EDITORIALS

Banks And The Poor

Elsewhere in this newspaper there appears an article which tells about an Educational Television program which airs the questionable practices of many banks in their relations with the poor.

While many other institutions of the so-called "structure" are becoming aware of the evolutionary and, indeed, revolutionary trends of our time, as a rule, our larger commercial banks and savings and loan establishments have been hiding their heads in the sand, pretending that they are not involved in change going on about them.

In Maryland, for instance, while there are a number of banks employing blacks on a subordinate level, only one bank employs one black at a sufficiently high level where he has some say as to who may borrow money.

At the same time, banks here, as in most of the large cities of the country, continue to play footsy with real estate speculators who rob the poor, and to hide behind the ancient legal formality of assuming the know-nothing attitude of being a holder in due course.

This latter posture is one which insulates them from the need to inquire into the legitimacy of the claim of shoddy operators who unload tainted commercial paper to the banks.

At least three things need to be done to change all this — and soon.

First, the state legislature should by statute alter the doctrin of "holder in due course" making it necessary for banks to answer the same complaints suppliers of shoddy merchandise have to answer.

Second, banks should, by self-policing, begin to inquire into the morality of smaller outfits — including real estate speculators — to whom they lend a lot of easy money.

Third, banks ought to start setting aside a certain amount of money to be loaned directly to the poor borrower who is honest but admittedly a second class risk according to traditional standards.

Some of the banks in Philadelphia have made a start in the right direction. They came together and set up a separate corporation, supplying it with initial funds for the specific purpose of lending to the poor.

Maryland banks — and we are sure others in other major cities and states — ought to begin consciously to protect their stake in this community under evolutionary tremors.

Law and City Jobs

Solicitor George L. Russell Jr.'s ruling that the Civil Service Commission cannot give preference to Baltimore residents in hiring, without legal authority for it, should not and will not be the end of this important matter.

The issue came to a head when the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, Fire Board member, insisted that city residents be given preference points, much as veterans are, when applying for jobs as fire fighters.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom pointed out when he made his proposal that nearly half the city's 2,300 firemen live in the suburbs; that the city loses tax revenue by hiring county residents; that generally city firemen lose trade when countians are hired and that the unemployment situation in Baltimore is not helped by county people holding tax-paid-for city jobs.

Long ago Dr. Emerson R. Julian, Fourth District city councilman, saw the necessity of preferential treatment for city residents where civil service jobs are concerned.

Apparently the entire City Council agrees with him because his resolution asking the Civil Service Commission to give preference in hiring to Baltimore residents went through without opposition.

Now, Dr. Julian says he is gathering information about how this operates in Philadelphia so that it gives preference or requires city workers to be residents of Philadelphia.

He says he will initiate whatever legal action is necessary to accomplish this goal.

Whatever needs to be done should be started now so that the voters can have a say on this matter in next year's elections.

The AFRO believes the heavily-taxed Baltimore resident is in favor of a charter change that will give them perference for jobs covered by the city Civil Service Commission.

Baltimoreans deserve to know where their next mayor will stand on this issue. They need to know where their City Councilmen stand on a measure that has enforceable teeth, rather than a resolution.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom and Dr. Julian should not be discouraged by what has transpired to this point. They are on the right road and the people of Baltimore are going to see that their proposals are given legal weight.

Panthers In D.C.

A lower court judge and three members of an appeals court have upheld the D.C. Armory Board's decision to bar the Black Panther Party's use of the city facility for its "Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention."

The reasons for denying the Panthers use of the Armory are thinly veiled and fool no one. Those who decided against granting the hall to the Panthers contend that the Armory is needed in case of an emergency for the National Guard and perhaps federal troops in the event trouble breaks out during the gathering of the Panthers in the city.

This is a far-fetched argument, and obviously evasive when it is recalled that it was a second-thought reason for denying the Panthers' use of the armory. Originally the board mentioned a conflict in dates, then gave the new explanation when it became apparent that the Panthers would fight the case.

It seems clear that the board's decision, and the court's approval, is way out of line. Everyone knows that there are many here who don't want the Panthers to meet in the city but it is unfair and unwise for armory board officials to presume that violence will result from a meeting of the Panthers.

To make such a presumption is an outright expression of prejudice against the Panthers, and should be so recognized in the courts. The very fact that the armory board and the legal authorities who have spoken so far have taken this attitude strengthens the reasoning of the Panthers for the need of a "revolutionary people's constitutional convention."

Under the Constitution, the Panthers, regardless of any presumption of their political beliefs, have the same right to meet in the tax-supported armory. To deny them this right only serves to bolster the Panthers' complaint about oppression and repression and, in the long run, may add converts to their cause.

They are entitled to their bid for free speech as well as any of the other multiple groups of various political shades who have utilized city facilities for their own selfish causes.

This decision also brings into question several other recent actions by the D.C. Armory Board, which also controls D.C. Stadium, and has denied its use to all-black promoting groups for all-black events on more than one occasion. We hope the Armory Board is not afflicted by blindness and is seeing only white.

UF Needs You

With just a few more days to go before the Nov. 19 campaign deadline, it does not appear that the United Fund of Baltimore will reach its goal of $11,750,000 within the time set for the campaign.

This bad news, which should be of concern to all Baltimore, comes a week after campaign officials reported that the $8 million raised by Nov. 3 showed the drive to be lagging at that time.

Every United Fund campaign is extremely important but the one this year is critical.

This is not one of those drives where the goal has been set too high in hopes that a near-miss will provide the funds actually needed.

Because of some previous experiences, this year's goal, more so than in other years, was pegged on the bare minimum needs of the 92 agencies and services that benefit from the campaign.

Some organizations and many individuals are giving their full share and more. Others are falling down on their responsibility.

Unless more Baltimoreans come forward and come up to their responsibility, a lot of people who depend upon agencies and services aided by the United Fund, are going to suffer.

This is the kind of campaign Baltimoreans concerned about the welfare of their community should be willing to make sacrifices to support. Many do.

But it is not always necessary to make a major sacrifice. Sometimes giving up some fun-thing, some unnecessary expenditure, would result in a hefty gift to the United Fund.

Along with renewed contributions, fund officials also would like to have campaign leaders and others to get in their reports as soon as possible.

Don't leave the United Fund giving to George. Its success depends on your own giving. Do it today.

Dawson, Quiet Warrior

People have styles, and their great accomplishment is discovering the style by which they live the most effective lives.

Congressman William L. Dawson early perceived that his style was that of a quiet warrior — one who without fan fare influenced his times with commitment, dignity, daring and learning.

For part of the deceased congressman's duration in the U.S. House of Representatives he had as a contemporary another man who served his country greatly — Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

Yet there could hardly be more difference between two men — Powell, the flamboyant; Dawson, the modest.

Because Congressman Dawson was such a gentleman it was not difficult for him to be more widely and easily liked and respected by a wider variety of people than Mr. Powell.

That is why he could rise to be the first black head of an important committee of Congress, the influential Government Operations Committee.

And his tenure for 28 years — often among men violently opposed to the black presence — followed by death, mourned by the most exhalted in national life as well as the most lowly of his Illinois First District, bespeaks his broad humanity.

The nation, as well as his people, owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Dawson for having served both of them well and long.

Baltimore American

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

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...

Proud Of Election

Dear AFRO:

From the headlines of the AFRO-AMERICAN on November 7, 1970, one can get the answer to the question that has been put to me, the Rev. G. S. McGuire, many times in the past two years which is, "Rev., why have you been so relaxed in politics lately?" The AFRO headline was, "For The First Time History made on rainy day." The haunted becomes the haunter.

On November 3, election day, when I first saw the rain, and the amount that was coming down, I said to several co-workers, "Oh, my Lord have mercy on the Black incumbents and candidates, and let the spirit of good prevail." The words, "rainy day" were haunting me.

To make it short and sweet, "For the first time," politically, "on a rainy day", I was very proud to be Black, proud of the blacks. Let each voter that faced the rain, pat himself on the back. I want to pat each one, and to all, that took part in history-making, and keep in mind, that many others in various ways, made a contribution to the history.

I took a large part in politics when the goings were really rough, against the ignorance, laziness, fear and apathy of the Blacks. In the past eight years, I have seen the political interests of the Blacks grow. I kept the faith, and "on a rainy day", sunshine was put into my heart, and in the hearts of others.

REV. G. S. McGUIRE

Thanks

Dear AFRO:

Although I was unsuccessful in my bid for a seat in the House of Delegates, I consider my campaign victorious. The 17,955 votes I received was most gratifying and encouraging.

This accomplishment could not have happened without the diligent efforts of the many volunteers who worked so unselfishly for me. I am very grateful to every and especially to those who voted for me on such an inclement day.

JOSEPH M. AYD

Suggestion

Dear AFRO:

Since Diamond Jim of station WEBB and Fat Daddy of WWIN and Hot Rod have just about all the attention of the young people of our race, why is it that in AFRO newspaper we visit these people and see just how they can relate to our young people in the short several times during the day and night.

They can help to stop the harm they are doing to us as human beings and a fellow race.

The black hoodlums are only going after us, the very people who really don't have anything — only a few measley dollars or food and rent. You can see just how cowardly they are because it surely doesn't take two, three and four to rob one person on the street.

If these disc jockeys can scream and holler all day long about receipts, they can say something constructive to our young people.

WILLIAM TEMPLETON

Pessimist

Dear AFRO:

The elections are over. It won't be too long before we are convinced all candidates of all parties were but bad branches of a sick tree, rotted to its roots!

Poor legislation, already in the works, will continue to operate and conditions will worsen because principals, not principles, are the thing.

What holds in the Presidency of our nation applies on lower levels as well. It's been said that in the first year of a President's term he can change or alter only about three per cent of the legislation already in the works.

And about 10 per cent in his second and third years. And then he is off campaigning again on company time at that, at your expense and mine, please note.

The millions of dollars spent (squandered!) these many weeks by our President and Vice-President come out of our hides! Shocking! But we've been brainwashed to accept this as a way of life.

When will it end?

B. J. SMALL

COLUMNS

Political Notebook

Nixon Needs To Turn To Troubles At Home

By MAX JOHNSON

Now that the nation's off-year elections are recent story—the glaring spotlight of truth has shifted to full beam and unwaveringly on Richard Milhous Nixon and his Washington Republican Administration.

Artful as the President has exhibited his finesse to be in warding off vital confrontations — it's unlikely he will be able to duck protectively behind rhetoric this period.

One unmistakable result of the elections is that Mr. Nixon must now face squarely the mounting problems here at home — the mounting unrest.

He claimed gains "ideologically in fact in those elections — unsubstantiated by the harsh returns.

* * *

Truth is the President lost — and in a decidely unflattering manner, despite intensified pointed campaigning on behalf of Administration candidates by him and Vice President Spiro Agnew.

He made a lot of Democratic noises mad by taking direct aim and knocking off Tennessee's Senator Albert Gore.

He raised questions in the minds of many of his own party members — when Mr. Agnew read New York's liberal Charles Goodell out of the party and lost.

Mr. Nixon, however, simply cannot revel in any other victories of note, including the defeat of Maryland's Democratic Sen. Joseph Tydings, who supported many of his programs — but rather truthfully admit defeat.

* * *

Now — he must face up to the top priority business of running this country in a far more effective manner than he has exhibited in the past two years.

The President has a lot of housekeeping to get done — and he is feeling dirty issues he can no longer sweep under the White House's infamous rhetorical rug.

Increasing unemployment, the sharply rising costs of living, lack of equal opportunities for the minorities are but some of the Goliaths to be tackled by Mr. Nixon — and tackled head-on.

There is the fast-mounting issue of dope trafficking among the nation's young — and not so young.

There is racial disunity still at an explosive stage in far too many areas.

There is society divisiveness approaching an alarming stage — stalled by the name-calling preachments of Mr. Agnew during the campaign.

* * *

In short — The Nixon domestic policies are in one helluva a shaky state.

Mr. Nixon is now at a stage where major domestic problems that no longer can be ignored backstage and his political future stands in the wings.

If the President has meaningful solutions — they are well kept secrets so far.

If he doesn't have some progressive solutions — somebody had better make haste and help him find some.

It would be downright political suicide for the President to enter the 1972 campaign with this richest nation in the world having the millions of hungry and jobless people in its midst.

It would undoubtedly spark the people's rebellion of enormous proportions.

* * *

In a series of still in-coming private assessments of the past elections — Mr. Nixon is probably taking due note of these situations and conditions.

And if he is seriously looking forward to Presidential campaign in 1972 as a candidate participant — it must be disturbing to find that the key black leaders are not with him for his neglect of the rightful needs of black c...

It would be erroneous to assume that insofar as black people are concerned hard time led to heroic accomplishments is offered by the general elections just completed in various states over the country.

Emerging in the results, like a shining beacon across a blue-black, benighted bay is the fact that black voters have made unprecedented strides during this election.

Three more black representatives in the lower House of Congress, three new sheriffs and a judge in Alabama — and numerous other political gains in a variety of locales.

The fascinating thing about this is these strides have been made not during the national Administration of a John F. Kennedy, but during the time of a bland Richard M. Nixon and a vituperative Spiro T. Agnew.

How do I explain this phenomenon?" I asked the AFRO's political column, Dr. G. James Fleming, head of Morgan State College's Political Institute.

* * *

"How do you account for the fact that we have done so well this election — in the political climate where has been less favorable to us after only about three per cent of the legislation already in the works.

And about 10 per cent in his second and third years. And then he is off campaigning again on company time at that, at your expense and mine, please note.

The millions of dollars spent (squandered!) these many weeks by our President and Vice-President come out of our hides! Shocking! But we've been brainwashed to accept this as a way of life.

When will it end?

B. J. SMALL

Perspective

Desperation To Triumph

By DAVID E. SLOAN

Contrary to the proclamation of the olden black spiritual, somebody does know the trouble we blacks have seen, and as proof, all one has to do is visit any of the public libraries in any section of the country.

There he will find the tortured record of the downs and outs of black Americans.

And he will also find the heroic responses we have made to oppression.

The recent record of our history is indeed a story more of being "sometimes up" than of being "sometimes down."