Baltimore Afro-American

"I am a man of peace, God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
—Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth.

Prayer Of The Week

Our Father in heaven, help us to realize the blessings of the family altar and hold Thou before us always our holy responsibility for the spiritual impress of our homes. . . Amen.

A-4 AUGUST 28, 1965

The Time Is Now

We are glad to see the urgency of the Department of Justice in registering voters in the southern states under the new voting laws.

It is hard for a man, denied the ballot for his lifetime, to jump up and down when the 1965 voting rights law was passed only to find out that the President's "You register. You vote now" did not mean him.

U.S. Attorney General Katzenbach must find means to put Federal registrars to work everywhere the new law requires.

We hope he changes "with all deliberate speed" to "now."

The District Judge And Police Captain

What Baltimore needs is a district judge on the federal bench.

When the AFRO first mentioned this, the answer was there is no Jewish lawyer on the district bench.

But we have no judge either on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City or the State Court of Appeals.

Need number two: A captain of police who can assist the good citizens in handling punks who rob houses and molest women and children.

We can make our streets safer with a colored captain and, in the beginning, provide enough cops to put one on every street corner if necessary.

Let's add to that some ideas on parking more of the repeat youthful violators of law in well-run state training schools.

Kennedy And Lincoln, Too

John F. Kennedy's personal secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, and Theodore Sorenson, his chief speech writer, have just published their intimate pictures of the late President.

Both are charged with unethical conduct and disloyalty to the former chief. Both will make a lot of money.

Both felt they had contributed a great deal to the President for which they got no credit.

There are a lot of questionable practices our generation sanctions.

A college professor assigns his students to write certain papers then uses this research to write a book under his own name.

A doctor who charged $15,000 to $30,000 for certain delicate operations seldom went in the operating room. He hired and assistant at $15,000 a year to do the work.

Athletes take credit for writing books and preachers for delivering sermons without giving ghost writers or John Wesley any credit.

None of this is new. After the death of President Abraham Lincoln, the White House dressmaker, Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley, who was colored, published a very intimate book.

It revealed that Mrs. Lincoln henpecked her husband, embarrassed him in public by her jealousy, and kept him in debt by her expeditures for clothes.

Historians Challenged To Complete The Picture

Dean Sprague is not dean of anything.

He is a civilian employee of the Department of Defense living in Rockville, Md.

But his new book, "Freedom Under Lincoln", Houghten Mifflin Co., $5.95, is about a period in history of which Maryland cannot be proud.

The years were 1861 and early 1862.

Southern states had seceded from the Union. The first troops from the North answering Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers were attacked as they passed through Baltimore April 19, 1861.

Four soldiers and 12 civilians were killed.

Railroad tracks, bridges and telegraph lines were cut to prevent any more troops from passing through.

City Council appropriated funds to raise its own troops. City and state officials went to Washington and demanded that President Lincoln respect Maryland's neutrality in the war.

Gradually, Lincoln lowered the boom.

Troops occupied Annapolis.

Chief of Police George Kane was arrested a little after midnight June 30 at 1 a.m., by a detachment of 1,000 federal troops.

(Today, Baltimore police still have the reputation of arresting citizens charged with crimes by awakening them in the middle of the night and carting them off to the hoosegow.)

Federal troops converged on Baltimore from four directions.

The city was put under martial law with a new police chief named by the Union commander.

One after another the police commissioners, the city's mayor, leading citizens such as Teakle Wallis and Ross Winans, the millionaire who had taken sides with the South, were imprisoned in Fort McHenry.

Three newspapers, hostile to the Union, were suppressed and their editors arrested. The America, which was pro-Union, and the Sun which had attacked the federal occupation relentlessly, were not suppressed. The Sun escaped by never again expressing an editorial opinion during the war, Sprague said.

Southern sympathizers were not permitted to speak or write against the Union or to vote in the new election for Mayor, City Council or Legislature.

By occupying the city with troops, muzzling the press, controlling elections and arresting all who disagreed with him, President Abraham Lincoln used the measures he deemed necessary to keep Maryland in the Union.

Federal power replaced state power.

What were we doing during this period? Baltimore's colored population at the time was 85,000.

Sprague's skillful drawing of the general scene is a challenge to our own historians to complete the picture.

In The Promised Land

"Manchild in the Promised Land," is a new book which has attracted wide attention.

Author Claude Brown writes about a world of thieves, pimps, prostitutes junkies, killers, pushers and faggots in which he grew up in Harlem.

He escaped it to get a college education at Howard and enroll in its law school.

What mystifies us is not that there is degradation and ugliness in the dives of our cities, but that anyone who had been able to get away from it would want to write about it in the first person.

And we said the same thing when Ethel Waters wrote her life story.

Bigger Space Ship

When space ships become as large as passenger planes, powered by nuclear engines, and lift from the ground as easily as helicopters, we will look back with amusement to the 1965 Gemini 5.

We will say, look how small Gemini 5 was and you couldn't even go to the bathroom, clean your teeth after meals or wash under your arms.

Summer's Over

Summer ends officially Sept. 21 and autumn begins.

But actually the end of August is the end of summer and the end of November is the end of autumn.

If you do not believe summer is over before Sept. 21, then hear this.

Public schools open for "every living youngster" on Sept. 7.

49 More Days For The Fair

The great New York's World's Fair has 49 days before final closing.

Henry Ford, General Motors, Du Pont, Chrysler, RCA, Eastman-Kodak, Bell Telephone Co., Johnson's Wax, all giants of industry, saw their multimillion dollar exhibits overrun by hundreds of thousands who became awed by our progress in science.

If you haven't been to the Fair, there is still time.

And just inside the gate is the chief of the Fair's Public Relations Department.

Some AFRO readers will remember him as Frederick Weaver, one time reporter for the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.

The 'Gentle' South

Our Readers Say:

Welfare Payments

Dear AFRO:

In your unique position of champion for colored people's rights, I would like to urge your support for indigent citizens so that they might receive more adequate assistance from the Department of Public Welfare.

That government agency has never been able to function as its professional staff and board members know it should.

The poor who do not hire and fire are chastised because they have not been able to make the masters of our affluent society respect their human needs.

The maximum allowance of $230 a month for a mother even if she has seven or more children is as cruel as Pharaoh demanding that bricks be made without straw.

I wonder how many reading this letter know the number of women who must support 12 children on the $230 maximum.

The public, particularly those who receive public assistance, should write to the Governor, the Mayor and to members of the legislature demanding that the Department of Public Welfare be given funds to meet the economic and social needs of clients in a manner more compatible with reality.

I would like to see a series of articles about the Department of Public Welfare so that public attention would be focused on a basic part of our community life.

MRS. GILBERT L. BANFIELD

Workshop Role

Dear AFRO:

It was a pleasure to tour your plant during the Newspaper Workshop.

Thank you for the hospitality shown by your staff then and for many other ways your organization has helped to make the workshop a success.

The trip to the Whig-Cecil offset plant at Elkton was a success and the bus trip provided through the courtesy of the AFRO was much enjoyed.

Consequently, on the information acquired during the past two weeks, I am sure the 78 teachers in the workshop have learned a great deal about newspapers, and particularly about the part played by your newspaper as an active and influential member of the press in the Atlantic states.

I am particularly grateful for the contribution made by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Moss (AFRO vice president). She was most helpful in the planning stage, and was willing to help when needed during the workshop's operation.

VERNON FANTY
Associate Professor
Towson State College

Newspaper Workshop

Dear AFRO:

The Newspaper Workshop held at Towson State College recently, was very worthwhile, and I wanted you to known how much I appreciate the part your paper played in making it a success.

(Miss) SARAH E. DORN
English Teacher
South Hagerstown High

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signatures will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St.

Business and Labor

By STERLING A. PAIGE

Steel Lay-Offs?

With only three days remaining before the strike deadline set by the United Steel Workers Union against the steel industry, the union has turned down a new contract offer as unacceptable.

With the union demanding an increase of almost 18 cents an hour, the latest offer by management is believed to be around nine to twelve cents an hour.

The union, barring some last minute settlement, is free to call an industry - wide strike at midnight Tuesday.

Meanwhile, as negotiations continue and the threat of a strike looms close, local union officials have voiced apprehension concerning a possible heavier - than-usual fall lay-off at the Sparrows Point Plant.

Union spokesman explain their fears as being based on the greatly increased production at the local plant during the four - month contract extension that ends at strike deadline.

The extension was granted to set back the spring strike deadline that found the Steelworkers battling among themselves in one of the hottest contests in the history of the union's elections of international officers.

Following the election of the new president, I. W. Abel, negotiations proceeded, accompanied by determined efforts of Big Steel to build a huge back-log of steel to serve as a buffer against impending strike.

Much of that steel is now in the hands of the industry's customers and even the industry itself expect a drastic cut-back in orders until demand catches up with supply.

Steelworkers have for months been tightening up the purse strings in preparation for labor strife; however, increased overtime work to take care of the production push should find most workers in better straits than during the last strike.

ABOUT BUSINESS

E. J. KORVETTE CO., operators of discount stores, has diversified its activities with its acquisition of the assets of NAC Charge Plan. A further move into the credit and finance field finds Korvette also taking over the Northern Acceptance Corp.

In another huge diversification, A. G. Foods, Inc. (operators of Gino's Restaurants) has bought into several insurance companies with assets running into millions.

• • •

FAUNTLEROY'S SEA FOOD business, now operating stalls in Lafayette Market, is another Baltimore business in continuous operation for more than 50 years.

Many will remember the original store that was operated by Amassa C. Fauntleroy Sr. at 555 Baker St. when the present owner was a mere lad.

Political Notebook

Max Alpert's Joke

By MAX JOHNSON

Maxwell Alpert — new 4th District House of Delegates appointee and chairman, Democratic State Central Committee—must get credit for the joke of the month.

He has announced his Pollack faction controlled State Central Committee is going to seek court action against Gov. Tawes.

They—that is the Pollack faction committee members—hope through the courts to force Gov. Tawes to oust the two Democratic members of the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections, Mrs. Betty M. Silbert and Henry W. Stickel Jr.

Anyway you look at it—here's a guffa of the old-fashioned, knee slapping type.

Max Alpert just had to be grinning when he said it.

Let's briefly review what this is all about.

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THE TERMS of Mrs. Silbert and Mr. Stichel have expired—but they are still serving on this salaried board.

Normally—Gov. Tawes would have been expected to either replace them or attempt to reappoint one or both at the past winter session of the General Assembly.

But — matters were far from normal in the eyes of the governor at time, in respect to these two political job plums.

First, the Democratic State Central Committee kept sending Gov. Tawes a list of recommendations — loaded from top to bottom with Pollack faction people.

This committee had the backing of four of the city's six state senators—who had banded in some wheelin' and dealin' for other factional seats on the Liquor Board.

The four senators could thus block any nominees the governor sent down not to their liking—which in this case would be pleasing to the State Central Committee.

• • •

SO GOV. TAWES— who immediately begins a slow burn at mere mention of the Pollack faction or James H. (Jack) Pollack, its leader—just sat back and ignored the whole thing.

The four senators couldn't do anything with no nominees before them —and if the surprised, rebuffed State Central Committee could have done something, it didn't.

The law holds that Mrs. Silbert and Mr. Stichel will continue to serve until replaced —or they may be reappointed.

The law also reads that the governor will make a selection from the list furnished him by the State Central Committee — but he didn't.

So far, Gov. Tawes has won the fight—without getting off his stool in his corner.

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NOW—Max Alpert and his Pollack faction supporters want court action against the governor, to force him to act to their liking.

Circumstances are such that up must pop the rib-tickling questions — what court and where.

Gov. Tawes is rounding out the seventh year of two terms in office—and has appointed more judges in Baltimore courts and those throughout the state than any of his predecessors.

This includes the state's Court of Appeals.

Yup. You're right. A whole lot if the judges are the governor's men.

Those who are not Tawes' appointees are close associates of other judges who are.

And a simple statement of law has been known to have many court interpretations.

• • •

THERE MUST be considered however, still another key person in this Pollack faction's proposed drama—Tom Finan, Maryland's attorney general.

Should the thing progress to actual court action—Mr. Finan would have the chore of presenting Gov. Tawes' case and protecting his interest as chief executive of this state.

Mr. Finan is the governor's man, too—he's all but announced Democratic candidate for the governorship next year to succeed the Tawes Administration.

There are a number of legal avenues open to him—to keep the whole thing in paper work for months.

And if the issue did somehow get out of a lower court sometime next year with a Pollack faction victor, Mr. Finan would certainly take it to the Court of Appeals.

BY THE time this court got around to it, next year's elections would have passed, a new governor voted in office—leaving the whole thing a moot matter.

So—what is Max Alpert and his Pollack faction pulling off?

Until they get their own judges, their own attorney general — consider the thing a joke.

Max Alpert and his Pollack faction controlled Democratic State Central Committee are facing a stacked political deck —and if they don't know it, they ought to.

Pin-Point

Accentuating The Positive

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

Since our last meeting on this corner a lot has happened. Much of it we could have done well without.

A few examples: Los Angeles, acceleration of Viet Nam escalation; Juan Marichal's inability to distinguish between baseballs and bare heads; the disintegration of the Orioles; emergence of the Stob Racing; the stacked Police Complaint Evaluation Board, and you name it and we've had it.

It is deemed here, however, that it is appropriate at this point to accentuate the positive.

Thus a brief review of a few of the events which give hope that some long-standing bad situations show signs of improvement.

Particularly heartening is the vigorous and badly needed action taken by new Insurance Commissioner Francis B. Burch to protect the interest of motorists.

Before Mr. Burch took up the reins of the State Insurance Department, a disturbingly large segment of the motoring public was at the mercy of shady insurance dealers who thrived under the administration of his precedessor, F. Douglas Sears.

In the brief time he has been in office the new commissioner has not only halted the operations of two firms, suspected of wrong doing, but has warned the estimated 18,000 motorists, who have suddenly discovered they are insuranceless, to be extremely careful in seeking new coverage.

• • •

SPECIFICALLY, MR. BURCH has urged all insurance seekers not to plank down hard-earned money and walk out with a worthless receipt thinking they are covered.

"If you get a receipt and don't receive a policy within 10 days, notify the Insurance Department immediately," he warns.

Better yet, Mr. Burch advises, motorists who have questions concerning the validity of any firm, should consult his office.

Those finding it difficult to get insurance coverage should go to the Assigned Risk Plan, which was created for that purpose, the commissioner announced.

He has further promised a hard look at the heretofore ignored scheme of insurance coverage based on the color and address of applicants.

Another forward step was the addition of William T. S. Bricker as chairman of the Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund.

Unfortunately, few men have demonstrated they know the real weaknesses of the auto insurance operation. Fortunately, Bill Bricker is one of them.

The combine of Mr. Bricker, Mr. Burch, and Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner John R. Jewell gives promise that brighter days are ahead for many beleaguered motorists.

• • •

ALSO TAKING on an encouraging look is the local war on poverty program with the selection of Parren J. Mitchell as executive director.

The ouster of Dr. Humphrey, charges and countercharges of vested interests, politics, wheeling and dealing has left the project in a bad state.

Its deterioration had, in fact, become the number one headache for Washington.

Past performances on the part of Mr. Mitchell are reasons enough here to believe that the poverty fight will gain new momentum and effectiveness.

In this connection it is mandatory that Gov. J. Millard Tawes fill immediately the vacancy left by Mr. Mitchell to insure the continued vigorous leadership the Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations has known under his leadership.

Initial activity of Dr. Laurence G. Paquin, new school superintendent, is another cause to expect concrete action on age-old problems plaguing that agency and Baltimore's inner-city school children.

And if the superintendent is open for suggestions, one man would urge him to take a critical look at some of the system's policy makers who shoulder a major share of the responsibility for the current state of affairs in the Department of Education.

• • •

WITH the upsurge in voter registration on our side of the political sphere, a warning is in order.

The gubernatorial candidates are lining up their horses for the big race. How many will make the run is not known at this early date. It's a sure thing, however, that there will be more than enough.

This is not the concern here, however, because that's news like dog bites man.

What is of major concern, though, is the fact that each of the candidates will make a bid to snare his share of our votes.

In so doing each aspiring governor will select a "colored representative" to protect his interest in Negro votes.

At this early stage, it can be predicted with a high degree of certainty that at least three major factions will be dueling for our votes.

There may be a better way to neutralize or dissipate a group's voting power, but none has been found yet.

Our political, community, and religious leaders should therefore be extremely vigilant of the possibility of squandering the effectiveness of a newly emerging political force.

Rice and Girard

Two colored freshmen will enter Rice University in Texas. They will be the first. William Marsh Rich in 1891 set up a tuition free school limited to white students only.

Texas courts struck down these two restrictions. They ruled it was Rice's intentions to set up a first-class college and these limitations prevented it.

Stephen Girard established a school in Philadelphia under similar circumstances. Despite law suits in 1841 and 1897, Girard is still lily-white.

The new Texas guide lines may show Philadelphia lawyers how to ask courts to rewrite the Girard will so this school can open its doors to all students.

AFRO Credo

A newspaper records because its main argument believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the citizens it supplies.

Whether it has an other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future secured.

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

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corrupted and corrupting influences prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., 1922

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