Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Marylanders and Solidarity

The nation's labor leaders are taking their first major action against President Ronald Reagan's administration, an administration which is in direct philosophical opposition to the values of the trade union movement.

'Solidarity Day,' which is conceived as a mass non-violent protest in the mode of the march on Washington of the civil rights and later, the Vietnam protest eras, is labor's opening salvo against Reagan.

We expect a large turn-out of Marylanders in Washington this weekend. Labor always has been strong in the Baltimore area - this being an industrial town and seaport.

'Solidarity Day' has the blessing and active support of black ministers, the NAACP and other organizations which have long parlayed coalition politics successfully during more liberal times.

We encourage all who can participate in 'Solidarity Day' even as we point out the careful distinction must be made that this indeed is the labor movement's baby.

'Solidarity Day', it must be noted, did not originate in our community. Its leadership is essentially white but since most of us who are not rich are bound to catch the brunt of the economic pain Reaganomics is bringing, 'Solidarity Day' is an event in which we all can join against the common foe.

It is a beginning. Working people are swiftly coming to realize the Reagan era will have little to offer them except greater deprivation and less security.

In that perspective, we all need to stand up and be counted. 'Solidarity Day' gives everyone a chance to join in the fight against drastic assaults on the gains made by labor and minorities since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Double-celling

The Federal Court of Appeals has determined that double-celling of prisoners is permissible, "temporarily" and thus the prisoner's suit against the State of Maryland for permitting over-crowding is blunted.

The prisoners felt double-celling was counter to the few safeguards and rights extended to those incarcerated.

The state has argued the double-celling problem was simply a lack of space and resources.

We are beginning to sense and agree with prison reform and rehabilitation advocates that local and federal government is engaged in a great deal of scene setting.

Penal system leadership the nation over has for sometime blithely projected the need for thousands of more prison cells in the coming decade, requiring an acceleration of new prison construction.

The implication is that the public must expect more crooks than ever before and therefore more jails are necessary.

What we see is there will be no tackling of the factors which give rise to increased criminality - especially unemployment.

What we hear being said, even if it is brunted about in code words, is because there will be no significant increases in employment in the forseeable future, more jails will be necessary to warehouse the young, mostly black men who will be convicted in record numbers over the next 10 years.

The state wants more prisons.

The Court of Appeals decision to continue double-celling now gives the state both sides of the argument.

The only way to end double-celling, the message will say, is to build more prisons.

Since the state wants more prisons to contain future crops of young, mostly black men, we expect the taxpayers will be asked to bear the brunt once again.

Noticeably since the departure of Gordon Kamka and Edwin Goodlander as heads of the state's penal system, talk of prisoner rehabilitation, early release, half-way houses, has pretty much dried up.

We think double-celling will end and soon for the simple reason the state intends to have more than enough cells to handle the growing army of offenders.

"Du" and the strikers

As we understand it, the East Baltimore Medical Plan came about through the hard work of Eastsiders, most of them grass roots folk, and the political acumen of such as Clarence "Du" Burns and Robert Douglass. For good measure, a lot of Johns Hopkins Hospital brain power was feeding into the process for what it is worth.

Now all this community spirit seems to have deteriorated.

The workers at EBMP have been out on strike for weeks.

Burns and Douglass find themselves in the kinds of hard posturing better suited to the arch-capitalists who run General Motors or Dupont.

We just do not see the necessity for Burns or Douglass or the EBMP to stonewall.

The striking folks, we assume, all are neighbors. They want union representation, surely an aspiration that two good Democrats like "Du" and Bob can appreciate.

The spectacle of our City Council vice president being hounded at his City Hall offices by striking workers (who we feel used to vote Burns and company into office) is an unnecessary contradiction.

We do not think the Veep wants the label "anti worker" haunting him during the next political skirmishing.

And being the skilled politician he is, surely an accommodation can be forthcoming.

There is room for compromise all around.

—LETTERS

An extraordinary man

Dear AFRO:

It was interesting to read about the Henry Hall gift to the National Aquarium in Baltimore (Aug. 22, 1981) and also of John Thornton's experiences with Hall.

It should be noted Thornton, too, is an extraordinary man.

Now serving his second term as Chairman of the Maryland State Board of Examining Engineers, Thornton has been a public servant of the state for many years.

Stationary engineers operate or maintain the equipment used to generate the power to heat, ventilate, humidify, air condition the many industrial and or private buildings.

The Board of Examining Engineeer has the responsibility for the administration and the certification of qualified applicants throughout the state of Maryland.

Thornton is recognized for his expertise and knowledge of boilers and plants. At a spry age of 72 years, he also is Chairman o the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind, involved at Dundalk Community College, and is a diligent worker in the political arena of the city.

John Thornton is to be commended for his public service.

Thornton recognizes these times as especially crucial in the domestic and social lives of black people, and has chosen to continue to share his skills and knowledge with others, rather than retire from community service. SARA L. JENKINS

The champ; Battered but unbowed

FITZGERALD

MADELINE MURPHY

Crime abatement: something new?

Now that school has reopened, it is a heartening sight to see the new clothes - some in the latest fashion, the hair worn in exotic corn rows and the boys in crisp new shirts and ties.

This ritual of getting ready for school seems to be a reaffirmation of bonds good old American values.

Things will be better; kids will be motivated to learn, some day, yes some day, they will teach other folks children or heal the sick or defend the criminal or computer program that next space shot.

At the same time, it is unbelievable there are those who have gone through the system of education, of school clothes, of school supplies - carefully selected, who now carry duffel bags crammed with sawed-off shotguns.

They now are either entrenced in a life of crime or being stockpiled like logs in overcrowded prisons. Barely out of the 10th grade, barely out of puberty, some are as young as 13 years of age and are embarked upon a life of crime as if it were their life's work.

And where from the former example to the latter, did things go wrong? Did kids lose ambition or motivation? Did parents, schools, service and fraternal organizations and churches fail?

Who is at fault, or are we, the community, equally at fault?

Maybe it must be carried to the nation and its conflict of purposes—cuts in social programs affecting the very life blood of poor people, increases in armaments - tools of violence, not consumable except on a battle field of total holocaust.

Or building commercial centers - towers of avarice- without a concomitant concern for the 50 percent unemployed black youth in our central cities.

Against this background, we might ask where the priorities are? Especially we must ask what is the community doing to unify around the common desire to see the next generation fulfill the American dream to become better than the last, the next generation being more humane than the last, the next generation to become more creative than the last so we can build for peace, prosperity and a less racist society in the 21st century.

Racism is the foundation of a stereotypical, zenophobic division of unemployment, of poor or no housing, of affirmative action easily set aside in economic enterprise, of administration of justice and of law enforcement that goes its genocidal way.

While crime runs rampant with a younger, tougher, more callous group of teenagers, those who are victimized seem almost helpless.

The victimized begin to build fences install burglar alarm systems and turn their homes into fortresses that are armed to the teeth. The trend of building schools with fewer windows - turning them into fortresses to lower the costs of replacing windows constantly broken by vandals - seems to be the forerunner the doomsayer of worse times to come.

We now all turn inward to protect ourselves and our property from probable violence and theft. Angered, frustrated and unwilling to reach out to find a solution, we also have given up on community action. Some of us do not even know our neighbors.

Coming across my desk a few months back, was a proposal entitled, "The National Movement to Boycott Crime."

Suggesting crime pays not only for the criminal, but also for those parasitical groups whose goods and services are perpetuated by increased criminal activity - from police, prison guards, judges, lawyers, pawnbrokers and pawnbrokers to criminologists, insurance underwriters, makers of armaments and protective devices.

The ideal behind the movement is to stop crime at the source.

The organization would develop programs and motivate black youth to become interrelatedand interdependent, not only with each other, but with sponsoring community groups.

The programs for youth would encompass - civic betterment, business and professional groups, labor, investment and credit clubs, debating and caucus groups.

Service clubs and trade groups, creative writing arts, fraternal groups - with the involvement of matching adult groups, churches and community organizations also would be a part of the youth programs.

With the theory crime prevention means only deterring crime, this highly structured organization works on the theory abatement should be the goal of the community—you and me—not only to reduce the instances of crime, but to reduce the numbers of persons bent toward criminal activity.

Perhaps this is indeed an idea whose time has come. Perhaps it might give us impetus to break out of our mold of invardness. To break out of fortresses to reach out to each other - after all, we are all we have - to save our youth and to reduce the genocidal prison population before it is too late for redemption.

For further information on this innovative program, call Harvery Stephens Jr., Executive Director, National Movement to Boycott Crime at 669-4960.

JUST THINKING

It is Caucus time again

By Al Sweeney

Charles Diggs called together a handful of members of the Black Congressional Caucus for the first annual event, now some eleven years old.

There were skeptics who refused to believe that the alliance would remain. After all every elected member is a prima donna in his right, so it wesn't easy for each to have his own agenda. However, the tone was set from the beginning and the spotlight shared by each member by eliminating the very important persons banquet table and each member agreed to eat dinners with the paying guests.

The Caucus has become one of the most expensive weekends of any group in this nation. They have sold over 3,000 tickets for the annual banquet at a cost of $150 apiece, this year.

It costs upward of $1,000 to attend the CBC's gala, while the fashion show is another sellout attraction at $35 per ticket.

For those who came to Washington to get an insight on how legislation is made and turned, I recommend attending the series of workshops in the hearing rooms of the House.

The problems of the aging are explored thoroughly at a workshop headed by Harold E. Ford Shirley Chisholm and Julian Dixon are leading a study group on what is happening to the arts and humanities.

The future of civil rights and especially the extension voting laws will be carefully scrutinized by the brain trust attending the session led by Harold Washington. No session will generate more comment than this session.

William Clay and Cardiss Collins head the panel on communications. Over the years, this panel has been instrumental in the growth of black - owned radio and television stations.

However, with the new deregulation efforts of the FCC, it will be difficult for blacks to own radio stations.

The failure of blacks to move in to the very lucrative cable television industry will be examined by Clay and Collins.

One of the newer segments is one of corporate affairs chaired by Julian Dixon. The most ambitious objectives of this panel is to develop a Black corporate network. If such a proposition gets off the ground the day will be worth it.

The issue of criminal injustice with the race hating groups sprouting under the cover of law is the challenge of the Criminal Justice panel headed by John Conyers Jr. He has much documented evidence to present on the rise of race hate groups that are sprouting up all over America.

Economic development and transportation is the subject of Gus Savage's panel. The loss of federal funds for ecodevelopment for minority institutions will be of considerable discussion.

The problems of transportation for the urban areas will also receive considerable attention.

Possibly no issue is going to heat up the various sides of both Houses during the coming months. There is a move afoot and receiving tremendous support for federal funds for private education. If the private supporters win, it could mean the beginning of the end of public schools in our urban centers.

Shirley Chisholm, an outspoken advocate for the continuance of public schools, needs a national forum for voicing her fears.

And don't think that it is unlikely for our public school systems as we have known them face a serious challenge.

With all of the plush and finery, those of you who look hard for the real issues will find them at the CBC weekend sessions on Friday in the hearing rooms.

Appearing on the panels are well prepared speakers who have documented their facts. In other words, what lies behind the glitter is a message for all of us . . . to which we should listen.

The principal speech at the banquet will be made by Del. Walter Fauntroy. He will pull out all the stops in this address, as witness his appearance before the National Urban League and his masterful presentation of the CBC's alternative budget before the National Press Club. These were Fauntroy at his best.

And he will undoubtedly end his presentation with "Impossible Dream" that brings the people to their feet.

Patty LaBelle, the flashy entertainer should put him at his best.

Bobbi Humphries, Roy Ayers and Dee Dee Bridgewater will head the Gala event.

For those of you who haven't the spare dollars you might catch the festivities on Howard's Channel 32. The station is carrying them live.

PARREN MITCHELL

They claim we are the problem

The U.S. Department of Commerce polled some 3,000 businesses in America in an effort to determine which government regulations are most burdensome to the private sector.

George Bush, who heads President Ronald Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Reform, asked the poll be conducted towards the end that "specific regulations could be changed in order to increase benefits or decrease costs."

The unsophisticated person, unaware of the dimensions of racism in America, would probably have thought the private sector would name occupational, safety and health regulation from O.S.H.A.

That was not named the main culprit.

One would have thought hazardous waste management regulation would rank number one on the most burdensome regulations list, but it was not.

You have by now guessed it. The 3,000 businesses named Affirmative Action programs as the most burdensome government regulations.

They are saying that to promote blacks, and other minorities, to hire blacks and other minorities, to utilize blacks and other minorities who are in business — these things burden the private sector and add to the cost of the goods and services it produces.

The response does not surprise me.

During his campaign, Reagan publicly stated his opposition to affirmative action programs and now is seeking to weaken and destroy them. He already has relaxed certain regulations on affirmative action.

Blacks, women, and other minorities are up in arms, and rightfully so. This relaxation is but the first step taken by Reagan in his all out war against affirmative action.

The response of the business community does not surprise me. It is part and parcel of a scenario now almost fully developed in this country.

It has a central theme of "Don't you forget that this is the white man's country." This scenario is played time and time again in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During the debate on an appropriations bill last week, Congressman Ron Motti sought to pass an amendment which would have curtailed the U.S. Justice Department's enforcement of fair housing laws. Fortunately, we were able to defeat the Motti amendment; though by a slim margin.

On Monday, Sept. 14, 1981, during the debate on a bill to place a bust of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Capitol, Representative John Ashbrook, a republican from Ohio, referred to King as a traitor, a troublemaker, and Anti-America.

He was followed by Congressman Larry McDonald of Georgia, who slandered and libeled the reputation of King. The bill was passed on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

The "This is a white man's country" scenario has several key features.

First, the problems and circumstances of black people in this country are no longer a concern of the nation.

Second, the gains made by blacks do indeed mean reverse discrimination under which whites suffer, therefore, black gains must be reversed.

Third, the reversal of black gains must be achieved by any method possible, i.e., denial of federal funds, chicanery and deception.

Fourth, they can get away with the scenario, because white Americans want it that way and black Americans are too politically impotent to stop them.

Can they get away with it? Not if we determine they shall not.

The private sector may not like affirmative action programs, they may call them lacking in cost benefits but we blacks know were we need affirmative action programs. And we shall fight to preserve them.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Roy Wilkins would mount barricades against Reaganism

In his heyday, Roy Wilkins would have raised his voice and raised the roof over the recent action of the United States vetoing a resolution of the United Nation's Security Council—a resolution which would hav condemned South Africa for sending its troops ("search and destroy" missions) into Angola and killing hundreds of Angola's people.

Wilkins, the veteran and revered executive director of the NAACP, died just two weeks ago. He would have had even earlier reason to cry out when the U.S. again showed itself not interested in the concerns of black and poor people.

This came about when the U.S. delegate to the World Health Organization cast the key vote preventing the leading and trusted world health body from throwing its weight against the over promotion of baby formulas. These formulas would prove harmful to the babies of the Third World.

"Harmful" is putting it mildly. Thousands of babies, who would have been better off being breast feed, have died because in most Third World countries, including those of Africa, mothers are not yet economically or educationally ready and able to use such formulas without danger to their offspring.

Big industry, marketing their products in developing countries, and the apartheid government of South Africa seem destined to win every time under the Ronald Reagan regime.

In the words, actions and attitudes, President Reagan and his top administrators have demonstrated people as people and human rights, per se, do not hold high priority in this administration—at home or abroad.

We do not know whether Roy Wilkins would be "marching" in Washington in 1981, as he did in 1963, when he was one of the leaders of the historic Washington" movement.

We believe, however, he would be doing everything possible—even more than crying aloud—to bring the Reagan Administration to its senses.

Those Reagan supporters who have whipped the un-moral "Moral Majority" into power did not march—but they did turn to the present day combinations for moving people, wielding influence, and for securing particular goals.

The "combinations" are not new, but some of the tools necessary for their forging have been developed beyond all imagination.

This column has mentioned them, in one form or the other in the past: computerized communication, saturation of the public or the politically sympathetic public, sophisticated money-raising, and organization as it has never been achieved before.

Usually, one would add "unity"— racial unity— and this also should be an aim. No important movement can wait for total or absolute unity, however.

The manipulators of the Moral Majority and the "New Right" (most times one and the same) did not waste time waiting for elusive unity.

The Rev. Jerry Falwells did not wait for unity to launch their campaigns and raise their millions. Movements that shake nations and civilizations do not even tarry to achieve majority status. In due time, they make a working majority or a political majority.

Even the Christian religion had to start where it was—with twelve disciples—and Christianity, with all of its impact, is still not a majority among world religions or religious movements.

This column is dedicated to the late Roy Wilkins. Were he alive and active he would mount the barricades in the knowledge Reaganism means sharing bed with South Africa under a blanket of apartheid.

The president, seems willing, if he could, to sell out all black people for promised South African support against the spread of communism and Reagan, in his scheme for achieving power, finds black Americans are not very important.

In the longest run, Reaganism will lose out to history. But for the next 20 years and long after, Reagan may be no more, but Reaganism will be a force to reassisive those who were freed, to strengthen colonization - in spirit if not in fact- and to exchange friends for oil, or gold, or political and military favors.

Marching on Washington and other places may again be necessary, with thousands of young people going to jail or to the stockades this time around.

Perhaps, also, new kinds of instruments may be utilized, drawn out of the history of people movements down the years or drawn from the modern weapons of electronics, psychology and computerization.

Tony Brown's Journal

The newest twist in Coke deal

No matter how some individual blacks felt about Jesse Jackson, he and his PUSH organization received praise from much of the black community when the $6-billion Coca-Cola corporation announced it would hand over some $30 million to black interests.

Jackson had called an economic boycott against Coke's interests.

The action was interpreted as a new corporate program to substitute for the old "draft horse of minority progress" led back into the barn by the Reagan Administration budget cuts of social programs.

The accolades also came from some who see beyond substituting one poverty program for another — on an endless treadmill of welfare.

To my knowledge, the oldest and most persistent champion of black self-help through economic and political power is Dr. Carlton Goodlett, past president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and publisher of The (San Francisco) Sun Reporter.

Dr. Goodlett's Reporter Publications chain of newspapers in a "Coca-Cola Promises $34 million to Black" editorial said: "This week, black economic power flexed its muscles.

"Blacks have a purchasing power in excess of $100 billion. If we organize and use our money for black improvement, no multinational corporation will be able to withstand a black boycott of four months.

"The black dollar can do much more to help the black drive to full equality and end economic racism than any other force at our disposal."

Blacks should be "thinking in terms of tithing in our contributions to PUSH; we should make available to Rev. Jackson and PUSH at least one-tenth of the monies received from the special opportunities which will certainly flow from this initial historic breakthrough," Dr. Goodlett's paper suggested.

The "special opportunities" fund would amount to, under Goodlett's proposal, a war chest of about $15 billion if Jackson gets an average of $30 million from each of the Fortune 500 as he was initially promised by Coke.

Jackson personally referred to his "withdrawal of our enthusiam for Coke products" boycott of July 11 and explained, "What we have worked out is a framework of reciprocity rather than generosity."

But two days after Coke announced an agreement ("Blacks Push, Coke Bows" — New York Daily News), Patricia Roberts Harris, Jimmy Carter cabinet member, warned of "A New Burden For Business" in the New York Times.

She warned the Reagan Administration has created a "climate in which the anger and frustration of the public" will be "directed against business leadership."

There is a growing belief the private sector must solve the unsolved problems and "the public will look to business for needed help," Mrs. Harris wrote.

She gave this conclusion: "If business accepts such a burden as a fair price for greater freedom from taxation and oversight, it better determine whether it has a bureaucracy adequate enough to process applications and fend off attacks from disappointed supplicants, including employees."

The PUSH-Coke pact might make prophecy out of Harris' words.

On Aug. 10, Coke announced it had agreed to: 1) create a $1.8 million fund for loans for black investors 2) establish 32 black-owned dealerships 3) double advertising in black-owned media and 4) increase banking activity in minority banks.

Coca-Cola president, Donald R. Keough and Jesse Jackson announced the agreement was "symbolic of an underlying new direction for American business" and "shifting responsibilities for many economic programs from the public to the private sector."

On Aug. 14, Coke reported its concessions were being labeled as "blackmail" by resentful callers.

"There's been a strong reaction in the marketplace that this is outright blackmail, that this is a $30 million giveaway plan," said Coke representative Carlton Curtis.

It also was announced at that time the plan does not provide as much as was broadcast initially and there were "misconceptions." In terms of money to black businesses, Coca-Cola said the figure is closer to $11 million.

Later that week, Carlton Curtis, of Coke was quoted as saying: "Quite frankly, I think we were a little naive in communicating the story."

And on Sept. 13, in a copyright Atlanta Constitution front-page story, the other shoe fell. Coca-Cola conceded it mishandled the arrangement and that Coke's behavior made it appear to be "bowing to pressure" from PUSH.

Coke's president said the boycott did not receive "two minutes attention . . . because we just never considered it a real issue. We felt absolutely no impact from it and didn't think we would."

What subsequently transpired, he conceded, "obviously gave the people the mistaken belief we were bowing to pressure, so that is probably the public relations goof."

No substantive concessions were made because of the boycott, Coke officials said. When bottling franchises come up for sale, black entrepreneurs will simply be notified, but no change in ownership will be forced. And money lent to blacks for venture capital will be at prevailing rates.

Advertising for black-owned media will go to $2 million—up $800,000 from $1.2 million. And no loans will be made from black banks unless the rates are competitive.

Of the 100 blue collar jobs offered blacks: "But they might be replacing blacks with blacks," Sam Ayoub, Coca-Cola's Senior Vice President for Finance, said.

"The Coca-Cola Company is not paying anything for this," Ayoub explained about the profit making potential of the wholesale distributorships.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Saturday beginning Aug. 29, on WBAL-TV (11), at 2 p.m.

United Way Campaign

In the face of current budget cuts instituted or proposed by the Reagan Administration, elimination of numerous social programs and the resultant rising unemployment rate, the 1981 United Way Campaign which got underway this week faces a tough task.

The 1,500 volunteers who served in last year's campaign made the drive a record - breaking success, but it will be a big challenge for them to maintain the same pace this year. They will need all the help you can give, bearing in mind that the community will be better off because the 1981 United Way Campaign is a success.

The volunteers will be calling on you soon. Be ready to do your part in this all - important campaign. You will not regret it.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

DR. STANLEY TO CITY HALL

TWO NOTEWORTHY APPOINTMENTS INCLUDE Dr. Hilbert Stanley, principal of Lake Clifton the largest high school in the nation who is slated to succeed Quentin Lawson as the Human Development director in the offic of the Mayor, Baltimore.

UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR FITTS

And, Dr. Leroy Fitts who moves from First Baptist Church in East Baltimore to president of Virginia Seminary and College.

That distinguished group of Baptist ministers who have met for the past 55 years at Enon Baptist Church each Monday gave Dr. Fitts a unanimous vote this week for him to remain president of their group until January, 1982.

However, he moves to Virginia Seminary in time for opening Sept. 21. He and his family have a lovely home there.

BUT BACK TO DR. STANLEY who is noted by educators as the most eligible of all administrators.

DR. HILBERT STANLEY
succeeds Quentin Lawson

Here's something about him:

DR. STANLEY is a veteran, an Army commissioned officer, a widower and father, two adult children.

HE HAS fifteen years of experience in a large urban school system as a classroom teacher, department head, special assistant, assistant principal, principal at the secondary level and Central Office Administrative Assistant.

The participation included a number of major school system committees and task forces, particularly in the areas of school system reorganization and decentralization, desegregation, Drug Abuse Education, Leadership Training, Education Leadership and Team Building Training, Senior High Curriculum Organization, Career Education Leadership Team and System-wide Grading Task Force.

DR. STANLEY served for one year as a Rockefeller Fellow in a Superintendent's Training Program-Fellowship sites were: Officer of Superintendent, Detroit, Michigan and Dade County, Miami.

He served for two years as assistant director, The Training Institute for Desegregated Education, Wayne State University, Detroit Michigan. This was a federally funded project under TITLE IV, Civil Rights Act of 1964.

A Morgan State College graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, 1952 and Master of Science, Science, 1970 he has a Certificate of Advanced Study in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

His Doctor of Education is in General Education Administration and Supervision, College of Education, Wayne State University, Detroit.

DR. STANLEY served in U.S. Army as Commissioned Officer, 1952 - 1964.

On July 16, 1979 he became principal, Lake Clifton Senior High School.

Previously, July 1, 1978 - July 15, 1979 he was administrative assistant, Bureau of Education Baltimore City Public Schools.

FROM JANUARY, 1973 to July, 1975 he was principal at Edmondson High School.

This assignment involved duties of leadership in an urban comprehensive senior high school or approximately 1,700 students. The school offered a wide range of curricular and co - curricular activities. The duties required leadership in the areas of business administration and educational management.

VA SEMINARY AND COLLEGE

The Virginia Seminary and College affords Dr. Fitts the challenge of managing the evolution of a renaissance of black higher education to the glory of God and edification of humanity.

Its philosophy of "Self Help and Spiritual Independence" suggests a normative stance for the particular development of black Americans.

The school was founded by the Virginia Baptist State Convention in the annual session May, 1887, in Alexandria, Va.

On Feb. 24, 1888, it was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a site was purchased at Lynchburg, Virginia.

The school opened its doors to many former slaves and other young men and women on Jan. 13, 1890.

$2 MILLION COLLEGE

Currently the property value of the school exceeds $2 million. There are six acres on the Lynchburg campus and approximately 60 acres in other parts of Virginia. The rural property is scheduled to be developed into an excellent summer camp for youth from urban centers.

The challenges and opportunities of the school are many and varied.

Dr. Leroy Fitts states, "The historic mission of Virginia Seminary and College is dear to the heart of all who have received a rewarding academic experience "on the hill."

"It has rendered nearly 100 years of service to out people in the struggles for liberation.

"The key word 'renaissance' will be the basis of an evolving educational experience to the Glory of God.

"There is a very definite connection between one's self - development and his or her personal faith - commitment or theological orientation.

DR. LEROY FITTS
gets unanimous vote

"One of the problems of contemporary secular education is the vacuum of meaninglessness from the perspective of creaturehood standing in the presence of the Creator.

"The desire to know has both internal and external factors of motivation.

"Internally, an individual's self - concept and intellectual urges come into play. Externally, the power of faith in the living God adds the all - important 'extra dimension' to the internal factors (psychological and physical) producing the enchantment of self - hood through a strong sense of responsibility to know."

THE SCHOOL WILL OPEN Sept. 21 to provide a "community of scholarship" experience for our nation's youths.

The College division will also provide an "Urban Center for Academic Turn On" designed for high school drop - outs who seek another chance in life.

The Center will operate comitant to the regular College Division.

The Seminary Division will serve as a graduate school in religion for the advancement of the frontiers of truth.

Dr Fitts succeeds several other Baltimoreans to the presidency of Virginia Seminary and College; Revs. Dr. Diggs, M. C. Allen and acting president, Willard Clayton.

The Fitts family unit includes, Mrs. Alice Fitts, Timothy Leroy Fitts, Dietrich Emmanuel Fitts, Angelique Lynette Fitts and Leticia Aleece Fitts.

MORE LETTERS

Justice for all

Dear AFRO:

Based on our biblical and religious value of the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person, members of Baltimore (Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) work and pray for justice and peace for all peoples.

We are once again appalled by President Ronald Reagan's efforts to escalate the nuclear arms race. While continuing his quest for a MX missile system, President Reagan has decided on the production and stockpiling of neutron warheads.

Open public debate had curtailed the funding and waste of scientific effort for another unnecessary nuclear weapon.

Now, without any recent discussion by Congress or the American public, we learn almost by accident the warheads are in production, even though they cannot be positioned in Europe as had been intended.

Europeans are resistant to deploying any more nuclear weapons.

In responding to this step up of the arms race, the Soviet Union may increase its own production and deployment of nuclear weapons. The race goes on.

There can be no guarantee neutron warheads will be used only in the event of a nuclear exchange without the strength of radiation or the escalation to a full-staged nuclear holocaust.

Is this why social programs were cut and why Baltimore is going to have to struggle to feed and shelter its employed and poor people?

Where have the disarmament discussions gone so we can attempt to live peacefully with our fellow human beings?

LINDA SHAFER
RICHARD E. ULLRICH

Harm in Reaganism?

DEAR AFRO:

Well let's give Reaganism a chance to see if it works.

It will not, of course - anymore than throwing virgins into the volcano will prevent eruptions.

There must have been some who felt, "What harm will it do to try it?" After all, we got plenty of virgins.

Well, America may not have a surplus of virgins, but we sure have a big surplus of poor, unemployed, underemployed, sick and aged.

So let us just throw them into the volcano of slow starvation for three or four years and we will just sit back and see what happens.

This may not of course be a bad idea. When You throw all the little defenseless people in the same boiling pot, the survivors are likely to come out united, strong, fighting mad and demanding a real solution to the real cause of our economic decay.

The monopoly control by the international corporate military-industrial complex, which finds it is more profitable to invest in cost-plus armaments and the speculative waste of buying and selling existing real estate and industrial plants than to expand emPlOyment, production and social consumption.

A ROBERT KAUFMAN

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

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