OPINION

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)

A-4 OCTOBER 5, 1974

The Colts show

Ever think you'd feel sorry for Colts general manager Joe Thomas and the Colts he didn't trade away? And how about former Colts coach Howard Schnellenberger who just a few days before being sacked by owner Robert Irsay had been promised by Thomas that he'd at least be around until the end of the season?

We're grown up enough to know that professional football is a business, a profit-making (or tax-write off) game of entertainment in which owners, coaches, players, etc. go and come.

But even guys who play for pay have a right to expect some sort of order and system to the way they go about winning and losing.

Particularly when you gotta go out there before thousands of paid customers on a Sunday afternoon and be battered (as the Colts were going at it lately) by another group of big bruisers.

Thomas, who gave Schnellenberger a bunch of rookies and would-be. stars from which to field a team, suddenly has been asked by owner Irsay to take over as coach and show old Howard how it's done. No wonder Thomas has been sweating a lot lately.

Probably, Thomas knows more about coaching than he lets on. As best we get it, he plans to let his assistants do 95 per cent of the coaching and prove himself by keeping the press happy and getting the players up on game days. His first big move was to cut down on practice time.

Strong-armed Bert Jones, the man Irsay demanded be played over Marty Domres, is a quarterback with more pressures than any man who has to show up against the tough New England Patriots Sunday.

Imagine having to go out Sunday and do the type of job that will make Irsay happy (and a genius) with the kind of team the Colts have—and knowing that Irsay says the Steeds have to win even if Irsay has to do the playing.

Things have been a bit too bizarre with the Colts to predict that Irsay won't be coaching or playing quarterback a few games from now.

But the AFRO can't see Irsay, Thomas, Jones and the rest of the Colts giving their fans (remember them?) as many as the four wins produced last year. So standby by. There could be more fireworks.

New threat to colleges

The University of Baltimore, located downtown, will not be allowed to admit any fulltime entering freshmen, effective in the fall of 1975.

The Board of Trustees of the State Colleges of Maryland passed a resolution at its Saturday meeting to ensure U. of B. follows the law limiting it to "... an upper division, academic institution, that is third and fourth year collegiate year and post-graduate studies."

If the U. of Baltimore is not allowed to take entering freshmen next fall, by the fall of '76, they should not have any freshmen or sophomore students.

The U. of B., which will join the state college system next January, is expected to have a great deal of effect on the enrollment of other nearby colleges — Coppin, Morgan and Community College of Baltimore.

Those who opposed its entrance into the state system, argued that not only would enrollment at other colleges be affected, but also general funds used to operate these institutions and funds for capital expansion.

Already U. of B. is slated to get $5 million for a new law school to be built within walking distance of the existing U. of Md.'s downtown law school.

The board's action to limit U. of B.'s enrollment of freshmen will allay some fears but already it has been noted that this fall enrollment at the three existing black colleges in the city is below predictions. Coppin is off 328 students; Morgan has 6 fewer than it had in 1973.

We admit that contributing factors are Morgan's tuition fees, the highest in the state college system; the reduction in student financial aid, and the allowance of other-race grants. Add these to the current depression and the entrance of U. of Baltimore into the state system, and the fears are still there.

The new nursing school at Coppin is expected to alleviate its enrollment problems, but for Morgan, one solution might be to lift the 6t-of-state quota system which prevents it from accepting all qualified students who apply.

The State Board of Trustees of Maryland Colleges must act now before the fall of 1975 if these predominantly black colleges are to be saved from extinction.

Undeserved media rap

The black press got an unexpected and undeserved slap in the face Sunday when a local television talk show moderator inaccurately stated that the black press has not addressed itself to the matter of President Nixon's pardon.

Just as unexpected was the fact that the moderator's erroneous statement went unchallenged when two of the panelists, Dr. G. James Fleming and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md., both have discussed the issue in their columns in the AFRO.

Mitchell's latest colum on the subject, "Nixon pardon and aftermath," appeared Sept. 28. In the same issue, Dr. Fleming's column commented, "Nixon is No. 1 welfare client."

Editorial page columns by National Urban League executive director Vernon Jordan and NAACP executive director Roy Wilkins, have discussed the issue.

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, the AFRO entitled an editorial on the pardon, "A Nixon dole!" and the following Tuesday carried an editorial, "Another cloud."

As to other black media, not one of the publications that regularly come into our offices on a weekly basis, has failed to discuss the Nixon pardon.

Oct. 6-12 is National Newspaper week in the United States. Because of the many unfounded slurs the press has received from many areas, its theme this year is "Newspapers—Freedom's Guarantee."

An elementary understanding within the media is that the right to criticize is universal and the press can expect to come in for its share of barbs.

Press survival and effectiveness depend upon its own responsibility in being critical and on its speaking out when it itself is given a black eye without cause.

The AFRO thinks the Sunday TV show was sufficiently careless with its indictment of the black media as to stand accused of an irresponsible slap.

Mr. Kennedy decides

It is a tribute of some sort to Senator Edward M. Kennedy that so much has been made in the press and on the television of his decision to bow out of the race for president in 1976.

Notwithstanding all the fuss, the fact is that the Massachusetts senator's withdrawal from the race has left the Democrats in a pickle, so to speak, particularly with respect to the minority vote. Many voters, for years, have regarded the Kennedys, former President John Kennedy and his brother Robert, as friends of minority citizens. They shared the same affection of the Senator.

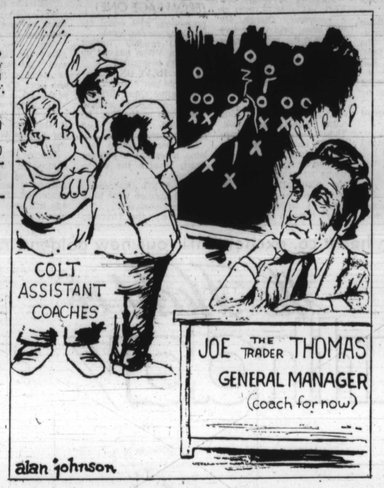
They remember their concern and deep interest in the inner cities, trying in their own political way of meeting the basic human needs of all residents, black and white. They were condemned by many and paid with their lives for their approach to the problems of the Sixties which has been described as "an explosive and revolutionary" decade.

Together with the late President Lyndon B. Johnson, they did their best to provide equal justice and equal opportunity in a hectic era following the "benign neglect" of the fifties dominated by a Republican administration. They gave hope, aspiration and opportunity to the depressed and downtrodden, and minority voters benefitted from their efforts.

Minority voters fully understand the family difficulties the New England senator is facing, and respectfully accept his decision with sympathy.

Whatever Sen. Kennedy's plans are for the future, we wish him well.

You say I traded away the best man we had in many of those positions?



A little about a lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

Skills of the black artist photographer

Rare are the times when as tourists, camera equipment crisscrossing our chests, that we haven't felt the urge to photograph a masterpieee.

The horizon, cobalt blue, with that one cloud blotting its perfection; sundogs predicting rain-lighting the heavens with eerie brightness, as if forgwarning "the end is at hand!"

Or the one prizewinning street scene, or portrait of a friend, loved one, showing the world the exquisite statement that only our camera will capture.

But instead, more often than not, we chop off the head, lack variety of texture, perspective, expression, or blur that feeling burst of light and shadow—not artistically—ineptly.

The time, patience and native ability involved in taking a telling expressive image—capturing a feeling—as opposed to just another picture, remains in the skilled hands of the artist photographer, posed, unposed, real or surreal.

It is through the lenses of 49 imaginative geniuses in the "Black Photographers Annual, 1973 and 51 in Volume 2, that we are privileged to pore over, hour after hour, masterpieces of photographic art, seeing the familiar kaleidoscopic aspects and poignancy of the black experience.

Toni Morrison in the Foreward of the 1973 Annual sums it up like this: "... it is an ideal publishing venture combining as it does necessity and beauty, pragmatism and art... Telling us what we had forgotten we knew, showing us new things about ancient lives and old truths in a new phenomena."

The chronicles of Van DerZee (1973), veteran black photographer whose works span seven decades, and P. H. Polk (Volume 2), official photographer for Tuskeegee Institute for 40 years, attest to the depth of our roots, the pervasive contributions we have made to American life.

In addition, the examples of modern photographers offer us an opportunity—the gift—of tasting the trends of our troubled times through their discerning cameras.

One social portrait, particularly apropos, is that of Baltimoean John Clark Mayden, that shows bus riders, one a black woman resolutely and stoically staring ahead, while a young white school girl sitting beside her seems to beseech her with a compassionate gaze, "What is the difference? Why can't we work together?"

This one picture would be the excellent human relations portrait, the thousand words for Baltimore during its citywide tension over school desegregation.

Many more social comments, endless moments of pleasure, of insight, grief and joy await you in these two magnificent volumes: **Black Photographers Annual 1973, and Black Photographers Annual Volume 2.**

You will heartily agree with Clayton Rile's summation in the 1973 Annual introduction that these volumes are indeed "... monumental testament(s) both to their enormous gifts, and to the people from whom they have come, the people, wondrous and strong, who have been their subjects for this study of life."

If these Annuals are not available locally, you may purchase them directly from the publisher: Black Photographers Annual, Inc., 55 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201: softbound, $3.95 each and hardbound, $10.95.

You and your family will never regret it.

Now and then — by G. James Fleming

Much room beyond race problems

The racial discriminations in reference to jobs, housing, schooling, and a thousand other problems, prevent most blacks from turning to other countless problems outside those of race. Mere survival takes up almost 100 per cent of the thoughts and inventiveness of most black people.

Suppose it were not so, what might blacks not do addressing themselves to the many challenges that are humanwide in their sweep and importance.

Right now, for instance, some of the usual economic experts seem to know the remedies for the nation's escalating inflation.

They have talked and talked for years. They are split down the middle, it appears. They are confused. Congress is just as confused. The President, as his two immediate predecessors, is in water too deep for him.

Suppose some group of black economists, or just one black fiscal or monetary expert, could develop the convincing blueprint to correct our inflation and stabilize the economy?

Such a one, or group, if he were listened to, could in one stroke, do more for winning "respect for the race" and opening doors than a hundred mass meetings.

Or, suppose there was a group of black educational experts who could research the persisting questions of why the Johnnies cannot read in public school, in high school and in college, and who could demonstrate how this condition can be corrected.

Suppose some blacks could come forward with a program that will be convincing enough to make blacks and other poor wiser spenders and investors of the little money they have, so that they will not have to be dependent on others and on the government — so that they will not have to be so much the victims of loan sharks of one kind or another?

Suppose "the system" freed blacks enough, and equipped them well enough, so that they might devote themselves to finding cures for cancer, heart disease, sickle cell anemia, and so many other diseases plaguing mankind?

With more than one-half of the people of the world starving, suppose some black chemist, agriculturist or nutritionist, or a group of them, could perfect a workable formula for producing foods and irrigation where there is now persistent famine or specific shortages of some necessities.

We could go on and on. The truth is however, that "the system" is a tremendous deterrent to the flowering of the creative talents of blacks.

The poorest schooling, the only kind available to the group for over a hundred years, the marginal diets for over 400 years, and continuous oppressiveness, are not conducive to the highest scholarship or the highest intellectual efforts, or the the discipline required for the broadest and deepest research (although a substantial number of blacks have overcome these racial handicaps).

Yet, this is the kind of environment most blacks have been subjected to, under colonialism, slavery, and the more recent racism of the Amercian brand.

When, in addition, these same groups have been kept out of apprenticeship and employment in the technical and mechanical branches of industry, it is doubly true that they will be found handicapped in their attempts to break into new areas of discovery.

But, these handicaps need not last forever. They can be overcome by the attitude and application of present-day high school and college students and the concern of their parents. We must give development of mind first priority.

While the battle for better schooling is being fought, those of us who are students (within or outside of classrooms) must commit ourselves to hard work, and demand more of ourselves.

We must stop dodging the higher branches of English, math, and the natural sciences. We must be curious about the world round about us, and find a way to push beyond blackness — and in the very pushing bring more recognition for blackness.

Hours in laboratory and library will not be as demonstrably "doing our thing" as orating and marching, but they, too, will be keys to opening doors and to giving blacks a new image to themselves and to the world.

Scholarship reform--another view

Dear AFRO:

You invited the black state senators who voted against Governor Mandel's reform scholarship bill to explain their vote.

Senator Blount, in his response raised some very valid questions which I would like to respond to publicly because the black community is entitled to answers.

I want to disseminate the answers so that we can go ahead and get the reform scholarship program enacted because I am convinced it will benefit more black children.

Senator Blount asks how often the Student Financial Aid Board will meet and who will make final decisions. Answer—New guidelines will be established and the board will probably meet at least monthly as do other major education agencies.

Since all test or academic criteria are removed, under the reform proposal—something I have been fighting for vigorously—decisions will be based solely on demonstrated need.

The board would be responsible to see that aid was given to as many needy students as possible.

Recipients would be chosen on an objective, non-political evaluation of financial need.

If black parents want to appeal a decision they would apply directly to the agency. Like all other agencies, the operations of this new agency will fall under the Administrative Procedures Act and also under legislative scrutiny.

Auditing would assure the full utilization of funds.

To push for an absolute definition of need within the legislation itself is not desirable or practical. A family with five children, several in college, or with heavy medical obligations may have great need for financial assistance to send a child to college although their income may be higher.

Indeed, any attempt to rigidly define need would hurt many black children whom the program should help.

Half of all of the funds available would be distributed on the basis of financial need. This is the important and compelling element for Baltimore city, since the largest percentage of low income people in the state live in the City.

Under the present Senatorial Scholarship program, each district receives $14,500 to distribute. Thus, a child in Montant part of Prince George's County, who really could afford to attend college without assistance if he got a part time job, might be receiving aid, while a child in Baltimore city is denied aid despite a much greater financial need because funds are exhausted.

The important part of the scholarship reform measure is that it would eliminate the possibility of passing over students with financial need because of where they live or because they do not make a certain score on a test.

A student with financial need would have the same opportunity to receive assistance if he is admitted to a college no matter where in the state he lives or what his color, and financial need would have the same meaning all over the state.

VERDA F. WELCOME
(State Senator)

Washington — by Parren J. Mitchell

Sickle cell neglect by our government

Just a few short months ago, the Congress and Richard Nixon issued reams of press releases concerning the government's commitment to fight and conquer the sickle cell disease.

Black folks felt good because the government was coming through.

White medical schools and teaching hospitals felt good because they would get large sums of money for research.

Black medial institutions and teaching institutions, although recognizing they would come up on the short end of the stick insofar as funds were concerned, felt good because "a start had been made."

However, the fact is that, since the passage of the National Sickle Cell Anemia Research Act in 1972, not one cent has been appropriated for Sickle Cell research.

I would like to outline for you the history of neglect.

There are several types of legislation which Congress can pass. The passage of "authorizing legislation" shows that Congress has recognized that a need exists and should be funded. However, it takes "appropriation legislation" to actually fund that need.

The National Sickle Cell Anemia Research Act authorizes the appropriation of up to $115 million to be expended over a three year period.

Therefore, Congress acknowledged that that level of funding would be necessary to begin to confront the disease which kills and afflicts blacks every year.

It has been two years since that Act was passed.

In the interim, the Heart and Lung Institute, of the National Institutes of Health, has expended $16 million annually, out of their $329 million budget, for Sickle Cell research.

The Administration points to these funds with pride, feeling perhaps that $16 million a year is more than enough to combat this "black man's disease."

Quick addition, however, indicates that the Heart and Lung Institute's three-year expenditure, at the current rate, yields a total of $48 million, less than half of what Congress, back in 1972, declared was necessary.

Why is it that the health needs of black people are so readily sacrificed?

What will happen if and when the Heart and Lung Institute decides, as it can, since its expenditure of Sickle Cell research funds is discretionary, to totally stop funding the program?

I am sick and tired of the health needs of black people being thrown to the winds of discretionary authority.

I urge the citizens of our community to flood the Office of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees with letters demanding a Bill which will appropriate those funds authorized two years ago.

It is time for the Administration to put its money where its empty rhetoric is.

I have asked that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus join me in strongly worded protest letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

I have written to the Congress of Racial Equality; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Urban League; National Association of Black Social Workers and the National Medical Association urging that they take up this cause.

It is a travesty and a shocking indictment against the Federal government that these funds should be held up and, or denied.

I saw some graffito some time ago scrawled on a subway wall. It said, "Doesn't anybody give a damn?"

REGISTER to VOTE

1 LEE 1 L.C. Oct. 2—13.5 Pleas
REMINDER:—Monday, October 7, 1974, is the LAST DAY to register before the November 5 General Election.
YOU can register by mail. Applications are available at all public library branches, department stores and Community Action Centers."
Or, you may register directly at the Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts.
A good citizen is registered and prepared to VOTE. Don't rap, register and vote.

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).

AFRO readers RAP

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

Sister Mary Gintling

Dear AFRO:

Your "AFRO Readers Rap," (September 21, 1974), carried an article "Joseph House Salutes." It brought to mind the tremendous work Miss Mary (Mae) E. Gintling did a few years ago for inmates in the Maryland House of Correction.

As chairman of the Seventh Step (MHC) Chapter at the Maryland House of Correction, I became aware of Mae Gintling, director of Joseph House through a fellow prisoner by the name of Howard Sims who was a member of the Seventh Step Organization.

At Howard's suggestion I wrote Mae a number of letters, and when she replied she brought with her a plan to set up our Board of Directors for the 7th Step Chapter, establishing an Ex-offender Program. This is a phase of the prisoner program that is a follow-up of various necessary activities in the construction of inmate produced programs: psychotherapy; youth counseling; job counseling; and counselor training in and out of the prison.

The ex-offender program was built round Gerald S. Day and Kenneth Taylor inmates, who were to process other prisoners inside and outside in the ex-offender program which provided residence, jobs, and therapy classes for members of the Steppers (Seventh Step).

Mae had worked hard to secure the release for Kenneth and finally was able to get me into the ex-offender program located originally in the Joseph House.

Although this wonderful lady, and those of the Joseph House, including Mike Campbell, were unable to obtain parole, Mae received agreements with Mr. David T. Mason, chairman of the Board of Parole; Congressman Parren J. Mitchell; James J. Jordan, Commissioner of Correction; Mr. Charles W. Griffin, president of Arlington Approvement Association, and Mr. Ralph L. Williams, warden of the Maryland House of Correction, to bring me into the community of Baltimore on a Work Release Program where I counseled inmates and ex-offenders and prepared for society.

This work by Miss Mae E. Gintling was stopped due to the lack of funds and non-cooperation of the prison system, which apparently, wasn't prepared emotionally for such reform. I think the larger community should be aware of the tremendous service rendered by truly wonderful Sister Mary (Mae) E. Gintling.

GERALD S. DAY SR.
(Maryland House of Correction-

Job for parents

Dear AFRO:

Since the number of black parents who can spare the time to go into the school and find out what the school needs (and how their children might be disadvantaged, to go to City Hall and the Board of Education in order to request what is needed, to battle for those needs and to recheck to be sure they are gotten), is small, the old system of the de facto segregated "neighborhood" schools must no longer be operative.

Such a system is necessarily self perpetuating and restricting to the disadvantaged. The school board, school administration and the city are charged with seeing that each and every child, regardless of neighborhood, receives an equal and quality education.

Integration is the only way HEW can insure there is no disparity based on race in the schools. The courts recognized this in 1954.

The achievement of such integration necessitates the inconvenincing of some black children as well as the white, and this is as it should be.

This has been a long struggle for blacks.

It is long even if one only started counting from the delivery of the memorable Supreme Court decision on desegregation of schools in 1954. But struggle we must.

We must expect to be inconvenienced if we are to remove the cruel advantage from de facto segregation and render all schools equal.

The Federal Department of Health Education and Welfare saw where the cities of Baltimore and Boston had bogged down in their efforts to achieve integration in schools and exercised their perogative to cut off funds to these cities in order to prod them back into "all deliberate speed."

HEW saw that blacks could not fight City Hall alone and, therefore, ventured in to lend them a hand.

This action may take away some of the dubious freedoms from the blacks today but it should hasten the tomorrow when full and real freedom is enjoyed.

Therefore, those black parents who fight against HEW can only point up the need for integration in the school system, and the result of the inferior "neighborhood-school" education of blacks in the past.

As one whose primary ade education was "colored," with having to walk three to five miles to school along a road on which he met buses, loaded with white children being bussed for segregation, as one who walked past a comfortable brick school, with indoor facilities, a few blocks from his home, to go to a two-room-frame "neighborhood" school more than three miles away; and as one who spent his years in elementary school behind desks carved with the initials of pupils from the comfortable brick schools who used them initially, along with bus and janitorial service; this writer can appreciate the vision of HEW and is saddened by those black parents who cannot see anything more than the fact their child must go a little farther to school.

They show no appreciation for the concern from Washington which the NAACP and other civil rights organizations generated, even with breath and blood, years ago.

"Separate but equal" is a myth. The courts recognized this when they directed the schools to integrate.

Parents should be tolerant of the temporary "bad" in integration and take advantage of the longterm good for white and black.

Integration is the law of the land. Black pupils and teachers should welcome the white children and teachers into their midst, be receptive of their friendships and offer them a helping hand toward becoming adjusted.

Each has something to contribute and the other can reciprocate. With such cooperation and friendship inferior schools can be banished from the Baltimore scene.

Education is a familiarization with understanding of the laws of man and nature and causing them to flourish together. It is foolish to fight the law.

Parents, black and white, should send their children to school. This polarity cannot end soon if parents keep teaching children the negativity of disobedience. Give love a chance in the class rooms — And forbid them not." ERNEST O. BROWN, M.D.

Planet of Apes

Dear AFRO:

I am one of those movie-goers who saw the film titled, "Planet of the Apes." I have also recently seen television versions of that movie.

To those who have seen the film I am wondering if they have noticed the subtle suggestions underlying it. Consider, if you will, the depiction of the apes as two distinct races — one black, one white. Absurd?

Yes, it is absurd — but true. Witness further, if you will, that one of these races is depicted as the group which holds the bulk of power, authority, intelligence and humaness, as opposed to the other (darker) group. Again absurd? Yes, it is — but true.

Many people to whom I have pointed this out have admitted they were initially unaware of the color differneces among the apes, and were shocked indeed when this fact was brought suddenly to their attention.

All this is to say that the film, "Planet of the Apes," while pretending to innocently show the possibility of intelligent apes inhabiting their own planet, is beneath the surface actually suggesting that same old doctrine of "white supremacy".

Even if apes — whom whites like to equate with black people — were in fact to rule a world then there would have to be white apes to rule over those normally dark apes — a dire absurdity, since God in all His majesty failed to create such a thing as white apes.

FRANK G. NEWTON

Smiles

If your wife refuses to keep your place tidy, simply remind her of the woman who got ninety days for running a disorderly house.

Divorces

Dear AFRO:

Please consider stopping the practice of placing divorce cases on your front page. A divorce is a very painful and personal matter to all parties concerned. BLANCHE H. PAYNE

Honor Roll

Dear AFRO:

I find an ordinary "thank you" entirely flat and inadequate as an acknowledgment to the way the Baltimore AFRO AMERICAN elated me with the presentation of the beautiful 1973 AFRO Honor Roll Plaque.

The involvement of the AFRO and your sort of kindness and generosity will be long remembered. Officer HARLOW FULLWOOD JR.

NEWEST THING IN HEART OF THE CITY

O'Conor is largest new state building in Baltomore

By Bettye Moss

"Victor Frenkil, chief executive office of Baltimore Contractors, Inc., cordially invites you to attend a Special Preview and Dedication by Gov. Marvin Mandel of the new State Central Laboratory and Office Building, Biddle and Howard Sts., Friday, Sept. 27, 1974 at 4:30 p.m."

So it was this writer joined 900 citizens for our first "look-see" inside the massive new structure which towers over downtown Baltimore.

It has been billed as the largest building ever erected for the state of Maryland.

Known as the Herbert R. O'Conor State Office Building, it is located in the heart of the inner city next to the Fifth Regiment Armory at Biddle, Howard and Preston Sts.

Constructed at a cost of $31,634,239 by Baltimore Contractors, Inc., the structure houses a nine-story laboratory tower at the southwest corner and a seven-story building at the north and east corners, plus three levels of underground parking below both buildings.

Half of the space will be used by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the other for other state services.

The laboratory tower is designed so that the State Health Department can consolidate its present facilities in the former Goucher College Building on St. Paul St. and in the Municipal Building downtown.

The new lab will be used for work in environmental control surveillance testing, including air, water and food pollution and for communicable disease prevention and detestion, as well as public health blood studies and cancer detection.

Points about the new building: $4,200,000 is the cost of the heating ventilation and air conditioning alone. Another $4,232,000 went for electrical costs and $1,700,000 for plumbing.

LARGEST STATE EDIFICE IN CITY is this $31,634,239 building at Biddle, Howard and Preston Sts', in downtown Baltimore, which was dedicated Friday. It will house Md' State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and other services' Inset, the late Herbert R. O'Conor, former U.S. Senator and Md. governor for whom the building is named. This June 1952 AFRO staff photo of him was taken when he received honorary doctor of laws degree from Morgan State College for his leadership in pfoviding equal opportunity for all.

The structure has 6,310 tons of steel and covers an area of 854,000 gross square feet.

These include 328,000 square ft. in the laboratory building; 14,000 sq. ft. of commercial retail space and 279,000 sq. ft. of parking space for 675 cars.

Concrete used: — 10,450 cubic yards of foundation concrete and 16,100 cubic yards of superstructure concrete.

The massive buildings were designed by Meyer, Ayers, Saint, Stewart, Inc. Architects were Egli and Gompf and Van Rensselaer P. Saxe.

What does the building look like? The designers say it is a welded structural frame, a floor system of metal deck with poured concrete topping, an exterior enclosure of precast architectural concrete wall panels. Get it?

Still unfinished, however, at the site is the concrete staircase which leads to what is to be an overhead pedestrian promenade.

Its construction has not been completed because of the original bid of $3.8 million was rejected last year as too high. It is expected to be put out for bids later this month.

About the name: — The structure honors the memory of Herbert Romulus O'Conor (1897-1960).

He was a native born Baltimorean who became governor of Maryland during the turbulent war time years, 1939-46; and U.S. Senator, 1947-53.

Before that he was Assistant State's Attorney, 1921-23; counsel for the Public Service Commission, 1923-24; State's Attorney for Baltimore City, 1924-34 and Md. Attorney General, 1935-39.

AFRO files show that Mr. O'Conor, a Democrat, was the only Marylander to be elected Attorney General, Governor and U.S. Senator.

Thirty-five years ago when Herbert O'Conor took the oath of office as governor, this reporter began work as a cub reporter on this newspaper.

AFRO files support the fact that on his first day in office, O'Conor had big shoes to fill when he became the state's chief executive succeeding Republican Harry W. Nice whom black residents had come to look upon as a person who had established an open door policy of dealing with what we called "colored" citizens on an equal citizenship basis.

Gov. Nice, older AFRO readers remember, was responsible for the appointment of the first colored police officers, colored coroner and colored justice of the peace in the city of Baltimore, as well as inspectors and examiners of hairdressers and beauty culturists.

He created a commission on higher education in establishing scholarships for our young people and provided larger appropriations for Morgan, Princess Anne and Henryton.

In his inaugural address in January, 1939, the new Governor O'Conor appointed then Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, the late Dr. Willard W. Allen, a member of the commission to plan the reorganization of the justices of the peace and the magistrates system in Baltimore and the counties.

Further, his first day in office, he pledged he considered himself governor of "all the people" and was determined to serve all without discrimination.

AFRO files show that colored citizens then were reluctant to accept this new governor with open arms and in fact there were few of them who visited the State House following the inaugural parade.

One of them who did was 11-year-old Virginia Gurry of Annapolis.

So did Lloyal Randolph, Creston Wongust, the Rev. S. J. Edwards and William McAbee as well as members of Federal Post No. 19 of the American Legion who turned out in their yellow and blue outfits.

Representing the Maryland Colored Democracy that day was Josiah F. Henry, the attorney.

But the new governor turned out to be a real friend. He was in the State House when Marylanders staged the famous march on Annapolis which resulted in employment of police officers in uniform, investigation of police brutality.

In his first special message to the legislature, he recommended that the state acquire Morgan College, then a private school operated by the Methodist Church.

He appointed a commission to work out details so that a bond issue was authorized to provide funds for new buildings and equipment.

A month after he became governor, big news in the AFRO at that time was the fact that the state's chief executive included in his "green bag" the names of two black citizens, Dr. Robert L. Jackson and Josiah F. Henry Jr., attorney.

Dr. Robert L. Jackson was named one of the city coroners and Mr. Henry a justice of the peace. Late AFRO editor, William N. Jones, in a byline article at that time reported as follows:

"Democratic leaders, many of whom were gathered at the banquet staged in honor of Roy S. Bond at the Monumental Elks Hall were jubilant when word came that Dr. Jackson had landed a post of city coroner. They hailed it as assurance of their belief that Gov. O'Conor would at least match the appointments made by his Republican predecessor, Harry W. Nice."

When O'Conor died, the AFRO noted in its editorial columns that he had matured in office and had won for his service to the state — his authorization of the first million dollar building on Morgan campus — the refectory — his advocacy of equal salaries for teachers and his courage to speak out in the U.S. Senate.

There, he voted to approve nomination of U.S. Judge William Hastie and voted for cloture when Southern senators filibustered on a fair employment practices act.

At its June 2, 1952 commencement when Morgan conferred on Mr. O'Conor an Honorary Doctor of Laws, it described him as "servant, friend and champion of the common people."

The citation praised him for his "outstanding example which you furnish to the American people that public office can be continuously attained and held without resort to the sometimes devious practices which have entwined themselves into the structure of our political life" and that "you have exhibited evenhanded objectiveness with which you have balanced the scales of justice when championing the cause of the people, yet observing in every particular the rights of any transgressor suspect."

Referring to his role as chairman of the sub-committee of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee which spotlighted rackets and crime in the country, the citation noted, praised him for his "unceasing vigilance with with which you have ever scanned the activities of the taxgatherer to the end that full value might accrue to the public from this supporting factor from our system of government." and "for your fearless and relentless attack upon any who would sabotage our democratic way of life, whether it be found in high place or in low."

And finally, it noted it would remember him for his "unyielding determination that neither race, creed nor color shall be debar from equal opportunity any segment of our citizenry" evident by your wholehearted support of this very institution.

"Morgan State College hails you as a former chief magistrate of our Commonwealth, as a distinguished member of the U.S. Congress and as an exemplar of Christian citizenship."

Present at Friday's dedication ceremony for the new O'Conor building were his son, Herbert R. O'Conor Jr., an attorney.

Other faces spied in the crowd included Dr. Neil Solomon, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and Mrs. Solomon, George L. Lewis, Secretary of the Department of General Services.

Also, Mrs. Alice Pinderhughes, State Senator Verda Welcome, Major William Box Harris, who would not have been able to wear the handsome uniform he does today if he had started his career 35 years ago.

Also his assistant, William Gantt, Superintendent of Schools Roland N. Patterson, State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, Joseph Chester, David Sloan, Dr. Samuel L. Myers, president of Bowie State College.

AFRO LINE

..AFRO LINE is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

m..All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO-LINE, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimoren Md. 21203.

..In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

..SPECIAL NOTE: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections, complain or inquire about AFRO news stories and policies by contacting AFRO-Line by phone or letter. Weekdays call 728-8200, Extensions 64 or 56, between hours of 9:30 and 5 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service. Your report will get prompt attention by top management or the AFRO news department.

Or write, AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203 or drop in to see AFRO-Line at 628 N. Eutaw St.

QUESTION: About two months ago I bought a ring at a sales party. I put $5 down and sent a $21 money order to the salesman in Silver Spring, Md.

The party said everybody did not pay so he was going to send my ring in the mail but he hasn't yet. What can I do? (MRS.) T. M.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line has tried unsuccessfully to reach the salesman in this complaint by phone. A letter has been sent to him. We will let the writer know as soon as we get an answer.

In the meantime, AFRO-Line has learned that at similar parties, you dive for a pearl that you may have set in a ring. The hostess sends in an order and asks for the balance of the money by a certain date. Her order arrives C.O.D. and she is to pay the entire balance. If she has not received all the money, she has to either pay for it herself or send the entire order back. Perhaps this is what happened in your case.

Without all the facts, AFRO-Line can not give you a concrete answer. We await response to our written reply to the salesman you mentioned.

FOLLOW-UP. In this column on September 7, a reader queried why all the persons in leadership positions featured in the Motor Vehicles Administration's in-house publication, "Bits and Pieces," are white.

The writer said it was his opinion that Motor Vehicles was well integrated and he failed to understand why all the administrative personnel publicized were white. AFRO Line asked Personnel Manager Fred Wolf.

In this Sept. 7 column, Mr. Wolfe said not all the department heads were white. He said Rudolph Walker, branch manager of the Mondawmin office and Steve Carter, head of the Equal Opportunity Office, are black. He promised additional employment figures.

This week, Mr. Carter submits to AFRO Line the following statistical facial breakdown, as of Aug. 30, 1974. He advises that of the 1,374 persons employed by DMV 190 are minorities, or 13 per cent. That is, 1,184 are white; 183 black, 3 Orientals and 4 Spanish.

A further breakdown of categories shows 13 officials and managers, none of whom is black; 8 blacks of the 90 professionals; 19 blacks out of 273 technicians; 1 law enforcement and custodial employee who is white.

Further, there are 137 office and clerical black employees out of 930; 1 black skilled craftsman out of 11; 35 blacks out of a total of 45 service and maintenance and 3 black para professionals out of 11.

QUESTION: Now that there is talk that State's Attorney Milton Allen will run a write-in campaign, can AFRO-Line tell us how one goes about writing in a candidate? E. R.

ANSWER: Supervisor of Election spokesman; Mr. McQuade advises AFRO-Line that there is a slot at the top of the machine for all offices on the ballot. There is a slide for you to hold on. You simply push it up and write in the name.

You may use pen or pencil, but he suggests that you do not use a ball point because you will be writing up high and sometimes they don't write well.

The law states that the candidate's name is to be written in. Once you have written in the name, you can not change your mind.

QUESTION: I would like to know where to write to get some information about the new pension and welfare regulations I believe were passed by Congress last month.—J. F.

ANSWER: The U.S. Labor Department has info about new protections and guarantees for employees covered by private pension and welfare plans as provided in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Benjamin B. Naumoff, assistant regional director of the U.S. Labor Department for labor management services, says the law affects two different types of employee benefit plans;

They are, pension plans which provide retirement benefits; and welfare plans, which provide other benefits such as health or accident assistance. The law applies both to employee benefit plans now in existence and to ones which are instituted after enactment. It does not require the employer to establish a plan.

For more write to Labor Management Services Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 9 Clinton Street, Newark, New Jersey, 07102, 201-645-3713

84 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)

The AFRO stands for . . .

- Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.
- Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.
- Extensive and meaningful 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.
- A black owned and operated taxicab company.
- A black owned and operated bank.
- A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.