OPINION

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Pressuring Adams

The political kitchens get hotter.

Not without coincidence three year-old lottery charges against William L. Adams, reversed in one court, and now recycled in another one are but another indication of hot getting hotter.

We wonder where the pressure is coming from.

No immediate answers come but we know the Hughes administration has a deep-seated antipathy toward former Governor Mandel and all who were friendly with him.

Mr. Adams was a friend of Mr. Mandel. That is no secret nor is it a sin.

Nor is it a secret that Mr. Adams has been an effective fundraiser for causes and politicians he favors.

With the candidacy of Harry McGuirk seeming to assume more weight than was originally everyone's perception and with Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Pascal the GOP standard bearer not about to back down, tying up Adams in a lengthy adjudication could put a damper on the Westside political leader's current ambitions.

We mention all this because pressure on Adams has suddenly come off the backburner and is out front.

Given the timing weeks, before the primary, we wonder just why?

Schmoke's latest program

"The Victimization of the Elderly," candidate for the States Attorney office Kurt Schmoke stated this week, "is not an unsolvable problem."

The young attorney and former federal prosecutor then outlines in a news story in this edition, a three point program to reduce crimes against the aging who are the most vulnerable prey (aside from small children) for criminals.

Schmoke continues his campaign policy of talking intelligently about tough issues rather, as the incumbent is want to do, talk tough without intelligence on issues.

We keep strongly urging all voters in our community pay careful attention to Kurt Schmoke's positions on the implementation of criminal justice policies that make sense.

The more you hear Schmoke the more you realize that prosecutors have a duty to offer the public programs that have a good chance of bringing about effective change.

Time for real 'selective' bargaining

Now that the courts have spoken, it seems reasonable that the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will join a number of its branches around the country in a "selective bargaining" campaign against local corporations, grocery chains, drug stores and other businesses in the immediate Washington area to determine just how fair they are in the hiring and promotion of Blacks.

This would be an encouraging step in bringing these firms and establishments into some semblance of support for the Black community from which a large number of them gain high profits. It also would be a big first step in putting the local NAACP on the front street in the current fight against discrimination for Blacks in this area.

In recent years complaints have been lodged continuously against our historic civil rights agencies alleging that they do not protect the rights of minorities, are ineffective in their efforts or complacent to the real problems in the Black community.

Now with the Federal government virtually deserting the Black community by elimination or withdrawal of funds for many programs the Black community depended upon for survival, it is incumbent that we turn to the business community. And selective buying, bargaining or whatnot is perhaps the best way to begin. And the NAACP seems to us to be the proper organization to lead the march.

This is not to say that the NAACP has not been doing a good job. One only has to look at the past achievements and wonder where we would be at this point in our history without the untiring and steady efforts by such civil rights agencies as the NAACP, Urban League, and PUSH. We cannot praise their past efforts too much, but at the same time things are changing and we need to move with the change.

For far too long big business chains have been profiteering off Black buyers and giving little thought to putting any of those multi - million dollar profits back into the Black community to help its residents to "lift themselves up." Most of them virtually ignore the use of Black newspapers to sell their goods via advertising yet they consistently urge Black newspapers to carry their message to the Black community.

Selective buying campaigns are not new; they have been initiated by local NAACP branches and other agencies all over the country at various times. They have taken different forms, but by any name the realization of the movement is effective. It simply tells the big business community that "if you want our support; show your support by hiring and promoting an equitable number of Blacks into your businesses, and let us know you are sincere by telling your story via the Black Media."

We know you mean it when we see your ads in Black newspapers, and we will support you because you are support ng us. All of us can help the program by supporting the NAACP and urging them to give further support to such an economic program for the full benefit of the Black community.

MADELINE MURPHY

Extremely dangerous times

You cannot help but come to the conclusion we are living in extremely dangerous times, when we read the headlines and listen to the news.

All over the world if it is not Israel versus Lebanon, it is Iraq versus Iran. Popping up now and then is the long-suffering El Salvador strugging with a repressive military regime.

The litany of armed force, of violation of human rights, murder and mayhem, seem to render us callous toward violence that is part of the whole torn fabric of global conflict and hostility.

The conspiracy of numbing us into acceptance of violence is perpetuated by the press. We read the front page one morning to find juxtaposed against one another a story of 581 deer killed in a massive bloodlust in the Everglades.

We see on the opposite column Iraq traps 100,000 Iranian invaders in an ambush costing thousands of lives. Further down one reads that finally Israel admits to using cluster bombs in Lebanon, killing hundreds of civilians in one blow.

The mayhem goes on and on.

In concert with these upheavals, nuclear holocaust is the real threat to all of us as the doomsday clocks move ahead to midnight.

Ruling out the ban on underground nuclear testing, the Reagan administration stalls after years of negotiating with the Soviet Union and Great Britain as part of the 40 member United Nations Committee on Disarmament.

Too much has been invested in the land-based MX missile; the Trident II submarine-based nuclear missile, not to continue testing nuclear warheads underground, otherwise the "Red threat" would not maintain a peaceful posture and we would not be able to wage war and save the world for democracy.

The counterpoint to these grave decisions is the irrational finger pointing:

"If it weren't for the commies, none of this would happen."

Yet, who indeed would be the scapegoat without the USSR?

The ignomy of the cluster bombs that had been furnished by the United States, and the shipment of which so recently has been delayed, in Israel's war with Lebanon, gives a fair picture of how the the oppressed easily become the oppressors in the name of "security."

We denounce the Soviets for using yellow rain, while at the same time our Vietnam veterans, now suffering from agent orange - the defoliant used extensively in Vietnam - are being labeled as liars, and are being treated like outcasts - worse than any veterans in the history of the United States.

After all, they do mirror and are the cruel reminder of the insensitivity, the violent nature, the disregard for human life that ended with "Peace with Honor."

Those mad architects of this fiasco, Nixon, Haig and Kissinger, set the stage for the accelerated dissembling about this nation's security, so prevalent in the Reagan administration's seeking a Soviet under every bed.

With Israel's supplying arms to Iran; the U.S. supplying arms to Iraq; the French supplying weapons to Argentina along with Israel, the blame for all these macabre event lies at the feet of the war merchants of the U.S. - grown in multinational proportions.

These are the wolves in sheep's clothing who profit no matter what countries are engaged in war. They become worldwide agents of terror, pledging allegiance to nothing but the bottom line.

They weave their web of deceit throughout Africa, Asia, South America, the Orient, with the blessings of the Reagan administration. They influence the Political Action Committees such as the National Conservative Political Action Committee to support them, as they return the favor.

They are entangled into interlocking relationships. State and Defense cabinet secretaries George Shultz and Caspar Weinberger have kept their loyalties and still might, to the most secret family-owned Bechtel Corporation, engaged, so it is rumored, in international espionage, developing the super shadow government which aim is self-interest.

One really cannot tell the players without a program, while they lead us to slaughter.

But against this background one can fathom where the blame for worldwide conflict really lies, and why there cannot possibly be a sensible, stable foreign policy in the Reagan administration.

Too many sacred oxen might be gored.

It becomes clearer also, why the Reagan administration has not dealt more harshly with Menachem Begin, and why Mr. Begin feels no compunction about his defiant attitude toward the United States.

In violation of the law, he is using U.S. cluster bombs and airplanes in his illegal invasion of Lebanon.

First he promised it would be a limited engagement to clear out the Palestinian Liberation Army's guerillas within a 25-mile buffer zone north of Israel in Lebanon.

He has escalated a full blown war, where casualties have mounted into the thousands - where hundreds of thousands are living or existing in tent cities, in refugee camps, without medical treatment, adequate food or basic social services — a striking parallel to Nazi Germany.

Begin promised he would not engage the Syrians in combat, but he did.

And despite his desire to establish a favorable Lebanese government, he constantly bombed and shelled the presidential palace meeting, threatening the lives of the very leaders whom he hoped would establish that stable government.

One can only believe the on and off cease fire is merely lip service to rout out the 6,000 PLO guerillas, while killing all Israel's real and imagined enemies.

But the guerillas are only the tip of the iceberg of the infrastructure of the Palestinian movement.

There are more than 600,000 more members in Lebanon, who have established an entrenched bureaucracy. Their long range goal is to find a homeland and gain autonomy. So even if the guerillas go, the movement will continue.

And with the escalated hawkishness of the Begin regime, attitudes are hardening not only among the Arabs in their support of the Palestinians—even former foe Syria has been thrown into that tentative camp—but Americans who also are losing sympathy for Israel, the real and present fear mounting that nuclear weapons might be the next step toward world annihilation. Israel has never allowed on-site inspection of its power plants, or stockpiles.

Without control of the situation, the United States with its mixed agenda and conflicting interests, may be a willing partner in that crime of not fulfilling its commitment to solve the problem of Palestinian autonomy.

Without thought or care about the consequences, our Marines might be pressed into combat to placate these conflicting interests and an increasingly vengeful Begin.

Revenge may seem sweet to Begin, but in that part of the world, the words of the Lord might well supersede his:

"Vengeance is mine, I shall repay."

The art of East Coast 'Cool'

I applaud and stand in awe of the young black man of the East Coast who is the epitome of "cool." One aspect of being "cool" is the art of giving the illusion of affluence, prosperity, success, and well being when one is unemployed, busted, and inwardly disgusted because of the sad state of his economic affairs. The young black man is second to none in creating and maintaining this illusion. He is "cool."

There is something quite unique and admirable about the young black man who can don a sharp three - piece suit, choked to the gills with the "right" tie, who can go down town in 95 degree plus heat and strut as though he is second vice-president of a bank, especially when all he has in his pocket is 65 cents to catch the bus back home and be there by 3 p.m. to watch General Hospital on TV. This is "cool."

Lest you become snide and cynical about "cool," you must understand that one needs a natural propensity and a cultivated skill to carry a brief case as though it contained secret CIA documents when in reality all it holds is a soggy sandwich, a copy of Playboy Magazine, a trumped up resume, and, perhaps, a flyer announcing a free cheese and wine sip sponsored by an aspiring politician.

"Cool" also embraces the ability to mingle in a popular cocktail lounge and "con" perfect strangers into buying your drinks without giving them the slightest hint you didn't graduate from Yale as they are led to believe because of your knowledge of Dow - Jones or the GNP; that you don't own a Mercedes as they think because of your knowledge of its engine; and that you can't give them a job in spite of your embossed business card that lists you as a "consultant." The young black man is good at this: He's "cool."

Another indication of the possession of "cool" is demonstrated by his ability to talk his girl friend into using her car to run his "errands" while she rides the bus home from work, and make putty out of what should be a sane, rational woman who takes him out on the town, chauffeurs him around in her Camero, gives him a set of her apartment keys, and buys him gifts (without reciprocation) on his birthday, holidays, and whenever. This is "cool."

I have seen "cool" in Philly, Detroit, Chicago, New York, and L.A.; but nowhere has "cool" been so eloquently defined as the young black man of Washington, DC (and environs).

Contrary to popular opinion, Washington, DC is a tough town for an educated, erudite, talented young black man who finds himself overwhelmed by the reality of Reaganomics; and, many times, the only way for him to maintain his sanity, keep a stiff upper lip, and live in the style to which he would like to become accustomed is to be "cool."

I don't care what nasty remarks others might make, but I applaud and salute you: "Stay 'cool', Dude."

JAMES E. NICHOLS

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Proposed budget raises questions

This week, the President and others gathered on the Capitol steps to rally around the highly touted Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment presently pending before the Congress.

This initiative would dictate, except in times of extreme national emergencies (i.e. war) government expenditures cannot exceed government receipts.

Supporters of the initiative realizing two-thirds of our states must ratify the amendment following its passage in the Congress, believe this is the best step to promoting economic balance and growth.

The contentions of these supporters notwithstanding, many others (to include economists and public policy experts) have expressed grave reservations about incorporating such restrictions on federal fiscal policy into the constitution.

I share these reservations, and will continue in my opposition to those measures in Congress which will provide for a constitutional amendment to this effect.

Just recently, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) shared their perspective with me on the matter of the proposed amendment.

The International President of this organization has pointed out such an amendment would increase unemployment sharply lower the Gross National Product (GNP), and fail to significantly reduce inflation.

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) also has joined the ranks of those who oppose House Joint Resolution 350 and Senate Joint Resolution 58 - bills to establish the Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment.

This organization has stated, among other things, that "(it) is emphatic in its belief that a document of the magnitude and dignity of the U.S. Constitution should not be demeaned by using it as a vehicle for making a political statement about today's economy.

"We view this drastic constitutional revision as a serious threat to America's constitutional and economic well being."

It should be noted, here in the House of Representatives, some members are even attempting to usurp the authority of the Judiciary Committee by circulating a discharge petition to remove H.J. Res. 350 from this body prior to an adequate review of the measure's contents.

Many who have expressed opposition to the Balanced Budget Amendment bills are just as concerned that, as the organization, Common Cause has noted, "(the) House Judiciary Committee should have the opportunity to hear a wide range of testimony and to carefully examine and debate the critical issues involved in this controversial amendment to the Constitution."

I believe it is most important we review some of the findings of Data Resources, Incorporated (DRI).

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees recently shared these findings with my office, and they are based on the DRI economic model of the impact of imposing a federal balanced budget requirement and revenue limitation of the kind contained in Senate Joint Resolution 58.

The simulation was prepared by DRI economists at the request of AFSCME and is among the first careful analyses of the constitutional amendment's effects.

When reviewing these conclusions, I ask you keep the following in mind:

Per AFSCME specifications, (a) the simulation covers the time period from fiscal year 1985 through 1987;

(b) the model assumes the budget will be balanced starting in 1985 by first allowing revenues to rise as much as possible under the revenue limit — which allows total federal revenue in any fiscal year to rise by no more than the

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Children are our future

Dear AFRO:

Our children are watching us. They look to us for guidance and understanding on what to do and how to be.

However, we are giving our children a bad picture. We give them examples of drug addictions, alcoholism, dishonesty, robbers and thieves, disco freaks and street beggers.

Isn't this the truth?

Look at what we are doing to the precious baby in Mama's womb. That baby comes here knowing nothing and begins learning from what it sees. Our children see us, they hear us, they taste what we taste and the feeling that we show for each other is passed on to our children. They sense the smell of the environment that we participate in.

We are giving our children bad habits. We are destroying ourselves.

The jails are filled with our children. We sell our children dope, wines, reefers ; we kill each other; we shoot each other; we steal from each other.

Biblical scripture teaches us that one day your flesh will turn against you. Your flesh is your children. Hasn't this happened? Look how your children treat you — no respect for you nor anyone else.

Today's children and teenagers are doing things that would never had been thought of during the days of your grandparents.

With all of this modern technology and better educational facilities, better jobs and material comforts of homes and cars, television, etc., we can not seem to produce children and parents like our grandparents. Why? Because they had morality and were God fearing and were not lustful and wasters of their precious lives. They did not tolerate wrong because they loved, cherished and respected the creator.

We today need to come back to that which will insure us a better life and a happier life. People who have no respect for Almight God are a dangerous people. They are a people who will do anything. But, God fearing people are mindful of God's presence at all times.

We as a people have suffered too long to do the things we are doing today. Do not look for somebody other than yourself to change our condition. We have to change our situation ourselves. We can do it because people before us have done it.

But first we have to change!

WILLIAM MCFADDEN

Letters

Equal justice for black taxpayers

Dear AFRO:

How about fighting for equal justice for the poor black taxpayer and business people, who cannot afford the services of certified public accountants or tax lawyers when they are accused of owing tax money to the Internal Revenue Service or to the state.

If a murderer, rapist or armed robber was given a trial and convicted without counsel to defend him or her there would be a great cry and demand for justice - yet many poor black people are accused and forced to pay more taxes than they should.

There is no outcry or demand for justice for people like us.

Can it be true that equal justice under the law, is just a political ploy. For in this land of milk and honey ... you get no justice if you have no money.

Equal justice will come a step closer to being a reality when the poor taxpayer can have the same protection as the most violent and vicious criminals ... free counsel to help prove their innocence.

CHARLES WALKER

G. JAMES FLEMING

JaWan McGee and Justice

It has been numbing learning Ja-Wan McGee is being denied all rights to compensation for near fatal injuries he suffered without cause, at the hands of a Baltimore policeman. So numbing, it was difficult putting pen to paper to write this column.

It will easily be recalled Mr. McGee, a teenager, was standing in a pizza parlor waiting for an order. While still standing in line, he reached in his pocket for his cigarette lighter to light a cigarette. Right then, an off-duty police officer, also in line and in civilian attire, shot him, and made him a wheelchair patient for the rest of his life.

The policeman (reportedly a detective) later testified he thought the cigarette lighter ("a shining object," said the officer) was a gun. After hearings, the Police Department, nevertheless, dismissed the officer from the police force.

To the public in general the incident ("incident" is too weak a term) was a case of unmitigated, careless, unprofessional, unlawful and surely wanton assault by, supposedly, an officer and upholder of the law.

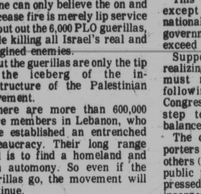
Under Maryland law, an innocent victim of crime is entitled to compensation from the state, the terms and amount to be set by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In an early action, this board ruled Mr. McGee was entitled to compensation, as was generally expected but, in later reconsideration of the case, the board ruled Mr. McGee is "ineligible" for any compensation.

Medical costs alone, not to mention this victim's need for constant care and attention, make this latest judgement by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board justification for the deepest and continuous public condemnation — and it calls for action.

If the rank and file people, out of hurt, anger and frustration are not to take things into their own hands, sooner or later, for the miscarriage of justice against Ja-Wah McGee, then some special action of the Baltimore City Council and Board of Estimates, or the state legislature, or both — must do right by Mr. McGee — right by morality, right by the "higher law." And with speed!

We feel certain the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, the office of Congressman Parren Mitchell, the "Goon Squad" and the other "speakers for the people" are putting their heads together to force correction of this wrong.

Neither Baltimore City nor the state, nor happy-trigger policemen should be allowed to get away with this deadly assault against a law-abiding, young citizen who committed no offense at all — one who was only about to light a cigarette.



Tony Brown's Comments

Black movie stars need a lesson

The idea of economic boycotts has caught on in the Afro - American community. The most recent segment designated for hard rhetoric and economic pressure is the movie industry.

Aside from the risks of splinter boycotts, there are the very real risks of a lack of unanimity and the organizational inability to carry them out. After all, the black consumer cannot be expected to boycott everyone or even to keep track of who is on or off of the current hit list.

That confusion notwithstanding, economic boycotts are shortranged. And they neither build a production capacity nor an economic foundation.

Take the movies, for instance. Some 43 movies have been "whitelisted," including everything from "National Lampoon's Class Reunion" and "Blade Runner" (no black people in the future) to Woody Allen's "Manhattan" (on black people in New York City).

The new emphasis on more jobs for black actors, actresses, stuntmen and women, directors, wirters and producers will produce some accomodation. A select, and few, blacks will be seen and fewer black directors and producers will be brought in — temporarily.

Another neo - Blaxploitation genre will last about as long as the last one — briefly from 1970 to about 1974. It will end in another temporary cycle of "Negro progress." In another 10 years, we'll be back protesting and complaining for more "opportunity" — and boycotts.

When will African - Americans wake up?

Italian - Americans make Italian entrepreneurs; Asian - Americans produce Asian entrepreneurs; Jewish - Americans create Jewish entrepreneurs; etc. Every ethnic and racial group in America produces their own business sector — save Afro - Americans. Blacks, in their purchasing patterns, are punitive towards black business people.

And it's because blacks do not identify themselves as a market. Instead they behave as a "minority," seeking majority approval and acceptance.

A very conservative estimate is that blacks spend $700 million dollars a year on movies. Another estimate is that over 50 percent of the tickets to all movie theatres are purchased by Afros between 12 and 24 - years - old.

A significant 26 percent of the movie audience is under 17 and over one - half of all blacks is under 19. The Afro - American market is a natural, ready - made movie market — even when it means learning self - hatred.

If the black creative community could or would abandon its obsession with being temporary tokens in the latest White - movie world trend, it could build its own. However, they must first realize that they do not need White people. And they must educate their own Afro - market to the relationship between the price of their movie ticket and the self.-image of their children because movies, along with television, largely shape black opinion.

On the subject of self - image, you constantly hear black actors complain that the race of a character should be irrelevant. "He wasn't a black detective," one is quoted as saying. "He was just a guy doing his job." Blacks are currently getting only 3 percent of all speaking roles with that logic.

Instead of begging for generic characters, we should insist on parts that are specifically black, and our percentage of the population — 11 percent. We would still get the three percent, because of connections.

Conversely, since the Supreme Court has ruled that race is a decisive factor in American life, why not make it a decisive factor in a marketing approach to our own community. We aren't going anywhere trying not to be black. Why not combine our efforts, draw attention to race and make race relevant and profitable?

While Diana Ross' disastrous "The Wiz," a $30 million racially schizophrenic "crossover" attempt, became the financial disaster of the decade, movies with a definite black attitude made a sizable profit on a modest budget. "If you make a movie today for $3 to $4 million for the black community, and if the film is even moderately entertaining, there is no way to lose," explained Sidney Poitier who directed five which made a tenfold return.

Put the best black producer, the best black director, the best black writers, the best black actor and actress in the same room and they will consistently fail to realize that recognizing blackness as an asset is their ticket to a successful career and wealth.

We did it before between 1910 and 1950 when more than 150 independent film companies organized to produce Black - cast movies, and 34 percent of them were owned and operated by Afro - Americans. And we can — and must — do it between 1982 and 2000.

The Democracy Film Corporation demonstrated the black survival spirit by responding to the racist "Birth Of A Nation" with "Injustice!" It failed commercially, however, because whites would not support it. This makes it apparent that a successful black film needs the black audience.

And that is obviously what happened to "Realization Of A Negro's Ambition," a financial success produced by the black - owned Lincoln Motion Picture Company in 1916. Can we pull it off again?

We'll see what some of the famous black actors, writers and directors have to say in Hollywood when the National Urban League presents a forum on "The Black Image in Motion Pictures and Television" at its annual conference this year.

As moderator of the session, I'll be sure to ask: "Why don't we as blacks respond to 'Injustice,' both as a legacy and a fact."

Tony Brown's Journal, the television series, can be seen on public television Saturdays, on Channels 22 and 67 at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

—Parren Mitchell

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percentage of increase in Gross National Product in the prior calendar year — and then cutting federal overlays across the board to bring the deficit down to zero;

(c) the model allows that money-supply be kept on the path that is assumed on DRI's May, 1982 standard long-term forecast.

The conclusions point out, among other things that, putting a balanced budget and revenue limit into effect would:

Boost unemployment 2,649,000 above what it would otherwise be in 1987.

Slash output of goods and services by Total GNP would be cut by $519 billion between 1985 and 1987. On a per-capital bais, that is $8,832 worth of lost output for a four-person family.

Reduce state and local government revenue by $49 billion in 1987 by further cutting federal aid and causing a recession that reduces state and local revenues.

This loss is more than four times as large as FY '82 cuts in grants to state and local governments, which already have pushed states and localities into their most severe financial crisis since the Depression.

Force drastic cuts in federal programs: total cutbacks would be $116 billion in 1985, $125 billion in 1986 and $163 billion in 1987; these cuts average 14 percent of the total budget.

These cuts are in addition to DRI's standard forecast assumption that Reagan gets half of his latest requested reductions in non-defense spending.

Spending reductions of this size would force large cuts in all major functions — including national defense, Social Security, and grants in aid to states and localities.

— Totally eliminating federal grants to state and local government — that means closing down Medicaid, Social services, the Highway Trust Fund, AFDC, wastewater treatment, education aid, revenue sharing, and a host of other programs — would only save about $60 billion, less than half of the needed cuts.

— Passage of the prosposed constitutional amendment would very probably lead to a **radical reduction in funding for the military**, as this part of the budget is becoming more and more politically vulnerable.

Need I say more? Please keep those letters coming in opposition to the proposed Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment.

I would only ask you target more and more efforts toward members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees at the following addresses:

House Committee on the Judiciary, 2137 Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senate Judiciary Committee, 2226 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

For all we know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

URBAN SERVICES under Norman Ross scored last weekend with 1,200,000 (that's one million, 200 thousand) persons attending for the three days and three nights.

AFRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The orderly throng, colorfully dressed and appearing like a great, grand pageant, seemed never - ending. If you have never seen over one million persons you should have been there.

The mornings were slim. The afternoons crowded and the evenings simply packed.

Each person was a picturebook character and from every race. There should be a way to photograph the whole AFRAM. Otherwise you would never believe it.

IF WE COULD only get together in a throng such as that we could march on any store, bank, business establishment in the world and state our wishes or boycott and put them out of business in one day.

SUCH A CROWD as we had at AFRAM could just quietly stand still and wait just a few hours, present our package of demands and presto — not one person could resist.

EACH PERSON was frocked in summer outfits. Just think what profit the department stores make from us, our teens, parents, kids and relatives. We have no such stores and here we stand fairly giving away millions of dollars.

RUDE MANAGER WHICH REMINDS ME — Luskins outside of Towson has prices which are way too high. We tend to think because of their advertising that Luskins is the best bargain. However, that's not so.

Furthermore, the manager is rude and fast talking. The employees, some of the senior citizen men, just stand around avoiding customers, except the ones who look like they will purchase big items such as TV's. Evidently they work on commission and would rather not bother to sell you a small fan.

ANYWAY, the same small fan at a 5 and 10 cent store on Route 40 is $3 less in price than Luskins.

ADVICE: Don't go to Luskins and pay the high price unless you're rich and don't need to watch your pocketbook. But, regardless, why make rude and nasty folks rich?

URBAN SERVICES WEST

The Urban Services Agency's newest facility, Urban Services West, at 1114 N. Mount St. (formerly School 132) is now ready to serve the public.

This once abandoned school building, handsomely restored, houses many programs that benefit the city.

To familiarize the public with its new location and the valuable services therein, Urban Services West will host an OPEN HOUSE, Wednesday, July 28, 1982, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The USA Energy Program (Phone: 396-7788) has just moved from 920 E. 25th St.) to Urban Services West.

This program administers the States' Energy Assistance Program and provides fuel and crisis assistance to city residents. Applications for fuel assistance will still be taken in through the Urban Services Neighborhood Centers, as in past years.

However, handicapped and homebound fuel assistance will now come from 1114 N. Mount St. as will the Energy Education Program and central administration.

At the Open House, the Energy Program will demonstrate what happens to fuel assistance applications, screen the movie "Runnin' on E," show slides, and play the educational record "Warm Inside."

The Energy Education Van will operate in front of the building. (The USA Weatherization Program is still located at 920 E. 25th St.)

PROJECT SAGA

The Cultural Arts Program (Phone: 396-7883) has a new center occupying the entire second floor of Urban Services West.

At the Open House, a gallery will exhibit art work and crafts from the Summer Arts Day Camp and the Expanded Arts Program. Guests will be able to visit classes in dance, drama, painting and music.

Project S.A.G.A., Security and Action for Golden Agers, (Phone: 396-7724) is an active recreation and education program promoting self - sufficiency for seniors. The afternoon of the Open House, this new center will be holding classes in sign language and singing. There will also be an exhibit of crafts made by seniors.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Youth Development Program (Phone: 396-7723) is an active improvement program for teenagers. On the third floor of Urban Services West, guests at the Open House can look in on a role - play workshop on job interviews and a seminar on Criminal Justice and Youth.

The Family Service Program (Phone: 396-7814) does outreach work to provide information, counseling and support for families experiencing multiple problems. At the Open House, their new office will be conducting a consumer education workshop.

OPEN HOUSE

The Open House will also serve as the grand opening for "Encore," a youth operated store selling quality pre - owned clothing, shoes, jewelry and household items. "Encore" is a project of the USA Office of Youth Affairs Mini - Industrial Program. This program gives teenagers jobs and practical work experience. The teens operate the store and learn management, sales and inventory techniques.

USA is proud of the exciting programs serving the city from this new location. We hope that this Open House will help to inform the public about our work and the new opportunities available to them. The centralization of services offered by Urban Services West enables this agency to serve a broader target area at competitive cost factors.

Discipline leads to economic stability

By Yahya B. A. Muhammad

Once again we, the consumer, have noticed the rise in prices of practically everything we have been lead to believe we need for our very survival.

With the closing of some food chains in the city, the remaining chains have raised their prices drastically. With the beginning of summer, we noticed gas prices rose twice as fast as they had declined just a month earlier.

Utility bills have increased, air travel costs have soared out of sight, not to mention the costs of hotel and motel accommodations. And all at a time when unemployment is at its highest in many years.

Those of us who are the consumers, grumble and grudgingly pay the added costs, as we see it, to stay alive. Life should mean more to us than just staying alive or making ends meet.

To enjoy life more abundantly, we must begin to give serious thought to bringing a new discipline into our lives. A discipline giving us the courage to say no, and be willing to do without for a brief period, when prices continue to escalate.

We see right before our eyes, almost daily, figures which show our elected officials, corporate heads, professionals and their immediate subordinates, just can not live with salaries ranging from the high $50s to well over $100,000 a year.

Many of our elected officials and corporate heads have many little tax loopholes to their advantage, to stretch their salaries even farther.

If they can not make it on those large salaries, then how do they think the average American can make it on $3,000 to $12,000 a year?

The time has come for the American consumer to resist higher prices by refusing to buy items which we can do without, and cut back on those items we feel are necessary for health and safety in our lives.

As long as we continue to splurge, to pay the higher prices, regardless to how high they become, then the suppliers have the consumers by the throat and they will never let go.

Once the consuming public shows they are the ones who count, then you will see the suppliers of goods and services begin to ease up and lower their prices.

This is especially true in the African - American community. We should have learned the lesson well, that the poor, disunited and uneducated pay more. Those who are producers of nothing and consumers of everything pay more.

Our short term goal should be to work towards getting the suppliers of goods and services to lower their prices, however, our long term goal should be to pool our resources and begin to do for ourselves.

We still have some money, and we have needs to supply. We should begin immediately to pool our earnings and organize industries to participate in supplying our social and economic needs.

If the African-Americans are to remain forever removed from the producing atmosphere and the present conditions continue to escalate, there will be nothing left for us to do, nor will there be any money to buy anything with.

We must come together on the basis of mutual trust of each other and we MUST be loyal to that trust. It is necessary for us to recognize we are working for the good of our common lot, not to become selfishly or independently wealthy.

There is no reason to suffer lack of confidence because of failures we might have witnessed or been a part of in the past. In many instances our failures in the past might have been because of our lack of confidence.

If we had manifested enough confidence in the establishments of others of our ethnic group, and properly supported them, they would have been strong enough to stand the test of the crisis.

The confidence of our people is worth more than money. The lack of confidence of the African-American in himself and his possibilities is what has kept us down.

If the African-American would be as fair to his own as he has been to others, this would be all that is necessary to give us a new lease on life and start the trend upward.

It is time we realized we have been educated in the sense that persons directed a certain way are more easily controlled.

The African-American in this state continues as a child. We are restricted in this sphere to small things, and with these we become satisfied.

At the same time, those who have given us such false ideals are busy in the higher spheres from which African-Americans have been disbarred.

When we look around the world, we see there are not many independent countries with populations as large as the population of the African-American, and yet they have all of the things that make this country work.

Business, commerce, industry, trade, government, to name it and they have it.

They are not hampered by ghosts from a past slave history, they have confidence that they can do for themselves what any other independent group of people can do.

We, as an independent group of African-Americans who have a constitution which will allow it, must begin to think like producers if we are to survive.

We must put our slave past behind us and stop using it as a crutch to lean on. Frederick Douglass once said, "It is vain that we talk of being men, if we do not work of men."

More Letters

Space shuttles and the poor

Dear AFRO:

During the course of my welfare work, I come across an increasing number of heart-breaking situations of poverty and need. However, one recent case touched me greatly, and it concerned a lady in her late 80's, living a lonely life — her only companion an elderly dog.

When I arrived at her very meagre dwelling, I found her sharing a can of dog food with her pet. That was her lunch!

Here we have such HELLISH situations while money is literally squandered in Washington. Space shuttles that cost billions of dollars while people are hungry and without jobs.

This appalling situation enrages me beyond words. I am truly sickened by it all.

DR. SHEILA WATE