Baltimore Afro-American

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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.
CARL MURPHY, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

Mitchell Charged

The charges of income tax evasion against State Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III long will be remembered in Maryland history whether he is found innocent or guilty.

Therefore, the big question arises as to why, after two years or more, this case could not have been settled before it reached the point of a criminal indictment.

It has been two years easily since many people became aware of reports that Sen. Mitchell had affairs to be straightened out with the Internal Revenue Service.

According to the charges, Sen. Mitchell did not file tax returns on a total income of $54,279 during the years 1967 through 1970.

The charges spelled out do not claim that Sen. Mitchell actually did not pay taxes, only that he did not file the required returns. Thus, there is no mention in the public record of any amount charged as owed by Mitchell.

People have to determine their own priorities in life. Sometimes decisions, especially on the part of public officials, have to be based on the general welfare as well as from the individual viewpoint.

While it is painful to see any young man caught up in such a snare, it particularly is troubling to many to find a favorite son involved this way.

At 33, Sen. Mitchell is a veteran of the Maryland General Assembly, having at one time been its youngest elected member. He is a member of one of Maryland's, and the nation's, more prominent families.

They include some of the NAACP's most effective leaders and the state's first black congressman.

At this stage of the game the AFRO could not comment one way or the other on the legal issues involved in the case.

Our deep sorrow is that the case could not have been settled without indictments, arraignments and trials.

Officer Slain

The slaying of young Patrolman Norman Buchman is another blight on the face of Baltimore City.

Every time a police officer is slain the problem of combatting crime in the community takes on another burden.

Despite repeated instances of individual short comings on the part of men in the service, there can be no question but that Baltimore police, in comparison with the men of other city forces, are making some progress in their war on crime in the community.

But the victory over crime is not a battle that police can win alone. They must have the support of the vast majority of the people if they are to make the streets safe for the citizenry.

Already many families do not want their male members to join the police force.

And when tragedies take place like the killing of Patrolman Buchman, the fear of having good men join the force is reinforced.

The AFRO joins those who express sympathy to the Buchman family.

But we do not think such expressions alone make up for such losses.

If Baltimore is to continue to be a city in which good citizens will be able to live without undue fear of the criminal element, the people and the police must work hand in hand.

Unless this new tragedy stirs a greater respect for that mutual need, then a policeman's life went for naught. We hope that is not the case.

Clean Block Time

Preliminary plans are now being made for the 39th annual AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper Clean Block Campaign.

AFRO Public Relation Director Ida Peters tells us that last year 9,000 youngsters and 300 adults living in 400 blocks participated in the program which helps make Baltimore a better city to live in by involving families in helping themselves.

Clean Blockers in 1972 vied for $5,093.10 in prize money which was contributed by 86 AFRO readers. Some $2,500 came from Model Cities of the City of Baltimore.

At the end of the summer campaign there were 118 spotless blocks with fresh green and white paint which judges said were eligible for prizes. Some 87 persons, top winners in 20 City Housing Projects Garden Contests won cash. In addition, 1,000 readers received $1.00 tickets to the City Fair ($500 paid by the AFRO and $500 a gift from the City Fair).

Already the East Baltimore Improvement Association has started organizing blocks on the Eastside for this 1973 campaign.

Blocks around the 2600 block W. North Avenue where Coppin State College is located, are being organized by the Pyramids of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

In the mail to last year's block captains are application blanks and suggestions that they start now to clean out window boxes, get grass seed, clean out rubbish around plants and shrubbery and get on the phone to the Bureau of Sanitation to get trash removed.

Block organizations should start thinking about paying that $1.00 to the City of Baltimore to adopt an empty lot in their area. A clean lot is an ideal spot for a good family baseball game, on a warm summer afternoon.

The AFRO Clean Block office is already opened at 622 N. Eutaw St. Start now! Hold a meeting, get your neighbors together and talk about how much fun you can have after cleaning up. But the main thing is to start now.

No Bullet Replacement

A group of leading sports figures reported late this week that the hope of finding a replacement for the departing Bullets is being abandoned. This should not be surprising.

The Baltimore situation is not sufficiently enticing to justify hasty action by another club which may be seeking a new home. Box-office support here has to be viewed as marginal at best.

This is not the fault of the Baltimore fan. Rather, it is a reality that must be lived with in a town where the demand on the sports dollar is greater than anywhere else in the country.

Only New York, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles place as much pressure on the public pocketbook, and all these cities boast larger populations and greater economic potential.

When its season begins, a Baltimore basketball team is forced to compete with the baseball World Series and the height of the football calendar. And pro hockey commences at the same time. When its season ends, the local five finds itself in competition with baseball's opening and peak horse racing.

By the time Baltimoreans finish rooting for the baseball, football, basketball and hockey teams, and make an occasional visit to Pimlico, they can't be blamed for their indifference to one — or several — of them.

AFRO CREDO

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

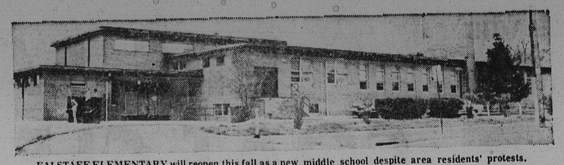
Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

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

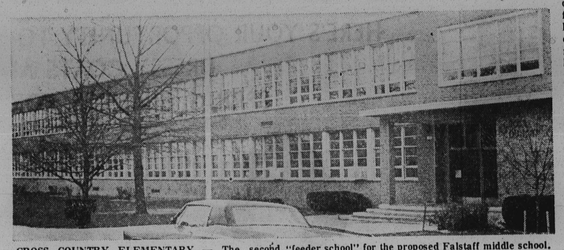
Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.
(Dec. 25, 1920.)

(From The Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded AFRO Aug. 13, 1892).



FALSTAFF ELEMENTARY will reopen this fall as a new middle school despite area residents' protests.



CROSS COUNTRY ELEMENTARY — The second "feeder school" for the proposed Falstaff middle school.

Middle School Battle Not Over

By BLAINE TAYLOR

The 6-2 decision of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners March 22 to make Falstaff Elementary School No. 241, 3801 Falstaff Rd., a middle school, may well have touched off a racial and educational battle that is only beginning, not ending, as the vote total would seem to indicate.

The regular city public school structure consists of elementary (kindergarten-6th grade), junior high (7-9) and senior high (10-12).)

The middle school concept places grades K-6 in elementary, 9-12 in senior high and 7-8 in the middle school, thus eliminating altogether the junior high level.

Voting for the Falstaff proposal were Commissioners Dr. W. Eugene Scott, Larry Gibson, Kalman R. "Buzzy" Hettleman, Mrs. M. Richmond Farring, Robert J. Thieblot and Stephen W. McNierney. Commissioners James M. Griffin and Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss dissented.

Proponents for the Falstaff proposal include prominent citizens both black and white, among them Mrs. Sheila Sachs, State Senator Clarence Blount (D., 5th), City Council President Walter S. Orlinsky, Mrs. Dolores Kelley, Mrs. Carolyn Kasacove, president of the Falstaff PTA; NAACP attorney Gerald A. Smith and Mrs. Margaret Pollard, president of the Northwest Baltimore, Inc., organization.

Cheering them on at the school board meeting was an interracial group of about 300 parents from the area.

The proponents want Falstaff converted to a middle school for use this fall, an operation they claimed could be done at no cost of renovation whatsoever.

Sen. Rosalie Silber Abrams, (D., 5th), also a supporter of the plan, told the surprised audience that the conversion would cost $1 million, to replace elementary-style furniture, toilets and water fountains, as well as other items.

The proponents asked — and got two elementaries as "feeder schools," from which the future Falstaff population will come.

These were Cross Country, School No. 247, 6100 Cross Country Blvd., and Mt. Washington, School No. 221, 1801 Sulgrave Ave.

The Falstaff lobby claims the school will be "a model of integration" with 516 children attending next fall, although 60 per cent white.

Dr. Roland N. Patterson, city school superintendent, told the board in response to a question from Commissioner Griffin, that Falstaff, utilizing only Mt. Washington and Cross Country as designated feeder schools, would "Be predominantly white within 2-3 years."

Proponents rejected a proposal to include two predominantly black elementaries as additional feeder schools, to ensure future integration on a 50-50 basis.

The proposed schools are No. 64, Liberty, 3901 Maine Ave., and No. 69, Mordecai Gist, 4200 Granada Ave., and were refused, said Falstaff supporters, to keep the middle school enrollment down "at an acceptable level of 800-1000, the ideal number."

The main opponents of the Falstaff proposal are two attractive sisters, Mrs. Joan Neverdon Parker, vice president of the Falstaff PTA, who has a sixth grade daughter there and a first grade son at Cross Country; and Mrs. Barbara Neverdon Adeboye, acting as a consultant to a group of northwest Baltimore parents, herself an instructor at the Hammond Middle School, Howard County.

Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Adeboye issued a joint statement to the board, stating the reasons for their opposition.

Mrs. Parker stated at the outset: "My interest in this is totally unselfish, as my children would benefit from this if it went through.

"However, we found that we couldn't live with the fact that our children would enjoy special benefits by depriving thousands of their basic educational needs."

The sisters' statement to the board said:

"We have learned that the primary reason for the creation of the proposal stems from the proponents' desire to promote racial segregation and the genocidal practice of denying equality of educational opportunities to poor and black people.

"Does the Baltimore City Public School system have the authority and responsibility to eliminate and-or establish schools for the primary purpose of providing citizens a means by which they can maintain and increase property values and attract certain people to establish or maintain residency in any given area of the city?

"Even if the dollar cost of establishing and maintaining a middle school was not a serious point to consider, would it be fair to destroy the facilities that Falstaff and Cross Country presently have and use for much needed special education programs?"

Dr. Patterson then confirmed that there are now 14 classes of 140 special education students at Falstaff, and that creation of the middle school would mean displacement of half of those classes the first year, and the rest during the second year.

The sisters resumed their arguments: "Special education programs would be sacrificed in favor of providing an escape route for people who elect not to use Pimlico and Greenspring Junior High Schools."

Dr. Patterson at this point stated that both Pimlico and Greenspring were originally designed as middle schools, but were never used as such, and he recommended to the board that they now become middle schools.

The board turned down the recommendation.

The sisters continued: "Can you justify expenditure of funds for the middle school take priority over long-standing priorities for such basics as classroom supplies, implementation of special and early childhood education programs, need for increased student personnel services, additional faculty and others that have been denied or inadequately met due to insufficiency of school funds?

"Why should the proposed middle school be established for the exclusive use of any particular race or socio-economic class of Baltimore citizens?"

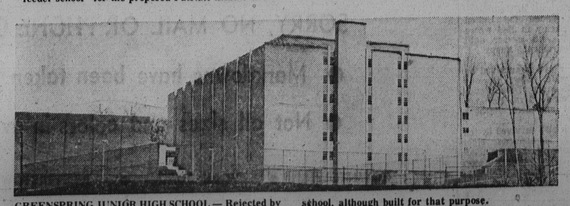
This statement underscored Dr. Scott's long-held and frequently-advanced theory that upper middle class blacks are seeking to place their children in white or nearly-white schools, as opposed to inner city, predominantly black schools, reflecting class bias.

Concluded the two women: "The moving or 'running' pattern of citizens in the Falstaff, Cross County and Mt. Washington areas has been of such volume that for years the school system was able to relieve overcrowded situations at schools No. 64 and 69 by busing.

"Why then shouldn't these schools be designated as feeder schools, if no more than to assure that the middle school would be fully utilized?"

Despite the eloquent plea of the two opponents, the board passed the Falstaff proposal, but the fight will surely go on at future board meetings.

MT. WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY — A designated "feeder school" for the proposed Falstaff middle school. (AFRO Staff Photos by I. Henry Phillips Sr.)



GREENSPRING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL — Rejected by Board of School Commissioners as suitable future middle school, although built for that purpose.

A Little About A LOT

The Great Escape

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

From college dorms to doctor's offices; from suburbia to ghetto; from luxury hi-risers to public housing projects; the mournful notes of tremulous organs, usher in, from mid-day to late afternoon, the housewives' national pastime.

What now is counterpoint to a sinister orchestration of political dishonesty in high places—as in the Watergate bugging; as in the CIA infiltration of the Chilean government; as in public welfare for the rich and free enterprise for the poor—is the age old opiate, the sedative for jangled nerves, copelessness, frustration, the great escape: the American Soap Opera.

As aspirin relieves a headache, soap operas block out all reality, affording otherwise sensible people, a vicarious escape into a hodge podge of "hesaidshes and they said" adventure; into gossip, speculation and innouous conversation. Conversation, that becomes an exercise in emotional involvement and superficial arguments, that have no relation to reality.

To a pro, who watches day-in-day out (and wouldn't miss 'em for love nor money), it takes a great deal of concentration and mental gymnastics, through the pauses and sighs, to follow the adventures of the cousin's widow, who co-habited with the brother's uncle, who also had a baby by the itinerant artist, and can't let the world know because of her forthcoming marriage to the boy next door!

So successful are these veteran viewers in separating the entangling alliances, that a conversation between them is spoken not only in a kind of code, but also with an air of authenticity, as if the principals in the stories were close, near and dear friends of the viewers.

As this idiocy saps the strength and sense of purpose of the viewers, poverty programs get cut off. Mayor William D. Schaefer gives the back of his hand to the black community. While he dubs the Community Relations Commission a "harassment commission", he holds firms to his racist denial of civil rights to half of Baltimore's population, in addition he stunts the growth of any gains in racial interaction.

Money goes out of the black community by the bales and dribbles back in by the eyedropper. Our only black hospital is on the verge of bankruptcy and Governor Mandel looks the other way.

All the while, the same few blacks try, like the Dutch boy, to plug up the holes in a leaking dike of black community problems, of stresses and strains, to avoid the inevitable: the rush to a second Reconstruction, where blacks have no rights that whites are bound to respect.

And where are all the people?

They are wasting their minds in front of the idiot box trying to solve make believe problems of make believe people, who are intentionally made to talk about non-controversial—all too familiar—domestic problems.

If one were to recount the real life drama unfolding in this city, for example at the University of Maryland Medical School, in the juvenile training schools, in the halls of legislature at Annapolis, in City Hall, in day care centers, Model Cities, Community Action, no doubt, soap opera fans would yawn, then wave languid hands to quiet interruption, turn up the volume and continue that hypnotic stare into a screen, contrived by the business establishment to freeze the powers of creative thought and action.

If, however, one has a Love of Live, and wishes to help The Young and Restless in their Search for Tomorrow, As the World Turns, she must be The Guiding Light, during The Days of Our Lives, so that at the Edge of Night, she shall have made Another World—not a Return to Peyton Place—but will have brought her Secret Storm into the open, in order to realize her stake in the survival of the black community!

How much more exciting life can be when one uses her abilities to the fullest, rather than waste her talent following entanglements in the world of fiction! How much more rewarding is the act of belonging to a community effort and struggle, of following the intricacies of City Council, Congress, of shaping black history!

To recount black history, to learn of it, to be proud of it, must have its beginning in the assurance that the present and future history of black people will be the golden age—the new renaissance.

Black housewives turn off the tube and turn on the world! We must break the chains of mental laziness, hence slavery and vicarious escape. We must build that golden age for black America, for even now, it is almost too late.

Baltimore Afro-American

AFRO READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Supports Provident

Dear AFRO:

This letter is being written in response to the article in your newspaper entitled "A Tale of Two Hospitals; What Makes the Difference."

First, I should like to say that in my opinion, this is a very unfair comparison. While I will admit that Provident does have its shortcoming, let's be fair!

Starting first with the photos you present of the two parking lots, I should like to make several comments. First of all, you should make the public aware that Provident has 4 (four) parking lots. One of them is under lease to a private firm and Provident has no control over (which is incidentally the one depicted in your photo). It costs 75 cents per day (cheap compared to Sinai), and is used by visitors and businessmen.

As is my understanding, Freedman's is a hop, skip and a jump from Howard University and used by their students, which might account for its fullness. Also, a great number of our patients receive free transportation to and from the hospital almost any time that they need it. Therefore, cars and parking lots are of no concern to them anyway.

As for the activity at the front doors, well I think this too leaves a lot to be desired, but also there is a lot to examine. Firstly, the entrance showed in your article of Provident is the main entrance, mainly used by visitors, businessmen and employees.

As this photo was to have been taken at 2 p.m. in the day, the shift change had not taken place and also many would-be visitors might not have been off work at that time.

Furthermore, I don't see where two more or less people standing in front of an institution is grounds for comparison (check it out! Freedman's 7, Provident 5).

Secondly, there are 4 (four) other entrances to Provident, three of which are used by patients almost exclusively. They are the Admitting Entrance, Out-Patient Department Entrance and the Emergency Room Entrance and one other used by employees from their parking lot. (Not to mention the loading dock in the rear of the hospital).

As for the switchboard, there is a problem there and if you would take the time to talk to those in charge, you would find that this problem has been worked on for the past two years by Provident and the C and P Telephone Company.

As for the emptiness of the rooms, it is articles like these who keep up the bad stigma which has been attached to Provident for too long. It is articles like these that sell newspapers and undersell Provident and keep it going downhill.

Which I might add, does tend to keep prospective patients out because they are not given all of the facts but are given misinformation. I know of as many people who have been patients here and have liked it as I do people who have been here and did not like it for any given reason, food, bed too hard, ugly nurse, etc.

Then too, a lot of your gripes come from people who are only going on hear-say.

The pay-when-served policy is a good idea, but is very cold and downright cruel when patients are refused medical care because of inability to pay. Think of the names we are called then!

This policy is practiced here because I have been one of these who has had to turn the "PENNYLESS" away. After you have done this several times during the course of the day, you begin to feel rotten inside.

All I've got to say is whatever faults Provident has (and we do have some) don't make things worse than they really are. If you can't build it up, don't tear it down.

QUESTION: What makes the difference? ANSWER: Factless articles such as this which make the doutful more doubtful.

LOUISE WILLIAMS
Medical Records Department
Provident Hospital, Inc.

Liked Story

Dear AFRO:

My sincere thanks goes out to Mr. Bill Rhoden, one of your staff workers, for his splendid article on the Poets Inner City Athletic Clinic's Sports Day event. The sports day was on Wednesday, March 28 at the YMCA on Druid Hill Avenue.

He, in fact, enhanced our day with the very nature of the write-up. Without his services the sports day may have gone unnoticed by the general public.

Again, my compliments to Bill Rhoden, and to you, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, for having such a fine writer on your staff.

KENNETH D. CHAPMAN
Director

Expressway Nuts

Dear AFRO:

Complaints about Jones Falls Expressway as to hazardous and poor designing prompted my using it many times the past few weeks. Many defects can be corrected.

The biggest defect — the human beings (or nuts!) behind the wheels — will be more difficult.

More police should more frequently patrol the expressway, ticketing reckless and speeding drivers.

Cents out of their pockets just might knock sense into their heads

B. J. SMALL

Knifing Fair Employment Nothing New

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Someone, somewhere, once prayed, "Good Lord, protect me from my friends; I'll take care of my enemies."

Such a sentiment must have passed through many Baltimoreans — black and white — as they read that Mayor Schaefer was about to knife the city's fair employment agency — The Community Relations Commission.

Chief executives always want to put their own imprint on the agencies under them, and this is to be expected. Some use change, however, to weaken or kill agencies.

This is what seems to be happening with reference to the Community Relations Commission.

The mayor is not only packing the Commission with members very much beholden to him, but there is reliable word that he would like to take the "teeth" out of the commission's enforcing powers.

This he can do by amending the present ordinance or by having it repealed and replaced by a weaker one. Much more subtle is to replace David Glenn, the just resigned executive secretary, with a "weaker" model — a successor who will take his cues from the mayor rather than from the law.

One of these cues is expected to be "go easy on city departments," or "stop initiating complaints."

Or the mayor can just "starve" the commission by keeping it undermanned and under-financed.

Said, in one way or another, and for one reason or another, it seems that the mayor is out to kill the commission as a strong, alive, sharp-toothed, unbuyable instrumentality.

This writer was a charter member of the predecessor Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the first such legislated by any municipality south of the Mason-Dixon line.

I know how handicapped a weak, toothless commission is.

It is better than nothing, but it is almost next to nothing.

Its only tools — conference, conciliation and persuasion — all reasonable and commendable, are most effective only when backed up with the power to hold open hearings, to issue subpoenas and to enforce its "cease and desist" orders.

A commission must have enforcement powers; it must have teeth, it must have clout.

At the present time, in addition to initial fair employment, any agency such as the Community Relations Commission, must face the reality of unfair up-grading (promotions).

Forced to open their doors to blacks (or women), employers now keep these minority group workers on the lowest-level and lowest-paid jobs. They are discriminated against in promotions.

These discriminatory practices are rampant throughout industry, commerce and government. This is true of the North and South and of national, state and local governments. (Every civil rights investigation has attested to the discriminatory practices throughout government agencies).

To ask a man or woman to risk a job he holds, by bringing a complaint about his non-promotion, is asking too much of most people — especially a head of family with children at home. These workers know that recrimination and vengeance are real.

Unless a government agency can "front" for them, and file the charges — and protect them — they must continue to work at lowest level and lowest pay.

An agency, such as the Community Relations Commission, can also protect an employer or a government office from nuisance charges by disgruntled employees or peeved applicants.

This is possible because the fair employment agency does a thorough study of the office or employer charged before it formalizes its complaint or calls a public hearing.

No one can accuse the Baltimore City Community Relations Commission of being quick-triggered in processing complaints against either private or public alleged offenders.

This has also been true of all the other agencies for minority-group betterment, from the original Fair Employment Practice Committee, set up by President Roosevelt during World War II, to the present-day U.S. Civil Rights Commission and the several state and local programs.

But even the "deliberate" motion of these agencies has been too much and too fast for the die-hards who want to modernize everything in their plants and offices, except the old-time discriminatory employment practices.

While Mayor Schaefer was sharpening his knife for the local Community Relations Commission, the General Assembly was knifing the State Human Relations Commission, reducing its power and down-grading its chairman.

The mayor should be made to know how the Baltimore community feels about his reported move. Woman Power, Inc., through City Councilwoman Victorine Adams, was among the first to telegraph Mayor Schaefer telling him that, instead of reducing or abolishing the Community Relations Commission, he should push for fair employment practices throughout the city, both by private employees and by the city government.

Just when some people think progress has been made in minority group affairs, there comes the reminder that those raady to knife progress are always around.

ED NOTE: In addition to being a charter member of the Baltimore Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (1956-62), Dr. Fleming served for four years on the staff of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice (FEPC), 1941-45), the last two years as regional director of the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

NOW and THEN

DR. FLEMING

It's Not a Man's World

Black Women's Caucus Set For June

By BERNICE S. WHITE

The 1973 Convention of the National Black Women's Political Leadership Caucus will be held June 1, 2 and 3 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Expected are some 500 to 800 registrants, and a minimum of 200 observers.

The Caucus is composed of black women throughout the United States who are recognized leaders within their own political parties and are dedicated in their fields of endeavor.

The Caucus is working to bring about better understanding and amelioration between the races and cultures; to educate women in the mechanics of politics; to enhance the understanding of women in terms of teaching them how to express themselves; to further their ambitions and desires within the political arena; and to work towards abating all forms of racism, sexism and poverty.

For a long time, black women have been the least vocal and the most oppressed. Elizabeth M. Scott, in her welcome address at the National Black Women's Conference in Pittsburgh last year, expressed the plight of black women in these words:

"Of all people in our society that say they haven't gotten their fair share, it's the black woman that has gotten the least.

"Of all the people that have given the most and gotten the least — it's the black woman.

"Of all the people that have developed a strength through the rise of ingenuity, creativity, determination, foresight and hindsight — it's the black woman."

Now, black women are not only challenging society, but also taking firm positions on some very pertinent and important issues.

This conference will provide opportunity for black women from all walks of life to discuss problems, form coalitions for action, and make firm decisions about where the energies of black women are going to be placed.

Honorary hostesses for the conference are Mesdames Walter Washington, Walter Fauntroy and Frances Murphy. Among the honorary committee members are the Honorable Victorine F. Adams, Patricia Harris, Hannah D. Atkins, Gwendolyn Payne, Barbara Watson, C. Betty Wimbish Muse, Peggy Joan Maxie, A. June Franklin, Verda F. Welcome, Georgia M. Davis and Drs. Eva R. Townes and Juanita Jackson.

Also, Mesdames Venetta H. Barrett, Fannie L. Hamer, Ruth Bates Harris, Dorothy Height, Annie DeCherbert Clark, Delia Benjamin, Flaxie Pinkett, Alma Fox, Jo Ann Sloan, Ronald Dellums, Aileen Hernandez, Joan Cashen, Anita Young Boswell, Lucille King, Vivian Cox, Medger Evers, Dorothy Brennan, Goldie Watson, Hobart Taylor, Elizabeth D. Koontz, Yvonne B. Price and Doris Rankin.

Delegate Hildegardeis Boswell is national general chairman of this historic Caucus.

A Column Of CHOICE

Psychological Vs. Physical Child Abuse

By MARION BANFIELD

Val Hyme's article "Fighting Against Child Abuse" prompted me to continue the subject. Physical abuse is the basis for much of our concern, but I would like us to examine other areas of child abuse.

While adults look with horror at beatings, at burns, at leaving children alone, there are other categories of abuse to which parents need to pay more attention.

Those husbands and wives who carry their emotional battles into open threats of violence, or who really break a few household items are guilty of child abuse.

Their children are plagued with the inner stress that develops where the angry noises produce a nervous tension that hurts as much as physical pain.

Children from homes where parents have physical fights are apt to worry so much about one or both parents that concentration on school work is impossible. The child spends too much time wondering what is happening and what will happen.

Teenage boys who have to defend their mothers from drunken or physically abusive fathers are subjected to psychological cruelty which makes it difficult for them to ever be free of deep anger.

These are the boys whose mothers need to take a good look at what and why they are offering this life style to their sons at home.

These same mothers can take a look a themselves for putting their sons in positions of being protectors. These fathers need to recognize their own contribution to making sons who hate and defy all authority and hate enough to commit murder.

Fathers who presume that their sons will carry out the same behavior patterns of the father's youth can be so unreasonable that their sons are never heard. The lack of communication can produce a hostile man lacking in self-respect because only the bad was expected; only the bad received attention. Being good never received recognition.

A parent who is so emotionally dependent on alcohol that a child has to recognize drunkenness in that parent is a serious problem.

I remember a five-year-old who did not want a birthday party because she did not want to be embarrassed by having her father carry on his drunken capers in front of her kindergarten friends.

That same parent had four other children who had a variety of emotional problems which kept the children in trouble at school. When she finally decided that she had to choose between her alcoholic husband or her five children, she sent the husband away.

The children no longer had to dread coming home. With counseling this mother was better able to rear her children using her intelligence rather than just drifting and hurting from one day to the next.

Parents who fight each other by manipulating children are a curse. That is the father who tells his son that the boy doesn't have to obey the mother because she's crazy.

That is the mother who tells the children they can go out to play two days after the father has said they must stay in the house after school for one week as punishment.

The mother who is so fearful that her son will develop the father's bad that she cannot see her son. Her hatred and fear distort reality and make life confusing for her family, confusing for her family.

It is abusive for a mother to burden her children with her tears, year in and year out, as she bemoans her bad luck with a husband, with finances, with relatives.

Child abuse is a label for leaving a seven year-old home to look after three younger children day after day. That kind of mother will slap the seven-year old if the two year old spills powder all over the floor.

A mother who sends her children to school with dirty skin and hair, with smelly underwear, and soiled outer clothing ought not be allowed to destroy that helpless child's self-image among his friends or schoolmates.

Psychological child abuse is the daily confusion which children endure when one or both parents are so emotionally damaged that the child grows up hating himself, despising others, yearning for a love as yet unknown.

The helplessness of children who are physically or emotionally abused is well-known to many professionals.

A tragedy is the unwillingness to seek court protection for the child. Courts are often a place where lawyers use written words to effect a situation which has nothing to do with the welfare of the child.

The "rights" of parents often seem to be more important than the welfare of the child.

Those of us who have not found ourselves in the category of parents who abuse their children are fortunate. Abusers have never wilfully planned to carry such a role.

Abusers are those who have been so deeply hurt emotionally that they are incapable of being loving and understanding parents.

Ignorance is another factor in parent-child abuse. The overly punishing parent may believe that only harsh punishment and rigid controls can protect children from present day evils.

All parents want to bring up their children well. Tragedy is when the choice of how to be a parent results in destroying a child's ability to love himself enough to relate well to others.

Parents who find themselves fitting into a category of abusing their children have choice.

Some parents can choose counseling from agencies such as Family and Children's Society, Alcoholics Anonymous, and other community health services.

Others need to face their own inability to be good parents and ask the courts to take custody of their children.

Schools have a choice of recognizing the hurts which some pupils endure and develop programs which will recognize and deal constructively with children who have been psychologically or physically abused.

A hurt child hurts whether the abuse is physical or psychological.

Report From Washington—Action Sought On Rent Bill

By PARREN J. MITCHELL, M.C. (D-7th District, Md.)
U.S. House of Representatives

The recent cries of outrage against increased rents and prices were addressed by the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives. On Tuesday, April 3, the Committee "marked up" H.R. 6168, a Bill to amend and extend the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970. I co-sponsored this Bill.

The Nixon Administration opposed the Bill. It wanted a simple extension of the present law. In testimony before the Committee, Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve System, Secretary of Agriculture Butz, Mr. Dunlop, Cost of Living Council, and Mr. Shultz, Office of Management and Budget, supported a simple extension.

There was a sense of urgency about our actions in Committee. The Economic Stabilization Act is scheduled to expire on April 30. Unless the Committee and the entire House act on this matter before April 19, it will be impossible to continue the Economic Stabilization Act.

H.R. 6168 was supported by Trade Union Organizations and Consumer Groups.

Among other provisions, H.R. 6168, would:

Section 204. Freeze of Prices and Interest Rates. This section freezes all prices and interest rates as of March 16, 1973. The President is directed to immediately implement a plan to roll back prices and interest rates and report to Congress the actions he has taken in this respect, as well as justification for any exemption or failure to achieve rollbacks.

Section 205. Stabilization of Rents. This section stabilizes rents at levels prevailing on January 10, 1973, the last day of Phase II. The President may allow rents to increase from the established level but only where there has been an increase in taxes imposed by a State or local government, a capital improvement during the period of occupancy and increases in the cost of services and materials.

Section 206. Regulation of Credit for Commodity Futures Trading. This section allows the Federal Reserve to regulate credit in the commodity futures.

Section 207. Consumer Counselor. This establishes an Office of Consumer Counselor. The Counselor is empowered to examine all records, information and testimony relating to any matter before the President in respect to economic stabilization. The Consumer Counselor is empowered to require a public hearing and written decision by the Cost of Living Council in respect to any price, interest rate or wage adjustment which is covered by the Act.

Section 208. General Accounting Office. This section empowers the Comptroller General to review all reports concerning prices, profits, wages, salaries or interest rates submitted by any person to the President in the stabilization effort.

Section 208. Sec. 2. Public Disclosure. This section would require business enterprises subject to reporting requirements of the Cost of Living Council to make public any report it is required to submit to the Council. This amendment, however, would allow a business enterprise to exclude from any report made to the public any information which is proprietary in nature.

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Section 208. Sec. 5. Definition of Substandard Earnings. This section requires the President to exempt all wages from controls which are $3.50 per hour or less.

The Republican opposition in Committee was loud and continuous. It was clear that the Republican strategy (aided by some defectors on the Democratic side) was to delay action by the Committee by (a) introducing numerous amendments (there were seven introduced to the first section of the Bill-Section 204) and (b) to debate each amendment over a prolonged period of time.

This Bill, this action by the Banking and Currency Committee was of tremendous importance to black people. We are caught in the lowest wage and salary scales; we are more grossly exploited in rents than any other group in America, and we have throughout the years been paying higher prices than those who live in suburbia.

The recent inflation spiral of prices was added on to the already high prices inner city dwellers were paying.

We began hearings at 9:30 in the morning. We concluded hearings at 5 p.m., having completed only the first section of the Bill. Based on the first votes on that section it seems likely that the legislation will pass in Committee.

Its fate on the floor of the House is much less certain.