Baltimore Afro-American
PAGE 4 APRIL 23, 1983

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City, Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967)

OPINION

The great committee copout

One of the best ways to throttle creativity, according to an old wives' tale, is to turn it over to a committee. You can almost rest assured that what comes out will be akin to pap and mush.

A study committee was appointed in January of this year, to study the feasibility of increasing engineering education in Maryland for the next 10 years. It was expected that the committee would recommend the installation of an engineering school at one of the existing state institutions of higher learning.

It didn't happen.

Instead, the committee, composed of engineering experts, came out with the recommendation that two schools of engineering be established — one at Morgan State University, a predominantly black school; the other at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

According to the committee's report, a school for electrical and civil engineering, also industrial would be established at Morgan State U., and schools of chemical and mechanical engineering would locate at UMBC, also electrical.

To us, this is a monumental copout.

If the state is so concerned about the costs to run the higher education facets of the system, then the establishment of two schools would effectively double the costs.

Politically, this is the kind of answer one would expect from a committee which strives for a compromise — despite the consequences. It has been demonstrated over and over again that the number of minorities involved in engineering is woefully lacking.

Reams of testimony has been given attesting to the need for engineering studies to be made available at a black institution of higher learning. The University of Maryland at College Park already has a full blown school of engineering — and UMBC is a direct adjunct of the College Park campus.

We are understandably anxious that an engineering school for a black university be established, and can understand the reluctance of other schools to see the school attached to other facilities.

This aside, we strongly feel that the committee appointed to study the matter and make recommendations, failed miserably in its task. To adopt such a middle ground as to suggest the schooling be split between institutions, is a cop out of the first order.

For shame!



Parren J. MITCHELL

Domestic spying again

The U. S. Attorney General has put into effect new Federal Bureau of Investigation guidelines allegedly aimed at terrorists. Under these guidelines, the F.B.I. can investigate various groups they call "terrorist", using disruption, wiretaps, surveillance, and other forms of spying. These groups can be infiltrated by undercover F.B.I. agents.

When I heard about this development, my mind immediately flashed back to the mid sixties, when, during a meeting of Black activists, former Police Commissioner, Donald Pomerleau, told us, "I know who you see, who you talk with, when you go, when you come, and what you plan to do." This open admission that we were the victims of domestic spying shocked none of us.

I had hoped this seamy chapter in American history was ended, but it is not.

Under the new F.B.I. guidelines, those of us who help organize selective economic boycotts can be labeled terrorists. Those of us who organize, in an attempt to end the insanity of nuclear arms escalation, can be called terrorists. Those of us who organize to fight police brutality in Miami, Florida can be classified as terrorists; and those among us who would organize a hunger strike against racism in government could be targeted as terrorists.

This latest move by the Attorney General is fraught with dangers. The tactics proposed are the same as those used by the racist Botha government in South Africa to repress the Black population. Is there any legitimate reason not to believe that blacks in America will not be the target for repression?

History shows that blacks who struggle against injustice have always been particular targets. Medgar Evers, the black leader who was slain, was the target of domestic spying and harassment from the moment he openly challenged racism in Mississippi.

The infamous story of the F.B.I.'s ceaseless surveillance and harassment of Martin Luther King, Jr. is well known. When Dr. King challenged racism in America, he was placed on the F.B.I. target list immediately.

Recently it was revealed that, for thirty long years, J. Edgar Hoover maintained surveillance and harassments against Jack Johnson, a towering black man who, among other things, challenged the notorious House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities.

All of us who care about Civil liberties and civil rights must move in an immediate, mighty effort to rescind the new F.B.I. guidelines; they are "a clear and present danger" for liberty in this country.

Madeline MURPHY

One man, one vote:

The Voting Rights Act extension of June 1982, signalled a continuation of the policy of one man, one vote, to insure not only oppressed blacks in the South their franchise, but also those in Northern cities who have been excluded from fair and equal redistricting; relief in the courts to change the inequities of representation on city councils and state legislatures, as well as congressional offices.

Heretofore, we have been relegated only to those areas where our representation, because of discrimination, in housing, has left us powerless; in cities like Baltimore, where we are overwhelmingly the majority of the population; where we are still the minority in representation in City Council.

As we saw in the recent redistricting in Baltimore, where the mayor's plan came in for a beating, there was the aim to keep us from our right to govern this city. What happened in City Council this time was really history making, because black city councilpersons were able to develop a coalition between blacks and whites to gain a majority vote to push through a more equitable redistricting plan for Baltimore city.

If we are serious about how we feel about getting our piece of the pie, we have got to be serious about registering blacks to vote in unprecedented numbers. Our registration drives should be ongoing; should include follow up; and should include shepherding our registrations efforts from the door-to-door campaign to making sure the voters are properly recorded at the Supervisors of Elections office.

To get blacks to vote, year after year after year, requires a neighborhood network of tight organization, where next door neighbors think about the vote everytime they see a young person, or man out of work; everytime they witness trouble on the streets; experience police brutality; see new neighbors move in.

People must learn how to connect the vote to their condition in life.

It is not enough to grumble about lack of jobs, about the littering because of the inner Harbor, about the poor education of our children in the public schools. We must be able to use our right to vote to make change in what we see is a never ending struggle against endemic poverty and deprivation.

When we stand together as registered voters in every house in our districts in our neighborhoods, we stand with power for the changes we see that are needed.

Most of all it is not enough to wait every four years to change those who are in office. We must battle, pressure, lobby, threaten to withhold our votes, in an organized way to make those who represent us be responsive to our demands all the time, in every way we can. After all freedom not only requires responsibility, it also requires vigilance.

We must recognize that it is no mystery how many black voters there are in the city. The lists are already printed at the Supervisors of Elections and with little or no effort, a committee can begin copying the names, finding out where the streets are that need to be canvassed to get registered voters. Once a system is devised on a block by block basis, we can check on election day at the polling places to find out who has not voted and go back to those houses to get out the vote.

Block clubs and organizing by neighborhood, remind me of my recent trip to Cuba where organizations in neighborhoods called Committees for the Defense of the Revolution meet every week to discuss neighborhood problems, to prepare for elections of representatives, even judges and also friends of the court, Lay persons, who are elected to perform the same duties and responsibilities as judges. Each group has a membership of 1,000 persons, and the group functions as the eyes and ears of government to work out complaints. Of course in Cuba there is no unemployment, but there are other problems that come to the group in regard to health needs, housing, day care, food rationing and many other things.

How effective organizations like this could be in our own neighborhoods, as part of the registration process, as ongoing watch groups. These could be called Committees for the Defense of Democracy.

In this way, it would be possible to monitor city and state government on an on-going basis, preparing to mobilize voters to reelect good representatives, and kick out the bums who are unresponsive. How powerful committees of this kind would be in national and local elections.

We cannot overlook, however the swelling tide of black voters all over the land. Congressman Harold Washington, now mayor of Chicago, comes readily to mind as the magnet around which blacks decided, although they were only 40 per cent of the population, that it was time for a change and they did it through the kind of organization mentioned above.

I think of the "tidal wave" of blacks in Baltimore who elected Kurt Schmoke last year. I think about Philadelphia in the coming May primary election of W. Wilson Goode for mayor of Philadelphia. There is a lesson for Baltimore in this new wave of black voter responsibility. We too must think in terms of our just right to elect a mayor who can change the tide of racism in this city.

We saw the phenomena of block voting finally come of age where we were no longer ashamed of being all black, of realizing that this method had been used by every ethnic group in this country to finally move into the mainstream of political power and representation, long over-due.

In Baltimore, where we have a strong executive branch, where the mayor controls jobs, appointments, the budget, where in recent years there has come to pass a "shadow government" spending millions of our tax dollars for bricks, mortar and steel, more often than not giving back our tax dollars to the corporate structure of our city, carrying with it no checks and balances, it is time that the tide turn away from an executive officer who ignores the needs of 60 per cent of the population—we black citizens—! It is time that we elect a black mayor with Chicago and Philadelphia as our models.

For it is only then that we shall find young black men with potential who will make their rightful contribution to a city that shall rise like Phoenix from the ashes, in the interest of its majority population, who for so long have suffered from merely getting the usual minimum, or most of the time getting nothing at all.

This is the power of the vote, this is the power that we the "sleeping giant" must exercise to right the wrongs of centuries of oppression and deprivation.

It is up to us, and what we do to grasp this power, that will make the difference; that will make one man, one vote, mean what it was intended to be: shared power and shared responsibility, black and white together.

Letters

Girl watching

Dear AFRO:

I enjoy reading FRIDAY PLUS, the recent addition to the newspaper. I've enjoyed particularly the man - girl watching segments. The Friday, April 8 issue comments about girl watching and the editorial content were quite eye-opening and so I'd like to add mine.

I suppose what I like most about women is the female form, a kind of elemental design that has never been surpassed. And the difference in the way a woman uses her body. It is a language all it's own.

When I meet a woman, I like getting used to the chemistry before talk. Also, I am always aware of the eyes because they tell me what she sees.

A question on the new genere black film. I noted a censorious tone at the end of the article and would, out of curiosity, like to know which current films real women do see? Perhaps you will enlighten me in a future edition of FRIDAY PLUS.

CURLEY B. THOMAS JR.

Baltimore Gas and Electric rate hike

Dear AFRO:

I am opposed to the proposed Baltimore Gas and Electric rate hike of over $100 million that will substantially raise the gas and electric bills of everyone in the city at this time of high unemployment and economic hardships.

The Baltimore G&E claims that their stock is not attractive to investors. However, I have reviewed the 10 years profile of B G&E's stock and the record shows that over 10 years investors have received a 32 percent return on their investments. As an example in 1973 if you had invested $6,500 in B G&E stock it would now be worth $27,000.

Accordingly the rate increase is totally unsupported and unjustified at this time. But, there is a more important issue here. That is the problem of "interlocking Directorships" among major Maryland banks and the B G&E Board of Directors.

I demand that all the councilmen in our district sponsor a joint resolution to call upon the public service to declare a freeze on all rate increases until this time of unemployment and economic hardships has passed.

This rate increase is just another consumer rip-off and our elected officials must stand up and be counted for the people against this unjust monopoly the Baltimore Gas and Electric.

DOMINIC M. LEONE JR.

A House divided

Dear AFRO:

Maryland's black legislators in the House of Delegates, namely Howard Peer Rawlings (D. 40th), Curt Anderson (D.44th), Hattie Harrison (D. 45th), John Douglass (D.45th), and Clarence Davis (D. 45th) deserves a flogging across their knuckles for their illogical voting behavior.

These characters voted "yes" in favor of the deregulation banking bill (Senate Bill 591). As amended by the House, Senate Bill 591 would allow retailers and banks to charge credit card membership fees, late payment fees, and transaction fees.

Furthermore, this bill would allow retailers to repossess merchandise much easier from consumers who are having difficult problems in paying their debts. Additionally, this bill would also allow banks to charge variable interest rates on loans and credit card accounts.

During these, unpleasant times of budgetary constraints, under-employment and unemployment many people are desperately trying to make ends meet, any extra financial burden on them would simply present a hardship for many consumers who must use the credit system.

I genuinely thought that Rawlings and Douglass were better informed with the schematic promises of the established groups, but I see they are misinformed and misguided as are Harrison, Davis, and Anderson.

Davis and Anderson are relatively new legislators, but Harrison has been around the House for some time. This is not an excuse for their voting record by no means. Senior black legislators have schooled them on the scope of this bill, but they failed to adhere to their logical notions of good faith.

The Black Caucus of Maryland's General Assembly should reprehand these so called "leaders" for their shoddy and traitorous action. I can't imagine these legislators voting for a bill that is incongruent with the wishes and desires of the people they are elected to represent. If you would look at the Maryland banking picture from an objective point of view, you can readily see that the Maryland banking industry has not been reasonable with the black population of Baltimore City, specifically in terms of lending practices and working conditions. Chances are, the banking industry will never change its attitude as long as we have legislators like Rawlings, Anderson, Harrison, Douglass, and Davis.

ALBERT R. PAYNE

Turmoil in a church

Dear AFRO:

I think it is awful for a church and minister to create such turmoil in a church as has gone on in Zion Baptist Church. It seems as though there should be 3 or 4 Christian Ministers in Baltimore who could go into that church and create some kind of agreement. These people need to take this problem to God and be still and settle it for them.

MRS M. B. KER

SAMUEL BANKS

Victory in Chicago: Implication for Baltimore

Congressman Harold Washington, by virtue of his glorious victory in Chicago on April 12, has become Mayor Harold Washington. The virulent, vitriolic and obstreperous racism, prophets and prophetesses of gloom and doom and purveyors of smut and calumny could not stop Washington's inexorable march to victory.

It, too, was inspirational and glowing that Chicago's black population showed its faith and support of an able and deserving candidate by giving Washington 97 percent of its vote. The massive turnout of the black electorate, analogous to the impressive turnout here of black voters here in Baltimore for State's Attorney Kurt L. Schmoke, provides crystal clear and incontrovertible evidence that when a candidate has the ability and the felt issues of blacks are addressed, they will, as is indicative of other ethnic and racial groups, troop to the polls and not go fishing.

The "red herrings" or diversionary issues cast into the campaign by the graceless and artless Republican standard-bearer for Mayor of Chicago, Bernard Upton, and some of the racist and reactionary white ethnics in Chicago relative to Washington not paying his taxes and failure to represent a client after receiving payment, were consigned to the scrapheap. Mr. Washington, in each instance, justice was served in terms of Mr. Washington's past shortcomings.

The behavior of Mr. Upton in regard to his gauche and malevolent remarks about Mr. Washington, when it was obvious that Washington was the victor, and his failure to attend the "Unity Luncheon" the next day (i.e., April 13) revealed his hostility and incivility. Upton who had more pressing "business" (i.e., vacation) in Florida left the [illegible] to a surrogate, his brother.

There are two critical and highly valuable lessons which flow from Washington's victory:

1. Blacks, where they constitute majorities or near majorities in urban centers across the nation, can elect their own to positions of power and influence. MAJORITARIAN PLANNING AND POLITICS ARE CENTRAL TO AMERICA'S POLITICAL LIFE AND BEHAVIOR. IT IS NOT HERETICAL FOR BLACKS, IN FACT, TO EXERCISE WHAT THE MAJORITY WHITE POPULATION HAS DONE HISTORICALLY.

2. The black majority population, wherever it exists, in accordance with fairness and equality of opportunity for all, has the legitimate right to define the issues in a campaign. In this connection, the fact in my view, which traumatized most white Chicagoans was: "IT IS NOW OUR TURN." Washington's utilization of this campaign theme which traumatized a broad spectrum of whites had an electrifying effect on blacks. Washington was careful to point out that the use of the "It Is Now Our Turn" theme was not one of exclusiveness, but an affirmation that after over 52 years of Democratic white mayors, the time had come for a black mayor.

Congratulations are in order for Mayor Harold Washington as he begins the Herculean task of governing the "Windy City" and injects a new and vital ingredient: SOUL. I am fully confident, amidst the socio-economic crises that beset Chicago, if the white holders of power in Chicago unite behind him, Mayor Washington will move Chicago forward.

Black Baltimoreans, a majority in the Monumental City, cannot be oblivious to Washington's smashing victory in Chicago. The reins of power in Baltimore, a majority black city, are still held firmly and doggedly by a white minority. The disquilibrium as regards the control, even with the first Black Council President, Clarence "Du" Burns, 12 of the 19 Council seats, municipal boards and commissions are dominated by whites, a black person has never been president of the Board of School Commissioners in the 154 - year history of the school system; whites control 98 percent of the city's corporate wealth. The city's ranks, according to the 1980 Bureau of the Census data, as the 8th poorest city in the United States. It raises the fundamental question as to what have been the advantages of Mayor William Donald Schaefer 'veritable obsession with a brick and mortar emphasis.

Blacks in Baltimore will not be treated with respect, civility and taken seriously as long as they are viewed as perpetual mendicants and without bargaining power. If the black majority community determines that it wants a black mayor or any other political office in Baltimore, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. No politician, be it Mayor Schaefer or any other office holder, is invincible. NO PERSON WHO HOLDS POLITICAL OFFICE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN RE-ELECTION THROUGH A "FREE RIDE" OR LACK OF OPPOSITION.

The challenge of Chicago provides an urgent test for the majority black population and advocates of change and fair representation. Flights of rhetoric and fantasizing will not effectuate socio-economic and political change in Baltimore, but deliberate, systematic and rational planning and action will produce a new order. THE TIME FOR ACTION IS AT HAND.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Banks was the author of an article entitled "Zimbabwe and Black Americans" which appeared in this space on April 9, 1983 under the by-line of our other columnist, Dr. G. James Fleming.

Opinion and Commentary

Walter R. Carr: 'You Got Me'

By Walter Carr
The following article has been reprinted from Nitelifer, Vol. 24, No. 16, with permission.

At this writing I am in a state of depression I can't explain nor understand. I keep telling myself that I am the master of my destiny. But the present political atmosphere keeps telling me that the black man in this country is not the master of his destiny.

I do not know that I am more than a little concerned by what is happening in Chiago and the racist campaign of the candidates for the mayoralty race. I am writing this just hours before the polls open in Chicago and it is going to be a white vs. black issue.

I think that I am a little more disturbed by the possibility that Baltimore may face the same situation. At the moment, some black citizens are pushing for Baltimore Circuit Judge William Murphy to oppose Mayor Donald Schaefer in the next election. Truly, I am disturbed by the thought.

It is possible that I am disturbed and a bit depressed by the idea that I knew I was going to write this column. I knew that I was going to drop a hot potato in my own lap.

Recently, Billy Murphy told me that he is 99 percent sure that he would throw his hat in the ring. And this is my last opportunity to express how I feel before he does so. If he does throw his hat in the ring I will be behind him, 100 percent, every step of the way.

I and many blacks of Baltimore have sincere doubts as to the present mayor's sensitivity to the needs of black Baltimore. I would like to have seen him (Schaefer) show more interest in the ghetto neighborhoods. I can't appreciate the low priority he puts on schools and education — as against the high priorities for the development of the Inner Harbor. I can't understand the mentality that let the Baltimore fish market, right in the harbor, go to an inland market location, located miles away from natural water access. Those are just a couple of the mayor's negatives.

I admire Billy Murphy for what he is and what he represents. Our relationships goes far beyond the time when he was even a gleam in his father's eye. Judge Murphy, Sr. and Billy's uncle John and I were viewed with jaundiced eye when we were members of the National Negro Congress. I like to think that we were the first of the so-called activists that wanted to take the black man's problems directly to the black man in the street. We were out there 30 years ago, long before the Freedom Marches. We just happened to be too early for our time.

Make no mistake, I feel that Billy is the right man. But I don't feel that this is the right time. At this particular space in time I don't see anyone on the horizon who could defeat the present mayor — if he chooses to run.

In my opinion, the city is not ready for a black mayor. That goes for black and whites alike. That takes me back to the year that Schaefer was first elected. And I have always suspected that the election may have been contrived. When Mitchell and Russell stayed in the mayoralty race, Schaefer's election was assured. If my memory serves me correctly it was also the same election in which former Baltimore State's Attorney Milton Allen was cuckolded out of office by the "Boss" Jack Pollack and his downtown 'B'houys." There is no Pollack type political boss on the scene. But other political forces are still at work.

The bottom line is this: Billy! This is not the right time! Baltimore is not ready for you or any other black as mayor of Baltimore. "Baltimore is finest."

I feel that your black brothers are not ready for you. That goes for you black sisters too. We are just not ready for you at this time. I am saying that the time is not right.

My personal message to Billy Murphy is this: Stay put. Keep your hat on your head. There is no immediate hurry. We can afford to wait. So can you.

If you decide to go however, YOU GOT ME.

Chicago with Washington

Dear AFRO:

Six years ago, when other media turned a deaf ear, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper aided me by revealing to the general public the injustice that I had suffered at the hands of Boyse Mosley, former principal of Lake Clifton Senior High School. You and your readers may recall that Mr. Mosley tried unsuccessfully to deny me of the honor that I had so zealously striven for and earned as a student at Lake Clifton. Consequently, although I had proven my mettle as an outstanding student to faculty and students alike, Mr. Mosley felt that I was not worthy of the title of Valedictorian.

Moreover, I am just as certain today as I was six years ago that his actions has to do with the fact that I am black and mine was the first fully integrated graduating class.

Further, in addition to this insult and the other rude comments that he and other administrators made to me, neither he nor any of the other administrators submitted my name and grade point average for citywide honors.

Instead, a white student with an average below mine was selected top graduate in the city. While all of this was very disheartening to me, I fought back with every means possible and I went on to perform many outstanding achievements to make myself and my people proud. I must admit, the AFRO-AMERICAN did a remarkable job of revealing the truth about my situation, which is no more than should be expected of a newspaper which prides itself on being the black voice of the city.

Six years ago Boyse Mosley claimed that I was not deserving of the title of Valedictorian because it has "national connotations." It seems that he came to this conclusion based on Washington area newspaper coverage of stories of top graduates of city schools who were unable to get accepted to any college because they were unprepared. He further stated that I "ought to be compared only to the other kids at the same school."

Well, six years later Mr. Mosley's actions and assertions, whether contrived or not, prove him to have been lacking in the ability to detect intelligence or potential in an individual. I say this because on May 14, 1983 I will be graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in zoology from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Moreover, I will be graduated first in my class from the College of Liberal Arts of Howard University, a distinction for which I was cited publicly by the Dean of the school. In addition to these outstanding honors, I was elected to membership in Beta Kappa Chi National Science Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society.

You see, although Boyse Mosley and other administrators of Baltimore City Schools did not think my accomplishments at Lake Clifton were worthy of their recognition, I did not allow them to deter me from my quest for success. Instead, I have gone on to achieve academic excellence and to receive recognition among the national and international intelligentsia at Howard University, an institution well known for its outstanding black graduates in all fields of study.

In conclusion, it is apparent to me that by trying to make an example of me in his attempt to gain the approval of his political superior and the white media, Boyse Mosley displayed not only poor judgement but a lack of respect and admiration for himself and his people. While away at college, I learned of the rise and fall of Mr. Mosley in the Baltimore City School System. Needless to say, I was not surprised, for I have always believed that as one uses and abuses others, so will he suffer. Once again, let me commend the manner in which the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper provides a forum through which all our citizens may communicate their disappointments as well as their triumphs.

DONNA E. STEWART

More block watchers

Dear AFRO:

United we stand - divided we will fall. This is indeed what will happen, if we don't wake up and get involved - We will fall!

We need more "block watchers." People who will make other people's problems their problems behind closed curtains. It doesn't take long to help police. It doesn't take long to help another human being, if he's in trouble.

My husband and I were in a situation on Sunday, April 10, upon leaving the much worthwhile HUB's Awards and Banquet Affair. Our car stopped flat, refused our orders to take us home. We were stranded in a questionable neighborhood—any neighborhood is questionable these days. After crying, sobbing and confessing that I was sorry I ever set foot out of my home my husband decided to risk life and limb to find a phone booth to call A.A.A. Help came within 45 minutes or so. During that time, a lady was watching us behind closed curtains, finally she asked me, if I wanted to use her phone.

Thank God for this lady, she became involved! Potential BLOCK WATCHERS including myself, wake-up and realize we need to organize, our lives depend upon it.

C. H. Baltimore

AFRO Survey


Barbara Davis


Aaron Carter


Angel Wainwright

AFRO survey (man in the street)

This week the Afro question to the woman and man in the street was, "What's your opinion of soft core pornography on cable TV?"

Terri Wilson, 18, contractual worker, "It's OK, as long as it's shown late at night."

Mike Gales, 40, bus operator, "I love it! I wouldn't mind if kids looked at it. There would not be any problems with kids and sex if they knew about it."

Wylie Thompson, 40, bus operator, "It's OK, but I don't feel young children should look at it."

Jonathan Ward, 25, unemployed, "I'm all for it. Since you pay for it, you can choose whether or not to have the service."

William Jhomson-Bey, 33, federal government employee, "If you pay for it on cable, then that's your perogative. But on public TV no! I don't judge people who buy because that's their choice and they paid for it."

Celia Weems, 36, social worker, "It's OK if there are no children in the house because children are impressionable, and they don't need to see it. There are more things that children can be exposed to that are positive than seeing sexplay on cable TV."

Aaron Carter, 27, research technician, "It's entertaining and nice for those who like it. The media have to satisfy the public means."

Barbara Davis, 35, public information officer for the Mayor's office for Manpower Resources, "I think it's up to the people, and if they are oppose to it, then they shouldn't buy it."

Angel Wainwright, 21, typesetter, "It's acceptable. You don't have to watch it if you don't want to. I feel children should be supervised when they watch TV, and if parents are opposed to it, they should make sure that kids don't watch it."

Wallace Moore, 27, salesman, "I don't think it's good because there's enough pornography on the streets. Pornography is a pollutant to the mind and there's nothing constructive about it. But then if you pay your money, you can do anything to your mind you want."


Terri Wilson


William Johnson-Bey


Celia Weems

G. JAMES FLEMING

Even the Pope would run into hostility in Chicago, if he tried to rent or buy a house or to run for citywide office—and, also, if he should turn out to be black or "colored."

It is no wonder, therefore, that Mayor Harold Washington faced such bitterness in his campaign.

The new mayor of Chicago is not only black, he also represents the "have-nots" challenging the "haves"—those who have enjoyed the gravy and the meat for, lo, quite a number of years; he represents, too, those kept and considered powerless against those with power, even if only the power of being employed at good wages most of the time.

Despite the statistics of Election Day, it must not be overlooked, however, that Harold Washington received some white, ethnic votes even in those wards considered most bigoted and anti-black.

This mite of independence on the part of such whites will be part of the building blocks that the new mayor will have at his diposal in constructing the "new coalition of unity" in the nation's second largest city—a dream of Washington that will not be easy to achieve.

Equally important is the fact that 45 per cent of the voters in the upper-class white districts gave their votes to the black contender, thus assuring him of a reservoir of goodwill, talent, experience and leadership in the white community. These, too, will be available building blocks.

Politicians being very practical people—especially when they are pushed or cornered—will find ways to accommodate themselves to the Washington era, if for no other than selfish reasons, their self-interest.

For these "political henchmen" will know, more than most others, that there is a new distribution of power and prerogatives, and that the buck no longer stops with them or their retainers, but with a man named Washington.

Another undergirding element for Mayor Washington is the fact that other black mayors, in some of America's major cities, have done so well! Healing, constructive, effective, even in the eyes of the business community.

Call the roll: Atlanta, Birmingham, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, Newark, Washington, D.C.... About 240 municipalities, altogether, have elected mayors who are black and many have won, not only election, but also reelection (In several scores of other jurisdictions, other blacks serve as mayors by other routes than popular election).

In Los Angeles, Mayor Thomas Bradley has twice been reelected —in a population which is only 18 per cent black.

This record of black mayors, nearly all of whom inherited cities already in very weak economic shape, should be encouraging and heartening to Mayor Washington and enlightening to those of his fellow-citizens who, sooner or later, will want to emancipate themselves from their fears of their fellowmen who are not racially like themselves.

Back to Chicago, proper: One of the building blocks for the future is that, despite the oral bitterness of the campaign, there was no headline-making violence on Election Day. No 1968, no 1966-67, no 1919.

Mayor Washington, a practical politician himself, soon after his election, warmly and eloquently extended the "hand of fellowship" to "all the citizens" of Chicago and promised no retaliation against those neighborhoods which did not support him.