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OPINION

Voters, judges, Sen. Mitchell

The move to block voters from directly deciding who will sit on the Circuit Court bench of Maryland is nothing more than an attempt to undercut the emerging strength of black voters and to keep control of the justice system in the hands of a select group of whites.

This attempt to neutralize and undercut the growing strength of Maryland's black voters, particularly in the greater Baltimore area, is not unexpected ... even if it is completely unjustifiable.

Once the ruling class saw that strong black candidates for judicial posts could knock entrenched white jurists off the bench with the enthusiastic support of a increasingly sophisticated black electorate, such a reaction was predictable.

First signal that the so-called powers that be are determined to keep Maryland's judicial system essentially white, male and as such, sexist and racist, was the formation of a special commission to study the judiciary as commanded by the General Assembly.

The AFRO has learned that a priority recommendation of the commission is that sitting judges be appointed and judged on their "records" without challenges from other candidates who think they can do the job better.

Gov. Hughes already has tipped his hand as to where he stands. He appointed a white jurist to replace one of the first successful challengers of the sitting judge principle.

That the commission seeks to negate voters direct participation in the selection of judges as the upcoming report is supposed to recommend is therefore no surprise.

What is surprising is that our solitary black representative on this awful commission, State Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, has kept silent on the commission's intent until after the study was completed.

We are not even sure that Sen. Mitchell attended the crucial meeting when commission members voted on odious recommendation number five which, no matter how fancy its language, takes us back to the sitting judge principle.

Sen. Mitchell has told the AFRO that he sought the help of the Monumental Bar Association from the onset but no counsel came from that group.

As a legislator who came to prominence as a young civil rights activist we are not persuaded that the Senator has to be instructed as to when black interests are being subverted or circumvented.

In a recent editorial on the subject of our criminal justice system and the Hughes approach to judical we earlier had questioned the governor's intentions.

We now have grave problems, however, with Sen. Mitchell's laspe in this assault on the black body politic.

The governor cannot succeed himself in office after this term so he can pretty much do as he pleases. Mitchell must run again.

On the matter of how the commission regards judicial and electoral process, we are outraged and we know the hundred thousand plus voters who propelled Schmoke, Johnson, Murphy, Bell, Banks Conaway et al into high offices in the justice system are equally outraged.

Our 39th district senator in this instance has us filled with doubt and anger.

He has much to explain. -30- As for lettering judges go unchallenged by the voters, we say, never again!

Anti-crime tips

Citizens of all walks of life verbalize on the acceleration of crime in the streets, rarely do they take any positive actions to remove or reduce it. Most citizens lock themselves into fortresses and dungeons because of the perception of the fear of crime, while the criminal plunders the streets free from interferences of citizens. The taking is rewarding because there is little risk of any witnesses observing or reporting criminal activities.

Think for a moment, criminals are not paying real estate taxes in your community or any other area, but you are and afraid to enjoy the streets that you are paying for through your hard earned tax dollars. Also, if a criminal is apprehended and charged with an offense, again you foot the bill for a lawyer to protect his precious constitutional rights if he is unlucky and is convicted, again you spend approximately $28,000 annually to warehouse him (incarcerated). If he is very streetwise, he will con the members on the parole board to parole him early, then, another expense is generated -- parole officer, who is already overloaded with other cases.

To your surprise, you are the only one that can make the streets safe for all citizens by calling the police when you observe something suspicious occurring. The police cannot and do not have knowledge of when, where, and how a crime is being committed.

Again, crime cannot flourish in a community or city without the aid of so-called law-abiding citizens. Criminals, as a rule, don't commit burglaries by breaking into homes and businesses without having a market for the property taken. He cannot afford to store large quantities of color televisions, jewelry, and etc. for his own personal use because it is not profitable, and too risky. Citizens must deny a market for stolen goods.

Madeline MURPHY

Why thankful?

At Thanksgiving, it is always good to take stock, and ask, "What do I really have to be thankful for?" Because despite the economic conditions, and the people who are really hurting in this dead economy, there are broader pictures to ponder, that would seem to show a pinpoint of light at the end of the tunnel.

Aside also from having one's health and strength, a happy family or at least a family going about its business, there are indeed other things that make it possible to give thanks

Foremost among them would be the wonderful awakening of voters in Baltimore during the Primary and General elections. The so-called sleeping giant, was not really sleeping at all, but perhaps just a bit dazed and weary with a feeling of hopelessness that there was a lack of viable candidates that would have excited its wakefulness.

But with the stunning victory again of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who not only fought for his survival, but carried so many others to victory with his support, in the forfront of forming committees to achieve those victories; with Kurt Schmoke winning the office of States' Attorney overwhelmingly in the Primary; with Mary Conaway and Saundra Banks, now firmly positioned as Clerk of the Court and Register of Wills, respectively; with Ken Johnson coming through with flying colors, we could well say that unity had arrived maybe not to its fullest in Baltimore—but unity enough to gain these striking victories in the political arena.

Much of what has happened also on the national front in politics, can give us a glimmer of hope, at least, that the National Conservative Political Action Committee, may have become a paper tiger, with all its money spent on negative one-issue campaigns that no long fool middle America, in the wake of Reagonomics.

Certainly however, these political victories will not be all too meaningful, if the unspoken hope for them does not become reality.

That the economic picture must change, if we are not to have higher unemployment, displacement of people onto park benches and national parks, as the new wave of "Reagan Squatters" replacing "Hunger Marchers" of old, across the land.

But then one can also be thankful for the Roman Catholic Bishops who are stalwarts in the fight for a bi-lateral nuclear freeze. The voice of reason has got to prevail at a time when Reagan would ruin the economy even more with a trillion dollar expenditure for the worst non-consumable items—atomic, nuclear instruments of destruction the MX missile, the trident submarine, etc.—wasteful, wanton licenses to propell us into World War III.

Finally, the movement toward renewal of detente with the Soviet Union—guarded though it may be—might also move us into less swashbuckling saber rattling, with more mature understanding of the interdependence of world nations in the quest for better lives for the peoples of the world, better economic conditions and a resolve for peaceful co-existence that also means peaceful cooperation.

There is a grandson in our family who is so anti-Soviet, one might think he had been schooled by Ronald Reagan, himself. This, despite the fact that both of his grandmothers have travelled extensively in the Soviet Union.

His attitude, however, coming mostly from the media, is a reflection of the way most Americans view a nation; a scant 63 years out of revolution.

The unreasoned fears, the stereotypes, the eagerness to swallow propaganda out of all proportion to reality on the part of this administration, mirrors the blind, ignorant ranting and ravings of those, who like the grandson, would rather stay ignorant and prejudiced than to understand those who are not like us.

My mother used to marvel that "Ain't folks 'that' ain't like us peculiar" gave credence to so many things we did not understand, and helped us ostracize those who were different.

But as we criticize a system that we term totalitarian, let us first ask the question, whether name calling and red-baiting is used to divert our attention from our own problems, and whether there might be some favorable means to solve these stubborn economic problems if we study how others attempt to solve theirs.

Rather than be diverted by the mob psychology of name calling and fear, we should investigate more carefully how capitalism, and free enterprise, intends to solve the age old problems of classism, racism, while becoming that "benighted" private sector on whom Reagan counts so much to solve the economic disaster he sees in this country. Can it be possible that they can divest themselves of the notion that profits come before people"

By studying others, we may become intelligent purveyors of ideas, rather than parrots of lost decadent systems. It would seem that with this kind of intelligence, with our health and strength, for which we have become thankful this year; with our new political awareness, we might just become those change agents who would battle intransigence and the ignorance of blind allegiance and replace it with purposeful enlightenment.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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.

"May this be a Happy Thanksgiving season for all our readers"

T. STOCKETT

Letters

Dr. Pauli Murray on appointment of judges

Dear AFRO:

As a regular reader of the AFRO, I was especially interested in the headline of the issue of Nov. 16, "HUGHES APPOINTMENT OF WHITE JUDGE SHOCKS BLACK COMMUNITY" and the accompanying front-page news article by Patricia Tatum reporting comments by local politicians on the selection of Mary Ellen T. Reinhardt to fill the vacancy on the District Court left by the resignation of Judge William T. Murphy,Sr.

Ms. Reinhardt, 53 is currently chief of litigation for the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. in Baltimore.

Understandably, black attorneys with political ambitions were disappointed.

As a former practicing attorney, and law professor who was once "audacious" enough to submit an "application" to former President Richard M. Nixon to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States, I can empathize with those who get passed over.

There is also merit in the argument that since "more than 50 percent of the population and anywhere from 60 to 85 percent of those passing through the courts are black,according to Sen. Clarence Blount, more black attorneys should be appointed to the bench.

Having said this, however, the appointment of Ms. Rinehardt hardly warrants former state delegate Lena K. Lee's charge that Gov. Harry R. Hughes "seems bent on reducing our numbers."

Every highly placed public official with appointive powers today must wrestle with pressures to redress the balance of representation in office caused by the twin evils of racism and sexism.

Dr. Gloria Wade-Gayles who teaches Afro-American literature at Tuskegee College put it very succinctly in a Spelman College Women Writers Symposium in April, 1982:

"Sexism has no respect for race or class; racism has no respect for sex."

As one of those who wrote to Gov. Hughes enthusiastically endorsing the nomination of Ms. Reinhardt for the vacancy by the Judicial Nominating Commission on Oct.8, I suggest that AFRO readers weigh her appointment in the light of the following facts:

1. I am inform d by the office of the Administrative Judge of the District Court of Baltimore City that presently there are 22 judges on that bench, including Judge-select Rinehardt. Of these, four are black and three are women,.

Since women also constitute more than 50 percent of the population, they are equally underrepresented with blacks in the judicial structure. Thus, the appointment of a woman was in order.

2. There would be cause for alarm in the black community if Ms. Rinehardt were not eminently qualified on all counts of importance to that community except the color of her skin.

How often have we not demanded that our qualification be considered on the basis of merit and not on the basis of our skin color? Or has merit succumbed to crude power politics"

Let us look at the record. Judge-select Rinehardt graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1968, Summa cum laude, first in her class standing and member of Theuister Honor Society.

Her undergraduate record indicates a strong background in Sociology and a major in English Literature (which was my own major in college).

Since 1968, she has practiced in every state and federal court in Maryland and has appeared before the United States Supreme Court.

3. Ms. Rinehardt's speciality is litigation. In 15 years of experience as a trial lawyer, she has specialized in employment law, consumer law, domestic and juvenile law.

In addition to being coordinator, supervisor and training specialist in the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. of Baltimore City, she has maintained her individual case load, which consists primarily of federal civil rights cases of major as well as minor impact an d effect, involving clients of limited or no financial means.

Her entire legal career has been one of defense and representation of minorities and the poor.

For the past two years she has served on the committee on training of the Philadelphia regional office of the Legal Services Corporation, an agency which defends the poor and disadvantaged and which has been a prime target for dismanting by the Reagan Administration.

4. Finally, Ms. Rinehardt has expressed her commitment to the equality and dignity of all human beings at the deepest level of her being—in her religious life.

For many years she has been a member of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity, located in the Forest Park section of Baltimore at Garrison Blvd. and Egerton Rd. —a genuinely bi-racial congregation evenly divided in numbers, lay and clerical leadership between blacks and whites.

She is a long-time member of Holy Nativity's Vestry Advisory Board, the 14 members of which are represented by seven blacks, including the Senior Warden, Treasurer and ex-officio Priest-in-Charge.

Her witness has extended to community organizations concerned with fair housing, consumer problems and neighborhood outreach of her church.

I am not one of those who takes the myopic view that one must always be black to understand and deal creatively with the special problems of black people.

I believe Ms. Rinehardt will bring to her judgeship the highest professional and ethical standards, a sensitivity to the thorny problems of all sorts and conditions of humanity, a capacity for listening and learning, and a creative approach to legal controversies as well as a strong capacity for judicial fairness.

Is not that what our democracy and religious commitment are all about?

PAULI MURRAY, J.S.D., D.D.

CCR nominations

In response to the AFRO editorial of Oct. 23 concerning the three nominees to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, I would like to clarify a statement which may mislead some AFRO readers.

You indicated that the Senate Judiciary Committee had approved the nominations before adjourning for the fall recess. It is true that the Committee did formally report out the three Commission nominees on Sept. 28, and the nominations were subsequently referred to the Senate floor.

However, due to time constraints, the nominations could not be brought up for a vote before Congress adjourned for the election recess on Oct. 2. In order to carry - over the nominations until Congress returned to the "lame duck" session, it was procedurally necessary to obtain unanimous consent from the Senate.

Since unanimous consent was not achieved to carry - over the three nominees, they were sent back to the White House. It is now up to the Administration to determine whether they wish to resubmit the nominations.

CAROL A. BONOSARO,
Assistant staff director for Congressional and Public Affairs

The homeless should not be jailed

Dear AFRO

Another winter is upon us. Each year this time is cause for serious reflection on my part. As fall nears its end and winter fa- st approaches I think of my childhood.

I can still recall memories of our warm little home on Sarah Ann St. In these days each family knew everyone -eight blocks squared as we would say. We knew the parents , the children, and even felt like we knew the relatives of our friends who might have lived in other states.

Our family kept warm and as poor as most of us were then, we would always have enough to share. If not food then the warmth of our humble homes.

Even today as I walk some tree-lined streets of our fair city this time of year as it begins to get cold, I wonder what kind of people live in those houses. If they are warm.

As I walk through other parts of our city I openly see another element of our society that is not warm. These are the countless numbers of poor homeless people that are growing in unprecented numbers each day in the City of Baltimore.

Many who have no shelter against the cold.

In my opinion this is unjustifiable. I know of places in Baltimore that have done an outstanding job of feeding these poor people during the day.

Perhaps many of you, like myself, are wondering just where do they huddle against the cold. Just where do they draw close together to keep warm when the weather is cold. Is not this a bad reflection on our society.

One, in my opinion, that greatly needs to be changed. Not doing as Councilman Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro is subject to do in a bill before council.

NANCY Holmes BAXTER

G. JAMES FLEMING

Walesa's smear harkens Hoover

They are all the same!

Dictators, oppressors, enslavers exploiters—and their imitators—all follow the same pattern. After they have exhausted all other weapons, or when they are cornered, they turn to accusations about sex, about bribes, about long-buried innuendos, and about sin by association. They turn to "smear" or worse.

The latest blackmail of this kind (character assassination, if you prefer) was staged last week in Poland—almost at the same time that the anti-labor, oppressive regime released Lech Walesa, celebrated head of "Solidarity", from 11 months of isolation and imprisonment.

There are no criminal charges against Walesa and he is presently at home with his wife and children. Nevertheless, the Polish overlords have been secretly displaying pictures to leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, showing Walesa in pornographic and adultrous positions with women—none of them being his wife.

Other pictures have reportedly shown him taking pay "under the table" (bribes) for harassing the government.

The diabolic objective of the government is to cause a break between Walesa and the very influential church and, before long, to bring about alienation of the millions of Polish workers from Walesa and from the presently outlawed "Solidarity."

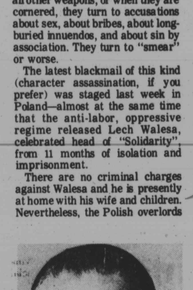
Marylanders, more than most people, know what smart photographers can do with films and photographs!

Indicting vital leaders for allegedly indulging in illicit sex, for being bought, or for being the tools of outside influences is not new. It has been as continuous as time.

In the United States most adults will remember J. Edgar Hoover, the much over-rated director of the FBI, bugged the hotel rooms of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders, and how such tapes were played at social affairs hosted by Mr. Hoover for groups of anti-King figures, and for Congressmen—all for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King and for getting many tongues wagging about the internationally acclaimed spokesman for black Americans.

Some tapes were also sent to Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. purporting to furnish evidence of her husband's carousing with women in his hotel room.

Historic blackmail! Intended to frighten Dr. King into shutting up; into softening his demands for full citizenship; into keeping his dreams to himself. Most important of all, such blackmail was designed to alienate the countless supporters of Dr. King from him and his movement.



J. Edgar Hoover

Similarly, lesser civic "agitators," clergymen, educators and labor leaders, sooner or later, also become victims of "smear" — part-truths, or untruths, or whispers out of context. Where the law can be utilized to "nail" the victims, blackmail takes on legitimacy.

Marcus Garvey, back-to-africa anti-colonialist of the 1920s, was such a victim. Magnet of the largest number of Blacks in one political, activist, economic and emotional organization, he was imprisoned, and later deported, found guilty of using the U.S. mails to defraud.In reality, however, he had become an embarassing thorn in the sides of more conservative black leaders and was, even, more, an embarrassment to the United States in its international relations with its colonial allies.

Martin Luther King Jr.

When wine, women, or the misuse of money cannot be used conveniently or realistically against those who challenge the status quo, then they are downgraded as not capable of planning, organizing and challenging of themselves. They are charged with being tools of somebody else or some group.

In contemporary times, it is the "communist" or "Communist money" which has often been credited with being the brains or the support behind demonstrations against war or against racial discrimination.

Indeed many promising, bright advocates for the fullest rights for Blacks has been stilled, under threat, or in fear, of being labelled a Communist. Or in earlier times, being smeared as a Socialist or a Bolshevik.

One can only imagine how many white southern young people have been lost to decency over fear of being black-mailed as a "nigger-lover."

There is another side. Blackmail may give rather clear indication as to where a man stands. Certainly, the members of "Solidarity" should feel assured of the continued commitment of a Walesa because of the present underhand campaign being waged against him.

Certainly, also, the levels to which J. Edgar Hoover found it necessary to stoop, was undeniable testimony that Dr. King was still being true to his trust and to his people.

Down the years, some of the best people have been the victims of blackmail, and some of the "best people" have indulged in perpetrating blackmail.

Tony Brown's comments

Segregationist or Uncle Tom

As to the philosophical schism between Tony Brown and Carl Rowan: I could never agree with the motives of anyone who has, as reported in Part I, written the things that Carl Rowan has about Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, even with their flaws, or more recently the black law students at Harvard or members of the black community who are believers of Islam.

I was warned by friends not to write these articles because of Rowan's background, wrath and answer for Malcolm and Martin?"

I asked and, moreover, the truth has no negative connotations.

Fear, of course, is a form of slavery. Furthermore, I was soon to learn that few know just how powerful this Negro-American "journalist" really is.

His most conspicuous outing as a political power broker and member of the Liberal Establishment is the Trilateral Commission. In 1973, When Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller (called "the most conspicuous representative today of the ruling class" by Bill Moyers) founded the Trilateral Commission, Rowan became an early member and perhaps, the only black at that time.

He joined a very small, hand-picked group, "the ruling classes" of North America, Europe and Japan, according to Trilateralism (South End Press—Boston), whose function was "to safeguard the interests of Western Capitalism."

This controversial body is given the credit by its critics for finding, creating, designating and getting Jimmy Carter elected president in 1976, and subsequently running the government in his name. Rockefeller, himself, stated that this group "is pictured as a nefarious plot....."

"To put it simply trilateralists are saying: (1) the people, governments, and economies of all nations must serve the needs of multinational banks and corporations;...and (2) the leaders of capitalist democracies...must resist movement toward a truly popular democracy," wrote Holly Skylar in Trilateralism. THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY (N.Y. University Press), the Trilateral Commission's manifesto, explains that the real threat to American comes "from the internal dynamics of government itself in a highly educated, mobilized, and participant society."

Speaking of an "participant society," Rowan as the United States Information Agency Director, according to one of the country's most distinguished journalists, I.F. Stone, in his book IN A TIME OF TORMENT (Random House), boasted about the public's "right not to know."

This statement ranked in equal candor and philosophical compatibility with the Trilateral Commission's alleged rejection of democracy for the poor, the aspiring and the minorities, including, of course, Rowan's own people.

In its repugnant nature, Rowan's "right not to know," according to Stone, ranked with his attack on the murdered Malcolm X shortly after his death. Malcolm X rated, in Rowan's lexicon, as a "racial fanatic" whose favorable coverage in death by the African press had, according to Alex Haley in THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X, "highly irritated" Rowan.

Haley quoted Rowan as saying that "he had worked hard to inform the African Press" otherwise.

Rowan also said, "Mind you, here was a Negro who preaches segregation and race hatred, killed

Carl Rowan

Malcolm X

by another Negro, presumably from another organization that preaches segregation and race hatred..."

Perhaps, this is the origin of Rowan's "Islamic mind-bent" bias, as described in the previous column.

After having spent much of his life in elitist positions, promoting the interests of the white Establishment, Rowan now wants to rewrite history and convince black that he has been performing the simple function of gatekeeper for the civil rights movement all along. Not only is his charade preposterous, it is also insulting to the intelligence of African-Americans.

And the contradictions abound. For example Dr. David J. Garrow in a new book, THE FBI AND MARTIN LUTHER KING (Norton), reports that Rowan told President Lyndon Johnson's press secretary that "everyone in the Civil Rights movement has known that King has been getting advice from a communist, and he (Rowan) is trying to firm up in his own mind whether King is still doing this. He wants to take out after King, because he thinks he has hurt the Civil Rights movement with his statements.

"Rowan wasted little time in making up his mind, writing in an April 14 column that 'King is listening most to one man who is clearly more interested in embarrassing the United States...' "The following September, Rowan wrote an article in Reader's Digest. Garrow's book has made a damaging accusation about Rowan—which is still unanswered.

Instead, Rowan now recasts himself as a civil libertarian and decries his now classic put-down of the democratic principle of the right to know.

In another contradiction, he wrote this month, in defense of crossing an anti-racist picket line to debate the Ku Klux Klan, that the hot-headed pickets were acting out of "hasty anger" by trying to deny the guarantee of speech. That ranks with his crusading for public school "integration," but sending his children to private schools.

In documenting Rowan's pedigree in the White liberal elite power club, M. Stanton Evans in THE LIBERAL Establishment (devin-Adair) records another episode of Rowan's difficulty with the facts.

Evans called Rowan an Administration "hatchetman" who "was unable to back up the sweeping generalizations" and accused him of "being singularly free with the use of blanket charges he cannot sustain..." The Senate Subcommittee investigating the matter, in its report, called Rowan's "allegation factually incorrect."

Apparently, to embrace the "facts" of Carl Rowan is to gargle confusion. Rowan, on the other hand, suggests that my position is fundamentally that of a segregationist.

I say: If one who takes Tony Brown's position is a segregationist then one who takes Carl Rowan's is an Uncle Tom. You decide. Write me at: 1501 Broadway, Suite 2014, New York, NY 10036.

Elizabeth M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

Why play fast and loose with superintendent's job?

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

MANY QUESTIONS

THE PRESS which represents the eyes and ears of the People is privileged to 'put the searchlight' on in this Democratic Society, it it not?

THE QUESTION COMES why all the secrecy about the choosing of a Superintendent of Schools here in Baltimore?

(The public has not been permitted to know anything about what is going on so far.)

Is there something 'dead up the creek'?

Is the behind-closed doors operation of the 'Search Committee' deliberate and purposefully designed to hide wrongful actions?

What is this need for secrecy? Does it not lead us to believe that something is irregular?

Are taxpayers barred from knowing? (They want to know whose name is coming up for Superintendent of THEIR schools.)

Is this a premeditated game being played at the cost of $20,000 of taxpayers' money?

Can a school system which is responsible to 120,000 children be permitted to bar the public from knowing what it is doing? For any reason?

When a School Board has already failed to provide leadership in the best interest of the children, can it be allowed to limp on and on want only and deliberately without question?

What is being done about the Board's abuse of power, the neglect of the mounting problems in the schools?

Why is the Board hostile to letting the public know in this instance WHO is being considered for the superintendency? CAT IN-THE BAG?

THE AFRO fortunately hears ALL. Sooner or later, no matter how "closed" the doors might be, someone lets the cat out of the bag.

From "someone" inside we heard it last summer, that the man to replace the resigned superintendent, Dr. John L. Crew, had already been chosen.

We published this fact, remember?

True enough, as it is today, that chosen one is leading the pack of persons the "Search Committee" has decided as finalists.

Further, it has been learned that if there is much more opposition to that person (when it gets to the Board) the choice will SWITCH to someone "outside of Baltimore."

That will indeed be a sorry mistake and in violation of the requirement that the superintendent MUST be acquainted with THIS system.

ANOTHER QUESTION: It is true the "Search Committee" knows in its heart that it is just going through the searching motion, pretending?

DAVID DANEKER, School Board president, flatly refuses to give out the names of the "fourn to six" persons who have been selected for the finals.

He says "after" the decision has been made, the public may be allowed to see "everything."

WE HAVE FOUND the president to be high-handed.

So have others.

THE TEACHERS UNION has publically called for his "resignation" because he is not the reasons) when the schools are in the crisis they are today. (He is still in there and has issued no reply to the public).

NOTE- In 153 years, the School Board has always had a white president... in all these years since 1829).

DANEKER was hand-picked for the post. The schools in this year of 1982 have a vast majority of black students.

THE TEACHERS UNION is in the process of passing around petitions now to be taken to the Mayor after November 30 to ask for the recall of Daneker as president of the School Board.

DANEKER claims in answer to the AFRO's question, that 'there is nothing to hide. He denies he is leading the 'Search Committee' in its actions and states that each member acts on what is "in-his-head."

THE TEACHERS UNION of 6,000 members insists that everything come out in the open. They are fuming.

WE SAY if the Board is seriously considering the plight of the school children, everything must be FAIR and ABOVE BOARD.

THE PUBLIC should be upset.

THE PUBLIC should demand to know the names of the finalists BEFORE the School Board takes any action.

LEAKS

THE AFRO has learned that the 'Search Committee' laughed and derided the one person whose qualifications are 'above and beyond' the requirements for a superintendent of schools.

The application was 'thrown into the wastebasket' so to speak, early in the game. The requirements of that person (Dr. Samuel L. Banks) have far exceeded all requirements. The schools need the strongest in instruction, in leadership, in administrative ability— a person who is known across the community to have demonstrated all.

THE COMPLAINT of the 'inside person' is that the leading applicant has not even been interviewed nor was his application seriously considered.

THE COMPLAINT further declares that the only reason possible is personal. This is contrary to law.

THE COMPLAINANT further declares that the hidden agenda really wants someone who can be manipulated by the Board president and 'the powers that be.

A SUPERIOR candidate is knowlingly eliminated as a 'threat' and a 'danger.' No thought is given to who is really good for the children nor who can justly put the schools back on the track.

LET IT BE KNOWN

In selection of the superintendent, the Board does NOT have to be bound by the 'four to six' names of the 'Search Committee.'

THE BOARD does NOT have to vote on the names the president may favor or push. The Board may call for the best one and stand up and demand the one of the highest qualifications.

THE BOARD is heavily responsible for the outcome.

Any failure to bring in the most highly qualified person will constitute a betrayal of the 120,000 school children and the taxpayers; a malicious trick on the community; an abuse of the privilege of being the Board of School Commissioners.

If it engages in this kind of action, it is in danger of losing respect and professional standing.

Rollo speaks on

By James E. Nichols

Getting it on at reunions

In my time, I have witnessed some eye-popping, knock down, drag 'em out brawls in pool halls. I have been present in a saloon where someone broke bad and threw bottles, kicked over tables, and sent someone sprawling over a bar.

I once attended a dance where all hell broke loose and they had to send out half the police force to quell the riot prompted by one teenager looking at another teenager's girl. But the two most interesting battles I have witnessed occurred at a family reunion and a funeral.

Everyone at the family reunion, over 100 strong, was having a marvelous time. They were assembled in a park where they sangfamily favorites; danced to both soft and funky strains of music; played softball, basketball, pinochle and bid whist; and ate enough fried chicken and chitterlings to feed a small army. And they drank.

They drank beer, scotch, gin, vodka, and all the alcoholic beverages they sell in a liquor store. Everything was calm and serene until they started drinking the homemade wine and corn liquor. When the home brew and white lightning took effect, the discussions drifted to old slights, old grievances, and old jealousies. As one could imagine, the fight soon began. Andwhat a fight!

I was curious about how blood relatives could go at each other with such a vengeance; so I played Kojak and Columbo until I got the facts. It all seemed to have begun years ago with Aunt Minnie who had been dead for 40 years. Aunt Minnie was the filthy rich member of the clan and left all the money and land to her husband Uncle Joe. Of course, everyone else swore that they were they gossiped, Uncle Joe had not paid off a lawyer to tamper with Aunt Minnie's will.

Uncle Joe twisted the knife in the clan's heart when, two months after Aunt Minnie's death, he married a 19-year-old woman. It was anger with Uncle Joe and his children by that "outsider," that "gold-digging floozy" that prompted the slurs that triggered the battle.

And battle it was. There was hair pulling, name calling, biting kicking and scratching, screaming and yelling, and outright mayhem. When the park police came to intervene, members of the family who had been fighting each other shifted gears and began fighting the police.

Hours after it was over, I heard the family members talking about the good time they had and were looking forward to next year's family reunion. They all agreed that the next one would be held in Philadelphia where Uncle Joe and his family lived. They all parted company with warm kisses.

Although it was a sad and solemn occasion, I cannot suppress a smile when I think about the fight I witnessed at a funeral.

At the funeral, all was moving along in a dignified manner. The Gospel Choir had sung the songs with enough fervor to drain veryone of their tears. The minister worked the mourners into a sorrowing, wailing mess. And all were satisfied that the deceased was going to heaven and that this was a "good," properly mournful funeral.

The fight began as the result of what happened during the viewing of the remains. The congregation passed by the casket, paying their respects to the deceased, and moved on. But one young lady (who was NOT the man's wife) stood before the casket and said two little children by her side: "Go ahead, children. Look at your daddy for the last time."

Everyone heard her. As though that was not enough, the young lady said loudly to the deceased: "Goodby, Honey. At least you had ONE good woman in your life."

The dead man's wife, who was sitting on the first row and who had been crying more tears than Niobe of Greek legend, sat straight up, stopped crying, and yelled "Who the hell are YOU?"

Needless to say, they got it on and a battle royal took place in front of the casket, down the aisle, and outside the church. It took the preacher, the choir members, and the pallbearers, all combined, to separate those two women.

Poolroom and barroom and dance hall fights are interesting enough, as they go. But until you have seen a fight at a family reunion among kinfolks, and until you have seen a dead man's wife and his outside woman lock horns and go at each other at his funeral, you haven't really lived.

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