**Baltimore Afro-American**

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) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967).



## Textbook shortage

It is bitterly ironic that the task force appointed by the mayor to determine if there really is a severe textbook shortage in the city school system could not even determine if the shortage is real.

The teacher's union said at the beginning of the school year that there was a shortage of materials. The school officials questioned that conclusion and labelled it as union politicking.

Now, after a taskforce has studied the problem and thrown up its hands, a very serious question must be asked. If the school system cannot even keep an accurate accounting of how many students it has and how many books are available for each who needs a book, how can it be expected to set an example of proficiency for its students?

It seems simple enough to count pupils and books. If attendance and classroom records are kept and candy money can be accounted for and all the other multitude of records that are kept for the school system, then textbook counts should be possible.

Perhaps the situation is so bad that city officials do not want to alarm the public. If that is the case then the public should be alarmed.

If the inability to survey the textbook. situation is a result of inefficiency then the public should be alarmed. The results of the taskforce are alarming all around.

## Graduations

The coming of Spring brings many happy seasons. One of the happiest and second only to the wedding season, is the graduation season.

Graduation means a reward for years of struggle and study. It is a sign of accomplishment and it is also a symbol of a new beginning. Educationally strengthened, the graduate can enter the workforce or another educational institution.

Although graduation time is one that should be a celebration, there are some sobering facts that should be remembered during this season also. Far too many black youths drop out of public school. This handicaps them severely in an increasingly more technical world.

Policy changes in the federal government are shrinking financial aid money, making it more and more difficult for many poor students to get a college education.

This hurts the black community twice as hard because not only does the student miss an opportunity to go to school, but the historically black colleges which have opened their doors to all, black or white, rich or poor, suffer terribly because many of their students, an inordinately high percentage, depend on federal aid.

When federal aid for education is cut, the traditionally black colleges suffer disproportionately. Still they persevere. Education has traditionally been valued in the black community and it continues to be viewed as the surest path to success.

The AFRO salutes all graduates in this happy season.

## School desegregation

When the unanimous Supreme Court Declared schools were to be desegregated more than three decades ago, the bitter resistance and opposition that followed is now showing up in our public school system. Educators all along the line rebelled and used every pretext available to defy compliance with the historic decision of May 17, 1954.

Public officials whipped up anti-integration sentiment to the point where parents overtly resisted the order at times with violence. Funds were denied public schools and a number of private schools were created that only accepted white students and right-ring officials pleaded for tax exemption for those schools.

One senator, Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia, declared that every possible maneuver should be used to avoid compliance with this law. His pronouncement later became known as "massive resistance" and created untold havoc because he was powerful and influential in both the senate and in his state and his voice set the tone for the entire south.

Then Chief Justice Earl Warren proved to be a skillful and courageous jurist in getting a unanimous decision from a bench that included diverse legal and regional backgrounds. He was not only a humanitarian but possessed tremendous pursuasive powers.

The decision completely shocked the nation and stunned then President Eisenhower who previously refused to desegregate the army during a lackluster military career. Ike captured the presidency because he has been made a popular war-time hero, although his entire adult life had been in the military. He had no prior political experience. He denounced Chief Justice Warren as the worst appointment he had ever made. This in a sense set of the mood for the nation and tacitly gave arch segregationists unlimited leeway to whip up adverse public opinion.

Many brilliant black lawyers did their homework in "mock" trials at Howard University before going before the high court. Stakes were high and mistakes could not be made if at all possible.

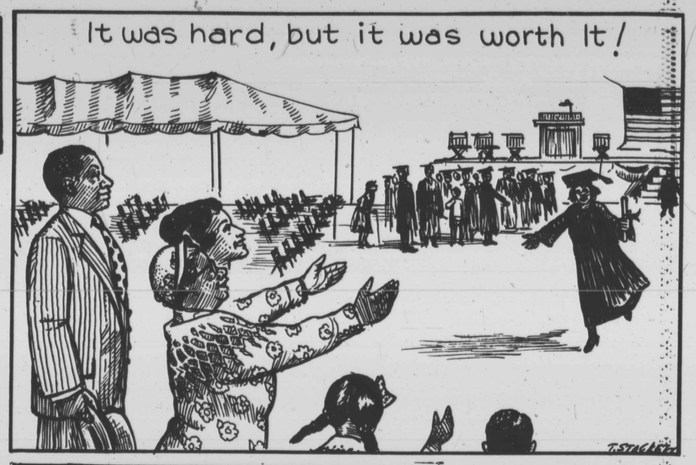
It was later revealed that their efforts paid off because during questions points had been previously discussed. This dedicated group consisted of Now Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, a legal counsel of the NAACP. Also included were astute attorney George R.C. Hayes and attorney James Nabrit who later became president of Howard University and social scientist Dr. Kenneth Clark.

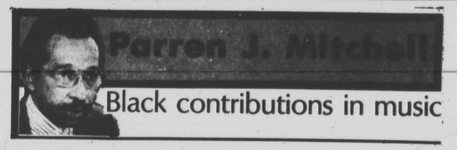
The 1954 case was Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. It overturned the vicious anti-black Plessy vs. Ferguson decision handed down around the turn of the century.

When it really dawned that the decision had to be accepted although reluctantly many jurisdictions resisted by firing black teachers and refused to hire them in previously all-white schools. In some instances black schools were closed and when black students applied for admission to nearby integrated schools, an atmosphere of local hostility usually existed which made it doubly difficult for black students to concentrate. Much of this atmosphere is still prevalent but a new element has crept into the education process and that is the distribution and consumption of illegal drug use.

In our local schools several students have been arrested for either possession or selling drugs. In one school it is alleged that a drug ring exists. School Superintendent Floretta D. McKenzie recently told a congressional committee that drugs are a "formidable" and "discouraging" problem. Our school budgets are at the mercy of Congress because the District has only limited home rule and must go hat-in-hand to get approval for funds.

Again, this is pure economics because the school system has to justify its budgetary needs. When the full amount is not forthcoming, teachers salaries lag, new instructors cannot be hired, acquistion of supplies lags and maintenance suffers. This shortchanges the student who at best is passing through a difficult phase and should have every available opportunity to develop.



## Black contributions in music

The Afro-American music tradition is a rich one dating back to the days when black people were first put into bondage and brought to America as slaves.

Because tribes and families were separated on the auction block and forced to live and work with other Africans from different tribes with different customs and languages, music was quickly seized as a medium of communication and as relief from physical and spiritual burdens resulting from their bondage.

Some slaves were encouraged to develop their musical talents so they could better serve and entertain their masters and often the entire community.

Others, by accompanying their owners to parties, balls, operas, concerts and other places of entertainment, were able to absorb European musical technique and reshape it to satisfy their own needs, thus enhancing the black musical repertoire.

By the 1800s, black composers first began to have their music and melodies published by their white counterparts who, on rare occasions, acknowledged that they had composed "coon", "darky," or "jig" music.

The large majority of black composers, however, never received any recognition, which in recent years, has led black historians, writers, and musicologists like Phyl Garland, Hildred Roach, Ortiz Walton, LeRoi Jones and Billy Taylor to attempt to set the record straight by putting black musical contributions into a more accurate perspective.

An early example of widely accepted black music was "ragtime", which for the most part was created and developed by untrained musicians. While the first publication of ragtime on record was in 1896, the most popular works of that era were composed and published in 1899 by Scott Joplin.

Ragtime jazz quickly attracted international attention and launched the careers of many blacks in the field. Prolific composer-pianist Eubie Blake, composer of show tunes like "Memories of you," and "I'm Just Wild About Harry," of the 1920s enjoyed early success as a theatrical performer and a producer of Broadway shows.

His contributions, however, were later downplayed and ignored by the masses for many years until he was rediscovered when he was in his eighties.

Again, many of the contributions made by the early black composers and musicians went totally unrecognized unless they were accepted by the recording industry as marketable commodity and promoted via phonograph records.

The list of famous black jazz and blues pioneers is virtually endless, including the likes of Bessie Smith, Earl Hines, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Fats Waller and Billie Holliday, who were recently recognized by the dedication of a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood.

While many black songwriters, performers and composers were fortunate and received some recognition for their work, most were manipulated by the music industry and never received any benefit from their genius.

Today, music is still a dominate form of entertainment and radio, network television and cable represent the major vehicles through which the consumer is first exposed to musical performances. Consequently, these media provide the means by which demand is created.

There is little doubt that the black listening public accounts for a disproportionately large segment of the purchasers of records, albums and tapes, but the situation that exists in the music industry today is not very different than during the early days when black artists saw the doors of opportunity close in their faces.

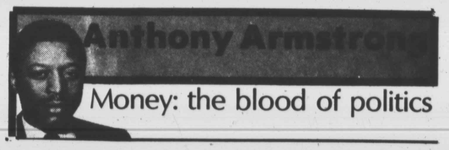
A close examination of the methods employed by radio and television (categorizing music in terms of the performer's race) to determine which records or music videos will be selected for promotion amounts to what my colleague Congresswoman Cardiss Collins terms an "unfair restriction of trade."

Since black artists have traditionally gotten their start by exposure from black oriented radio stations which total only 400 out of more than 9,000 radio stations in the U.S., and since common practices of radio and record companies result in the routine exclusion of black recording artists from the major markets and subsequently limits their success which depends on widespread exposure, their actions are most detrimental to blacks and borders on overt discrimination.

The time is long past for the barriers in the music industry to be removed and for black artist to be allowed to compete in the marketplace without restraint.

Pop music singer and songwriter Stevie Wonder once said that what he admired most about black people is "our ability to do incredibly well under adverse circumstances."

Let us be ever mindful of our contributions in all areas and never underestimate those forces that consistently attack us on all fronts to impede our progress.



## Money: the blood of politics

The one thing that is most important to politicians is the one thing they like to talk about the least. Politicians don't like to talk about money because it brings into focus the one gripe that grates on them the most; charges that all politicians are money-hungry thieves.

The honesty, or lack thereof, of politicians has been a topic of back porch and bar-room conversation ever since the days high button shoes and ladies that listened to their husbands.

Then, as now, I suspect most politicians value their personal integrity, their honesty, as much as you or me; and chances are politicians, as a group, may be among the most honest people in the general society, because political institutions are structured to force honesty or, at least; to catch and expose dishonesty.

Nevertheless, politicians need money; usually lots of money. In this political primer the objective is to briefly look at the role of money in politics, the sources of that money, the need for money and the uses of money.

In addition, something must be said about the misuses of money, in politics, and how those misuses act to disserve the general body politic.

Pericles, the ancient Greek statesman, orator, and general, hit the first nail squarely on the head when he uttered, "the man (or woman) that seeks to serve the public good must also have a private station."

He meant that those who would be politicians, those who seek to serve the public, must have enough private resources to allow them the opportunity to concentrate on service and not on making money.

For, if one is going to be an honest politician, he or she must be shielded from the temptation to steal the public's money.

People who have no private station can fall so easily into the trap of using their insider positions to make money they otherwise could not realize.

Additionally, politicians, as part of what they normally do, are always in the position to show favor to one group or individual, over another group or individual.

Such situations often place the politician in the position of being offered money, to favor one over another. Good politicians never take money, at least not that way. Dishonest politicians are subject to take the money any way they can get it.

Fact is, there are politicians in Baltimore that, as a matter of doing "business" with people they think can pay, regulary take money in ways that if they were caught, would surely send them to jail. There are very few such dishonest politicans, regardless of what the public perception of politicians might be.

Politicians need so much money for two reasons; to get into office and, to stay there. The cost, for instances, of a mayor's race, in a city the size of Baltimore, can easily reach a million-plus dollars. Running for the U.S. Senate can take upwards of three million dollars.

Even a race for the City Council can cost $20,000, for a single candidate, and $30,000 or more if the candidate is running as part of a three-candidate ticket.

The money buys visibility; it buys campaign help; in the form of campaign workers; it buys all the little things needed to face an expectant public and to come away the victor. Win or lose, however, the politician must spend the money, if he hopes to have any chance of winning.

Once the politician has won office, he or she is still called upon to spend sizeable sums of money on things like political affairs, community events (that citizens hold and expect the politician to support), all manner of things associated with that poiticians' hopes of being re-elected two or four years hence.

Where does the money come from? The money comes from citizens who know the value of being able to access their political leaders. In truth that's what political money buys — access. Because politics and business are "kissin cousins," people in business see political giving as just one more cost of doing business.

Some money comes from people who are simply good citizens, and know that our system of government demands private money, to keep democracy's torch burning.

These people understand that elections, in America, are financed by the people, not the government; and they feel it important enough to protect this method of funding campaigns.

After all is said and done, however, most political money is corporate money, or money from people who have major financial interest. Historically, black people do not support political campaigns with money.

The vast majority of the money spent by most politicans, black or white, comes from white people. This fact is one reason why, in a city that is majority black, whites seem to have a disproprotionate share of the power. They pay for it.

I know that each of us is supposed to be equal under the laws of our government but; if you believe we all are I have another bridge I'd like to sell you. Fact is, the degree of equality enjoyed by the people in this country, this state, this city is directly tied to the degree to which they fund the political system. In other words, how much money you give.

Just like your arm or leg; no blood, no arm or leg. In politics, no money, no blood of politics.

## Samuel L. Banks

## Commencement 1986: challenge and opportunity

I extend bountiful and heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to all of you who have graduated or will soon undergo this majestic, memorable and marvelous experience. You have demonstrated through your graduation which, in fact, starts the beginning for you, for a life of excitement, challenge and fullfillment.

Each of you now knows that high school and college days, indeed, do pass quickly. You will have occasion, I believe, no matter how much you went through the rigors, frustrations, anxieties and unbridled joys of high school and college, in your tender years, to reflect on the personal meanings of those exquisite years for you.

The collective pleasantries, felicitous moments and rich expectancy of the period, unfortunately, you will never be able to relive. Alfred Lord Tennyson, who correct in writing: "The tender grace of a day that is dead can never come back to me."

Therefore, each of you as graduates, really beginners in life, mindful of your unique experiences, must push on to new challenges and opportunities. It is in this spirit of questioning, challenging, thinking for yourself and putting your knowledge and skills into action that I extend sincerest and earnest congratulations. I am most proud of all of you.

The overarching question that each of you must now answer now that the music of Elgar's soaring "Pomp and Circumstance," and Mendelssohn's "War March of the Priests" has subsided and faded in your memory is clear, present and urgent: "Whither goest thou?" You must now, without fail, determine this course for yourself.

As a means of helping you to reflect and act on the issue of your future direction and involvement, I should like to suggest six areas for your consideration:

I. Believe in yourself and your possibilities:

You are a person of illimitable worth and potential. However, in order for this belief to become a vital and energizing force in your life, you must believe it. Additionally, you must dare to translate your beliefs into action. Refuse to allow others to define your manhood-womanhood; what you can achieve; what you should think; what you can become in life.

If education, at this point in your life has done anything, it should have provided you with the analytical skills and know-how necessary for you to think for yourself. In the event, this has not occurred, you will become, to a large degree, human flotsam drifting through life without an anchor or moral and ethical fortitude and strength.

II. Shore up your moral and ethical imperatives:

Life is more than the acquisition of material possessions, incessant terpsichorean activities (i.e., perpetual dancing and partying) and deadening whimisicality. As you pursue your goals and objectives make sure that your efforts reflect integrity, intellectual honesty, fairness and respect and love for yourself and others.

The operational principle is clear: To whom much is given much is required. How, then, will you give back, not pay, to your parents and loved ones, teachers, administrators and significant others who believed in you when the going was cumbersome and vexatious.

It is now up to you to be an effective and believable role model for others. The extent to which all of us possess and sustain transcendent ethical, moral and religious values will be the extent, I believe, the quality of life for all is enhanced and fortified.

III. Dare to make your mark in the community:

The world now awaits you, in your tender years, with a balled up fist. I mean that you will now be directly involved in a broader and more complex relationship that depicts a great deal of cynicism, venality, opportunism and hardness of spirit. However, you have the skills, knowledge and resiliency and mental toughness, if you believe in yourself, to overcome the trials and tribulations of the present.

As I move about the nation in conjunction with professional obligations and interact with members of my family and colleagues, I become aware of many luminous examples of young people MAKING THEIR MARK.

The shining and outstanding examples of the following young people are a source of inspiration and encouragement.

A. Ms. Lisa Gladden, an alumna of Western High School and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Elzee C. Gladden, who was graduated "with honors" from Duke University in Durham, NC. In recognition of her academic and extracurricular achievements, Ms. Gladden was cited in a university wide program of recognition.

Dr. William J. Griffith, Duke's Vice President of Academic Affairs, in a recent letter to Lisa said, in part: "In recognition of the very special contribution you have made to the undergraduate life of Duke University, I am delighted to inform you that you have been selected by the Division of Student Affairs to be a recipient of the President's Senior Leadership Award." Lisa has performed in an exemplary manner and brought high honor to herself, family and community.

B. Michael Lloyd Banks, my nephew, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus A. Banks, Sr. of Chesapeake, Virginia who will graduate "with honors" from Indian River Senior High School in Chesapeake, VA. Michael will enter Old Dominion University in Norfolk to major in business administration.

C. Mrs. Nancy Brown-Holt, alumna of Brown University and daughter of Mrs. Ruth Payne Brown, has performed admirably as a first year student at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School. Their younger daughter, Ellyne Brown, as a preveterinary medicine major, is doing splendidly at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, AL.

D. Ms. Dolores Junious, daughter of Mr. Lee Junious in Washington, D.C., who is graduating "with honor" from Xavier University in New Orleans, LO.

These youngsters, are emblematic of a host of youngsters who have performed excellently in school. I am very proud of all of them!

IV. One of the best ways to become informed is through reading and research. Make it a point, as a knowledgeable person or one of letters to read the newspaper daily and read your professional journals and a book, at least, once a month.

V. Utilize your vocabulary to the fullest:

We live in a highly speech-conscious society. The reading habit should enable you to develop a broad and capacious vocabulary. Do not be afraid to use sesquipedalians (i.e. so-called big words) in appropriate settings or with colleagues who know their meanings. Take the high road in language usage and avoid trite expressions or non-standard English in formal settings. Develop linguistic flexibility: Match the language usage to the audience and occasion.

VI. Work, in a systematic and rational way, for a sense of community:

Your talents, expertise and knowledge should be utlizied in a program of outreach that promotes solidarity and mutual progress for our people. In this connection, avoid the temptation of egocentric and arrogant behavior and rank opportunism. A spirit of "All for one and one for all" must become a categorical imperative or operating credo.

I have suggested, to be sure, formidable challenges and opportunites for each of you. I do so in the firm and unshakable belief that you have the intellectual power, talent, infectious love, tenacity, and faith and hope for the future that will enable you to unball the balled fist of the world and move forward. We love you and we count on you to hold high the blood stained banner.

Congratulations, Class of 1986.

## Letters to the Editor

## Corrections officer story

I would like to clarify some of the statements made in the article about Eric Hill, the City Jail Correction Officer who experienced a near fatal shooting on Monday, April 21, 1986. The article appeared in the April 26th edition.

First, regarding the injuries described, there was no shot to the chest.

Second, there is no proof that people cited as "inhabitants of the neighborhood" who provided remarks about Eric's assumed negative treatment of jail inmates were, indeed, residents of the area. On the other hand, a police officer handling the case visited the Johns Hopkins Hospital Emergency Room. The officer stated to family members and close friends that neighbors whom he had interviewed had commented positively about the victim.

Third, it is highly unlikely that statements concerning the whereabouts of the family had been made by neighbors, since block residents are thoroughly familiar with the Hills' schedules.

I feel strongly that a disservice has been done to Eric and to his family as a result of an article that was based primarily on opinion rather than upon factual information.

MRS. PATRIA A. HILL

## About Run, Parren, Run

The ill-timed effort to persuade Congressman Parren Mitchell to run again is not only unconscionable, but is an example of the destructive infighting which has plagued black institutions, among them Provident Hospital and Morgan State.

There are several rumors going about, one that this is caused by jealousy of Rev. Phillips, which is lent some erodence to the rumor that the purpose is to run Parren again to give Sen. Clarence Mitchell time to clear up the allegations against him and step into Parren's shoes in 1988.

Should Parren Mitchell run again, he will have lost a great deal of black and white support, as some will doubt the integrity of his word. The election process will have been upset and the seventh district divided. Please, Parren, don't run again.

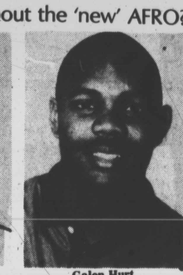
HOWARD H. GREEN

## —AFRO SURVEY—

### What do you think about the 'new' AFRO?

Dawn Generette

Karen Perry



Galen Hurt

John H. Murphy, III

This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "How do you like the NEW AFRO format?"

Dawn Genrette, 21, office worker, "I like it. It is much more clear. The NEW AFRO is much better. You can read it a lot easier."

Karen Perry, 23, bookkeeper, "I feel more people will purchase the paper. The photographs are brighter and easier to read. All of this should make the advertising pick up because more people will probably buy the AFRO now."

Galen Hurt, 23, carrier, "It is more legible and it is attractive. I think with the new format, it should do better in sales. It makes me proud to be part of it through my job here at the AFRO."

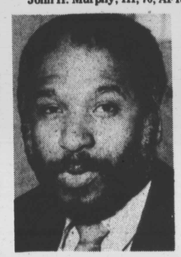
John H. Murphy, III, 70, AFRO president, "I feel it is the most progressive move the AFRO has made in the last 25 years. It was made possible by all the AFRO employees, especially the art and editorial departments which have come up with some creative ideas. We wanted to give our readers the best-printed paper in the area, and I feel we have done that."

Fred Douglass, IV, public relations person, "I think it is far more attractive, easier to read; the photos are much sharper. I think the change will help to broaden the papers' circulation especially among the black middle class."

Elyn Garrett, 23, assistant Clean Block director, "It was a pleasure to see the NEW AFRO hit the newsstands everywhere. I have been enjoying the sharp, crisp prints as well as the added color, which is very appealing to the eye and makes for more pleasurable reading. I think the NEW AFRO is long overdue."

Deborah Peaks, 30, public relations person, "The AFRO's new look is a 50 percent improvement. The quality of printing and the use of color have made a remarkable difference in the paper's appearance. The ink no longer rubs off on one's clothes and the photos are much sharper."

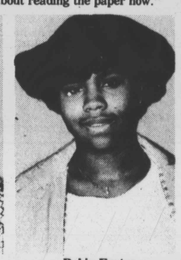
Robin L. Easter, 22, student, "I think the AFRO-AMERICAN looks more professional, clear, and neat. Also, because the paper is a representation of the AFRO-AMERICAN community, I feel good about reading the paper now."



Fred Douglass

Elyn Garrett

Deborah Peaks



Robin Easter

## R. B. Jones' notes

## GOPers

The tranquil confines of Roland Park was a strange place to witness a debate between two candidates for Congress in the 7th District, but Wednesday night St. Peter's Episcopal Church was the site of a candidates forum featuring Republican candidates for the 3rd and 7th Districts.

Being in Roland Park and listening to candidates talking about the blight and physical decay of the 7th District was like sitting in a posh restaurant bemoaning the hunger deaths of people in India or Africa.

It was hard to believe that the members of the sponsoring organization, The Independent Republican Club cared in the least about the blight in some black neighborhoods that were several miles and a world of privilege away from the near pastoral greenery surrounding the church.

In cities, greenery often symbolizes economic well-being. Most poor areas in this city are nowhere near as lush as Roland Park. Neither are they as dark.

Perhaps the lack of lighting is supposed to create the illusion that one is in a rural area or perhaps it is to perpetuate the illusion that Roland Park's streets are safe from the crime epidemic in the inner city.

The setting was surreal for a meeting of St. George Crosse and Isaiah Fletcher, the two likely candidates for the Republican nomination for the congressional seat in the 7th District.

Both men share a conservative viewpoint on political and community issues if one can believe that their utterances on a local show that masquerades as a debate program.

They are Reagan supporters who both tout self-help as the key to black progress.

The question is can they seriously challenge the democratic party for the most coveted political plum that a black city politician can acquire?

Reagan rhetoric will not play in the black neighborhoods that make up the core of the 7th District. St. George Crosse said at the forum that the Democrats have taken the black vote for granted. That is true but as Janet Jackson would say "What has the GOP done for black folks lately?"

The GOP has championed an assault on the poor. The GOP has taken a regressive stand on civil rights and affirmative action. The party has taken a pro-South Africa position on apartheid. They say constructive engagement is the solution the same way that so-called friends of the civil rights movement urged black people to be patient in the 1950s and 60s.

The GOP has adopted a very hysterical anti-communist policy that seeks to narrow all dissension to pre-set limits. This red scare affects blacks because our dissent has always challenged the fundamental assumptions of this society and so our leaders have often been accused of being communists. There is nothing illegal about being a communist by the way and to use that as a slander shows the speakers' unfamiliarity with the law.

The Republican Party has become so ideologically rigid in recent years that moderate to liberal Republicans such as Sens. Charles Mathias and Lowell Weicker are rarities in the party.

That illustrates the dilemma that Crosse and Fletcher find themselves in. At the candidates forum Fletcher talked about the divisiveness that exists in the city and how he would work to alleviate it. He said he was tired of a "Hatfields and MCCoys mentality" that exists in the 7th District, pitting blacks against whites.

Those sentiments may be comforting to the whites of Roland Park who will not have to put the abstract sentiments into practice by coming in contact with blacks who might be the tiniest bit angry about 400 years of abuse, but they will not win any votes in the black community.

Black people did not create the racism that polarizes American society. Black people did not bomb little white girls because their parents wanted to exercise their constitutional rights.

Black people did not refine job discrimination to an exact science. Black people did not gather in mobs to stone white children for trying to attend schools built and maintained by all the taxpayers' money.

Black people did not kill, lynch and castrate whites for recreation and personal profit. The polarization of the races is a white creation and whenever blacks try to get out from under white domination and assert themselves they are accused of harboring reverse racism.

When a black Republican stands up in the very belly of the beast that is oppressing black people in this city, Roland Park, I can only surmise he is angling for some financial support from the GOP members from that silk stocking district.

St. George Crosse spoke about how the 7th District needed a congressman who believed in what the people believed in. He talked about his polls which indicate that most black people in the district support capital punishment, oppose abortion on demand and support voluntary prayers in school while the Congressman from that district does not.

Crosse mistakes attitudes in the black community for attitudes in the white community. I don't know how accurate his polls are but if they are true, when black people say they oppose something they mean they would not do it personally.

When white people who have been taught they are superior to everyone else on the planet oppose something they mean that they will not do something and they will not allow anyone else to that something under the penalty of death most times.

Black people value freedom and diversity more than whites because blacks have been denied so much freedom in this society. To be black and in America means that you exercise your freedom at your own risk.

Another thing that both the candidates shared was the philosophy of self-help as a panacea for black economic problems. That may play well to the Roland Park GOP. They interpret the term self-help to mean they can help themselves to life's goodies. When it comes to black people they interpret it to mean go off to your corner and suffer in silence.

A study of any of the great fortunes that have been made and maintained in this country's history will reveal that they have all received some kind of governmental assistance at one time or another from the Rockefellers on down.

The difference between the help the government gave to them and still gives to the rich and the help it gives to poor black people is the fact that the white folks got help that made them wealthy while black people have gotten help that kept them poor.

The system is by no means fair and these black Republicans should know that.

Let some poor black man start a company in East Baltimore and try to sell the federal government a toilet seat costing $600 and see if he doesn't get locked up. Let him try to sell a screw or a nail for $9 and see what happens to him. Yet rich folks do it all the time.

Pretending that America is a classless colorblind society may win the stone hearts of the GOP faithful, but it will not win in the 7th District Congressional race. Crosse and Fletcher better talk some real talk when they come visit the home folks' neighborhood.

MAY 1986