OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

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)

A-4 FEBRUARY 16, 1974

Gas Rationing An Excuse

Gas rationing has finally hit us.

Oh, it has not yet arrived in the form of ration tickets or severe limitations, but it is here nevertheless.

This week for the first time, Maryland began a plan whereby motorists purchase gas on alternate days, depending upon whether the last digit on the license plate number is odd or even.

Under Governor Mandel's order, motorists must buy $3 worth of gas on stipulated days. (Cars with four cylinders or less have $2 limit).

Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and the 31st of any month are 'open purchase' days, which means both odd and even-numbered drivers may buy gas.

They are not to purchase limits for certain commercial vehicles, buses, trucks, motorcycles, nurses, doctors and persons required to drive their cars more than 75 miles a day in connection with their jobs.

It is too early to tell whether the new gas plan will prove to be effective in reducing long lines at the gasoline pumps.

It may. But this, probably, would be its only corrective value.

Merely defining days for fill-ups will not mean that less gasoline is consumed or purchased. And, certainly it will not affect gasoline supplies.

There may be unfavorable side effects to the plan now operating.

Already we hear of police tying up traffic as they attempt to check license of cars waiting for gas. Traffic snarls result.

A better way would be to urge all stations to adopt a $2 to $4 minimum gasoline purchase for customers with no maximum.

This would eliminate the need for motorists to travel to another station to fill their tanks.

Stations could also be encouraged to use a split shift at the gas pumps.

In other words, they could pump gasoline for two or three hours in the morning while taking in repair work, close down the pumps in the middle of the day while completing that repair work, then re-open the pumps in mid or late afternoon as each station's self-imposed quota permits.

Every station could also employ channelization whereby all traffic entering a station must do so at one entrance point only with traffic lines forming on the least congested street area.

This would eliminate the confusion which results when motorists jockey for position from different directions.

It is possible, that these first measures of rationing are but preludes to prepare the public for acceptance of the idea of stringent rations in months ahead.

If so, we will all be losers.

Surely there are enough social problems of major importance to be tended to, while all this "hub bub" is being proclaimed about an energy situation which even now experts cannot agreeably define as a crisis.

But then, we suggest, maybe this is the purpose of rationing and dire energy predictions: to provide an excuse for not doing anything about those social problems.

Dr. Julian Stands Up

One thing about City Councilman Dr. Emerson R. Julian, he says what he thinks, no doubt about it and no tongue-in-cheek business. He doesn't mince his words. Right or wrong, he spells it out and stands by it.

This week he went on the picket line with teachers at a west Baltimore elementary school in his neighborhood and thus backed all the instructors braving blizzard and wearing foot warmers, double gloves and sweaters in subfreezing weather.

Dr. Julian says, "There is no excuse for teachers' demands not being met. It's not just a money thing. They want more materials and better hospitalization."

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Dr. Julian also speaks out on Mayor Schaefer's "handshake agreement" with Appointments Committee Chairman Allan B. Spector, where appointees to city bodies are kept "in limbo" in temporary-permanent posts.

Under the compromise, the mayor's appointees are not required to appear before the committee for a public hearing and approval.

Dr. Julian observes, "Anyone with a 5th or 6th grade education knows an appointment can not be temporary and permanent at the same time. It makes government more distasteful to see the mayor blatantly break the law when we ask Joe Citizen to adhere to the law."

We agree this time, Dr. Julian is absolutely right.

But No Brains . . .

Invariably, Black History Week stirs a lot of interest among white newspapers. This is due to a burning desire on their part to make a big deal of the part whites and white organizations have played in the removal of racial barriers.

In Baltimore this week, much emphasis has been placed on the role of sports in implementing the desegregation program. And local professional teams have been applauded for their efforts toward this end.

It is admitted that much progress has been made in integrating pro sports, but the AFRO finds small reason to be jubilant about the total picture.

Professional football is still awaiting a black head coach, and major league baseball has yet to name its first black manager. Yet, some advancement in this direction has been made in other cities.

Coaches in baseball and assistant coaches in football are present in New York, Boston, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, St. Louis, Atlanta, New Orleans, Houston, San Diego, Anaheim, Los Angeles and San Francisco. But not in Baltimore.

Baltimore, in fact, is a long way behind. Except for a here-and-there typist, there is a deplorable lack of front office blacks in this city's pro sports.

When one considers that a number of great athletes have graced the rosters of the Orioles, Colts and Bullets — when they were here — he finds but one reachable conclusion.

In the minds of Baltimore's professional organizations, blacks are individuals with strong muscles, sharp eyes and nimble feet — but no brains.

Mandel And Judges

Once again the wool should have been pulled publicly from the eyes of those who profess to believe that by eliminating elections from the judicial process we also do away with judgeship politics.

Nothing could be further from the truth and we are reminded of that by the resignation of Judge Wilson K. Barnes from the Maryland Court of Appeals, reportedly partly in protest of the qualifications, or lack of same, of Governor Mandel's latest appointment to the court.

The AFRO won't join into a hassle over the qualifications of the new appointee, John C. Eldridge, the governor's former legislative assistant.

Barnes says Eldridge never practiced law in the real sense nor did he ever try a case in a Maryland Court, to his knowledge. The AFRO throws that in because sometimes questions arise about the experience and qualifications of black lawyers recommended for the bench.

As ominous as is the question of qualification, there still is the issue of politics.

That one the AFRO thinks is highlighted again by Gov. Mandel's move to shift Atty. Gen. William Burch into a judgeship so that the latter will have a less challenging political job and in order that the governor can further enhance the potency of his election team for the coming campaign.

No question remains that Burch's name will appear on the right lists and if Gov. Mandel wants to make the move, the necessary deals will be made in order to gain Senate approval.

This is the kind of politics in judgeships that smells and gives citizens reasons for concern.

It is a kind of judgeship politics that does not place the quality of justice in the courts, nor the appearance that this is a major priority, in proper perspective.

Hunch: Nixon Will Not Be Impeached

By G. James Fleming

It strikes me that President Nixon will not be impeached (indicted), by the House of Representatives and, if impeached, will not be found guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors," by the U.S. Senate.

In other words, he will not be ousted from the Presidency before his term ends, if my speculations and hunches are correct.

Of course, Mr. Nixon may still resign, but we do not believe that he will leave the Presidency by this route, either. He has said, repeatedly, that he will not. However, if he does leave his high office, it will be by resignation, not impeachment.

Why do I think this way, my readers will ask. There are four or five grounds for my feelings:

1. There is the over-all rabbit-foot good luck of Mr. Nixon which has brought him from an unknown ex-Navy enlistee to the Presidency, despite two interim defeats — for President in 1960 and for California's governorship in 1962.

The man is just lucky. Who else could have weathered so much of Watergate and still remain in power, with power.

2. While the President suffers from Watergate, he is acclaimed by the entire world for his foreign policy success — the Vietnam armistice, China, Soviet Russia and, more lately Panama.

Even the Middle East-Israeli conflict must be considered a draw rather than a failure. Everyone admits that Mr. Nixon has achieved mightily in international affairs.

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3. Very important, perhaps most important, the Congress is not anxious to impeach Mr. Nixon or to find him guilty. Not only because the President is a former member of both houses, therefore "a member of the club," but because Representatives and Senators, deep down, are not in a spirit of compulsion to popularize the idea, or the actuality, of ousting a President before his term is over.

They are afraid of the idea. They tremble to think of what might happen to some of them if impeachment gets to be considered an easy-to-use device. It might become popular to unseat senators and representatives.

Then, too, and honestly, they do hold "the Presidency" in great awe and respect. Further, their fingers are crossed over the successor to the President.

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4. Similarly, the masses of people also hold the Presidency in the highest esteem, next to the throne of a monarchy or the office of Pope.

They (the people) are not, at heart, willing to face the shambles of ouster by the impeachment process.

Many people feel Mr. Nixon cannot be held responsible for everything done (every deed committed) by his subordinates.

Like the Congress, the people are not sure they will be improving things, as they are, by exchanging Nixon for Ford (or Agnew if he had not resigned earlier).

The Congress, and the people, are afraid of the U.S.A. becoming what they call "a banana republic."

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5. The President may also by-pass impeachment by using all the legal delays and defenses afforded him, thereby preventing the House of Representatives from completing impeachment (indictment) before his term is over.

Mr. Nixon's lawyers will use every legal right open to them, will insist on every postponement within the law.

Mr. Nixon can also depend on his supporters on the House's Judiciary Committee and in the House, to give him every benefit of every doubt — all to the end that there will be no impeachment.

If Mr. Nixon is ousted from the Presidency via the impeachment process, it will be, from here on, because the President overreaches himself in his non-cooperation with the Congress, because he turns his Republican and other supporters totally against him, and because he exhausts all the faith and goodwill of the American people by more weekends like that in which Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox was fired, or by more instances of unavailable tapes and erased tapes.

I may be wrong but, when all is added together, as of this moment, I am convinced that President Nixon will not be ousted from the Presidency by the impeachment route.

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 the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

WASHINGTON REPORT

Inching Toward Impeachment

By Parren J. Mitchell
(D-7th District-Maryland)
U.S. House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives inched one step closer toward impeachment last Wednesday.

By an overwhelming 410 to 4 vote, the House passed H. Res. 803 authorizing the Judiciary Committee to require

(1) by subpoena or otherwise

(A) the attendance and testimony of any person (including at a taking of a deposition by counsel for the Committee); and

(B) the production of such things; and

(2) by interrogatory, the furnishing of such information, as it deems necessary to such investigation.

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Such authority of the committee may be exercised by the chairman and the ranking minority member acting jointly, or, if either declines to act, by the other acting alone, except that in the event either so declines, either shall have the right to refer to the committee for decision the question whether such authority shall be so exercised and the committee shall be convened promptly to render that decision.

There were, of course, opposition Congressmen. A member of the Judiciary Committee argued, "There can be no reasoned objection to the grant of subpoena power by the full House to its Judiciary Committee, providing two conditions are met:

The power granted must be exercised fairly; and The power granted must be exercised reasonably. As to each of these conditions, the proposed Resolution is deficient."

Several other members of the House Judiciary Committee, though supporting impeachment and or the resolution, voted in the negative, arguing that the ranking republican member of the committee had his power restricted — "Under the terms of the resolution, as stated in sec. 2 (b) thereof, authority for the issuance of subpoenas may be exercised by the chairman and the ranking minority member acting jointly.'

Or, if either declines to act, by the other acting alone, except that in the event either so declines, either shall have the right to refer to the Committee for decision the question whether such authority shall be so exercised.

Despite the opposition, the Resolution passed overwhelmingly.

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What does the rest of the script look like? As we proceed with the judiciary's inquiry into impeachment, I suspect that, a growing number of Republicans in the House of Representatives will speed up their disassociation from the Nixon Administration.

They know this is an election year.

They saw the result of the special election in Western Pennsylvania, where for the first time in 25 years a Democrat defeated a Republican in a Congressional Race — and the issue was Watergate.

I don't think the Republicans fear the House vote to impeach the President if that vote should occur.

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I do think that the Republican Members of Congress fear a trial by Senate, with all of the tensions, frustrations, exposes, and publicity attendant to such a historic trial.

For this reason, if the House votes for impeachment incredible pressures will be exerted on Nixon by his own party to "step down."

For black people, every day's delay in impeachment maximizes our anguish and the agony we experience daily and which threatens to continue.

Have you looked at the President's budget message?

Are you aware of the two billion dollar cut in programs which might benefit us?

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A Little About A Lot

Column by

Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy

will be resumed

next week.

80 YEARS AGO — "The Interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

Black History Aborning

A little-discussed sidelight of the current trend emphasizing blackness is the intellectual breadth it has given to our young people.

Critics who project some imagined cleavage between the black consciousness movement on the one hand, and common-sense approaches, intellectual pursuits and mature questioning, on the other hand, are ill-advised.

No such separation exists.

Contrariwise, the keenest minds, the sharpest inquisitors and the most pragmatic youths are often in the forefront of the present movement.

And some young people, who before had to muster strength to study assigned topics, now find themselves exploring varied fields of study, from art, theatre, linguistics, politics and religion, to history.

That these interests are subsumed under the general heading "black," accounts to a large degree, we are sure, for this appeal and study.

It is, to say the least, good to see.

This, despite the fact, that we have always had intellectual giants of the mind, both recognized and unrecognized, among our race.

The current popularity of things black, however, should not be viewed as just another development in a long run of events.

Rather, we believe it is due in part to the studied efforts of our forefathers who loudly proclaimed the merits of our history and culture, often in the presence of deaf white ears.

Some of those early voices were those of Carter G. Woodson and the founders of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History — a Washington-based organization.

Long before such studies were popular or generally recognized, this organization and others similar were promoting what was then called "Negro History Week."

Between the time when teaching aids and materials were first prepared for black students, and now, many changes have taken place.

After years of insistent protest, schools are at last incorporating materials which are multi-racial and which treat the black presence in all areas of study as more than a mere curio.

Some would even say that the formal departmentalizing of black studies on campuses of higher education has reached an ebb-tide.

And just this week we heard someone wonder aloud whether or not there is still a need for an African-American History Week.

Our answer is an emphatic yes. We may have come a long way; but we still have a long way to go.

Many of the current treatments of blacks in course work are perfunctory at worst or superficial at best.

And publishers are still printing and distributing separate editions — one all-white and another multi-ethnic — for separate uses of the same title in inner-city or Northern schools and in suburban or Southern schools.

African-American History Week (the official title, although Black History Week is more in vogue) affords us an opportunity to reflect upon needed change as well as the past.

It calls to mind what otherwise might soon be forgotten.

It also provides an "excuse" for well-meaning teachers in hostile settings, who need support for teaching black history.

And it hopefully sets up a formal chance for dialogue with polarized communities — something they need, whether they realize it or not.

For all these reasons and many more, we ask the churches, organizations and schools of this city to make this history period a vibrant one, full of special activities and displays related to our pilgrimage in this land.

We too, have done our part. Offered to the reader in this issue is a special supplement which graphically portrays black history.

And then, we remind our public that twice each week we also make a contribution to the cause. The twice-weekly AFRO is the best way for everyone to keep up with black history-in-the-making.

The rest is up to you.

YOU Can Register To Vote NOW

Do so TODAY at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. You can also register by mail. Forms available at all branches of Enoch Pratt Library, Community Action Agency centers and Supervisors of Elections. Next primary election for Governor and state legislators is September 10, 1974. August 12, 1974 is the last day to register.

AFRO READERS RAP ABOUT .....

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 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

SPECIAL TO WRITERS: This past week, AFRO Readers Rap has received a number of letters on the teacher strike in Baltimore City, now in its second week. It can not publish unsigned letters. Teachers from School No. 83, you had no signatures on your letter. Sign it, and we'll print it.

Teachers, Beware!

Dear AFRO:

I believe it is a consensus of opinion that our teachers more than deserve and even deserve more than that which they are fighting for.

However, black teachers, especially, beware of Judas! Notice the signs on the picket line saying "Impeach Roland Patterson," or the teacher who said the city should take away Roland Patterson's salary and give it to them.

These statements are the standard routine — to cloud the issue!

These teachers are not really concerned about the real issue — the welfare of the teachers.

They are a part of a conspiracy, a group of jealous persons who cannot bear to live with the fact that a black man holds this position.

These are the people who still want to lead the black people by the nose.

These are the people who keep the Orlinskys happy. (Orlinskys being those persons who are doing all in their power to attempt to create citizen dissatisfaction with Dr. Patterson.)

Watch these people and let them know that I and many others will defy them — WE ARE THE TAXPAYERS; WE PAY THE SALARIES, WE INTEND TO STAY IN BALTIMORE, AND WE INTEND TO KEEP DR. PATTERSON!

Teachers, your fight is against the Mayor, Department of Finance, Board of Estimates and City Council — these are the culprits in control of the funds.

The attacks against Dr. Patterson are only to destroy. Teachers do not be duped and used as pawns.

As well as teacher benefits, you need to fight equally as strenuous for passage of the total FY 74-75 School Budget request; for if this budget is cut, new teachers will not be hired and class sizes will grow even larger.

If this budget is cut, those of you (and there are many), who are dedicated will be using your personal money to buy paper, crayons or other supplies for your pupils.

Particularly black teachers beware — for it is your black children who are suffering and this is exactly what your peer traitors want.

Remember, Judas betrayed Jesus, Brutus betrayed Caesar and some of your peers and behind-the-scene leaders are betraying you! — (Mrs.) GRACE A. HINES

Teacher Speaks

Dear AFRO:

I am a city teacher. I am and always have been opposed to strikes but it seems to me, that at this point; teachers have little choice.

Baltimore City has refused to negotiate seriously on both monetary and non-monetary items since August, 1973.

When the State Superintendent of Education declared an impasse in November, 1973, an impartial arbitrator was brought in to look at both the teachers' and city's positions.

When the arbitrator presented his finding, the city rejected that.

The city school superintendent, who is paid $50,000 per year, says he needs a 20 per cent raise but that teachers earning less than one fifth his salary should be satisfied with 3 per cent.

He has also unilaterally taken school administrators (principals, vice-principals, etc.) who used to earn only a small percentage more than teachers off the teachers' pay scale, cut their salary scale, and told them they get NO PAY RAISES. So for them a promotion means a pay-cut.

He also wants to take away teachers' right to binding arbitration on grievances and make other changes in working conditions that take away all job security.

Although we have had no pay raise since September 1972, and no contract since June 1973, teachers did not go on strike in September. We have been working and trying to teach the city's children and I think that says something about our dedication. JAMES K. WESTON.

Settle Strike

Dear AFRO:

I must cry out now in greater anguish when I see the future lives of our boys and girls of ALL nationalities jeopardized because of this teachers' strike where many blame the superintendent, Dr. Patterson.

This is so unfair to him. If the monies are there for education, then why not use it for such an important purpose. America needs quality education for ALL our boys and girls of all races. They are our future leaders.

I feel that PSTA and BTU (two major teacher unions) should reach some type an agreement or write or get an understanding about such an important issue as schools.

I feel, too, that the City Council should converse or negotiate fairly with the two organizations and Dr. Patterson or officials and make honest reports to the proper authorities concerned.

Money seems to be the main dispute here plus its distribution in the proper places. An agreement should be REACHED QUICKLY for our own children's sakes. They are the suffering victims.

Educators must not think of themselves first but of our unlearned children. After all, educators are our trained professional college degree graduates. They have made a great commitment to their profession to teach our unlearned boys and girls.

MRS. IDA A. SNOWDEN

Far Enough

Dear AFRO:

The last two editions of the AFRO have carried stories concerning how much money teachers are losing each day or week.

Whenever there's a strike, workers lose money, but they gain more respect. So why keep publishing how much teachers are losing? The city fathers certainly have a friend in you.

If you are really concerned about the education of the youth in this city, then start putting in a good word for our teachers who have been working without a contract for nearly a year and who have apparently been pushed far enough.

JOAN DAVIS.

Hero

Dear AFRO:

The whole world's nicer, brighter, too, because of thoughtful folks like you. Thanks so much. ARNELL SAMPLE

(Editor's Note: Arnell Sample is the 14-year-old Clifton Park Junior High eighth grader, who rescued a neighbor's three children in a fire earlier this month on E. 27th St. He was featured in the Feb. 2, 1974 issue of the AFRO as a courageous hero.)

Inmate Compares Teens To Angela Davis

Dear AFRO:

In my awareness that you are the only true people's newspaper I have known through the years, I am asking that you print this open to letter to Misses Tina L. Green and Mary Brown, accused in the Greyhound Bus Depot murder case, now under $50,000 bail each at the Baltimore City Jail:

Dear Sisters:

"Tina, my name is Eddie Withers and I am 23 years old. We have never met the (physical sense) but (mentally) I have been having (social introduction) with young people like you all of my life!

So you see, little sisters actually we have known each other a very long time. Our ghetto history made it mandatory for me to meet you.

"For the last five (5) years of my life, other than the year of so that I was on escape from this institution, I have been serving a 15-year sentence. I read also in order to keep, the peace with in myself and to get a more profound understanding of the world around me.

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"Lately, I have been keeping my head in the pages of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper to keep up in awareness in what is being done in the matter of the incident involving you..

"I am hurt for I have sensed a great injustice being manifested upon you two young ladies by this American Establishment because of your youth and illiteracy to the law.

"The more I learn concerning your cases the harder I am finding it to sit here in this steel box each night knowing that you ladies are in need of the help of our black communities there in the city which I was a part of before being sent here.

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"Sisters, although I, myself, am being oppressed in an environment which is more or less the same as yours, I can feel your pain at the surface of my conscious and it's much more greater than my own.

"I realize the difference in our situations makes your fate more depressing than my own, because I have somewhat adjusted to the pressures of confinement with the time I've been here.

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"Five years ago I don't know if I would have been able to write this letter with the same security I feel today! Because five years ago I was only three years older than you two are now, and my fears of being in an adult institution for the first time really might have been the same ones you are having now.

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"Therefore, I think I can understand yours better than those people in that free world who have never had our experience of being behind the walls of freedom.

"The United States Constitution was written to protect the rights of all its citizens, or at least this is the understanding I received from reading in my history classes when I was going to Baltimore City public schools.

"But I am beginning to think maybe they tricked me into going for the 'Okee-Doke' when I was informed of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence that they say was made a legal bill on July 4, 1776, and the Emancipation Proclamation that Lincoln gave.

"I think I'll write a letter to Karl Boone, president of the Baltimore Public School Teachers Association, maybe he can clear this matter up for me because Judge Raymond Thiemes of the outrageous $50,000 bail each imposed upon you two children has me believing that it's the other way around. A person rather than innocent until proven guilty is guilty, until he is proven innocent.

"Bails are supposed to be set for a person awaiting trial in order that the defendant might be able to meet its requirements of payment with his or her income.

"Hardly did a person with such high intellect as Judge Thieme has, think that two 15-year-old children, or their poor families black or white, would be able to meet a high bail like this.

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"I am just one of the many poor people in this country with sense enough to know that capitalism means the economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned and operated for profit.

"Since the poor people just own themselves, we are nobodies locked up in a world of somebodies which makes us all inmates of this society, be we in or outside of the correctional systems's walls.

"How in the world can a country tell its poor people that "Lady Justice" is blind, and that she is fair with us all for she sees no faces. When the hands she placed in power administers professional brain-washing and "con" the people in the way, they should think way before the defendant has their day in court?

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"Once a person has allowed another person to plant thought seeds in their brain the seed does not die, it may fall to the back of his mind and seem dead.

"But death has not come upon it, and a day of judgement before an open courtroom is enough to brind any (thought seed) back to the surface of the mind.

"So whatever happens to you two young ladies when you are before the judiciary on your day in court, I want you both to be strong and understand.

"There are somebodies in this country who among both the blacks and the white who have eyes and can see. I am sure that they sympathize with your families and you and will aid you more than my letter.

"We came to Angela Davis' aid and helped free her, and had a bail set for her. So rest assured that before it is over the poor and rich people like I whom the seen missed will see to it that justice be done and that your bails will be cut down if not paid for.

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"I believe that this letter will serve its purpose more so if I make an open letter to the AFRO in your behalf and for every family out there in Baltimore city to read that has a son or daughter. What is happening to you concerns the public because it could happen to them also.

"So now that they have read my letter I can only ask you to stay strong and wait the outcome of the AFRO, this letter, and the people's reaction of it.

"Until then all I can say is: 'keep your heads high and try not to worry so much, little sisters.'

EDWARD H. WINTERS'
(Md. House of Correction,
Jessup, Md.)

They're Out To Get Superintendent

By Angela Lee
(President, Parents United for Quality Education)

Let's talk about why and how Mayor Schaefer, the City Council and others may try to get rid of the Baltimore City school superintendent.

When Dr. Roland N. Patterson came to Baltimore in Oct. 1971, he was told that he must make a change to better our educational system. He said he would and he did.

He put decentralization into effect. He introduced the Right to Read and other meaningful programs.

He tried to instill in the teachers, the importance of the children but some of the teachers' egos were hurt.

The trouble really started when he began to move people in key positions around. They had been key for years and they had made their contacts and their deals were established.

After all, education is the biggest business in Baltimore city. People were unable to get their kickbacks, and contacts began to fall off.

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Members of the School Board began to feel the pressure. The City Council began to feel the pressure. The Mayor began to feel the pressure, etc., and so the attacks on Dr. Petterson began.

Councilman Fitzpatrick had Dr. Patterson before the Council when Dr. Walton, School Board president should have been the one.

The Mayor and City Council began for the first time to listen to complaints from teachers and the move to put PSTA back into control began.

Teachers whose egos were hurt, because the superintendent told them that the children were first, began to talk about low morale.

However, after Fitzpatrick made his public statement, those who began to work to find out what a teacher's job was really about, began complaining about things like, too many tests were given.

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The bickering between Public School Teachers Association (PSTA) and Baltimore Teachers' Union (BTU) began. This helped delay negotiations and led to last week's teachers strike.

PSTA which is about 80 per cent white, did not just happen to win. It is not a coincidence that PSTA began their strike just when the school budget was submitted.

People are forgetting about the budget and are talking about the strike. Again 'they' used the old trick, and that is to put dollar signs before people's eyes, but only this time it was before our teachers' eyes.

When there is a choice of something for "me" or something for "others," people think about "me" and it worked this time.

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Dr. Patterson can not do an effective job if the budget is cut, nor can the teachers.

When one examines the budget to see what areas are cut, he will learn a lot. Cuts mean we can not pay for additional teachers in our schools, teachers may go back with a raise to face 50 or more students per class.

City Council President, Orlinsky has already spoken about taking away the fiscal autonomy from the schools. Public officials know that if you control the money, you control the man.

Of course, people in general need more money. So you see money is a beautiful plan and could easily be used to divert people's attention.

While innocent and naive teachers are yelling for more money, the power structure is yelling for Dr. Patterson because this is the plan anyway.

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One way to get the superintendent is to close the schools, which can result in all types of suits.

Do the teachers question the fact that a counter offer was not made?

Maybe the teachers would have accepted a lower offer.

Doesn't it make sense that a 5 per cent could have been accepted in '73 and 6 per cent could have been asked for in '74?

The teachers could have had very close to the 11 per cent raise by now.

As Del. Walter Dean said, "a game is being run," Del. Webster has correctly pointed out city officials control the strings.

Teachers and parents should wake up. The teachers are talking about a raise now.

Don't they know that if they stay out a month, it will be a couple of years before they see a raise and they will only be getting their own money back that they lost during the strike?

Parents will eventually think about their children and will begin sending them to school.

When will the teachers wake up?

When will our people in Baltimore City wake up and question what is happening to them?

The schools must remain open as long as the children want to go and as long as dedicated and good thinking teachers want to teach.

Our children should not suffer any longer because of dirty politics and the people must wake up and look at what is behind it all, and that is a plan to remove our superintendent.

A Mother Speaks

Dear AFRO:

I've had it with black people always making excuses when their children commit crimes. It's strange how parents and relatives never see the wrong in their own children.

You can go to the shopping centers and they will tell you how hard a time the security men have keeping out some of these "good" children.

They steal cars on parking lots. They snatch pocketbooks.

What justifiable reason can the parents offer for children being out late at night?

Maybe the reason the parents and relatives think their children are good is because they are never home to bother them.

—

I have seen some of them out in alleys smoking pot, drinking wine, and have been home many times on my lunch hour, when they should have been in school, and they were in the alleys.

I have heard some of them talk to their parents like a dog, and probably worse, and the parents acted like they were afraid of their own children.

So, let's stop making excuses for black children who commit crimes. If they are wrong, they are wrong, regardless who they are. It's no excuse. I came from a broken home, but a home where I knew I was loved by both parents, and was disciplined.

When children carry weapons, commit crimes, stay out or sneak out in the wee hours of morning, they should be punished as adults. The have adult minds.

I am not prejudiced. I am a mother and a black one at that.

MRS. B. A. Z.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A5 FEBRUARY 16, 1974

AFRO LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post card 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 telephone number.

QUESTION — I found the envelope I am sending you in the middle of the street. It had some very nice pictures. I know the owners would like to have them back. Can AFRO Line find the owner? A.P.

ANSWER — We'll try. AFRO Line publishes herewith one of the photos in the envelope. Owner can claim photos by calling Mrs. Steele, 728-8200, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

QUESTION — In my neighborhood there is a supermarket that is doing nothing but exploiting the poor blacks by charging them four to ten cents more for the food.

It may not seem like much but if you were to charge four cents more on every item that's sold, at the end of the year you would have a lot of money. Please have something done about this. H.J.

ANSWER — The manager of that Northwest Baltimore grocery told AFRO Line that he hasn't received any complaints on his prices, which he says are competitive with every store in the neighborhood.

If you are still not satisfied, AFRO Line suggests that you file a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service, 837-1040.

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QUESTION: There is a filling station on Belair which I think is a Jim Crow station. I pulled in there on Lincoln's birthday at 7:50 a.m. and there were 4-5 automobiles at the pumps, all in a straight line. The third car had a gasoline hose in the tank and I stopped behind it to be served.

As I walked up, the dealer said, that was the last fill up, no more gas. I looked at him surprisingly and as I was backing out, I noticed his other customers watching me and whispering to each other.

I pulled across the street and waited for three minutes, then I went to the next block, a Gulf Station, asked for 3 gallons, and was served. Only 8 minutes had lapsed between the two places.

When I went past the first station, I noticed another line and I stopped and watched this same man serving gas.

I thought when a person is in business, he is supposed to serve the general public, and not just choose to suit himself. What is the problem?

ANSWER: A spokesman at the station told AFRO Line the station is serving all persons regardless of color and "when our gas is out, we are out." He denied the

WHOSE ARE THEY? — This is th question reader asks AFRO Line.

Feb. 12 incident and said, "It couldn' happen."

When told the complaint was takin the matter to the Internal Revenue, th spokesman said, "I don't care who comes We are fair to all.'

HOW IT TURNED OUT! — A wee back in this column, we carried th complaint of a reader who said th because she was divorced from he husband, her charge account had not bee honored by a local firm. She advises thi week that because of AFRO Line' inquiry, the matter has been straighten out, and her credit card rights restore

Glover-Tillman

Dear AFRO:

We deeply appreciate the artic written about our center in the February edition. The article made clear to th public, our proposed plan for workin with the emotionally handicappe children.

Perhaps at another time you will b able to give space to our program for "normal" children already in operation.

We regret that Frances Tillman was unable to read the article before her death. However, we know she would have been pleased.

A "Memorial Fund" in the honor of Mrs. Tillman's work has bee established. All persons interested i helping troubled children may mail thei tax deductible contributions to: Frances Ashley Tillman Memorial Fund, c-o Attorney Michael Mitchell, 800 Charles Street, Suite No. 3, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Thanks again to the AFRO.

EUGENE GLOVER
(Executive Director,
Glover-Tillman
Learning Center,
2814 Edmondson Ave.)

Editor's Note: Mrs. Frances Tillman was a co-founder of the Glover-Tillman Learning Center. She died February 6, 1974, without seeing her dream come true, or reading the article referred to here).

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The two 15-year-old girls, charged as adults in the knife murder of a white traveller in the Greyhound Bus Depot in downtow Baltimore, are due for a preliminary hearing at 9 a.m., on Feb. 18, in Central District Court.)

A TRIBUTE

Carol Blanton Diggs

By Clarence A. Faulcon
Chairman, Music Department,
Morgan State College.
Speaking at funeral services,
Feb. 12, 1974,
Morgan Christian Center

She was a gentlewoman. She was noble in spirit and inspired students and faculty alike by her high degree of sensitivity to all of those with whom she came in contact.

Those alumni here today who were her piano students can tell what she has meant to them and their lives.

They will tell you that she was a very personal teacher. She wanted to be a friend and made a sincere effort to understand the total make up of her students. This personal approach coupled with directness and honesty was used in her teaching.

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She was like a mother to them. She knew when they had not practiced. They could not fool her. She demanded the very best from them, working just as hard, if not harder than they, to help them achieve maximum realization of their talents.

She would give freely of her time and would work hour upon hour with a student to help him reach his fullest potential.

Her colleagues in the department never ceased to be amazed by the students she produced. She was indeed a master teacher and a great practitioner of her art form.

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I had the pleasure of hearing her perform in recital, on the Carl Murphy Auditorium stage, the first year I served as chairman of her department.

As soon as she began playing, I knew I was hearing one of our greatest black concert pianist.

From then on, her great artistry lived through the extension of her aesthetic genius into the consciousness of her students.

Our department has been quite fortunate to have had Carol Blanton Diggs with us: We will miss her greatly. Her untimely demise leaves us with a deep sense of loss.

But the students and faculty of Morgan State's music department are much the better for having known her.

Carol has left our department, Morgan State in general, and the nation richer and more beautiful by having passed our way. No human being was cut from finer cloth. It has been an honor for us to have known her.

Indeed, she was a beautiful person. Her students called her a gem. She reflected the beauty of a dedicated, firm, and honest pedagogue. She had great concern for her people as an educational leader.

She expressed beauty through her music and through the way she lived and moved.

Farewell, Carol—musician par excellence, master teacher, and wonderful human being.

Parent Speaks

Dear AFRO:

As a parent who has made careful observation of the situation, I can't help but question the intent of the teachers in this very delicate situation.

There also arises the question, "Wh the deliberate attacks on our first blac superintendent, Dr. Roland N. Patterso

Even though I share anyone's need f increase in salary, I am unable to shar the position taken by teachers again students who attempt to cross the picket lines for the purpose of improving their education.

LAWRENCE DOUGLAS PATTERSON
(Columbus Elementary School No. 99)