

AFRO in Baltimore, now in its 79th year presents the news of the community — some of which is crime — but in the main this newspaper prints news of, by and about black people and interprets the issues of the day. The AFRO makes no apologies for such crime stories as it prints. When it does, Crime, sometimes is news.

And, one of the crimes we will be printing more about in the days ahead, will be the crimes some teachers and principals and other educators are committing against black children because they do not give them relative study material and help them relate to the world around them including the world right in the community where they go to school.

* * *

On the brighter side: At Rodnel Heights, the new elementary school dedicated this week, we had an opportunity to see a perfectly beautiful new school structure in operation.

The carpeted floors, gay colors on walls and floor covering, the open classrooms — the new concept in school construction — are something to see.

We arrived late because of a snafu. We arrived at the end of the dedication after the official ceremony and thus had an opportunity to walk around unnoticed. That was good.

It gave you an opportunity to see that here is a school which is together. There was an easy movement of children to the cafeteria (already too small for the building, overcrowded when it opened in September), and an air of pride and happiness you like to see when children are still so young and tender. James Matthews is principal here.

Cuff note: Parents at Rodnel can get relief about the dangers of nearby Leakin Park if they will get their complaints together and see that the proper parties provide protection. No need to sit in a corner and sulk about the dangers, get busy now before there is a serious incident.

* * *

Local longshoremen groups are in court. The government has ordered the all-black local No. 858 and the all-white local No. 729 to merge.

The all-black group says it has long been left out of the goodies — work assignments, high-paying jobs — and sees no merit in such a merger.

The all-white group says it doesn't want to merge. It wants to keep all the goodies.

From this corner it would appear that if Uncle Sam views the two groups as violating the civil rights act the government should sit down and work out guidelines which would insure protection to both groups.

We can understand local 858's position. We've seen too many instances where integration means more segregation for those of us who are black. If you don't believe it, look at what is happening in some of our county schools systems.

This column believes in an integrated society. But integration is meaningless if there is not a fair and equal sharing of the goodies at the time of the integration agreement, not in some distant future.

* * *

In another labor matter: For years, the Schmidt Baking Co., Schmidt's Blue Ribbon bread (et al), has been a large employer of black people.

Located in the heart of a black neighborhood (Carey and Laurens Sts.), Schmidt has been a force for good in our community.

Since May, a number of Schmidt employees and management have been at odds. We are not going into the merits of the differences here. The Labor Board has ordered an election for Oct. 22.

This column hopes that an old neighbor like Schmidt and the black employees who have long been the backbone of the firm can work out their problems amicably and in good temper so that both the company and the employees can continue to serve our community as they have in the past.

* * *

Coming up tonight Friday), citizens salute to Dr. Parlett Moore, retiring president of Coppin State College. It is at Blue Crest Fordleigh.

Big Sisters Inc., have set their annual benefit card party for Oct. 31 at Le Fontaine Bleu off Erdman Ave. way. This is the annual affair which benefits a number of charities and is a real swager. See you there.

AFRO LINE

AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the action is.

QUESTION: I do not recall seeing any pictures of the recent Baltimore Fair in the AFRO. Weren't there some black queens in the parade? Weren't we there? How come our black newspaper didn't publish the pictures? — ANNIE R. HOLSE

ANSWER: Yes, of course black people participated in the Baltimore Fair. The AFRO photographer was there too and took this photo which the editor rejected because the names were missing. We publish it now and hope the pretty queens shown here will come in an identify themselves. AFRO Line has a prize for them.

Immediate Help Due All Needy Applying At Welfare

QUESTION: I spent all day Friday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. closing time at the Department of Social Services and even though I had my two little children, 2 and 4 years old with me, I got nothing. I did not want to be on welfare, I just wanted emergency food until I could get well and back on my job.

My kids were hungry. I had no money for food. A supervisor cursed me, called me names because I was an unmarried mother and told me to get out.

What can I do to see me through? What can be done about Welfare employees who deal out inhumane treatment and refuse public funds and help to worthy applicants? — Miss T.J.

ANSWER: The AFRO was able to obtain immediate emergency food for the week-end and the following week for the distressed mother with the aid of Mrs. Agnes Brown in charge that Saturday morning at the 939 Valley St. Welfare Emergency Service.

The mother went with shopping bags after Mrs. Brown said, "You can be assured we will do all we can and she may return Monday for further help."

Maurice Harmon, director of welfare assistance, began an immediate investigation of the supervisor who was reported abusive. He said, "The mother should have received assistance at once. I do not stand for any one on our staff of over 2,000 persons being abusive. It's a tragedy that anyone would act the way this supervisor did.

"All are to be treated with dignity as human beings. It will not happen again if I find it out. We welcome complaints."

* * *

QUESTION: I am a tenant of the Bryant Garden Apartments in Columbia, where I have lived along with my pet dog for almost a year. Now I'm told that either I must get rid of my pet or terminate my lease. I know there was a "no pets allowed" clause in the lease when I signed it but can't something be done about the unfair way it's being handled? — B.A.

ANSWER: The AFRO had received complaints from tenants of Tilbury Woods and Hannibal Groves Apartments on the same subject, so the Rouse Company, owner of the apartments, was contacted.

Scott Ditches, vice-president of Marketing and Rouse Co. spokesman, agreed the "no pets allowed" clause was in the leases but they tried to "accommodate our tenants." As a result of that accommodation, "the pet population increased to the point where it became a definite annoyance to the other tenants."

Since it was in the leases from the beginning they had no other choice but to ask the pet-owning tenants to either terminate their leases or find new homes for the animals, Mr. Ditches added.

All may not be lost, because the Rouse Co. is actively looking for other alternatives like having buildings which would house only tenants with pets.

NOW And THEN Referendum Questions

DR. FLEMING

with G. JAMES FLEMING

The stepchildren of every election are the referendum questions. There will be 26 on November 3.

* * *

These questions, in such large number, can be overwhelming and disconcerting to the individual voter. They usually are. As a result, they and women, regardless of their age are bypassed by thousands of men or educational background. Once there were 45 such questions.

It is those who are AGAINST some law or program for social betterment who are sure to vote.

In the short run, hatemongers have a better record of voting on referendum questions than do people of goodwill.

Nevertheless, the questions up for referendum deserve our study, attention and vote. They should not pass, or be defeated, by default.

In the coming election, the questions will deal, among other items, with the following:

1. Seekng money (loans) for building more Baltimore City schools and a new community college;
2. Authorizing a state housing authority to facilitate the building of low and moderate income housing;
3. Authorizing loans to make possible ten neighborhood branch libraries and the remodeling of other library buildings;
4. Seeking approval of revisions in that state Constitution, including Blue Law change, prayers in the schools, and the establishment of a new type of district courts.
5. Authorizing loans for a variety of public works, such as sewers, parks and water supply.

The Bureau of Legislative Reference has prepared a free booklet explaining the referendum questions. Room 311 City Hall.

The "tried and true" League of Women's Voters also has a mimeographed bulletin on the subject (35 cents). Its Voters Guide, throwing light on both candidates and referendum questions is also obtainable free at 2318 N. Charles Street.

Between now and November 3, much will be written about these questions. All of this should be "must" reading for all responsible voters; it should be the basis of much discussion, in order that each of us may vote on the basis of understanding and choice.

* * *

This column is committed to the best education possible for all the children of Baltimore. New school buildings are one way, one step. Not far behind must be smaller classes and the elimination of split shifts — half-day school days for some of the city's children, while others have full day!

If this observer had his way, as we have said before, the public schools would become just as good as the prestigious private schools, in every way.

On Election Day the Baltimore School Board will be asking authority to borrow $17 million for new and remodelled buildings. This sum is based on the school board's view into the years ahead.

This observer believes these new facilities will be needed, some soon, others in the not too distant future. School buildings cannot be constructed overnight.

The least voters can do is to study the justifications of the superintendent of schools and to remember that the projects which these loans will finance have already been reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission, the state legislature, the Board of Estimates, and the City Council.

* * *

This column believes that these loans should be approved by the electorate, regardless of a voter's party affiliations. We recommend that you vote "Yes."

There are some strong voices opposed to some of these loans, "at this time." They are opposed mostly on a bookkeeping basis. They may not be all wrong, for long-term planning and speculating on population trends can fool the planners.

It is better, however, to prepare for the future in a manner favorable to children, than to risk under-serving the generations, present and to come.

There are other referendum questions that need study and attention. One would establish a state Department of Economic and Community Development — an agency to provide public housing throughout the state, wherever needed.

This proposal is being bitterly opposed by the same groups who want to keep their counties as lilywhite as possible. They will vote "No." We recommend that our readers vote "YES."

Men and women — the candidates — are very important, as voters cast their ballots on Election Day (November 3), but it is just as important to vote on referendum questions.

TOGETHER New Vision Needed Now

By PARREN J. MITCHELL

I'd like to report a murder. The victim is the Family Assistance Plan, and the accused is the Senate Finance Committee which axed the bill and effectively killed it for any action during this Congressional Session.

I have often expressed my reservations about the Family Assistance Plan for NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH.

It was killed by the Finance Committee for GOING TOO FAR. The bill was a basically enlightened proposal which would have provided graduated income maintenance as a matter of right to all persons with dependent children.

It would have included the working poor and families headed by a working man. There was a work incentive built in, and a provision for comprehensive day-care programs for working mothers.

* * *

The late Family Assistance Plan was our first legislative step toward a guaranteed annual income, and, though its base income of $1,600 for a family of four (plus $894 in food stamps) was inadequate, it was better than anything we'd had, and eliminated some of the more degrading elements of the present welfare system.

The Senate Finance Committee voted down the bill 19 to 2, under the chairmanship of Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana, who has been engaged in a holding action against the forces of liberalism for the last 22 years in the Congress.

* * *

The Committee judged the bill as too liberal, too far-reaching.

It was apparently feared that it would go too far in relieving human misery, and that it might give too many of America's poor a new chance at a more productive and decent life.

These men, who kill the liberal legislation which could allevate the social crimes which attack so many, are the same men who cry "law and order" and deplore dissent, activism and rage at social injustice.

They rally the voters by taking aim at crime and drug abuse, especially in their rhetoric, but they refuse to cure the conditions which breed crime and to reduce the despair which drives people to drugs as an escape from a society which excludes and destroys them.

* * *

It's a sad fact that the Congress is so "careful" about legislation for relief of human suffering, and so careless about punitive crime legislation, like the D.C. Crime Bill and the recently passed Organized Crime Bill of 1970, which, along with some good measures, included provisions which are clearly in violation of Constitutional rights.

It seems that the oldtimers who rule too many of our Congressional Committees are dangerously nearsighted.

They fail to see the far-reaching effects of repressive legislation which erodes our civil liberties, and the equally far-reaching effects of liberal social legislation which attacks crime at its roots, and promotes harmony in our society.

We need a new set of lenses to correct the faulty vision of our legislators: the lenses of social justice and reform that bring a better future into focus.

We desperately need that new vision — and we need it now.

More Election

Dear AFRO: The black community should be enraged with the recent alleged voting irregularities in the black precincts during the primary election.

There can be no greater threat to our system of government than an attack on the election process.

If it is found that voters were denied the opportunity to vote in these areas, the primary should be repeated with outside supervision.

DANIEL R. MILLER

It's NOT A Man's World

By

BERNICE S. WHITE

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. has initiated a Roll Call for a Black Women's Unity Drive. This drive is being sponsored to help mobilize the power of four million black women.

Miss Dorothy Height, national president of NCNW, Inc., has issued an impressive open letter to black women. Following is the text of that appeal.

"We are women, determined to reap the fruits of our labor which is rightfully ours. The history of black people in the United States portrays clearly the prominent role that the black woman has played in the struggle against racism and exploitation.

"As mother, wife, and worker, she had witnessed the frustration and anguish of the men, women and children living in her community.

* * *

"The black woman has been a witness to chronic malnutrition, bad housing, inferior education and many other problems that do violence in the lives of people. It is the violence of social, intellectual and economic slavery.

* * *

"We in the NCNW are committed to a continuous crusade against this violence. In the rural South where hunger and malnutrition destroy life, we have initiated self-help food production programs.

ters where Black children, who are

"We have established day care centers where black children, who are victims of poverty and persecution, can begin to reclaim their lives.

"NCNW has pioneered in initiating Turnkey III — home ownership program for low-inome families.

"A scholarship project has been begun to enable black youth to attend the educational institutions of their choice.

"These are but a few of the on-going programs launched to combat the problems that do violence in the lives of black people.

"Today black women united are a powerful force to continue the struggle yet to be won.

"Unity is the only answer to repression. Just as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, and others stood up to be counted for justice and equality, so now more than ever, you are called to be involved in a meaningful way."

* * *

This writer recently heard a male speaker tell a Men's Day audience that black males need a new look, a new psychology, and that they need "no longer look at women to solve problems."

He stated that the black man should seek a renewal of commitment through the religious, educational, and economic institutions of our society, and rise up and take a place in the sun.

All of this is quite good. But wouldn't it be so much better if black men and black women could and would work together in a renewal of this commitment instead of getting all hung up over the so-called matriarchal society and the repression of the male ego by the female.

The problems facing us are tremendous and it will take the call for unity for black men and women — together — to put this old world right side up again.

All of us together as brotners and understanding, compassionate and realizing we are our brother's keeper.

We Stand For . .

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before the courts of the city and state.

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and untrammeled black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.

Open and free election of judges, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.