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## 'We Don't Want Our Children Butchered...' Citizens' Battle Speedway Plan

### May Take Case to Court

Citizens-Council  
 Committee Formed  
 TO DEBATE ISSUE  
 Lives of 4,000 Pupils  
 Held Main Stake

Plenty of streets around the plan to use their arteries as speed outlets for suburbanites who "want to get downtown in a hurry." 150 residents along McCulloch St. and Druid Hill Ave. threatened, Tuesday, to back up their opposition with court action.

"Personally, I don't intend to let my children be butchered for people who want to get to work in a hurry," declared Clarence Mitchell, NAACP lawyer secretary.

**Plan Called Elusive**

As one of the spokesmen for the group of residents, Mr. Mitchell told the City Council committee on police and jail that he did not know "where the exact line of going into court is because of going into court to decide upon the weight of some elusive plan which came out of a smoke-filled room."

Tuesday's meeting constituted a public hearing on Ordinance 378 which would make Druid Hill Ave. from Fulton Ave. to Park St. one-way southbound, and McCulloch St. northbound from Edgewood St. to Cloverdale Rd.

The traffic scheme was devised to provide arterial outlets for a speedway already constructed along the edge of Druid Hill Park.

**Residents Ignored**

In the first place, the opponents asked, why were the residents not consulted about such plans before the initial highway was built, and who devised the scheme?

They argued that 4,000 children must cross those streets twice a day to go to schools, that they spent thousands of dollars to improve their property only to have the city slap higher assessments upon them one year and depreciate it by means of boulevard plans the next.

**Why Not Edgewood Street?**

Spokesman for the group also pointed out that as colored citizens, they are unable to pack up and move to the suburbs, and that the "half-acre" playground pieced together for their children on the edge of Druid Hill Park "with a fence around it" would be robbing them of that lone recreation facility.

With logical deduction, Furman L. Templeton, personnel manager for the Afro-American newspaper, told the committee that Edgewood Place, which is already being downgraded, and which leads all the way downtown, might have been selected instead of Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloch St.

Continuing objections by residents of neighborhoods who asked that the ordinance be amended to allow them

### May Take Case to Court

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on that side of the street containing their homes, Mr. Templeton declared.

"We're not concerned with non-passage of this ordinance," George Carter, deputy director of public works, asserted that the Northern and Northwestern suburban areas of the city were rapidly developing, and that traffic was stagnating.

**Charge Children Overlooked**

"When you take into consideration the children who have to cross those streets," Mrs. Juanita Mitchell asked him.

"The children will be protected by traffic lights to be considered the traffic problem," Mr. Carter replied.

"Asked how many schools would be affected by the re-routing of Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloch St.," Mr. Carter answered, "you have the Western High School (Booker T. Washington Junior High), and one on Druid Hill Ave."

NAACP leaders then introduced a report showing that 4,100 children attend nine schools in that area, three of which are directly on the streets involved, and the others within a block and a half.

**Parking Ban Scored**

On the matter of parking, which he revealed was not clearly defined in the ordinance, W. A. C. Hughes, NAACP counsel, and resident on McCulloch St., said the prohibitions would create a problem in which McCulloch St. dwellers would rush to park on Druid Hill Ave. and vice versa.

"Frankly, I'm going to beat Mr. Melnicow (a white protestant) to a spot in front of the Temple Gardens," Mr. Hughes declared, referring to a white apartment house near the Madam Ave. entrance of Druid Hill Park.

As outlined by Captain Bernard J. Schmidt of the police department, parking would be restricted on both sides of Druid Hill Ave. between 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., and on the east side between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

On McCulloch St., parking would be prohibited on both sides between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and on the east side between 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

**Questions About Origin**

Mr. Mitchell wanted to know who proposed the ordinance, and Councilman Edelman, who is from the Fourth District, where the streets are located, assured him it was not sponsored by the council. He promised, "This bill will not be reauthorized by this committee."

When Mr. Mitchell continued to question the origin of the legislation, he was told that it was formed from a recommendation made to the Department of Public Works and City Plan Commission by the Community Council on

(Street Traffic formed through the Association of Commerce and consisting of 31 civic organizations.

"Where is their recommendation?" Is it in writing? The minutes of the meeting when it was adopted? Mr. Mitchell prodded, and getting no satisfactory answer, he declared:

"I don't intend to lie down and accept any plan as elusive as this, cooked up by some outfit which is apparently a brainchild of the Association of Commerce and which juggled the facts without considering the human element."

**Police Department Leaving**

Captain Schmidt was preparing to leave the hearing, when Mrs. Maude P. Bell of the 2400 block Druid Hill Ave., requested that she stay while she charged to get playground in Northwest Baltimore, and you decided to put us fenced us in. Now you want to make that a death trap."

She reminded them that there was no plan for a traffic light at the intersection of Druid Hill Ave. and Retreat St. where the children must cross to get to the playlot.

Said Mrs. Mitchell, "Why do you pick on us? The most patient, the least vocal group in the city?"

**Other Plan Protested**

Answering former arguments that the one-way streets had worked out well on St. Paul and Calvert Sts., Mrs. Mitchell retorted that these residents are now seeking to have the ordinance which boulevard their streets repealed.

Herbert Garland, voiced a similar protest on behalf of residents living in Roland Park, and cited Fletcher and Madison Sts. which children in that area pass a day.

dozen good white schools in traveling four miles to schools within the city proper.

**Housing Tenants in Arms**

Protests from the McCulloch Homes Tenant Council were also forwarded by Donald Murray, attorney. A letter was read from the Baltimore Housing Authority asking that the legislation be left pending until it has time to study on behalf of 434 families in the McCulloch Homes.

Toward the end of the two-and-one-half hour meeting, Mrs. Edelman suggested that a citizens' committee be formed to work with his committee in the study of the bill.

This group finally included Mr. Templeton as chairman; Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, NAACP president; Mr. Hughes; Mrs. Bell, the Rev. W. K. Stokes, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Murray.

Although he is not a member of the committee on police and jail, Leon Abramson, Fourth District representative who is known to favor the traffic proposal, sat in on the hearing.

Other members of the council committee present were John T. Booth and Simon Aronovinski, First District; and Walter Deuzes, Third District. Absent were Medeo Wald, Second; Jerome Sloman, Fifth; and John J. McEntamern, Sixth.

Representatives of the North-west Residential Protective Association attending the hearing were Mrs. Florence Snowden, president; Mrs. Annie Harcum, secretary; Mrs. Malinda Wyatt, Mrs. Genevieve Lee, Mrs. Sarah Diggs.

Thomas H. Smith, Harvey Smith, Miss Aivetta Busin, Dennis Keane, Thomas Blake, Mrs. Mary Kranton, Miss Mary Brown, Miss Carrie Cargill, Wallace Lansley, Mrs. S. Polled, Miss Ethel Fletcher and Mrs. Frances Maddox were in that area pass a day.