Why Anti-Poverty Fight Lags

By RAY ABRAMS
(First of Series)

The anti-poverty program—born in a hurricane of controversy— has yet to dig its way out from under the critical debris which has been heaped upon it since its very inception.

Nationally, as well as locally, whatever the number of its admirers, its real friends are few. Even the poor, who stand to profit from the program, are skeptical about it and quite reluctant to respond to what it has to offer.

Ironically, the criticism comes not only from the far right of the political spectrum from those who see every governmental welfare effort as part of the communist menace. Nasty noise has been heard from the left as well.

Some of the opposition has been inspired by paranoia, some by prejudice ("It's all for the colored"), but there are also those who sincerely believe that the philosophy of the program is self-defeating, that its aim is merely to adapt the poor to their misery.

In short, some say that the program has gone too far; others, that it has not gone far enough. Whatever the political orientation of the attacks, the program remains short on praise (even where it deserves it) and long on condemnation (even where it does not deserve it).

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BUT INSPITE of the "bad press" those who head up Baltimore's war on poverty are optimistic in their undertaking and though they sometimes try to explain their shortcomings, they rarely try to justify their mistakes.

As a matter of fact, those at the top at least readily admit that all is far from what it should be, far even from what it could be.

One thing is immediately clear: Locally, the program has not been in operation long enough to be judged on results alone. It is still in the "experimental phase," still in the throes of organization, still hampered by much unnecessary "bureaucratic red tape" which stretches through the city government all the way to Washington, D.C. and back.

Before a proposal is converted into a productive program it has to make 15 stops along the way in order to reach the poor. The delay involved from inception to implementation is thus made obvious.

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FURTHERMORE, there is the Civil Service to consider. Under the legislation which brought the poverty program to Baltimore, all but the top positions in the Community Action Agency are covered by local civil service rules and regulations.

This was done to keep the poverty jobs out of the clutches of political patronage and Parren J. Mitchell, the executive director of the CAA, would have it no other way.

But the control by the Civil Service Commission has had its drawbacks, too. Current eligibility lists are clogged with people who are ill suited for what the poverty program has in mind.

The way civil service operates, no new tests will be offered until the current lists are depleted.

That system is part of the answer why there are numerous vacancies at the staff level of the Action Agency. Other jobs go unfilled because the lists available "are filly white."

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ALL THIS is now under discussion and poverty officials are confident that an adjustment in current procedure is possible.

"Though we have run into some difficulty with the Civil Service Commission," Mr. Mitchell admitted during an interview this week, "God knows I would not want these jobs not to be under civil service."

Mr. Mitchell explained that in a number of other cities (which he did not name) poverty jobs were hopelessly lost in the "pork barrels" of political patronage.

In Baltimore, he asserted, political influence, though exerted, is ineffective. He declared that he had recently rebuffed a caller from Washington who tried to get "a friend" a job.

According to Mr. Mitchell, his political problems are few. He feels confident that he will be able to hold his own against such pressure, no matter what the source.

Recently, two city councilmen tried to make inroads into the Agency and were politely told to lay off. In this, Baltimore seems to be better off than the cities which have tossed the jobs to the local politicians. At least the scandals predicted for those cities will not rock this town.

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BUT SOME apparent improprieties seem to be lurking here, though the coming months may prove otherwise.

For eample, all those whose have contracts with Community Action Agency were told to make reports available ton where the money was going, and to what end and how many "poor people" were actually being reached.

To date, no reports have been submitted. Some of them are long overdue.

The reason for this can partly be explained by the troubles which plagued the local agency in the early days after it came into existence this past February.

For a while the Agency was without a director and this might account for the laxness shown to those who owed reports.

"We are getting after them," Mr. Mitchell said. "As a matter of fact, as of last Friday, we are demanding a monthly report," he added.

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ANOTHER REASON why the local poverty effort has been less productive than it could be, is attributed to the fact that there are no poor people serving on the 11-member Commission which supervises the local program.

An ordinance is now being considered by the City Council which would increase the Commission membership to 15 with the addition of four people who are actually poor and who live in the action area.

Attempts are now underway to secure quick passage of this ordinance which has been bottled up in committee. But the involvement of the poor at the planning would not stop there.

Plans are being drawn up for approval which would seat poor people on the important committees which are part of the Commission's approach to the war on poverty.

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THE CONTRACTS which have gone out to date, have gone out to established agencies.

Partly because of this, the creativity which has been anticipated in the battle against poverty has yet to materialize.

It is hoped, that the inclusion of the poor at the planning level might yield new, functional approaches to the problems faced by the disadvantaged.

No one at the agency seems to have any gripes about the Commission members. Mr. Mitchell feels that they are all enthusiastic about what they are doing.

He did admit, however, that there are some members who relate better to th problems of the poor, though all, he was quick to add, are sincere in their work.

What trouble he has had, in the short time he has been executive director, has had to do with raising a quorom of members necessary to hold a scheduled Commission meeting. But this, he feels, will change for the better.

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IN DISCUSSING his Agency, Mr. Mitchell pointed out that he has been head of it for less than five weeks.

"I am still getting the hang of things," he said.

In admitting that, however he was being more modest than honest. He obviously has the hang of things, even if he has yet to be told about some of the details.

As far as the philosophy of the Agency is concerned its new executive director had this to say:

"Certain aspects of this program (the poverty war) are clearly defined. Others—well there I am still groping for answers.

"My theory is this: If you organize the poor people and you show them where they can get some of the services which were previously denied them, they'll begin thinking politically."

He is opposed to a paternalistic approach. The thing to do, Mr. Mitchell suggested, is to get the poor thinking and they will soon begin to act.

Once they become politically oriented, they will act and then perhaps (and here he added that Washington may not have seen the full implications) the status quo will change.

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IN THE meantime the neighborhoods are being canvassed, people are being motivated and some results, even if small in comparison with what is needed, have already appeared.

In some areas, certain city services, such as garbage collection, have begun to show up.

"It may be that this thing will fall flat on its face," he said at one point during the three-hour interview, "but let's give the program a chance.

"I don't see any other program geared as of right now to get the kind of involvement which we hope to get out of what we are doing."

Druid Hill office okayed by Zoning

The continued operation of the stenographic offices of Mrs. Ethel Rich at 1727 Druid Hill Ave. was approved Tuesday by the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.

Approval was conditioned however, that the operations not be advertised as such in the yellow pages of the telephone classified directory.

Mrs. Rich, who resides on the property, services among others Councilman Henry G. Parks Jr.

The board has no hearings scheduled for the coming Tuesday.

Job openings

Applications for the following positions, unless otherwise noted, should be submitted to the Central Personnel Office, Room 251, 520 Pennsylvania Avenue, BW.

Detention Guard, (Female) GS-5 (Detention Home, Rt. 695)
Clerk-Stenographer, GS-4
Clerk-Typist, Three and 5
Guard (must have preference and eligibility), GS-4
Architect, GS-9 and 10
Mechanical Engineer, GS-12
Street Motor Scooters, WSS-11 and 12
Boiler Fireman (Custodian) WSS-5 and 7 (must have third class license)
Structural Engineer, GS-12
Classification Specialist, GS-11
Civil Engineer, GS-7 and 9
Buildings and Grounds Manager, GS-11
Shorthand Reporter, GS-6
Secretary (Steno.), GS-6 (non-status)
Operating Accountant, GS-6
Tax Auditor, GS-6
Fringe Benefits Clerk (Typing), GS-4
Public Health Nurse Consultant, GS-13 (non - status)
Staff Nurse, GS-5, 6 and 7
Dental Health Officer, GS-12 and 13
Public Health Nurse, GS-5 and 7
Supv. Medical Officer (Psychological Anatomy and Clinical Pathology), GS-15 (non-status)
Occupational Therapist, GS-5
Physical Therapist, GS-5
Medical Officer, GS-14 or 15 (Asst. Thoracic Surgeon) (non - competitive)
Supv. Dental Officer, GS-14 (non-status)
Veterinarian Scientist, GS-12
Public Health Educators, GS-9 and 11
Medical Technologist, GS-4, 6 and 7
Supv. Medical Officer (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) GS-14
Clerk-Typist, GS-4
Social Service Representative, GS-9
Microbiologist, GS-9
Pharmacist, GS-9
Sanitarian, GS-7, 9 and 11
Chief Treatment Division, GS-18 (non-status)
Social Workers, GS-9 and 11
Hospital Recreation Specialist, GS-9
Hospital Guards, GS-5
In addition to the above vacancies the Department of Public Health is recruiting for the following positions for which grades have not been established. The proposed titles and grades are shown for initial screening and consideration.
Statistician (Health) GS-12
Dental Officer, GS-12
Social Workers, GS-9, 10 and 11
Nurse, GS-5 and 6
Home Economist, GS-5
Medical Officer (Anesthesiology) GS-15
Public Health Nurse, GS-5 and 7
Supv. Nutritionist, GS-9

Westinghouse gets contract

The Westinghouse Defense and Space Center has been awarded a contract to build a central data processor for the information center of the Royal Canadian Navy's new highspeed anti - submarine hydrofoil.

The unit will provide processing of information for the complex electronic equipment which controls the ship's weapons system.

The hydrofoil is scheduled for completion and sea trials in 1968.

Mrs. M. L. King to give concert and Coppin talk

Mrs. Coretta King, wife of Nobel prize winner Dr. Martin Luther King will give her first music concert in the Baltimore area at Coppin State College at 8:15 p.m., Dec. 2.

On Dec. 3, Mrs. King will give a talk on her personal involvement in the civil rights movement in the Coppin College auditorium at 11 a.m. Both events are open to the public free.

INSTITUTE ON JUDAISM

The Sisterhood of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation will hold its January meeting, the third of its Diamond Jubilee Year, on Dec. 6.

The meeting will be devoted to "The Institute on Judaism and Christianity." Purpose of the institute is to bring about an exchange of information that will lead to a greater understanding of the various faiths.

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- Mechanical Engineers — Mechanical design of electronic equipment and components. Minimum of BSME or equivalent required.
- Manufacturing Engineers — Design and development of manufacturing and test equipment, applications and processes. Equipment maintenance engineering. Minimum of BSEE or BSME or equivalent required.
- Specialists — In chemical engineering or engineering physics, advanced mathematics, computer programming, quality control theory and application, production management and control, shop supervision.

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443 South Warren Street, Syracuse, N.Y.
MR. MAHER — Director Job Development and Employment
Phone — Area Code 315 - 472 - 6955

Thursday, it's traditional to serve roast tom turkey, oyster dressing, cranberry sauce pumpkin pie.

And him.

Kentucky straight Bourbon whiskeys. 86 proof and 100 proof bottled in bond. Distilled and bottled at the Forks of the Elkhorn by the Old Grand-Dad Distillery Co., Frankfort, Ky.

Calvert County News

By MELVINIA EDWARDS

Funeral services for Guy Pratt, husband of Mrs. Rebecca Pratt, were held Saturday at St. Edmonds Methodist Church.

A native of Calvert County, Mr. Edwards died on Wednesday at Calvert County Hospital. He was the son of William and Maggie Pratt.

Survivors include, in addition to his wife, two sons and three daughters.

The Rev. and Mrs. James Davis gave a dinner at their home on Duvall Ave. Sunday in honor of her niece, Sgt. and Mrs. Robert Thomas, who was stationed in Kentucky, but has been transferred to Texas.

Guests included Mrs. Jeremiah Hall Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Prann, the Rev. and Mrs. William Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. John Prann Jr. (Martha), and son; John Jr.; John Wesley Branford and Mrs. Laura Gould.

Mrs. Thomas is the former Miss Winfred Prann, former student at the University of Maryland.

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A NEW subscriber for the AFRO is Mrs. Ellen Fletcher, of Huntingtown Md.

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SERVICES SUNDAY at 1:30 p.m. by the Rev. Mrs. Deloris Smith.

Parron Wilson, who is now in his Washington home, is reported better.

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AT THE funeral services held at Cooper Methodist Church for Miss Lillian Wilson, the names of Clarence Roberts (her employer), of Ames Church; and Warner Brown, who gave remarks of her good deeds, were left out.

Also Mrs. Clarence Roberts, Mrs. Indianna Young and Mrs. Lucille Custis, all from Ames Church.

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SEND CARDS of cheer to Mrs. Nettie Coates, mother of Herman Coates, and family, who is on the sick list.

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MRS. IDA SMITH, of Owings is ill at the Washington home of her daughter, Miss Mary Smith.

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MELVIN JONES is ill at Perry Point Hospital.

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CONTINUE YOUR prayers for W. Wills, husband of Mrs. Manora Wills, of Friendship, who is ill in Washington Hospital.

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FRANK CARROLL, of Huntingtown, husband of Mrs. Mary Carroll, is ailing.

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MRS. LUCILLE JONES, wife of Kinsey Jones, is slowly improving.

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SAY A prayer for Miss Jean Pumphry, former senior of Bowie State College.

Miss Pumphry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Methulah Pumphry (Mary), of Lothian Md.

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RUSSELL SMITH, teenage son of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith (Dorothy), had an accident and cannot see out of one of his eyes.

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DENISE VALERIE WATKINS, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Watkins (Jeanette), was baptized at Peters Church Sunday.

NOV. 19

The regular monthly meeting of the Maryland Port Authority will be held at 11 a.m. at the Authority's headquarters, Pier 2, Pratt St.

TIRED, BURNING EYES?
GET FAST SOOTHING RELIEF!
GOLDEN EYE DROPS
Soothes, Cleanses and Refreshes the Eyes
Sun and wind... dust and smoke and fumes... poor lighting and fatigue can irritate your eyes. Relief is at hand all ways with these delicate tissues of your eyes. Red, burning, smarting, aching eyes are the result.
GOLDEN EYE DROPS will give you fast, soothing, refreshing relief. Carry this handy squeeze bottle in your pocket or purse. A few drops will do the trick, anytime, anywhere.
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Honor 4 at Edmondson

Four students of Edmondson High School were the recipients of awards made by the West End Optimist Club in observance of National Youth Appreciation Week on Nov. 11.

Delores Clark and Marvin Eunels received plaques for achievement while Jacqueline Oliver and Charles Pittman were similarly recognized for outstanding athletic achievement.

Over 1,000 students and faculty members attended the special ceremony held at the school.

Richard Price, governor of Maryland district Optimist International, made the presentations. In his talk, Mr. Price said the significance of Youth Appreciation Week is a means of reminding the community of the true caliber of teenagers by recognizing and publicizing their outstanding achievements.

THE DELINQUENTS, Mr. Price stated, "represent only five percent of today's youth."

Joining him in paying tribute to the students were Robert Perry, past president of the West End Club. Gerald Cole, vice president, and Joseph Teutzer, boys work chairman.

FREEDOM HOSTESSES for the NAACP Thanksgiving Freedom Festival tonight (Friday) at the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel are, (l-r), Mesdames Flozella Clark, Celonia Walden, Eula Mae Watts, Rosa James, Irene Dorsey, Lucinda Gardner, Antoinette Moseley, Nellie Jackson and Pauline Watts. (l-r) are Mesdames John Thornton, Edith Allen, Dora Caldwell, Ida Rusell, Sallie Flecher and Mamie Diggs. Not shown: Mesdames Harry Mazer, Susie Murphy, Olga Rodney, Alease Hunt, Mary Taylor, Helen Crosby, Jeanette Christmas, Lillian Jones, Janice Tribble and Clarice Reid.

NOV. 18

The Fairmount Hill Junior-Senior High PTA will hold its first night meeting at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium at Fairmount Ave. and Ann Sts. A panel discussion will precede the meeting.

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ADA praises Rep. Long on Ober Law attack

Congressman Clarence D. Long was commended this week by a Baltimore Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, for his call for repeal of the Ober Law.

Murray Abramson, head of the city's House delegation in the General Assembly, announced some weeks ago he would introduce such repealing legislation at the winter Assembly Session.

A letter to Congressman Long, signed by Herman Westerberg, ADA chairman, stated in part:

"In basing your appeal on the necessity of a climate of academic freedom and excellence to attract to our state the new laboratory of the Atlohic Engery Commission, you have undoubtedly found a lot persuasive argument.

"Proponents of the law have not been much concerned about the injury done to individuals . . . nor for the loss of service of individual scientists like Dr. Bentley Glass, who refused to sign the oath.

"But the threat to the location of the new AEC laboratory in Maryland exposes fully the anti - intellectual nature of the Ober Law, and the degrading image it gives our state."

The law has come under considerable fire during recent months, touched off with an appearance at the University of Maryland of Bayard Rustin, civil rights leader from New York City.

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If you haven't, cheer up. You've got something to look forward to.
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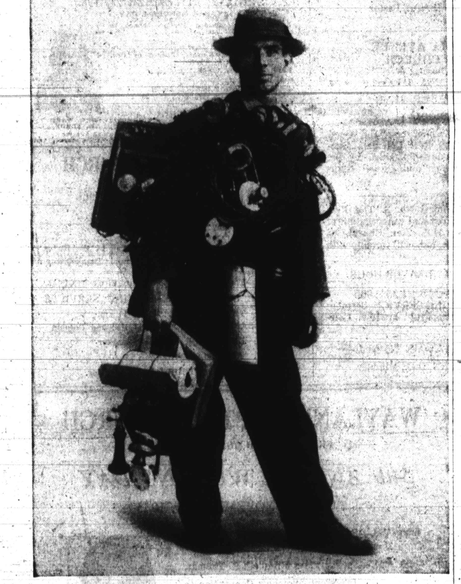

What ever happened to Chester?

An installer-repairman for C&P—he was last seen around the turn of the century, walking Baltimore's cobblestone streets, past rows of tightly clustered homes on his way to install one of those newfangled telephones. What he needed for his job was a little knowledge of electricity and a very strong back.

Chester probably wouldn't recognize his job today. For one thing he wouldn't have to lug that stuff around on his back anymore. Oh sure, he'd still have to know your telephone inside out. But he'd also have to bone up on a mile-high pile of other communications equipment that has been developed in the last fifty years to give you ever-improving service.

Chester's job has changed. So have most jobs at the telephone company. The only thing that hasn't changed is the way all of us at C&P keep trying to bring to everyone in Maryland the best possible telephone service now and in the years to come.

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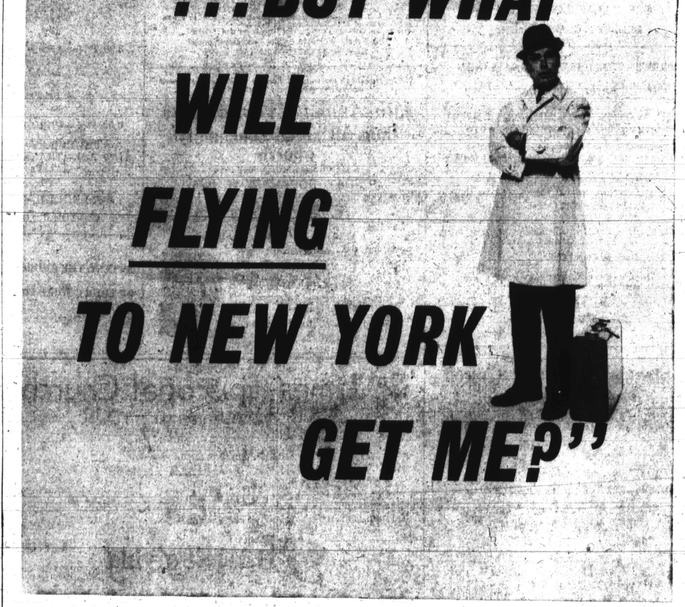

("Lots more time in New York!")

Flying time from Friendship to New York is about an hour . . . and when you land you're approximately 30 minutes from the heart of the city. Compare this with other travel time and you've already gained between an hour and an hour-and-a-half in New York. That's important . . . if time means money to you.

And consider the fast flight back. You enjoy dinner at home instead of grabbing a bite along the way.

There are 34 flights every weekday between Friendship and New York, so you can make the trip at your convenience.

When you include Friendship's low parking rates, free shuttle bus transportation between parking lot and terminal and the superb service you get from airlines . . . flying to New York makes sense.

See you at Friendship!

Fly Friendship . . . your convenient airport serving both Baltimore and Washington.