Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Newest consumer fight

A coalition of energy, labor, senior citizens, community groups and others are mounting massive opposition to Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.'s record proposal for a $199 million rate increase.

Leaders of the opposition say the hike will affect the people who can least afford to pay the extra money for their utility bills: the poor, the elderly, those on fixed incomes and even working people are going to suffer if the proposed $199 million is approved by the Public Service Commission in February of 1982.

Utility customers can expect to see an increase of about $12 per month if the increase is approved.

In the past, BG&E spokesmen have told the AFRO this increase, the third request in two years, is due to inflation - higher operating costs. It will also serve to guarantee investors "a realistic rate of return" so they will continue to view BG&E as a good, worthwhile investment.

The spokesmen admit the rate increase will prove a harship for some of its customers, but they added the utility tries to work with any customer willing to pay their bills.

Also, programs, such as the Maryland Energy Assistance Program, are available to help take the bite out of high fuel costs.

We have outlined above, both sides of what promises to be the biggest consumer interest battle to hit Baltimore since the rent control campaign in the last election.

It promises to be a lively fight.

Martin Scott

We held the presses on a recent Friday edition of the Baltimore AFRO until the jury came in with its decision on young Martin Scott, who shot down in cold blood a MSU student, who worked nights at a local McDonald's restaurant after a robbery.

Scott also is the principal suspect in the slayings of a Korean grocer and Greek sandwich shop owner.

In each instance, the victim was murdered after the robber took the money and for no apparent reason.

We waited to start the presses after the Scott verdict, because we felt this was a pivotal case.

The state asked for the death penalty and from all we have come to know as communicators, we have sensed a dramatic shift in mood among Americans, of all races and creeds, on this extremely sensitive subject.

After weeks of defense, arguments about the emotional traumas of Martin Scott, after witnesses told the jury Scott was once a nice guy of better than average intelligence, six black, six white jurors handed down their verdict.

Scott must die in the gas chamber.

In his own testimony, Scott had asked the jury to sentence him to death.

Whether this was a heartfelt expression on the part of Scott or a strategy to "psych out" the jury is an event upon which we can only wonder. Given the ruthlessness of Scott's deed, we were not moved as objective observers, nor apparently was the jury.

Since the verdict, even the most ardent opponents of the death penalty, whom are in regular contact with us as new sources and news proponents, have been extremely muted.

We will not weigh the many moral issues the death penalty evokes. We will not explore the appalling data that shows when the death penalty is applied, more blacks enter the gas chamber or sit in the electric chair.

We simply are reporting the Scott verdict indicates juries in the immediate future will be far less liberal in their decisions in cases of first-degree murder.

We sense a dramatic swing from liberalism back to conservatism in all matters related to crime.

That is a message the Scott jury sent forth with great clarity.

Thanksgiving

The nation is not at war. Congress resists many of the feed the rich, starve the poor proposals of the Reagan regime. Reagan's own budget hatchet man has publicly stated Reaganomics expressly benefits the wealthy and penalizes the little people.

Turkeys still cost too much, but with a little pinching, most families can have one on their tables next Thursday.

The President is most intensely disliked, according to the polls, by the elderly, with blacks next on the anti-Reagan scale.

We wish all AFRO readers a happy Thanksgiving and remind all there still is much to be thankful for.

One of the chief things for which we can give pragmatic thanks is the growing sense among Americans in general that there are progressive elements at work within our society which just might slow the slide of our economy into a total Depression.

We are on the brink of one as it is, but we feel there are enough of us still with sense enough not to let it happen.

Have a safe and spiritual holiday.

Politicians and cops

We have to hand it to St. George Crosse. His "soft on crime" charge against his Democratic opposites on the political battleground have been effective.

Happily we note a delegation of Assembly-persons Rawlings, Conaway and Phillips met a few days ago with new police commissioner Battaglia on the issue of increased crime in our community.

They came out of that meeting optimistic police protection was not being slighted in our neighborhoods.

We admit to a certain ho-hum reaction when we found the politicians were going, not back to their voters, but to the top cop—which seemed elitist (Battaglia did not elect them) until we received word the 4th District Democrats, at least, had scheduled a mass meeting this Saturday with voters in that area.

This is as it should be.

We think our politicians ought to touch base with their constituents first, then with the police.

Delegate Rawlings, Senator Welcome and others in the 4th District are aware of this process.

It is okay to consult the top cop, but consult the folks in your neighborhoods first. They know and bear the brunt of the crime problems.

Crosse has folks moving and we like to think our reportage on the crime crisis in our community has helped accelerate this awareness.

Things are beginning to jell on the war on crime front.

Praises be.

'Buy in, Buy us'

The HUB organization's economic development committee, under the direct leadership of Tyrous Addison and the overall generalship of the HUB president Raymond Haysbert, grows more sophisticated and precise, daily, it seems.

Already plans for next year's "Buy in, Buy us" campaign set for April, are well underway.

"Buy in, Buy us" as AFRO readers know, is the crusade to create more awareness about black businesses which serve our community.

This program is essential to the survival economically of our community and HUB is determined to get more consumers conscious of the necessity of money staying in our neighborhoods and businesses created to provide jobs within those neighborhoods.

Tomorrow, the HUB Economic Development Committee has asked those with an interest in black economic development to attend a "meeting of the minds" at Coppin State College.

HUB realizes input from all quarters is needed for the 1982 "Buy in, Buy us" campaign. It is an ambitious undertaking and your participation is vitally needed.

The AFRO supports all such efforts as HUB is mounting and we urge you to get involved.

MADELINE MURPHY

I have 'went' home

When Dr. Roland Patterson was superintendent of Baltimore's public schools, he was committed to the ideal all schools should be equal, with equal curricula and there should be no elite schools, particularly quasi-private schools within the public school system.

Subsequently at his premature, vicious and vindictive demise, and with the advent of Wally Orlinsky's idea there should be middle schools, the system has been converted to its elite, carefully orchestrated pockets of private school preferences.

Teachers and curricula are carefully screened to develop this kind of elitism.

Not to say this is all bad. However, as usual many black children are caught in the cracks. They are merely qualifying more for the ordinary, over-populated routine of most of the city's schools, where some teachers drill material endlessly because of class size and the need to maintain order, being unmindful of the fact they are teaching students, not material.

And without the student's feedback, without their independent research, without their enthusiasm, many of those minds are terribly wasted.

In Cherry Hill, the move to close School 164 quietly is going ahead full steam. Because it still is the mayor's plan to develop that part of Cherry Hill, on which unfortunately School 164 - the newest and most well-equipped - happens to be located.

Plans are in the offing to close completely Waterview Avenue, running the hillside "paradise" down to the water's edge.

Surreptitiously we see, from time to time, surveyors with their wheels, tapes and spy glasses charting the future of this renaissance village.

At the same time, we also are seeing a move back to overcrowding in the area schools to make way for this dream.

And, at the same time, children have fewer text books and the Cherry Hill Junior High School, with its hugh class sizes, runs counter to the success stories of earlier graduates who went on to the citywide academic high schools and became professionals we can count, who came from practically every block in the Cherry Hill community.

While we trumpet, vainly, to save School 164, we lose sight of the fact it should be a middle school with smaller class sizes.

A middle school should be developed in this community to carry forward that tradition - long established - of excellence, because we understand the value of smaller class sizes, more teachers who were specialists and vigilant parents who could monitor the kinds of programs offered in the schools, demanding the retention of quality in the classrooms.

It is here we must justify a fight for the retention of School 164, to become our first middle school to specialize in developing kids, who would be our future leaders, our future teachers.

It is not too jokingly said now we are having our kids taught by the same Johnny who could not read 10 or 15 years ago. Or of kids, who cannot retain, such as the little boy, who had to stay after school to write 100 times, "I have gone."

After he had finished, he left a note for his teacher: "Since you won't here, I have went home!"

We need not only fight for retention of schools, but more importantly, fight for more texts, less crowded classrooms, more competent teachers, and the freedom to work in partnerships with those few administrators, who are not just marking time until retirement, but who want their future replacements to be a credit to all of us, their students to fill needed positions in the ever increasing technological job market.

Forty-six students in a social studies classroom as the average, for example, provides little time for a teacher, no matter how proficient, to stretch the minds, tantalize the imaginations, encourage and motivate a love of learning.

Irene Dandridge, president of the Teachers Union warns, "If I were a parent and my child were in a class with 45 other students like at Cherry Hill Junior High School, I would be concerned."

We do indeed have a crisis in the classroom, where the creaming off process of those who would learn without coaching, without supervision, leaves the rest unwanted, unattended, future pushouts, who become the flotsam and jetsam of the criminal element.

Let us halt it while there is time. Let us begin to think of the future and not just become a holding apparatus because we do not understand what is needed and cannot plan for the future.

We must study, we must plan what we need for the future now. We must show a serious commitment for careful planning so that our arguments shall become much more compelling.

Otherwise, we shall have just "went" home!

LETTERS

Two views on crime:

Citizen programs work

Dear AFRO:

The effort of elected officials and citizens to organize a coalition of citizens against crime is a step toward more effective crime control. Citizen involvement with law enforcement is a crucial factor in the fight against crime.

However, it seems there is a missing component in the current debate about the control of crime and delinquency. It is necessary to have a rational discussion of ways to utilize the vast and powerful resources of our citizens in the fight against crime.

It is important for all of us to realize there is no single law, no single expenditure of tax dollars, no one resolution to our nation's crime problems.

There is much debate that crime can be eliminated by a "get tough" approach in our police departments and in our courts. However, just as there is no one cause of crime, there certainly is no one solution.

I am particularly concerned with statements from respected citizens that "There is no such thing as crime prevention." Citizen involvement is a most effective control measure.

In Maryland, as well as throughout the country, local neighborhoods are experiencing substantial reductions in crime through crime prevention programs that involve a total community effort.

The Statewide crime prevention program, Maryland Crime Watch, administered by the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, assists local crime prevention efforts by providing a variety of resources including crime prevention training, resource materials and public awareness activities.

We sincerely hope that careful planning and evaluation will be a part of our community approach to crime prevention and crime control. We hope that citizens will continue to work with law enforcement, the courts, State's Attorney and Public Defenders, Juvenile Services, Parole and Probation, and other community resources to control crime, improve the administration of justice in Maryland, and reduce the fear of crime.

RICHARD W. FRIEDMAN
Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement

Something must be done

Dear AFRO:

Are local politicians "soft on crime" is a question many people have asked me, because of my interest in politics. After reading your lead article on that question in the Oct. 17 edition, I must say I agree - in part - with the comments of the Rev. St. George Crosse.

The problem, as I see it, is one of perception. I know the members of the Black Caucus are concerned about crime, but the general public does not perceive them to be.

With the inequity in the criminal justice system, the occasions of police brutality, and the insensitivity of the police department to the black community, our politicians do not have to inform the community of their concerns without appearing to be a "law and order" type.

Something must be done. What the Rev. Crosse has suggested is a start.

RODNEY A. ORANGE

(Continued on Page 5)

PARREN MITCHELL

GOP opposes Social S.

Unfortunately, we have been able to draw all too many parallels between historic and contemporary activities. For example, the latest resurgence of racially motivated violence is so similar to incidences of the 1800s.

An additional example shows in a 1932 speech, then National Bar Association President Jesse S. Heslip reiterated the national economic chaotic state, and spoke particularly about the stressful situation of blacks as a result of such conditions.

I am deeply disturbed that in the area of Social Security, we may, once again, witness the repeat of history as massive changes are continuously being proposed by the Administration and Republican members of Congress.

In checking the records closely, several members of the House of Representatives have found, when voting on the orginal proposal, Republican House Members almost totally were against the 1935 Social Security Act.

Specifically, 102 Republicans voted in favor of recommiting this bill, or sending it back to the appropriate committee for additional consideration. This vote was essentially a vote against Social Security, since the recommital of a bill generally deters its passage by the Congress.

I concur with Congressman Tom Bevill, of Alabama that, "In light of the recent activities in Congress and in the Administration, the same lack of Republican commitment to Social Security still seems to be the case."

If we look over the past few months, we see many of the President's Social Security proposals have been railroaded through the Congress by Republicans and some Democrats and enacted into law.

Specifically, the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 - Public Law 97-35 - 1. Eliminated new Social Security adult student payments- paid to full-time student dependents, age 18 to 21 years of age, of retired, disabled or deceased workers.

Current student beneficiaries in college would have their benefits cut 25 percent per year over the four-year period beginning with school year 1982-83, and they would no longer receive benefits during the summer months May through August, beginning next year.

2. Eliminates the unearned minimum benefits - $122.00 per month - for both new and existing beneficiaries; 3. places an overall limit on disability payments from a number of public programs, including Social Security Disability Insurance (DI), and transfers rehabilitation monies from the DI trust fund to the social services "block grant" proposed by the Administration.

4. Eliminates the lump sum death payment - $255.00 - when there is no surviving spouse or children eligible for survivor benefits.

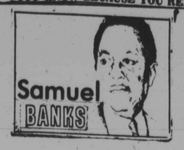
While we have been unsuccessful in defeating these proposals, the House has passed a bill, H.R. 4331, which provides for the repeal of that section of the Reconciliation Act which eliminated the $122.00 minimum benefit amount. However, the Republican-dominated Senate has not acted on this bill.

It is apparent the 1935 Republican mentality in the area of Social Security continues to prevail. However, it is not surprising attacks on this program are consistent with the Republican and Administration's lean toward the wealthy.

Even Mr. David Stockman, in all his eloquence, has echoed the Administration's economic policies favor the wealthy, and I might add the second component seems to be if this segment does not need a program or initiative, then such a program is ignored or phased out.

Obviously, the wealthy do not need Social Security. These elderly residents can generally live comfortably off: investments in certain trust funds, stocks, and

Samuel BANKS



Charting blueprints for survival

The 66th annual convention of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which met in Philadelphia Oct. 29 through Nov. 1, 1981, was an inspirational and instructive experience.

The general theme, "Afro-American History: Blueprint for Survival," was highly apt and challenging in this year of draconian, painful and disquieting Reaganomics. More than 1,500 scholars, predominately black, participated in more than 50 sessions pertaining to black life and culture.

The sessions that had immense value and stimulation for me included:

1. Black Scholarship: Writing Articles for Publication; 2. Pan African Perspective and Garveyjian; 3. Afro-American Publishers and Bookstores: Vital Resources for the Black Community; 4. Black family History and Genealogy; 5. Major Themes for Teaching African and Afro-American Studies in Secondary Schools.

6. Blacks and the Media; 7. The Professionalism and Popularization of Afro-American History: Carter G. Woodson and Luther P. Jackson; 8. Black Women Activists; 9. Black Struggles for Representation and Voting Rights in Latin and Anglo America; 10. Black Economic Development; 11. Black Women in Leadership Roles.

12. Black Intellectuals and Neo-Conservatism; 13. Blacks in Higher Education; and 14. Blacks and the Criminal Justice System.

These topics, among others, were not simply forensic or intellectual exercises, but contained potent and pragmatic recommendations to help 31 million black Americans achieve social justice and economic political parity in our nation. The sessions accentuated leitmotif of group solidarity and advocacy at all levels.

A resounding and impelling emphasis which pervaded the total proceedings of the convention were reminiscent of the stirring editorial written by Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm in the first edition of Freedom's Journal in 1827:

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us...The Civil rights of a people being of the greatest value, it shall ever be our duty to vindicate our brethren, when oppressed; and to lay the case before the public.

The meretricious and deceptive focus and operation of supply-side economics or Reaganomics makes it necessary "to lay the case before the public." What is now clear is the masquerade of Reaganomics is being exposed.

We now are in a recession according to President Ronald Wilson Reagan; blacks are in an economic depression; the Secretary of Treasury, Donald Regan now informs us the budget will not be balanced in 1984.

David A. Stockman, the executive director of the Office of Management and Budget assures us in the December issue of the Atlantic Monthly President Reagan's budget is a proverbial "Trojan Horse" developed to help the plutocrats or the wealthy.

The Congress who has overwhelmingly supported President Reagan's dreadful socio-economic reductions now waffles and laments that Reagan Administration does not have an economic program to revive the economy.

Thoughtful and rational citizens have long been aware of this. The stark and unsettling reality is President Reagan does not have a clear and operational understanding of economics or sound business practices necessary to re-establish socio-economic vibrancy, growth and stability.

The political tricks of Edward Meese, Michael Deaver, and James Baker, the highest echelon of the Reagan Administration, appears, without the benefit of election by the American electorate, to be directing the destiny of our nation. The prospects, to be sure, are grim.

The policies which undergird the force of Reaganomics, in spite of their obvious vacuousness and insufficiency, are able to continue because the majority white society permitsthis gross and unfair socio-economic bifurcation in our nation.

The racial equality in all phases of our life will end when the majority white society determines that it should end. Black Americans in collaboration with rational and just people, transcending race and class, must work assiduously to accelerate this process.

The "long haul" that President Reagan addressed recently in his press conference discussing black unemployment will mean an exacerbation and widening of the enormous and grievous suffering of 31 million black Americans.

Nonetheless, we must not surrender to self-pity, hopelessness and self-flagellation.

A people who survived the awesome rigors, privations and vicissitudes of Herbert Hoover and the "Great Depression" can survive President Ronald Wilson Reagan with his self-serving blandishments, diaphonous charm and theatricality.

The recent victories of Andrew Young in Atlanta, the re-election of Puerto Rican born Maurice Ferre in Miami, with record-breaking black support, the election of Charles Robb, as governor of Virginia, with a solid black vote, and the staggering defeat of the Tuition Tax Credit Initiative in Washington, DC are heartening omens and shows what can be accomplished through the judicious use of the ballot and determination.

The wise use of the ballot, collaboration and coalition with groups with mutual interests, insistence on high quality education for our children and youth and holding educational and political leaders accountable for their actions represent the essential elements for the survival and progress of blacks in Baltimore and the nation.

The recent 66th annual convention of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History addressed these vital concerns in a most admirable and lucid manner.

Tony Brown's Journal

Black self-help plan can work

The President has placed the prestige of his office on the line by ordering all departments and agencies to give black colleges an equal chance to participate in federally sponsored programs and ordering a $9.6 million increase in Title III funds, the second largest source of funds, to the nation's 107 historically black colleges.

Furthermore, the President has built a "report card" accountability mechanism into the reporting process to insure the Federal government's feet will be held to the fire of performance — "And they better pass."

But to begin to solve the enormous problems that face our black citizens, the black colleges themselves must make the same type of commitment to the reduction of unemployment and the annihilation of social illiteracy.

In short, black colleges, and their enormous resources, must be used to help solve the problems of black Americans. On Cheyney State College's 144th birthday, academic leaders from eight black colleges came to the Cheyney State campus for the signing of the Mid-Atlantic Alliance of black colleges.

The ultimate concern of this undertaking is to establish creative opportunities for mutual support and cooperation among these institutions." Dr. Luther Burse, president of Cheyney State and the originator of the Alliance, said.

"Black College Day began a movement that we must continue...this step further proclaims our oneness," he added.

This is exactly what must take place if the poor black underclass condition is ever to be improved. It cannot be without a link to and assistance from the more upwardly mobile segments of the black community.

Even that statement is a relative truth. While blacks do not in sufficient quantity possess the material resources to obviate the societal disparities, they do possess the unique experience and professional expertise to direct and implement the programs necessary for their own empowerment, and a disruption of the poverty syndrome.

Can the private sector help? Looking at the private sector's performance in a vacuum, however, these statements may appear to have great validity. Fewer than 30 percent of American corporations make any philanthropic contributions. Only six percent give more than $500 a year, a Chase Manhattan study reported.

A more salient consideration, however, is the fact U.S. corporations will contribute in excess of the $3 billion they gave last year. Although the dollar amount does not replace the federal budget cuts, it does demonstrate a willingness to respond to the President's appeal to help solve some of the nation's social and economic problems.

The President has provided the first serious national leadership that will provide the bottom-line incentives. Private business is in business to make a profit and expenditures must be interpreted in some long-term or short-run effect on the bottom line.

The strategy must be to provide enough incentives to creatively equalize the magnitude of the budget cuts. This can be accomplished by leveraging the corporate funds with the expertise of the black professionals.

The most recent statistics showed a record unemployment rate in the black community and especially among black teenagers. These statistics are heavily influenced by the fact many blacks are unemployable.

For example, many black teens are unable to answer the simple question asked in an informal quiz at an inner-city supermarket chain owned by a black.

"If three cans of tomatoes costs 75 cents, how much does one can cost?"

After failing to answer that question correctly, they are asked, "How much is one-half of 50?" The failure rate is high.

There are plenty of jobs in America, but they require skills that unemployed auto workers, for example, do not have. The critical problem — which is going to get worse because of the demise of the manufacturing industry and the emergence of electronic, information and computer technologies — is matching skills to jobs.

Therefore, social illiteracy is the primary issue and not unemployment per se. Training and retraining are fundamental.

While it must still rely on financial backing from business, any viable program must turn on community expertise and, in the case of blacks, racial and cultural expertise. The business community has the economic power and needs the support of professionally trained blacks.

The upwardly mobile blacks have the expertise, but need the business community to provide in-kind resources and cooperative oversight.

The black middle-class, the best educated non-whites in the world, must be called into a partnership with the business sector to aid the development of the black underclass. Isolated by social illiteracy, joblessness, drugs and a plethora of societal afflictions from the rest of America — black and white.

The black community significantly has accepted President Reagan's challenge of self-help. Blacks in America today are ready to participate in worthwhile self-help efforts, a recent study of the American Enterprise Institute showed.

Most blacks in the study felt they should initiate activities that advance their neighborhoods and private lives. A significant 93 per cent felt black groups have a major responsibility for solving problems.

A set of unusual factors presents a rare opportunity to influence national social policies: 1. a new national leadership; 2. a supportive business sector; and 3. an underdog committed to his own self-preservation.

Many previous programs have ignored the expertise within the black community while depending exclusively on government wisdom because government held the most money to spend.

The most recent Labor Department statistics dramatically showed the results of years of such thinking. Among blacks, unemployment hit 16.7 percent, the second consecutive monthly record; among all Americans, the rate was eight percent.

Unemployment among all teenagers was 20.6 percent, slightly below the 1975 high, but among black teenagers, it hit a record of 46.3 percent. Only a bold new approach can reverse this trend.

The black college — as an institution — is the centerpiece of most of the country's trained blacks and a repository of black America's major resources. Their alumni include 80 percent of all black professionals. The black church gave birth to many of these schools and owns and finances a large number of them.

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

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

ST. PAUL BAPTIST PRAISES to St. Paul Baptist. The Mortgage banquet was held in the church basement with the finest of Thanksgiving menu and the price $5, a much better Hard-Times Era deal than the $25 and up affairs at banquet halls.

WE HAVE attended recently some fetes with tickets at $45 each. Although the Press does not have to pay, we never the less thought as others did, "How can we partake of this when thousands go to bed every night hungry and kids are out of school with no lunch money."

THESE HARD TIMES keep your tummy turning over. No wonder Alka Seltzer, Tums and Rolaids sell so fast. We're not the only ones feeling down because of concern for the poor. Even Head Table guests at these grand banquets feel terrible.

I ATTENDED 31 banquets last year. I just can not do it this year without a guilty feeling for every bite I eat.

BUT, what can we do? It's so we can hardly do anything to change the way Reagan and his crowd have spelled out the doom of the USA.

NAACP's Dr. Emmett Burns who called for impeachment last week has had calls from TV, radio and newspapers from all over the nation.

NOV. 11

I SAW the Vets Day parade Sunday before last. It was magnificent with Southern Hi, Cherry Hill and many other integrated bands marching to remember the Veterans of other wars.

WHEN I was a kid in Indiana, Armistice Day, Nov. 11 was a big thing with the wounded and ex-GI's marching and all the town lined up tearfully on Main Street.

THE SAME DAY (Nov. 11) always opened the hunting season and after the parade, everybody went rabbit hunting.

THEN CAME rabbit and dumplings, fried rabbit, baked rabbit and braised rabbit with wild rice until wild goose took over. Then came venison and phesant until Christmas turkey.

For all we know

all a delightful feast of nature's goodies.

THE GOOSE was hung high to drain outside in the freezing weather. The late Dr. Martin Jenkin's father had a farm in Vigo County and we got ducks, geese and turkeys from him. Every fowl was fresh killed, no frozen, cut-ups and seems like the taste was better.

FOR SOME reason I do not recall, a rooster cooked slowly made better, deeper broth for dumplings. We always had giblet gravy with roast chicken and roast turkey.

TIMES CHANGE right under your nose.

We never heard of TB, cancer and herpies but suddenly we are threatened with everything dreadful supposedly coming from "something we eat or drink."

THE MOST we had to fear was lice that got in the stringy-haired kids heads. Like I told you one time, the teacher at school had a cool oil can in the cloak room and that took care of anything crawling.

STRAIGHTENING combs made it impossible for black kids to ever have lice.

MORGAN STUDENT GOVERNMENT has Judge Billy Murphy as speaker at the Nov. 24 Assembly at Murphy Fine Arts, 11 a.m.

The event will be first in a series of activites and workshops which provide strategems for advancement of students and the larger community during and beyond Reaganomics.

MORRIS MECHANIC's Dec. 8-26 "To Grandmothers House We Go" is a lively look at the generation gap and contemporary manners and "Is there life after children?"

SANTA ARRIVES at the various shopping centers Nov. 27.

BUT, your main Xams thought is the AFRO'S MRS. SANTA CAMPAIGN under Ida Peters. Be sure you take care of that FIRST.

IF EVERYONE fed and helped his brother, we'd come out of this emergency right now.

CALL IDA at the AFRO today or read today's AFRO and get your directions on how to help NOW.

THE AFRO's 90th Year Edition has as its pet Dorsey Hampton who celebrates his birthday Dec. 15. He'll be 90 years old.

RUTH PRATT entertained Japanese guests at her home Thursday night and gave them American foods treats. The invites were darling in Jap script and requested "your honorable presence."

NEW DISEASE is Thalassemia, an inherited, incurable blood disease affecting blacks and people of Mediterranean origin, according to Dr. David G. Nathan who lectured at Hopkins Turner Room, last week.

OH NO

In thalassemia, the genes which direct production of the blood's oxygen-bearing protein, hemoglobin, are abnormal or missing.

Thousands in the U.S. suffer from its symptoms, which include anemia, enlargement of the spleen, and a build-up of iron which can result in chronic iron poisoning.

Twenty percent of the black population in Baltimore alone has some type of thalassemia!

JOBS

MAYOR SCHAEFER worked this out.

Three houses in Upton, at 1310-12-14 Argyle Avenue, were chosen by the National Association of Home Builders from the list of city-owned buildings in HCD's Vacant House Program as a site for their hands-on pilot training project.

OVER 100 trainees from Baltimore, who have been in Maryland Job Corps Centers receiving basic education in construction skills, will rehab the City houses.

NAHB will supervise the youth, provide the tools and equipment thereby, acting as general contractors on the project. A contract between HCD and NAHB for approximately $130,000 will cover materials and standard overhead costs.

BALTIMORE BALLET has auditions for professional, classically trained male and female dancers, who are available for a 28-week contract from Jan. 4 to June 15, 1982.

Auditions are in main studio of the Baltimore Ballet Center at 1398 West Mount Royal Ave. Nov. 21, at 2 p.m.

Bring a current resume and photo and be prepared to take a full class conducted by Wendy Robinson, director. For further information contact Marion Myers, 255-0850.

—GOP opposes

(Continued from Page 4)

bonds, savings and accumulated interest; and additional assets accrued during their participation in the job market.

On the other side of the coin, are those citizens who are most in need of Social Security benefits. Quite often, these are the same persons who have a historical record of having been manipulated and exploited in the manpower market.

Such citizens — minorities, blacks, lower-income, uneducated and semi-skilled workers — often have been at the mercy of decreasing wage levels. The protection of Social Security has provided some protection by allowing these persons to at least enjoy some semblance of an adequate lifestyle upon retirement.

While several of the Administration's Social Security proposals have been enacted, there are forthcoming. Let us join forces and let the members of Congress know we oppose such suggestions as a delay in the July 1, 1982 Social Security cost of living adjustment, until Oct. 1, 1982.

Let us point out such a proposal totally ignores the millions of retirees who depend on Social Security for primary income. Let us emphasize the projected $3 billion saving from such a proposal might be negated totally or even result in additional federal spending to supplement the purchase of vital goods by these retirees.

Let us also join forces and seriously question any attempts to change the basis for the cost of living adjustment to a wage index or linking such adjustments to the percentage rise or fall of wages.

Let us reiterate our awareness the current adjustments are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) — percentage changes in consumer prices — and that some examination of this linkage is warranted. However, we should insure it is unrealistic to rely on wage indexes to determine benefits for our retirees who already receive only 40 percent of their last year's earnings.

Let us stress since prices generally rise faster than wages, the use of wage index is solely determining the Social Security cost of living adjustment would place undue burdens on fixed income citizens.

Let us also continue to urge a serious examination of alternatives to funding Social Security through payroll taxes. One alternative which has been suggested would provide for one-third employee contribution, one-third employer, and one-third from the federal government's general fund, replacing the present system where employers and employees equally share the cost. Perhaps such changes would make the system less vulnerable and more stable.

Let us remain adamant in our contention Social Security payments are owed to those who have worked hard and earned them. Accordingly, let us stress rather than penalize our retirees, the Congress and the Administration should be a lot more serious about closing the tremendous tax loopholes through which corporations continue to slip.

The closing of such loopholes might add more than enough revenues, an estimated $12 billion alone could be saved by closing the use of company tax tricks, to underfund the Social Security system quite adequately.

Lastly, let us no longer the hypocritic remark consistently opposed by the provision of Social Security benefits in general.

JUST THINKING

Black biggies in Reagan's Washington

By Al Sweeney

If you are wondering about the top black appointees in the Federal government, here's a partial list:

Heading with Samuel Pierce of HUD, Carlos Campbell who headed the Bicentennial Commission public informations staff during the President Ford's administration, is assistant Secretary of Commerce;

Antoinette (Tony) Ford, who was one of the VIP's during the Nixon administration, is now assistant administrator of AID for the Near East, a job formerly held by Stan Scott, now the Philip Morris executive;

Heading the Office for Aging in Health Human Services agency is Dr. Lennie Marie Tolliver; waiting for her name to be sent to Congress as chairman of Merit System Procurement Board is Gloria Toote, — New York lawyer and original Ronald Reagan supporter.

Vincent Reed, the former D.C. school superintendent, is an assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education in the Department of Education;

Arthur Teele, administrator of the Urban Mass Transit Administration of the Department of Transportation. In addition there are White House staffers Mel Bradley, Thelma Duggin, Thadeus Garrett and Toney Boyd, Stephen Bradley and Daniel Smith.

These are few of the top level appointees in the present administration.

In addition most of the federal cabinet agencies have black civil rights directors and directors of the Office Of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. The offices of OSDBU are the outgrowth of Congressman Parren Mitchell's legislation for minority participation in the federal procurement program.

Bob Price, who handled the exhibits program for DOT, has gone in business in a big way since his retirement. He handled the exhibitors display at the recent National Council of Negro Women's convention. He doubled the number of the previous year's exhibits.

Sam Jackson, chairman of D.C. Freedom Fund dinner, sponsored by the D.C. NAACP, has a budding revolt on his hands.

It seems that Jackson, a former general assistant of HUD and leading GOP politico, spearheaded the drive to honor HUD's Pierce.