EDITORIALS

What The AFRO Stands For

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

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, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

An Additional Burden

They say that Gov. Marvin Mandel is riding high enough these days that he needs only snap his fingers to get anyting he wants.

One of the irresponsible things he now wants is to use public taxes to support elementary and prep level private schools.

It is questionable whether the courts wil permit this to be done. Even the governor concedes that passage of the legislation by the General Assembly would be just one step on the road to opening the state coffers to the galloping needs of the private schools at a time when public schools are faltering in financial straights.

* * *

Taking on additional financial burdens means simply that Maryland would be saying there will not be enough money for either public or private schools.

Private schools are an imporfant element in the educational scheme in Maryland and elsewhere. But they should remain just that, private. The number of private schools available and the number of children able to attend them should be regulated by private means.

If the state must put up more money for public schools because some private schools might close or some pupils cannot afford to attend them, that is what should be done.

Gov. Mandel's plan calls for scholarship grants from $75 to $200. A family with total income of $6,000 would get $200 for a pupil. For every $2,000 in additional income, the grant would be reduced by $50 for the pupil. The cutoff point would be $12,000. Any income over that would result in no assistance.

The nature of many Maryland private schools, as to racial, religious and class composition, cannot be overlooked in this discussion. The location of many of these schools along with some of their academic requirements compound what is negative about their present composition.

* * *

This newspaper's position is that Mr. Mandel, like his study commission, is off on the wrong educational track. The General Assembly should take a hard look at the governor's proposal and prove that it is not a rubber-stamp body.

Even if the courts permit such legislation, that is no reason for it to be enacted.

Race And Politics

Nothing could be more obvious than that race and politics will be the basic considerations when the City Council draws up a plan to redistrict the city's 18 wards in keeping with the one-man, one-vote requirement.

Because of these considerations, it may be impossible for the councilmen to come up with an acceptable plan—that is, from a legal standpoint.

In that event, the federal courts here probably would take over the job of drawing up an acceptable plan.

* * *

That makes the plan drawn up by the Bard Commission terribly important, despite the fact it does not meet with the approval of Mayor D'Alesandro and some councilmen. The Bard Commission's revised report, the one based on Census figures, appears to be very close to what Baltimore needs if it is to have sensible redistricting.

It could be asking too much of Baltimore's City Council to expect it to accept a plan that reflects the changing city.

There is no way to avoid the fact that Baltimore now is about 47 per cent black. The obvious meaning is that a more enlightened electorate is going to demand a representative number of black councilmen and vote for progressive candidates where possible.

What essentially is at stake in redistricting Baltimore's City Council is the creating of a real potential for an elective body that will speak to and act on the needs of the city today and for the future.

Almost every news story and every statement by a public official regarding the redistricting plans speak of the concern whites feel about blacks gaining a more representative number of seats in the council.

But the facts and figures speak for themselves and any plan that does not reflect this reality is not likely to meet the legal standards.

The important thing for councilmen to remember when they feel they must protect their own interest in approving a plan is that the people have more of a vested interest in the final redistricting plan than they have.

Every statistical study available, federal, state or local, says that Baltimore will become more heavily black as time passes. And while redistricting plans are not based on speculative populations, this fact certainly should temper arguments that would attempt to put traditional boundaries and individual Council seats above meeting strictly the tests of a good redistricting plan.

Every effort has to be made to see that the Council comes up with a legally acceptable plan. Short of that it will have to be done by the courts. Meanwhile, Dr. Harry Bard and members of his commission should be proud of the plan they put together. It will serve as a meaningful guideline.

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Women are becoming increasingly discontent with their secondary position in society and their urgent demands for reforms will take on new perspectives and directions.

Women across the country are seeking to raise the consciousness of women and have them become very active in the social struggle that is occurring in the United States today.

* * *

During the past 50 years women have achieved greater freedom and opportunities; but they are still not recognized as truly equal with men in many facets of our society.

Women are banding together at all economic levels because of their concern about the kinds of discrimination they are facing.

There is legal discrimination by which, for example, the legislation once used for their protection can be used now to deny them jobs.

There is educational discrimination which has denied women equal access to vocational training, business schools, universities, and graduate schools.

* * *

There is economic discrimination by which women are not given equal consideration for jobs, job training, or advancement.

Finally, there is psychological discrimination by which women are conditioned to believe that they were never meant to (apire) aspire very high and that inequality is part of the natural state of affairs.

Women and girls just do not value themselves. To correct this, there must be enlightened planning in the education of girls from childhood to maturity to lay the groundwork for this change.

* * *

Remember that parents, relatives, teachers, counselors, peers, husbands, employers and women themselves are the only ones in the final analysis, who determine the educational, vocational, and life goals of girls and women.

And today there is a distinct failure on the part of these persons who guide girls to recognize some of the fundamental differences between developmental patterns of males and females in our society and this need for individual fulfillment.

Girls are entitled to the same opportunities as boys to plan their lives as individuals and as adults to carry out these plans — but the odds are stacked against them.

* * *

From the moment the doctor announces that "it's a baby girl," she is immediately programmed into the pink coor syndrome (that's the color of the caste) and unequal segregation of the sexes will have begun.

The career sights of all too many of our girls are still limited and unrealistic.

Most girls have a romantic image of life: school marriage; a family—and they lived happily ever after.

But this is not the complete picture. Unfortunately, today more and more marriages are going on the rocks, especially young marriages.

* * *

A recent report revealed that the divorce rate in the United States is the highest among countries keeping statistics.

For every 38 men per thousand who get married today 24.2 are dissolving their marriage (in other words after about three to five years, most marriages end up in divorce).

At the average age of 35 years, an increasing number of American husbands are trading in their wives, just like their cars, for new models.

Girls must realize that a more accurate life pattern of the modern woman includes school, work and/or marriage; rearing a family (sometimes continuing to work either by choice or necessity), and a return to work when the youngest child is in school.

This social revolution in the life pattern of American women presents a special challenge to all persons responsible for the counseling of girls.

* * *

Women must set new goals, new priorities for themselves and then unite in the common effort to create a better, more equal world for our young women of the future.

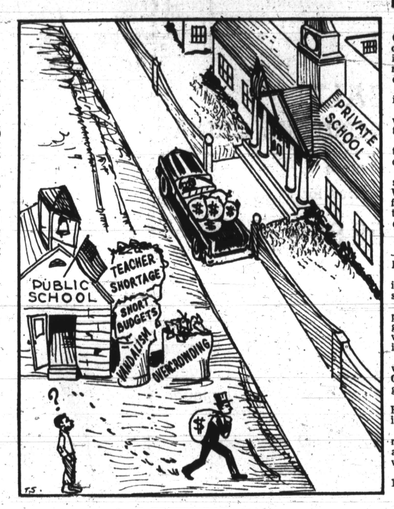
"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of hate and bitterness." — MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Baltimore Afro-American

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

FEBRUARY 27, 1971

No Wonder The Rich Get Richer



COLUMNS

Political Notebook

Md. Redistricting Poses Sticky Issue

By MAX JOHNSON

A select committee of Maryland's General Assembly members of both chambers stepped gingerly this week into the sticky process of drawing new boundaries for the state's eight congressional districts.

Early indications are not heartening.

First off — they have started out without complete maps of all the districts.

This may be inconceivable — but this is how the joint committee began deliberations.

The group consists of five state senators, including Mrs. Verda F. Welcome, the lone black member, four from the House of Delegates and two members of Gov. Marvin Mandel's staff.

* * *

The lack of maps can be overcome — but not so easily another great big hump.

It is that of bread and butter politics — as stacked again st political science of the times.

Veteran Sen Edward T. Hall, a Republican minority member of the group, said out loud at a meeting this week what some others were thinking.

"If we look at the politics of it," he warned, "I question whether this General Assembly will pass any congressional redistricting bill."

That brought this response from Frank Harris, the governor's administrative aide on the committee:

"Any way we cut the state, we are not gerrymandering. The Democrats are in the majority, and if they can't win shame on them."

A hotable beginning — to say the least.

* * *

Initial committee thinking prevailing is that Baltimore City, with 3rd, 4th and 7th Districts fingering out slightly in nearby counties, will have to lose one district — for all three are under the new census mean for each district of 490,300 population.

A few weeks ago — Maryland's new Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, of the 7th District, warned that he would fight to the courts any attempt to dilute the black vote in Baltimore's 46 percent plus black population.

Loss of a city district could bring Mr. Mitchell, the state's first black congressman, out fighting — even before he gets his seat warm.

* * *

The committee, toying with the tentative idea of taking Harford County in the northeastern part of the state out of Congressman Clarence D. Long's 2nd District, drew a stern warning from him.

Veteran Congressman Edward A. Garmatz has stepped into the picture and wants to keep his 3rd District almost intact.

Everybody knows redistricting is necessary — but nobody wants to lose anything.

Reminds of the oid saying — everybody wants to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to die.

* * *

Here is some idea of what the committee faces — in trying to realign congressional district boundaries to come as close as possible to a population mean of 490,300.

Currently the population of the districts stand thusly:

1st — 461,907; 2nd — 497,431; 3rd — 394,287; 4th — 372,386; 5th — 708,245; 6th — 467,584; 7th — 432,278; 8th — 598,281.

It's easy to see that the 5th and 8th Districts both bordering Washington are far over than the 490,300 mean.

The 3rd and 4th Districts in Baltimore are far below.

* * *

As I said previously — if it were an operation based on political science techniques, the whole thing would be less difficult.

But — such is not the case.

Don't look for any early results — acceptable results, that is.

Whatever the committee comes up with, if it comes up with anything at all, will go before the Assembly for scrutiny.

And everybody knows the more people you have with a voice in an issue the more disagreement certain.

There are 185 members of this Maryland Assembly.

This state's Assembly couldn't agree a few years ago on the creation of the then newly authorized 8th District.

I am doubtful that they can agree this time.

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.

Half-Way House

Dear AFRO:

To all concerned college students!

We are starting a program called Aid to Prisoners. The program consists of a volunteer program to help former prisoners find places to live and jobs.

Michael McCormick who heads the effort says he wants this program to be a success. We have a lot of prisoners who are coming out of jail and need a place to live and a job. One way we are going to help is by referring them to a halfway house for rehabilation.

I would like college students because I am writing a letter to the Mayor of Baltimore to request funds for a building so we can help the prisoners and try to set up a program of rehabilitation so the person coming out of jail will be ready for a more productive life.

The group has 30 members. Michael is a City graduate of 1967.

A.I.P. CONCERNED COLLEGE STUDENTS PLEASE CONTACT:
Michael McCormick
3740 Sequoia Ave.
Baltimore, 21217

CHRISTIAN MESSAGE

Dear AFRO:

I use the above greeting loosely. Especially now, as I watch and listen to the commentary unfold concerning Cardinal Shehan's recent actions on behalf of two brother priests and a priest formerly assigned to a Baltimore parish.

I find myself growing very weary, tired and angry with all the apparent public and so-called christian reaction. I ask if we are really being honest with ourselves.

As I walked our streets in 1968, mingling with the National Guards patrolling the same streets, I recall the same weariness and anger.

It seemed too many people really forgot the Christian message and have now totally ignored it.

I ask these people who have attacked the Cardinal — what do you really expect of your priests? what do you expect to gain by all these verbal attacks and threats?

I am furthermore encouraging all who are in any way sympathetic with what the Cardinal stands for to let it be known. Too long have too few tried to speak for the so-called many.

Doesn't charity and justice have a place any more in the Christian message? We do not have to agree with those the Cardinal has befriended, but we can try to gain for them that which all men have a right to — proper and just treatment by others.

Will God ask of us the same judgment we make of the Cardinal and these other men? Only God can truly judge the rightness and wrongness of men's actions.

Men are incapable of judging other men and yet we constantly pretend to have that right. Let's strive to use the most just means we have before we jump to conclusions.

We, too, have to face judgment someday — will we be ready to be treated by God as we have treated others?

I do hope that as days go on we will all soul-search a little bit more.

Rev. THOMAS T. POLK

Black Is Beautiful But Blood Is Fatal

BUTCH FRANKLIN

Some people didn't think it strange that the President apparently deleted the disease Sickle Cell Anemia from his State of the Union Address. Although no White House reporters could provide an answer, nothing was said.

But the President did mention cancer, and simultaneously the 'invisible forces' that do cause change started breathing; jobs were being created, every researcher knew that the money was beginning to flow, the public interest was aroused, and even Newsweek Magazine did a cover story on Cancer.

We can assume that every magazine and newspaper in this country would have had a story on Sickle Cell Anemia if the President had mentioned it, and the cover story of Time and Newsweek may have read something like this:

* * *

"Kevin was a first grade student in a typical city school. His teacher had been noticing that he was never alert, and on several occasions fell asleep in class. Kevin never played much with other children and on occasion would complain about stomach and back pains.

"Kevin's teacher sent him to the school physician and asked that he be chemically tested for Sickle Cell Anemia. The tests were made, and proved positive. Kevin did have Sickle Cell Anemia, an inherited chronic blood disease."

Sickle Cell Anemia is a disease that Americans know very little about. It was not until 30 years ago that the disease was beginning to be studied scientifically. The novel aspects about this inherited anemia is that it affects persons of negroid racality (although there have been rare cases reported among Caucasians in the Mediterranean).

* * *

Scientifically, Sickle Cell Anemia occurs when the red blood cells, which normally have a round shape appear crescent or Sickle shaped, hence the name. It is painful, can affect any part of the body, and without early treatment can be fatal.

Although there are no national figures available, it is estimated that 10 percent of the black people in this country carry the trait, and one black 10 in 625 has the disease.

Some people will read this and think that the writer is indulging in writing fantasy. He is not.

At this moment 2.2 million citizens, all of them black, are carrying the Sickle Cell Anemia trait, and at least 50,000 citizens, all of them black, have the chronic disease.

* * *

Of course, this is only speculation, since there are no national figures for the disease in existence, no national foundation anywhere to study it, and currently, no national study to find a cure. There are even very few doctors who know anything about it.

But the President had included Sickle Cell Anemia in one draft of the State of the Union Address. What reason could there be for him NOT to consider mentioning it again?

After all, it is an evil that black citizens have no control over: we can't move away from it, we can't sell it, we can't educate ourselves to rise above it, we can't wait until social forces get rid of it in time, and we can't even move to another country to get away from it. WE BUY IT BY BEING WHAT WE ARE.

But the President DIDN'T mention the disease, he must have thought it politically unwise. A logic that is symptomatic of a disease common to members of the Caucasian race: especially those in power.

This disease exists on an abstract level, deep in the subconscious mind, and is extremely cancerous.

It is also fatal to NON-Caucasians whether in Vietnam, where "American life" is paramount to all other life, or at home where neglect and public apathy allow people to die of a disease without even researching it.

Mary Clayburn of radio station WWIN has been screaming about Sickle Cell Anemia. Our 'leaders' are not screaming, our black doctors are not screaming, our voters are not screaming, our parents are not screaming.

Only black children are screaming from the pain. Only black children.

Open Letter Governor Mandel

Honorable Sir:

I am one of the humble masses and since I know you are a public servant, I am writing to hip you to some things that are coming off in our fair state of Maryland.

I have lived in this state all my life. You see, sir, I am involved in the "bag of bones" cases, that's a political case.

As for my political party, my voter's card has I'm registered as a Democrat, which is your party, too. I have never voted Republican or Democrat for my party is the Black Panther Party.

First of all I will say that my only crime is one of opinion. Let me point out the nature of my charge. It's "assault with intent to murder" (indictment No. 2[illegible]). This charge is a bailable offense and at this time I have no bail. That in itself is a violation of one of my Constitutional rights under the 8th Amendment.

I have been imprisoned without a trial for four months. One of my co-defendants, Irving Young, has already been railroaded to a life sentence in prison.

I have not pleaded in this case, you see I refuse to plea for there is no legal charge against me, just an attempt to silence black people and destroy my party.

They, your judicial system, did me as they did my Comrade Eddie Conway, the judge entered a plea of not guilty for me.

* * *

I am my own lawyer; I feel that there is no lawyer in Maryland who can do the job for me. The judge gave me the power to be my own lawyer, but not the power to subpoena anyone, (Judge Sodaro).

I filed a motion for a bail hearing (No. 12156) a month ago, and I am still here.

You know Governor, I am thinking of all the times Brother Martin (Martin Luther King) asked for FBI intervention and didn't get it.

They (cats in the White House) always said that it was a problem for the State. I was not out of the state and those F.B.I. pigs sitted me.

I can only look at all of this and say to you I am a political prisoner.

I know we don't have political prisoners in our fair state or do we?

So as an incarcerated citizen of Maryland, I demand mand

a thorough investigation.

Servant, look into this.

EDWARD M. MARTIN
Minister of Education
Black Panther Party

PAGE OPPOSITE

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN, FEBRUARY 27, 1971 5

If You Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS

MRS. MOSS

(Editor's Note: If You Ask Me this week is being written by Miss Pam Widgeon in the absence of Mrs. Moss who is on vacation).

A Prayer For Lent

O God, give me strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties.

Let me not lose faith in my fellowmen.

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery or meanness.

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them.

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity.

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things.

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth, inspire me with the spirits of joy and gladness, and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong deliverer, our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Happiness Is Many Things

More Happiness Thoughts:

Happiness is a letter from a long lost friend.

Happiness is making a bet at the horse races with your last $2 and winning.

Happiness is a sunny 75 degree day in the middle of February.

Happiness is when your boss goes on vacation.

* * *

This column's theatre reviewer says: "Through the good offices of impresario S. Hurok, by arrangement with the Australian Ballet Foundation, world-famed dancer Rudolf Nureyev, has been presented this week for five nights only at the Mechanic.

"Opening night, Tuesday, saw a spectacular display of artistic wizardry in scenery and costumery, as the stage was transformed into 16th century Spain with Moors, knights and castles.

"The 'Australian Ballet' as the programme noted presented Don Quixote,' a ballet in three parts depicting the adventures (or misadventures) of that errant-knight of the middle ages, Don Quixote de la Mancha.

"Did you see 'Man of La Mancha' which played some time ago at the same theatre? Well, imagine this same theme, but transmitted to the genre of a ballet.

"The cast was large, colorful, vivid with dancing to hold one in rapture for hours. I could have watched Nureyev, alone, for the entire evening. He was just that great!

"Audience reaction to the pas de deux of Nureyev and Lucette Aldous, who played his sweetheart was 'braveo, bravo, par excellence!

It is unfortunate that the show's schedule would not permit it to remain in Baltimore longer. Everyone should see it."

People, Places, Things

Rubye Gill send hellos to everyone from Bangkok, Thailand. She says she is enjoying the Far East. They left Tokyo, Japan February 6 and before returning to Tokyo in April, expect to visit at least nine countries.

* * *

The Masons throughout the State of Maryland will mourn the passing of their grand secretary, Alvin S. Stanley, who died this week. Mr. Stanley was longtime vice president of the old Sun Life Insurance Company.

* * *

Birthday wishes to Mrs. Sarah Cooper of the 1700 block of Payson St. (February 29). She is the friendly neighbor who always has a smile and a kind word to say. Mrs. Cooper is also a faithful and devoted member of Morning Star Baptist Church.

* * *

It's twin boys, Chad Alexander and Shad Alexander Wright, born Feb. 17, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wright (Brenda). Mrs. Wright is a former AFRO reporter. Mr. Wright is with the Coast Guard.

Get well cards to Mrs. Ida Wheatley who is in Sinai Hospital for surgery (room 233). He is an executive with Hauswald Bakery.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Rice will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday at their daughter's home on Sequoia Ave.

They have five daughters. Mrs. Rice is a member of Fulton Baptist. Mr. Rice is a member of Simmons Memorial Baptist.

* * *

MUST SEE!! There will be a treat for you soon over at Center Stage with the presentation of "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men."

This show begins a 4 week engagement on March 5 and is directed by Richard Ward, N.Y. who also plays Russell P. Parker, the widowed owner of an unsuccessful Harlem barbershop.

The setting was created by Whitney J. LeBlanc, now TV director with the Maryland Center of Broadcasting who created the original set for Pock-

Theatre in New York and the Negro Ensemble Company.

Mr. LeBlanc with degrees from Southern University and State University, has been designer-director and Associate Professor at Antioch College, Howard University and Towson State College.

Arena Stage's Irvin Turner will play the checker playing friend in the Center Stage production. Turner, a graduate of Temple University is a local teacher as well as creative writer, director, set designer, technician in his 14 years with the Arena Players.

CUFF NOTE: The Women's Auxiliary of Crownsville State Hospital are now making plans for their annual parade and family day for May 22.

* * *

Prizes will be awarded to the best performing band, best dressed band, best drum and bugle corps, best majorettes, largest band, smallest band and best color guard.

Anyone interested in competing for these trophies may contact Mrs. Wendell Sutton, parade chairman, 367-1882 or Mrs. Rosa Bachman, president of the Women's Auxiliary, 647-2424.

In the Spotlight

By DEBBIE BROWN

Miss Joyce L. Freeland is one of the new additions in the Washington office of Sen. Parren Mitchell.

The twenty-four-year-old beauty is working in the capacity of a senatorial assistant whose primary task involves helping Mr. Mitchell with his overload of case work.

Specifically, Miss Freeland assists in the processing of applicants for military academies. She is also working with the Boy Scouts in the Trail Blazers District of Baltimore.

She is Kick-off and Reports Chairman of the fund-raising drive.

Miss Freeland was formally on the staff of Sen. Charles Mac Mathias. Speaking of her former position she stated, "Working for the Senior Senator of Md. was truly a rewarding experiment and I enjoyed it tremendously."

A 1970 graduate of Morgan State College, Miss Freeland was a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority and the YWCA. She was Miss Service of Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and the sweetheart of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Her parents are Stanley and Edith Freeland of Calvert County, Md. They have two other children, Joan, 22, who is an elementary school teacher at Seat Pleasant, Md. and Larry, 20, who is a recruit in the U.S. Army.

Larry is presently stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Part of the D.C. daily commuters, Miss Freeland says of her trek to Washington, "It's really a joy, meeting lots of people. The train is like a small community, everybody knows everybody else chit-chatting until we depart to our separate corners of the world."

A liberated woman, Miss Freeland lives in her modest bachelorette apartment on Gwynns Falls Pkwy, enjoys reading, gardening, and just living the life of a cosmopolitan in and about the world of politics.

Every week the AFRO-AMERICAN places an illustrious figure of the Greater Baltimore area in The Spotlight.

Persons are selected for many reasons, for example, one might be commencing an exciting career or on the other hand, retiring from a profession after years of noteworthy service.

The AFRO spotlights those who are active in community affairs, religious endeavors and school activities.

If you know someone or an organization which belongs in The Spotlight, contact Miss Debbie Brown, Spotlight Columnist; AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St. 21203.

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 can be found.

CORRECTION: This photo was published last week with an error in the identification. Captain Louis R. Harper was identified as Charles R. Thomas. Firefighter Thomas is president of the Vulcan Blazers, a black membered organization established to protect the rights of black firefighters. Captain Harper is the first black fireman to be promoted to the rank of captain and last Saturday and Sunday he became the first black-fireman to serve as Acting Chief for the 7th Battalion. During the two day period Captain Harper who is assigned to the Ellamont and North Ave. station was in charge of the six engine companies and three truck companies of the Battalion.

QUESTION: My dog was picked up this morning by the city animal shelter people, even though he was in my front yard at the time. I called them and they said I would have to pay $6 to get him back. Since he was in my yard, I don't think they should have picked him up and I should not have to pay the fee for it.

ANSWER: Mr. Harmon, the superintendent at the animal shelter, told the AFRO LINE that unless you can prove that the dog was on your property, the standard fee of $1 for impounding will be charged. The remaining $5, he said, is for your 1971 dog license, which the dog did not have.

QUESTION: I have been unemployed for eight weeks and have not yet received any unemployment checks. Every time I try to find out what is wrong they tell me my check is in the mail. Once I went in to the office and they told me they did not have a file for me. Can you help me?

ANSWER: The AFRO called the Unemployment Insurance Division of the state's Department of Employment Security and found that no information about particular files can be given over the phone. You will have to go in person to see Mr. Johnson, room 110, 110 Dawson Street. You must see Mr. Johnson personally in this case.

QUESTION: My social club gave an affair last Saturday at a local hotel, but they charged us more than they said they would, by making us buy more bottles of liquor than we originally asked for. We paid it, because they would not let us have the room until we did. But we felt we were cheated. Is there anything we can do now?

ANSWER: A spokesman for the hotel you named told the AFRO LINE that the price he quoted you was a minimum, and based on an expected crowd of 350. You later told him there would be 420, then purchased an extra ten bottles of liquor, so the price went up accordingly. The spokesman admitted that "we were somewhat gruff in the handling of this," but insists that your group was treated fairly.

Mitchell's Speech

(Following are excerpts from a speech given by Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-7th, Md.) at the Fellowship Forum, Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, February 14 in which he discussed President Nixon's State of the Union message, boycotted by all 12 black members of Congress):

Any discussion of the New Politics should begin with the Old Politics. I can think of none older than President Nixon.

In his recent State of the Union address, President Nixon promised a revolution in government. He claimed it was the newest and boldest program to be presented since the Constitution. How revolutionary is it really?

Essentially, the idea of returning power to local government is a return to Jeffersonian democracy. Historically, Jeffersonian localism never got off the ground. Just after the American Revolution, the thirteen colonies formed a federation and transferred powers to a central government. More broadly, President Nixon was talking about state's rights.

Local power and responsibility is an old Republican platitude decked out in mod clothes.

The Republicans have found the principle a useful ploy over the years. They have used it to turn back reform. They have used it inversely to keep power from the hands of the people.

Local government over the years has meant control by the locally powerful. This has included planters, merchants, landlords, bankers, big business and all of those who in one way or another had a hold on the people.

It was to skirt this power block that liberals turned to the central government. They found it less subject to these local pressures and more responsive to their needs.

It was the federal government that enabled labor to gain recognition and power. It was the national government that finally began to move against racial injustice. It is the national government through the courts that protects the civil liberties of the people against these local giants.

And speaking of justice and rights, we might wonder at the complete omission of these subjects in the President's speech. The man who rode law and order into the White House failed to mention it — with or without justice.

And how new are President Nixon's ideas? We can look all the way back to 1949 to find many of them in the recommendations of the original Hoover Commission. Another commission on reallocation of functions between state and federal governments went over the same ground in 1958.

President Johnson began to implement some of these during his administration, especially those concerned with departmental reorganization. Both HUD and Transportation came out of this.

I submit to you that the proposals are neither new nor revolutionary. The most flagrant example is revenue sharing. Local governments were crying out for help for years. The federal government has responded to a limited extent to local needs through such programs as Medicare, the poverty program, Model Cities, urban renewal and other programs directed toward social and human needs.

There are some 500 such grants-in-aid programs totaling $27 billion a year. There is a need for much more aid to local governments.

But I believe the way to accomplish it is through strengthening these programs. The amount of aid funneled to local governments through them should be increased.

A similar but different approach would be to nationalize welfare. It could save local governments about $7 billion a year. At the same time, it would improve the sorry administration of welfare on the local level. The President Nixon is presenting on the other hand is a false hope. He speaks of shared revenue and suggests increased aid. But a casual glance at his fiscal 1972 budget reveals that the shared revenues would come out of the social programs.

For example, $1.4 billion a year for developing Appalachia will go off the books next January. It is hardly because Appalachian development will be completed. Rather the funds will be channeled into revenue sharing and then the area will have to try to get the money back from the states.

How do you think western Maryland will come off with the suburban dominated legislature and executive of our own state? I say this is hypocrisy.

I am not saying that all of the social program will necessarily be lost. In the Republican tradition, they would become the responsibility of state and local governments. The funds would be granted outright. There would be no monitoring of the use of them. And there will be no threat of cutoff if the local governments do not live up to conditions of the grants.

Worst yet is that the thrust of the President's plan is away from aiding the states with the greatest need. Based upon population, the formula gives a larger proportion of aid to poorer states. More urbanized states, with greater problems and more of a tax squeeze, receive less proportionately.

As Congressman Mills says, this is "the reverse of facing up to the urban problem."

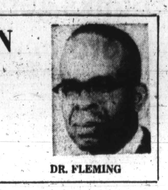
Localism then as the Republicans vision it again becomes a ploy. It is the opposite of participatory politics. It is the type of government that for over a century has gripped the Southern states, including Maryland.

Just in the past few years are we beginning to reform our own state party and government to give the people a voice.

Columnists

NOW And THEN Bad Advice to Nixon

with G. JAMES FLEMING



DR. FLEMING

Big talk from the "Big House" is a thing of the past. Scolding blacks, for scolding's sake, is an exercise in futility. But not according to Kelvin Phillips, columnist for the King Features Syndicate.

Recently, he gave President Nixon a blueprint for dealing with the twelve black Congressmen who, for some time now, have been trying to sit down and discuss some of the present-day concerns and problems of blacks with the Chief Executive.

Mr. Phillips charges that the principal purpose of the Tweive is "to harangue . . . on how the United States is not doing enough" for its black citizens. However, he believes the President should see the Congressmen and tell them a thing or two.

* * *

Whether it is about jobs or housing, about lowering the walls of suburbia, about busing black children to better schools, or about economic reparations, Mr. Phillips has the answers Mr. Nixon should give and the style he should use.

President Nixon, according to the columnist, should tell the blacks that no other country in the world even dreams of meeting their demands, and that "no others have gone so far as the United States in helping an impoverished ethnic minority."

Then Mr. Phillips goes dramatic.

He asks his readers to imagine any country giving its minority groups public funds "to organize and foment insurgency against the majority."

Or imagine, he continues, Spain subsidizing its Basque nationalists, or France financing its thousands of "restless" Algerians in Paris, or Italy expending "community action" money on its "unhappy" German-speaking minority.

And he goes on, saying that the British plan no anti-poverty program to organize and agitate its growing West Indian and Pakistani communities.

* * *

Pushing his comparison of the USA with other countries, Mr. Phillips says these countries laugh at the American "tomfoolery" of manipulating the balance, and he feeds Mr. Nixon some questions which, supposedly he can put to the Congressmen, all comparing the United States with Canada or Europe.

What Mr. Nixon's tutor conveniently forgets is that the USA is not Europe, nor Canada, nor any place else.

It is the land of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution with its Bill of Rights and Civil War Amendments, it is that nation whose blood has been spent for freedom, liberty and democracy and against racism, when racism is practiced overseas.

Why the demands for "balance" and "reparations" are so persistent on the part of U.S. blacks?

Mr. Phillips should know. It is because for over 300 years, law and practice prevented even the opportunity for blacks to achieve equality in any area of their existence, save death.

* * *

They did not have an opportunity to be born with maximum chance for survival; they had the minimum of medical care; they were cheated of any education at first and the least education up to the present era; they were overworked without pay in slavery, and underpaid following slavery.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Nixon should know the American blacks have to demand more because, for their years of freedom, they have been the last hired and the first fired, and they were kept in the lowest paid jobs or they were paid less than whites for doing the same work.

Has either Mr. Nixon or Mr. Phillips had to "buck" the iron-wail barriers of the construction industries against either hiring blacks or allowing black young people to learn the building trades?

* * *

Can Mr. Nixon and Mr. Phillips understand the feelings of a black mother who hears herself called names because of the welfare aid her children receives, while she sees millions in another kind of welfare paid to the "fat-cats" of the railroads, the steamship lines, and the airlines?

Let it be emphasized that, quite different from the lot of Europeans or Canadians, black Americans were brought here against their wishes. Further, they have been kept out of the mainstream down the years.

No one and no people can catch up, in the race for equality, unless such a one or such a people is given, or takes, extra momentum. Extra momentum is another name for extra face-lifting in black communities, more and better educational opportunities for black children, more public funds spent on all kinds of services to blacks, more laws to correct the legal sins of the past. Momentum means response in spirit and in substance.

President Nixon can listen to Mr. Phillips and other racists only with peril to the nation.

TOGETHER Parochial Aid Unconstitutional

By MARION BANFIELD

The black community needs to develop a unified, sophistocated support for the public school educational system. We need to be aware that efforts are being made to use public school taxes for private, mostly Catholic, schools.

With the everincreasing problems of our public schools, many of us are wishing for a 2 week cure.

There is no short term prescription that can be given us by a new superintendent, a new Board of School Commissioners. Schools are in operation and will continue to function with varying degrees of success for pupils and educators.

An immediate threat to the public school system is the Kraushaar Report which recommends that state aid be given parochial and other non-public schools.

The minority report of the Kraushaar Commission is the section which clearly describes why there should be no taxes for private schools.

The AFRO should make these reports familiar to readers.

Requests for public taxes to support religious ideology in schools comes primarily from the Catholic church. We need to be very aware of the battle which the Catholic Church has been waging for many years in various parts of this country, in a variety of ways to try to get public funds to maintain its schools.

Some of us may have the idea that our own little group wil benefit if public funds go into private schools. We blacks are the last ones who should support any effort to use taxes for non-public schools.

We are the ones who need massive public funds to educate our children. Right now public schools in Baltimore need more E.S.E.A. Title 1 funds from the Federal government to upgrade our public schools.

Yet there are 18 non-public schools receiving these funds in the city of Baltimore. Our schools need these additional efforts of diversion.

On Monday afternoon, February 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, there was a hearing on Resolution 1835 which was introduced by Joseph Curran of the Third District. This resolution is requesting the General Assembly in Annapolis to enact a scholarship program for pupils of parochial and non-sectarian private schools. Some of us are going to get excited and think that now we can get a lot of scholarships and send our offspring to fancy private schools.

It will never happen. In the first place there are not that many seats available in any private school or Catholic schools to give the kind of education that our children need. We certainly do not need a sudden crop of private schools springing up all over town to grab their share of our taxes.

* * *

Parochaiid (aid to parochial schoois) violates the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly said that: "Neither (a state nor the federal government) can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another.....No tax, in any amount large or small, can be leviied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion."

The black population needs to be alert and actively oppose all attempts to take money away from our public schools. The National and State Councils of P.T.A.'s have always fought against private schools using tax monies. Let us continue to fight to keep public money in public schools.

Your Taxes

TO ASSURE CREDIT

To be sure your tax account is properly credited, put your Social Security number on all checks or money orders sent for payment, William D. Waters, Acting District Director of Internal Revenue for Maryland and the District of Columbia, said today.

It also helps if you write on the payment what it is for.

Then, if your check or money order is separated from your return during processing, your Social Security number on the payment will quickly identify.

An unidentified payment must be set aside for research and cannot be credited to your account until you have provided the IRS with the necessary information to identify it, Mr. Waters said.

Poet's Nook

Catch A Valentine — 12 pt

Cupid continuously coaxes courtship
Considering clever cartoons containing
chocolates
Characters, cards, carnations, confections (congratulations)
Concerned couples caress captured
completely.
Call; correspond, tablegram, convey,
(conducive causes)
Certainly celebrate, conform compassionately
Confess confirmed convictions; canably, (cheers)
Creative contributor, cleverly contrives candid conv.

PAUL D. McALLISTER