Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Questionable legislation

News comes that State Senator John J. Garrity, of Prince George's County, plans to introduce in the General Assembly next year a bill that would allow police to take drivers who refuse to take a breath or blood test for alcohol content before a court commissioner who could then suspend a driver's license pending a motor vehicle administration review.

We would be for almost any measure that reduces the incidence of drunkenness on our highways and the tragedy it begets but what Garrity proposes gives us serious cause for concern.

Prince George's County is notorious for its harassment of black citizens at the hands of law enforcement agents in that jurisdiction.

Garrity must spell out the safeguards in his legislative proposal which assure that the mandated alcohol tests would not make it open season on black drivers by police.

What is to prevent police from using the suspicion of drunkness as a pretext to arrest, interrogate and otherwise infringe on the rights of citizens?

This proposed legislation must be very carefully examined. It speaks to things that happen after the fact. As a drunk driving measure it deals more with locking the door after the horse is away than it does with prevention.

That it also could be used in more sinister ways is something the General Assembly must very carefully consider.

MSU security

We understand that security has been improved at Morgan State University in the tragic wake of the murder of a young man on campus several weeks ago.

With the many exciting activities scheduled at MSU this weekend as the university observes its annual Homecoming, heightened security is essential.

Football, dances, concerts are open to both students, alumni and the general public as well in some instances on this Homecoming weekend and everyone who comes to the campus deserves to enjoy the various programs peacefully, safely.

We hope that campus safety remains a high priority of the MSU administration and that implementation of a strong security program remains consistent and vigorous.

Prison protests

On television news programs this past weekend reports of citizens protesting conditions at the Maryland House of Correction were prominent.

Among those demonstrating were the parents of some recent escapees but the news cameras showed only white people protesting on behalf of the inmates.

The great majority of prisoners in Jessup, throughout the state penal system are black, and for media to suggest through its presentation of the news that whites are coming to the aid of black inmates while our community sleeps is the kind of distortion we can do without.

We do care about our incarcerated and accounts of what community groups are doing on their behalf fill the pages of this newspaper each week.

Much more needs to be done, of course, and our community's proper recourse it seems to us is to become more visible in our efforts on the behalf of offenders.

Black prison reform and prisoner aid groups are doing the job. We recommend they make more noise about the work they do so that other groups cannot miss it and take credit for the progress that is being made.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Several months ago, the president of New York University, Dr. Joseph Sawhill, lamented the fact that, with all the education and educators in the land, "we have not been able to find solutions for the most pressing problems plaguing the country."

He pointed, as might be expected, to inflation and the feared depression. If he were speaking today, he would point to these same problems and he would continue as he did when we heard him.

For this nation, despite its heavy expenditures on educating and training its people, has not been able to solve the problem of the lowest levels of poverty; nor able to design a foreign policy that is satisfactory to both the militarists and the peace advocates; nor to maintain its leadership in Latin America; nor, closer at home, conquer the spread of hard drugs or the spread of crime.

We are not speaking of the nation only as government. We are referring to all the levels of national leadership and decision - making — economic, social, legal and religious.

How can the near - helpless individual on public assistance overcome his situation if the Chrysler Corporation cannot solve its financial bind, of itself, or with the aid of the business world — without government aid. And where Chrysler is in 1979, Boeing Aircraft was a few years ago, and the Pennsylvania Railroad still earlier. This list could continue.

But, back to the eminent educator and administrator, Dr. Sawhill. He felt "embarrassed and frustrated" over the questionable batting average of educators and education in reference to the really major problems of the country. And what is true of American universities, is no less true of universities the world over.

As to war and peace, educators and education have served war - making much more effectively that they have served peace - making.

When it comes to what was once rhetorically called "Negro Education," the picture is no better from the point of view of problem - solution.

Whether it's the problems of holding on to the land, of housing, of making each dollar is have more cents, of business enterprise ownership, or of owning part of the United States via investments, our educational institutions have been lagging.

The entire challenging area of consumer economics is neglected in many educational institutions, by and large. As a result, most black families are "babes in the woods" when it comes to protecting themselves in the mortgage and small loan maelstrom. Many blacks are still very close to the period of "One dollar down and one dollar whenever you catch me."

The bitter sad story is that of the black Baltimorean families who have been ripped off bare - facedly renting television sets at $18 per week, paying forever, never owning the sets, and losing them whenever they missed a single payment.

It is not that educational institutions have done nothing. It is that they have not done enough or done enough lately. When problems were simpler or on a straight line, perhaps these institutions did better. It may be in the final analysis, that we expect too much of education and its institutions, acting alone.

This column does not mean to overlook the contributions of the Land Grant colleges and how their extension services changed the quality and quantity of American farming and animal husbandry.

We do not forget, or belittle, Tuskegee Institute's national "Negro Health Week" or Hampton Institute's century - long uplift program to black clergymen; or the Howard University Medical School's pioneer research effort against sickle cell anemia; or Fisk University's enlightening studies of the black and interracial condition under Dr. Charles H. Johnson. Nor can we disregard the fact that "Negro History Week" (now "Black History Week") has been carried forward notably, down the years, by the black colleges, although originated and sponsored by the Society for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Today and tomorrow, however, the principal problems are how to eliminate poverty amid abundant resources; how to restrain inflation and avoid depression; how the United States can win back the leadership of the free world; how to replace war fever with a world-wide effort for peace; how to find cures for cancer, for childhood diseases and other such ills, and how to reduce the high cost of medical care.

What part, can, and will, education and educators play?

Madeline MURPHY

Oil Obscenity

By Madeline W. Murphy

Overheard at a counter: "If my husband were alive and found out what I was paying for oil, he'd turn over in his grave".

Isn't it obscene therefore for Exxon to have 112 per cent profit in the third quarter over last year's third quarter, while most of us must decide whether to "heat or eat"?

For this particular woman, her mortgage payments were less than her monthly oil bill.

And while editorials bemoan the costs, none has mentioned the rising demonstrations all over the country, demanding that the U.S. take over the oil companies.

It was on Wednesday, October 17 that the National Day of Protest of Big Oil brought out people in every major city of the country and many smaller towns. Thousands of workers and retirees demanded that President Jimmy Carter clamp down on "profit-hungry Big Oil corporations" and nationalize them.

But none of this activity should hide the fraud being perpetrated upon the people victimized by "shortages" and the accompanying gas lines until the price reached over one dollar per gallon. One wonders how much of a shortage there really is if oil companies can earn enough overseas to justify these profits.

Moreover, the worst is yet to come with the gas rationing privileges recently legislated by Congress, given to the president. Experience with rationing during World War II proved that it was the poor or those not well connected who suffered while black markets flourished.

And on another front, because of the entangling alliances between some senators and the seven sisters—the largest monopoly oil corporations—the Senate voted down by a vote of 47-43 a proposal to provide $1.35 billion assistance to help people pay for the cost of exhorbitant home heating bills.

Without this help, this winter, many of us will be turning over in our graves for real!

Or as a timely Ollie Harrington cartoon depicts: A poor family stands around an oil can, in the snow, in which there is a raging fire. The man in the family explains: "I can't afford to heat up the flat, so I bring the kids out here 'til bedtime."

But if this weren't bad enough, for all you Kennedy for President lovers, the demonstrations mentioned above may be mere history, if S. 1722, Senator Edward Kennedy's notorious federal criminal reform bill is passed. (This is the successor to the defeated Nixon Bill S-1).

According to Esther Herst, Coordinator of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation:

"Chapter 13 would prohibit legitimate activity by citizens seeking to influence government policy, resist governmental abuses, or express opposition to government;

"Also, offenses relating to public order including Sec. 1831, "Leading a Riot", would strongly curb legitimate political expression, including labor union activity."

And so as the majority of us become more of an impoverished underclass what is more logical to control than to erode our constitutional guarantees?

How else does government control the reaction by demonstration of the life and death struggles of the poor, the old, the underprivileged, the unemployed, than to impose repressive police state constraints upon us?

And in that vein, have you noticed the high powered deceiving commercials and ads—Baltimore's Best—urging us to vote against Rent Control? Doesn't this too enlarge repression?

Rent control is absolutely necessary otherwise poor black people, the majority of whom are renters, will be faced with the additional decision of whether to heat, eat or SLEEP, and the oil can might well burn around the clock. Bitter irony!

—LETTERS—

CCB becoming insensitive, inhumane?

Dear AFRO:

This open letter is an appeal to the citizens of Baltimore to take a serious look and interest in the affairs of the Community College of Baltimore. It is in no way intended to harm the institution. It is hoped that those responsible for providing leadership to the institution take a serious look at themselves and their actions.

It is also hoped that my colleagues rid themselves of their fears and anxieties so that the college can function as an institution of higher education where ideas are discussed openly and freely.

As I see the college, CCB, under its present leadership, is developing into an insensitive, inhumane institution which is controlled through repression, suppression and intimidation.

At times one can easily get the impression that CCB is synonomous with the University of Moscow or Hanoi Community College; at other times it is as though the college is actually operating in an apartheid country like Rhodesia or South Africa.

The immediate question which comes to my mind, and I am sure the mind of anyone mildly knowledgeable of CCB, is how is this possible in an institution where the two chief administrators are of a minority race. Also one might ask how is it possible at an institution where more than 75 percent of the students are black, if one can understand the phenomena of South Africa, Rhodesia and other colonized nations of the world, then one might be able to recognize what it's like at the Community College of Baltimore.

CCB is controlled by a handful of neo - colonialists. Just as in Africa they gain their power through their missionary zeal. The power is obtained through the use of the chief.

The CCB president has done a dangerous thing to the college through the creation of one office which controls him and the college. The Office of Planning, Development and Communications. This office controls all of the vital aspects of the college.

At present, the office, through its publications branch, is using the AFRO - AMERICAN to carry out its program of public relations hype. It is painting a rosey and distorted picture of the institution to deceive the black community.

The college is a racist, neo - colonialist institution that oppresses black people. It perpetuates the same racist policies that led to the miseducation of so many young black people over the past two decades.

It exploits the black community so that the white ruling class can maintain its existence. The college is quickly becoming a mercenary institution whose major thrust is to obtain as much money as it can to maintain the status quo.

The college is no longer interested in providing service to the community as a community college should. Its greatest service is misservice, the acceptance of any person who comes through the doors so that it can pad its FTE count to get state aid. Students are accepted and placed into the college without regard to preparation and readiness for the college.

The college does very little to aid these students. Many students in my classes cannot read and write at the level necessary to succeed in college. The college is only interested in numbers, headcount and FTE, to boast of its vastness. This should change.

A classic example of the neo colonialist, apartheid influence at the college is that 18 percent of the personnel hired recently were white.

Over the years literally thousands of students have graduated from the college. Many of these graduates were black. Many graduates of CCB have gone on to receive higher degrees. Morgan and Coppin also have graduates who are in the job market. However, the president and the vice president support the position of the neo - colonialists that there are no black candidates available.

I myself know of many black professionals who are qualified for these jobs.

The actions of these people will ensure that the majority of the professionals at the school are white. I have nothing against my white colleagues who are diligently struggling to maintain their existence. My problem is trying to justify and understand how an institution can profess that it educates people, yet it refuses to hire these people.

The student body is overwhelmingly black, the graduates are overwhelmingly black, and the faculty and staff are overwhelmingly white and it gets whiter every day. The college continues to hire more and more whites.

The neo - colonialists are in charge here. Their influence at the college is as evident as the apartheid system of South Africa.

An example of this is the fact that the only person not to receive tenure at the college this year is a black sociologist, me, a man who has over 14 years of college teaching, excellent evaluations and the respect of the people I serve, the students.

Professional opportunities at this black college, in this majority black city, are steadily decreasing at a time when they should be on the up.

DR. JOHN R. MABEN

'The big, black...Pirates'

Dear AFRO:

On Sunday, Oct. 21, 1979, the Sunday Sun published an article by a white female sports writer named Susan Reimer. Towards the end of the article on page C5, column three, paragraph seven she wrote, "Any male might be intimidated, by the big, black, boisterous Pirates."

Writing this letter cannot begin to express the anger I feel. I know she was writing about the qualms white women sportswriters feel in the male lockerroom. I know that a lot of white women have neurosis about black men (maybe they still want to be ravished by black men as per Kyle Onstott), but if this isn't a racist reflection on the SUN, my name isn't Mary M. Thomas.

Do black athletes bring fear to the hearts of white writers any more than do white athletes? Do black athletes look any more monstrous or grotesque than do whites? What point is she trying to get across? Are black athletes supposed to go hide when they see a "delicate", white female enter their locker - room? Or, as I suppose she wishes, are they supposed to all get out of sports?

My sentiments are that she should get out of the business that she's in and go back to the never - never land from whence she came.

I have written a letter to the SUN demanding an apology, and I hope more people that read the article will do likewise.

Keep up the good work, we blacks definitely need you.

MARY M. THOMAS

Another raw deal

Dear AFRO:

I read an article in the AFRO Friday, October 12th edition stating how happy Ms. Mason was that the "Boat People" arrived here safely. As a religious person, I am glad when God watches over the needy. However, as a black citizen of Baltimore, I feel that we (blacks) are getting another raw deal.

If you stop to notice, you'll see that the "Boat People" have opened shops of all kinds in our midst. They sell everything from soap powder to soul food! The first to suffer are poor black grocery store owners. They are pushed out of existence by our silent, humble invaders.

Take another look at our downtown movie theatres. Nothing but Kung, Fu, Huh!? It's almost as if someone were trying to instill in us (blacks) a fear of those with slanted eyes.

I feel very strongly that black Baltimoreans should unite and approach the situation wisely. I also feel that black's don't know all there is to know about the "Boat People's" sudden arrival. You as black citizens control what goes on in your communities.

Gaye Chatmon Lewis
For rent control

Poverty is 'the dark curtain of tragedy'

Dear AFRO:

It is a literal fact that thousands of people in this country are perishing for the lack of proper nourishment while we mount a multitude of crusades against less crucial issues.

Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali poet, described the hungry as "eternal tenants in an extortionate world, having nothing of their own."

Millions of Americans are surviving on a mere pittance, and squandering of tax money while people live in poverty is very offensive and cannot be tolerated.

The politicians must take the people seriously, not as children to believe anything they say.

If we care about all this degradation, how long will we sit quietly by and allow this blight of poverty and hunger continue to support our wasteful life styles and squadering of tax money by politicians on comparative trivial matters?

In America there are clearly two societies. We offer more opportunities to more people than any other nation. In the other America, life is radically different to millions of people.

Poverty is the knock-out punch in an uneven encounter. It leaves people flat on their back — or at the very least, too demoralized to fight back.

Such is the life of poverty — a life where each day is a nightmare because it puts you further behind and each night is only an empty link connecting emptier days.

Security is the rarest of goods to the poor. Life to them is hopeless.

Hunger, in its prestarvation stages, is a powerful stimulus and motivator. It produces violence in the non-violent.

The poor, entrapped in a cruel web of circumstances that severely limits their right to the necessities of life; are caught in the grip of hunger and malnutrition, high illiteracy, inadequate education, shrinking opportunity, and corrosive poverty. With poverty, the dark curtain of tragedy to the full glory of life falls inch by inch.

It is amazing how the politicians have gotten away from us. However, I don't think this time is far off when the people will no longer take this present situation.

A new day is dawning and politicians better think very hard. Remember the saying, "Even a worm turns."

We need to reverse the degradation of humanity and offer considerable possibilities for social advances which penetrate behind the propaganda image of a "harmonious, pluralistic society" to the real and ugly plight of the poor, a non-future buried behind polite shrugs and smiling euphemisms.

We are all happy to be Americans, but we are no longer going to let politicians "rip us off." And there never was a time when the American people have been more sensitive to this, and to the fact that they want some secure honest and constructive action from government.

Fifteen years ago L. B. Johnson declared war on poverty. It is still the same - if not worse. At this rate it will never be eliminated. One hundred and 60 billion dollars have been allocated for poverty programs, most of which has gone to overheads and administration.

What I want to say about the whole subject of poverty with a force and vividness could never be achieved by the printed word. They are lost on a printed page. The plight of the poor is searing to the most sensitive of our moral and mental nature, as with hot irons.

Sincerely,
DR. SHEILA WATERS,
Director, The Society for Humanity and Social Reform International.

Parren MITCHELL

Congress in disgrace

The federal fiscal year began on October 1, 1979. In an undignified and unnecessary legislative fight, the Congress has failed to pass essential appropriations bills. The struggle between the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives is over two issues: the use of federal funds to pay for abortions; and the matter of a pay raise for federal employees and Members of Congress.

The U.S. House of Representatives has taken a harsh, unyielding stand on abortion, holding, in effect, that no abortion is permissable under any circumstance. The Senate takes the position that abortion is permissable when the life and health of the woman would be jeopardized. The abortion issue has been made a very emotional one because anti-abortionists and pro-abortionists have drawn their battle lines and will not allow for any compromise between the opposing sets of view.

Meanwhile because of this deadlock, pay checks for federal workers may be delayed. I do not believe that the Congress should hold federal employees hostage in this power struggle over the issue of abortion.

The other issue, the pay raise for all federal employees (including Members of Congress) is more complex. If the Congress does not act, then all federal employees would automatically be entitled to a 12.9 per cent pay increase. Some in the Congress call for a 7 per cent increase, others call for a 5.5 per cent increase; and still others seek to deny any pay increase for federal employees, including Members of Congress. Inflation hits federal employees just as hard as it hits auto workers, who received an increase, and other workers who have received increases.

But, put aside for the moment, the question of whether or not a pay raise is merited, and look at this misery which may well be inflicted on the innocent victims of this struggle between the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. Victims of Black Lung Disease may not receive their disability checks. Veterans, senior citizens, those on public assistance, and thousands of other citizens who, because of their entitlement to various government services, receive a monthly check from the government and, in most instances, that monthly check is their only income.

A few weeks ago, I praised the U.S. House of Representatives for its statesman like conduct in defeating the so-called Mottl Amendment, which would have struck a severe blow to the civil rights gains made by Black citizens. The House of Representatives did not even give a majority vote to this pernicious amendment which required a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Now, today, the Congress stands for the moment, at least, in disgrace for its failure to pass the appropriations bill necessary for the well being of literally millions of people in this country. Since I wrote this column, the problem has been resolved. I am glad that it is, but the fact remains that it was disgraceful for the Congress to have allowed the situation to develop in the first place.

—MORE LETTERS—

Murphy and WJZ

Dear AFRO:

William "Billy" Murphy, Jr. still has not told the Black community enough about why he was fired as host of WJZ-TV "Sunday Live" show and the "Square Off" talk show. I get the impression that the network didn't want him to start with, especially on "Square Off."

Bill Murphy is a real interesting young man to listen to especially concerning law. But "Square Off" is famous for inviting racists on their talk show, such as Elaine Stein and Eddie Fenton, and when Bill Murphy used to give his opinion on various subjects, a lot of those racists whites used to cut across him with their faces frowned up in hopes that Bill Murphy would keep his opinion to himself.

I didn't like the attitude that those whites used to act towards Bill Murphy on the "Square Off" talk show. I don't know what went on behind the scene, but if Bill Murphy feels that he was treated unfairly by the hierarchy of WJZ-TV, he should name the names of those he feels were out to get him. Because I think that he received a raw deal just because he didn't play the white man's game.

Karl Scott Crosby

For rent control

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore Civic Interest Group is in support of the Rent Control Bill.

I have asked all the members of Baltimore C.I.G. to call their friends and to ask them to support the Rent Control Bill.

The Housing speculation that is going on in Baltimore will be cut if we the people of Baltimore come out in great number and vote "Yes" for Question "K".

Without Rent Control the slum landlords can and will increase your rent. They do not care about the sick and elderly and the poor. All the slum landlords want is money.

I hope the residents of Baltimore City will not fall for all the lies they will see on T.V. because the slum landlords have a lot of money to buy T.V. time.

We must also be aware that if what slum landlords win, we the renters will have to pay for the T.V. ads.

Balto. C.I.G. For Rent Control
Irvin Conway, Chairman

UNSUNG HEROES

Len Jackson: 'I'm not here to play'

By Ann Sugi
AFRO Staff Writer

Leonard "Len" Jackson stands in front of his karate class of elementary and high school students, wearing black pants, a white pajama - type top sashed with a black belt.

"Push - ups!" he barks scowling at the kids. He is super - serious, all business and the kids know it.

They lie on the hard wood floor of the recreation center at Dukeland and Gwynns Falls. Male students do tough push - ups: knuckles, not palms for support.

The exercises are difficult. The students moan. One mutters, "Owww."

"Everybody up!" Jackson orders.

He Demonstrates a karate move, then the class imitates the Oriental self - defense motions.

"UUUIII — Yahhh!" he yells, leg thrashing out, elbows bent, hands poised.

"KEEEEE + UHHHH!" his class responds, mimicking his movements.

"Come on. You look like a bunch of birds. If you're going to kick somebody, then kick them!" Jackson scolds.

He volunteers at the center five days a week, for an hour and a half each day, drilling his students in self - defense, dispensing stern discipline, keeping them off the street, instilling a sense of direction.

"I don't think I'm harsh with the kids. They don't quit.

"At first, they try it because it's something new. If there are a whole bunch of kids who want to play, and one serious kid, the serious kid loses.

"I'm not here to play and they understand that." he said.

Jackson, who works at the coke ovens at Bethlehem Steel, began Tae Kuan Do karate lessons nine years ago when he returned from Vietnam.

"I had a bad disposition. I've always had a bad temper, even as a child, and I needed an outlet," he said.

He began teaching six years ago. He was a friend's boxing sparring partner. Bruce Lee, the late Oriental martial arts "superstar, was a big thing. The sparring partner wanted to learn, so Jackson taught him.

Soon, he had his first class of youngsters. Now the sparring partner is also a black belt and has his own karate school.

Jackson enjoys teaching. "I like shouldering. Like a lot of my friends, there was no mart at home. I had no male influence in my life.

"I can help keep these kids off the streets for a few hours and their parent don't have to worry about them."

Although Jackson has not met many of his students' parents, in one family, the son, two sisters and their dad take lessons.

And recently, an entire family, including the mother, learned self - defense from him.

"Having the mom come in, too, that was real nice," he said.

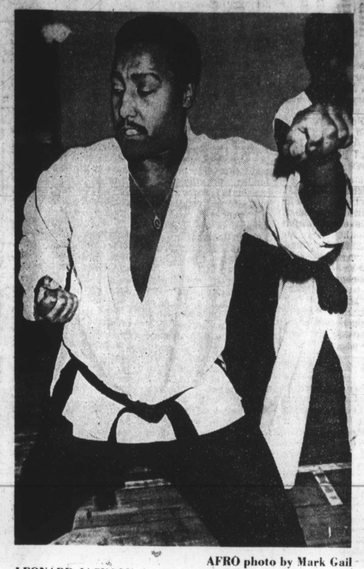
As his students become proficient at karate techniques, they are promoted: from white belt, to yellow, green, blue, red, then, the ultimate, black.

Before Jackson's students receive a red belt, they must fulfill a promise: teach without pay for at least one year.

"They learned it free. They have to give something back for what they got," he said.

Len Jackson has other interests besides martial arts. He hunts with a bow and arrow and he likes to camp. He has plans for a camping trip in the spring.

"I'm going to take some of the kids in my class camping when it gets warm out,."



AFRO photo by Mark Gail

LEONARD JACKSON demonstrates a karate move for his students at the recreation center at Dukeland Street and Gwynns Falls.

Black, Jewish split

Dear AFRO: A new and devastating word will have to be coined to describe the damage done to the good relations between blacks and Jews by Rev. Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young, and those who unwittingly joined them in their uncalled-for action.

But the resulting rift can and will be repaired, if clear-thinking people on both sides will it.

Only Blacks can know and understand anti-Black shenanigans.

Only Jews can know and understand that anti-Semitism will not die until the last Jew is dead.

But blacks and Jews fortunately have that little "extra" denied run-of-the-mill anti-Blacks and anti-Jews: Blacks and Jews know that in most brutal cases they are the targets for the same stupid bigoted reasons. Therefore, they can, together, learn from each other and forge ahead!

It would be a pity to sacrifice this important ingredient.

B. J. Small

'George Russell has done it'

"Let George Do It."

Since the beginning of time, the phrase "Let George Do It" has stilled the ambitions of thousands of men and women.

That phrase has silenced the tongues of those who would have spoken for justice, chained the feet of those who would have marched for peace and shackled the hands of those who would have fought for freedom. They would have succeeded but they wanted "George" to do it.

Well, George L. Russell Jr. has done it.

He took that phrase literally and in so doing has become the most prominent black lawyer in the United States.

Like other greats before him, he is crowned for what the public sees, not for what he really is. He is known for receiving many trophies and awards, but few know of the fact that through his efforts two clients were recipients of $1.2 million in a civil suit recently in Baltimore.

George L. Russell Jr.

He is known for defending people in the upper crust, but few know that he has defended the destitute and paid fines for strangers, sending them from the courtroom in the shadow of Christ, saying "go and sin no more."

Many say and have heard it said Mr. Russell is for the big bucks and won't touch a case without the money up front. But few know that one of the biggest cases of his career, the defense of Lt. Col. James H. Watkins, was undertaken with very little renumeration.

Washington Irving is well-known for writing "Rip Van Winkle," but few remember him for his most daring and courageous "Traits of Indian Character."

Like Mr. Irving, Mr. Russell is known for being the first Afro-American Magistrate at Large of Baltimore City, the first Afro-American City Solicitor of Baltimore City, the first Afro-American Boss of the Year, one of four Afro-Americans of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, and list of firsts goes on.

Few know him for writing one of the most powerful papers ever written on the subject of man's inhumanity to man, "The Genius of Jim Crow."

The ones who have chance to learn under his guidance, say thanks for the opportunity.

Colleges and Universities say, come speak to us, let us learn of your ways. The Regents of the American College of Trial Lawyers say "Mr. Russell you possess the necessary experience, skill and integrity to qualify for fellowship in our organization, come join us."

And at last Baltimore says "Let George Do It." Let him receive our affections while he yet lives. Let us applaud and tip our hats as a symbol of our gratitude for his compassion and faith.

Thank God for George.

INEZ A. CHAPPELL

GOP candidate proposes commuter tax

Following is the full text of Republican mayoral candidate Samuel A. Culotta's position paper on a commuter tax. Culotta released this statement Thursday, Oct. 25.

GOP candidate for Mayor, Samuel A. Culotta

The time has come for Baltimore City to seek from the General Assembly — and at the same time to persuade Governor Harry R. Hughes to support — the granting of taxing authority to the City to levy an earnings or commuter tax on county residents who are employed in Baltimore City. The evidence is clear that Baltimore can no longer expect substantial infusions of State aid. Further, it appears that Congress is seriously considering a reduction in its revenue sharing programs for cities and states. But most importantly, the City's property tax rate of $5.95 per $100 — a tax rate that is at least twice as high as any county surrounding this City — is unbearable and cannot be permitted to rise above $6.00.

In addition, the General Assembly recently enacted a law establishing a floating growth rate tied to a 6 percent limit on the annual increases in the statewide assessable base for real property. In the future, this will result in a reduction of the percentage of property values subject to taxation and, in fact, could be substantially below the current taxable level of 45 percent. The result will be that there will be more pressure on Baltimore City to raise the local property tax in order to meet its fiscal needs.

Moreover, the reinstatement of triennial assessments by the recent Legislature means that this year the revenues from property assessment increases will be two - thirds less than it would have been under annual assessments, again applying more pressure on Baltimore City to find additional revenues and putting more pressure on the property tax rate.

A reasonable estimate of county workers employed in the City would number more than 200,000. Further, it would be reasonable to estimate that these workers earn an average of at least $12,000.00 a year. It seems to me that in view of the services rendered to them, as well as the use of City facilities that an earnings tax rate of approximately 1 percent would be fair. The income generated by an earnings or commuter's tax would be approximately $25 million. With this sum public safety in this City could be substantially strengthened and the crime rate reduced; a substantial commitment to quality education could be had; and needed essential services could be strengthened.

In 1967 when the Agnew - Hughes tax reform legislation went into effect, by providing that subdivisions could enact a "piggyback" income tax on its residents up to 50 percent of the state income tax, it eliminated, among other things, the ½ percent earnings tax which Baltimore City had been obtaining from county residents employed in the City. Baltimore City has suffered as a result of the 1976 Tax Reform Act in that it not only lost the revenue from the county residents but because Baltimore City has a greater number of poor or indigent citizens, it has relatively far fewer residents who pay state income tax and, therefore, Baltimore City's share from the "piggyback" tax is substantially less — DESPITE THE FACT THAT Baltimore's needs are greater.

There no doubt will be a hue and cry from the surrounding counties, especially Baltimore County, but this should not deter the City from seeking such taxing authority on county residents employed in Baltimore City, for it is common knowledge that across the fixed boundary line with Baltimore County there is an iron zoning law and strong public local opinion against the migration of poor whites and blacks into Baltimore County. Furthermore, there is no foreseeable reasonable expectation for the enactment of amendments to the Constitution to provide for metropolitan or regional government. Therefore, Baltimore's foreseeable destiny appears to be to house and care for great numbers of the poor and indigent. It is estimated that at least 25 percent of our families are below the poverty level at this time.

The property taxpayers of Baltimore City are carrying an unbearable burden to support the poor and indigent of this City, who are primarily citizens of the State of Maryland. In all fairness, they should be the responsibility of all the citizens of this State.

To gain acceptance of enabling legislation to enact a 1 percent earnings or commuter's tax will no doubt mean that the City's delegation to the General Assembly must seek out new alliances with other counties and regions of this State whose interests we can support in exchange for this legislation.

It seems to me that it is time to test in the courts whether State - imposed boundary lines between local subdivisions are in violation of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, particularly in view of the fact that the economic composition of their respective residents enable them to impose a disparate tax rate of at least 200 percent less than that imposed by the City. In this regard, should I be elected Mayor, I will appoint as City Solicitor the best constitutional lawyer available to file appropriate legal proceedings in the Federal Courts to test the unfair dilemma of the taxpayers of a city, housing such a great number of the poor, who must pay at least double the property tax of its surrounding richer neighbors.

While I have emphasized the City's interest in obtaining additional revenue from county residents who work in the City, so that the high property tax rate in the City will not exceed $6 per $100. of assessment — and for this purpose I would seek support and alliance with other counties and regions — it is my intention to strengthen relationships with the metropolitan counties with respect to other areas of municipal services, for example in matters related to water, sewage, sanitation, public safety, economic cooperation and development, port - related matters, and the use of our cultural, artistic and sports activities, parks, etc. As Mayor, I would be delighted to enter into mutual agreements to strengthen our metropolitan areas for the benefit of the 2 million citizens of this area. However, I would resist with all the power of the office of Mayor any perpetuation, for any reason, of a property tax rate for our relatively poorer citizens in excess of $6 as compared to a property tax rate of $3 for the far richer counties surrounding our City.

'You homosexuals should expect discrimination. After all, you are different.'