Bar owners vs. food chains

By Freda E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Maryland tavern owners and other licensed beverage dealers have joined forces to oppose a bill now before the General Assembly that would allow retail food chains to sell beer and light wines.

The proposed measure, House Bill No. 861, to be heard in committee Friday, March 9, includes not only retail food stores, but supermarkets, pharmacies, drug stores and convenience stores, as well.

West Ivey, president of the United Maryland Licensed Beverage Association, comprised of some 400 black tavern and package goods businesses, told the AFRO "If supermarkets get beer and wine licenses we're out of business."

Ivey said he felt House Bill 861 was "directed at the very heart of black enterprise. We comprise the majority of black business at this point and beverage dealers in UMLBA number 300 in the Baltimore metropolitan area with an average of seven employees per establishment. That total 1500 employees including owners and their families."

Lobbyists fighting for the supermarkets interest in Annapolis, however, say that the introduction of beer and wine sales into food chain stores would not affect tavern and package goods sales and cite "convenience to customers" as a major reason why the present ban should be lifted.

The bill to permit beer and wine sales in food stores is being pushed by Delegate Elizabeth S. Smith, R-33rd, a Severna Park businesswoman, and Prince George's County Delegate Clayton Mitchell.

Bob Haynes, local club owner and legislative representative for UMLBA as well as a state wide coalition of liquor dealers stated, "I can't believe they actually have the audacity to bring this bill back after we beat them last year."

Introduced last year, the bill suffered an overwhelming defeat by a whallopping 97-3 vote in the House and 41-0 in the Senate.

Haynes pointed out that the large food chains "are not responsible to the community where they operate" and that 28 to 40 percent of the liquor business would be lost to neighborhood businesses.

Small "mom and pop" stores would be seriously affected, according to Haynes, since they cannot compete with mass buying business.

Various ministers and religious organizations also oppose the bill since they believe the food place is where the family shops together.

Haynes added that although the legislation is proposed as a convenience to the shopper, it would make alcoholic beverages more available to youths.

"If a youth under 18 goes in a supermarket, he could say he's there just to buy a can of sardines and what alcoholic beverage he can't buy, he may try to shoplift," Haynes explained.

The bill, is being heavily lobbied and expected to meet as much support as opposition in hearings.

Speaking contest extended

The application deadline for the fifth citywide "Speak Up! Speak Out!!" Declamation Contest has been extended on Friday, March 16.

Participants will be competing in three age groups — nine to 12; 13 to 15; 16 to 18 years. Selections should be chosen from published works such as poems, monologues and great speeches. Residents of metropolitan Baltimore are eligible to apply.

Competitions will be held on three levels — center, district and citywide. Winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds, trophies and medals.

Applications can be obtained at neighborhoods recreation centers and branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. They should be returned to the Bureau office, 1129 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

For further information, call Fannie S. Moragne, supervisor of performing arts, 396-5644.

Cults to be examined in 3 Hopkins lectures

Cults and their implications for religion in America today will be examined in a series of three lectures to be presented at The Johns Hopkins University, Homewood campus. The lectures will be open to the public without charge.

On Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m., Julian Hartt, professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia, will discuss "Mainline Christianity and a Multitude of Messiahs."

Dr. Hartt has been a Guggenheim Fellow and a Fulbright Research Fellow and is author of numerous books and articles. His presentation will be in Conference Room A in the Hopkins Union.

On Sunday, April 29, at 11 a.m., Peter Marin, author of books and articles on education, drugs, and politics, including the cover story in the February issue of Harper's Magazine on "Spiritual Obedience," will discuss "The Cults: The Problem of Conscience and Authority." His lecture will be in the Listening-Viewing Room of the Hopkins Union.

On Sunday, May 6, Margaret Singer from the University of California will conclude the series when she discusses "The Success of the Cults."

Dr. Singer, a professor of psychiatry at the Berkeley and San Francisco campuses, is known for her pioneering research and for her appointment by the federal government to examine servicemen returning from the Korean War and for her appointment by the courts to examine Patty Hearst.

Dr. Singer's lecture will be in the Listening-Viewing Room of the Hopkins Union.

The series is co-sponsored by the Office of the Chaplain at Johns Hopkins and the First English Lutheran Church of Baltimore, whose Baetjer Lectureship helped make the series possible.

More information is available at the Office of the Chaplain, 338-8186.

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Pomerleau asked to explain

Does police department need 2 legal advisers?

The Board of Estimates wants to know why Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau needs another legal adviser.

So the board asked that he or one of his representatives and state's attorney general Steve Sachs or one of his aides come to the next meeting and explain.

The request for the appearance came from City Council President Walter Orlinsky Wednesday after the City Council on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution asking that the board rescind the $29,500 position established by Pomerleau specifically for Millard S. Rubenstein, who had been the assistant attorney general assigned to the police department since 1977.

"I think we should have the commissioner come in here and explain," said Orlinsky. "He didn't need two attorneys until the attorney general said no more private practices. Now all of a sudden he needs another attorney."

Rubenstein had resigned earlier. This year rather than give up his private practice after Sachs' ordered his staff to stop all outside legal work.

Pomerleau created the new job at about the same salary that the assistant attorney general position had paid. Under this new arrangement Rubenstein will continue to maintain his private practice while serving as the director of the legal services division.

The position was approved by the board on Jan. 17.

The resolution — introduced by Councilman Michael B. Mitchell — Pointed out that the police department does not need two legal advisers with the replacement of Rueenstein by the attorney general adding that "there has been a decrease of 420 sworn police officers from July 1, 1973 to Dec. 31, 1978 because of budget cuts . . ."

It was rurther noted that "in view of the present serious budget situation and the fact that the attorney general officer does provide a legal adviser the city council urges that the board of estimates rescind its approval."

Orlinsky, said that the salary for Rubenstein was "a little high for apart time position," adding that having two attorneys he would get two opinions that w'would never agreed on."

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

59,999 POTHOLES LEFT — Workmen fill a pothole on Route 40 west of the city. Cold winter weather causes asphalt to expand and crack. When plows come through, the cracked pavement is knocked away, causing holes in streets. A spokesman for the Department of Public Works said there were 60,000 potholes filled in 1978. If there are that many in 1979, these workmen have a lot of shoveling ahead of them.

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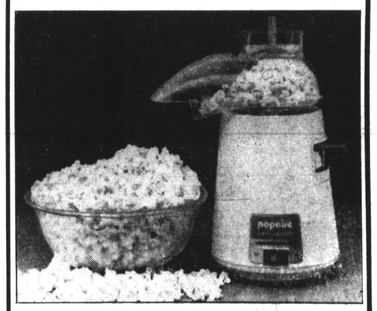

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