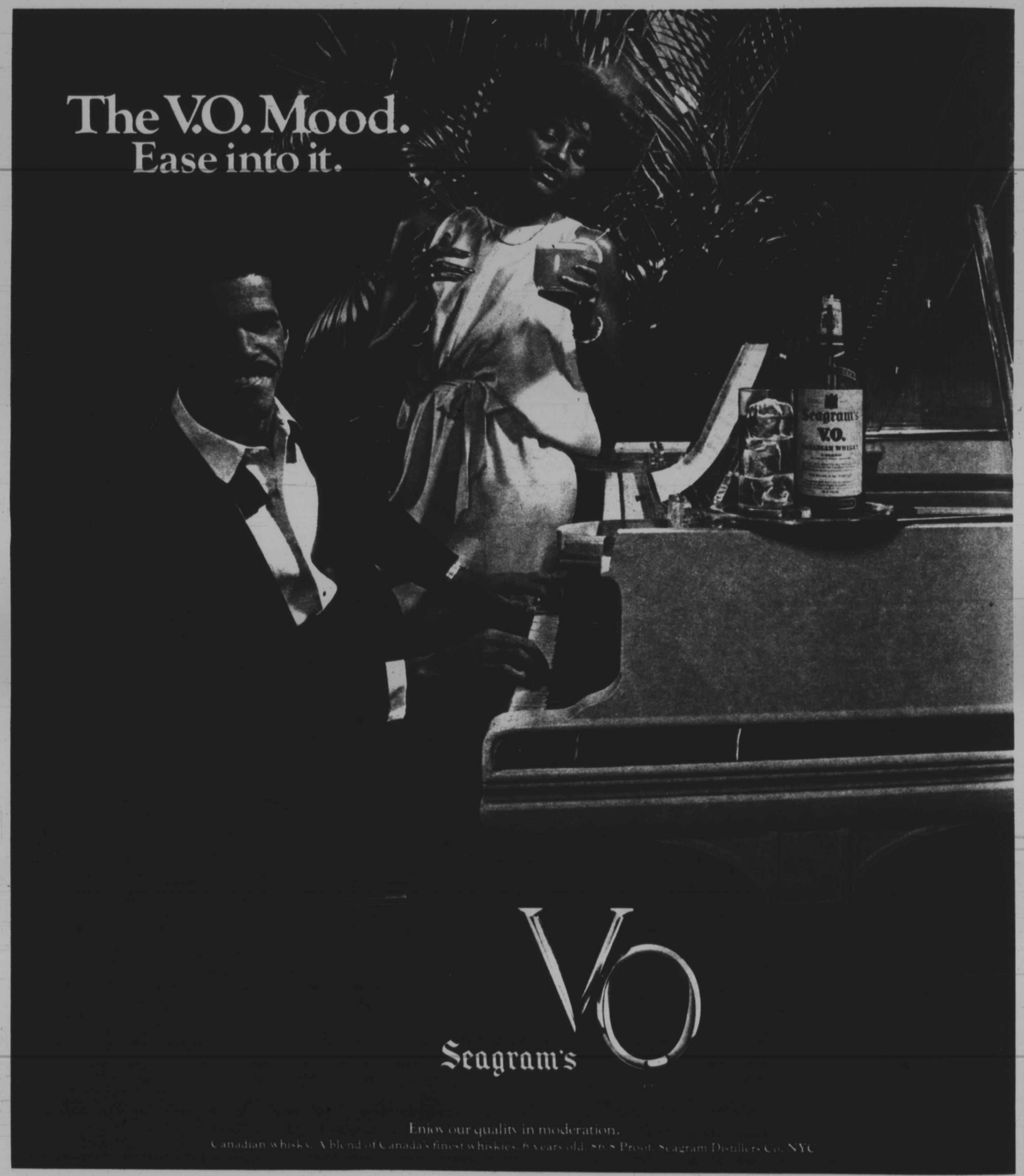

National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON — Strange things happen in politics and Washington voters are learning it the hard way. For instance, about 16 months ago the city voters voted down a gambling initiative because it included dog racing, but six months later (last November) they overwhelmingly approved a revised gambling initiative. The approved initiative did not include dog racing but put stress on a city-operated lottery and other forms of so-called "light gambling" such as bingo. The initiative the city voters approved called for the establishment of a gambling commission (5 members) and a paid staff.

Everything seemed in order for the nation's capital to join its nearby neighbor — Maryland — in the numbers lottery business. Congress, which under the Home Rule legislation, has to approve fiscal expenditures by the city, set back and did nothing to prevent the gambling legislation to become effective. In fact, things seemed so good that Mayor Marion Barry appointed the five commission members who were confirmed by the City Council and sworn in. Still, Congress said nothing and appeared to be giving full approval to the new move for the city to gain what its officials had proclaimed "millions in added revenue."

Ironically, some members of Congress were only laying low, waiting to put the gambling issue back into the debate stage. So on the eve of Congress' mid-summer vacation, at a time when the matter would have to go over until the return to business on the Hill in September, a House Committee threw a monkey wrench into the works by declining to appropriate funds to put the gambling commission into operation. It is an odd political move but probably won't work as District of Columbia officials might well borrow funds to get the commission into action, then pay back the loans with the profit they anticipate from the lottery operation.

B. Doyle Mitchell — Bernice Williams — Gloria M. Ward

The strange manuevering, however, put a number of politicians on the spot. Those who originally opposed the gambling initiative have now joined the proponents of legalized gambling in an attack on Congress, emphasizing that the lawmakers are violating the Home Rule Charter by denying the District of Columbia an opportunity to govern its own business. They strongly point out that the people voted for the gambling legislation and have every right to get what they voted for. In brief, they are claiming, and rightly so, that Congress is making another attempt to prevent the Home Rule Charter from working smoothly.

From Roundup's viewpoint, it is the same old story: there still are some members in Congress who just don't want black people to control the nation's capital. We don't think it will work this time, however, and by the time this is published the pendulum may have swung in the other direction and the District of Columbia may be in the gambling business. Don't be surprised, however, if Congress does not try it again with something else.

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ON A GOOD NOTE, the businessmen in the city, especially bankers, were cheering as *B. Doyle Mitchell* was elected president of the District of Columbia Bankers' Association at its 63rd annual convention held at the Greenbriar Hotel in White Springs, West Virginia, a few weeks earlier . . . . Mitchell who heads the Industrial Bank of Washington, which his father founded, is the first minority banker to head the DCBA, a trade association representing the entire banking community of the District of Columbia . . . . Mitchell was elevated to the president's spot from the first vice president's position which he held the previous year. He succeeded Riggs National Bank's president, *Daniel Callahan III*. His election is a well deserved honor and Roundup extends hearty congratulations.

Strange things are happening in the mayor's office. Sometime ago his press representative left to accept an appointment with the upcoming Convention Center organization and now reports are circulating that his No. 1 aide, *Elijah Rogers*, is being considered for a similar post in Dallas, Texas. This is the second time that Rogers' name has been rumored for another post, so the continued reports have voters wondering, particularly, in view of the fact that next year will be election year and the mayor will be up for reelection.

For the moment, the mayor has not given any clear sign that he will be running for reelection but those in the know declare he will seek reelection. Meanwhile, a half dozen or more probable candidates have tossed their hats into the ring, although not formally. At any rate, it appears that the mayoral race in the District of Columbia will be a hot one next year.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS: Setting a precedent for Maryland's Prince George's County, *Tom Davis* was sworn-in recently as deputy chief of police. Now the highest ranking black officer on the PGC force, Davis will be in charge of recruitment and training . . . . After many months of sitting on the sidelines despite the fact that she was one of the first blacks to rally behind President Ronald Reagan when he was a presidential candidate, *Gloria A. E. Toote*, has been named to head the Merit Systems Protection Board. Toote formerly served a Republican administration as an assistant secretary of housing and urban development and at one time was an assistant director of ACTION in the Nixon and Ford administrations . . . . Washington has its second black police chief in *Maurice Turner* who replaced *Burtell Jefferson* who retired as of July 1 . . . . Another D.C. banker, *Samuel L. Foggie Sr.*, president of the National Bankers Association, a minority organization of bankers, has been busy traveling about the country helping implement the $5 million line-of-credit program established by the Anhueser-Busch Companies with 25 minority owned banks which are members of NBA . . . . *Louis E. Martin*, former special assistant to President Carter at the White House from 1978 to 1980 and now vice president (communications) at Howard University, recently was named an advisory director of Riggs National Bank in Washington.

Gloria A. E. Toote — Maurice Turner — Arnette R. Hubbard

Chicago attorney *Arnette R. Hubbard* was installed as the 39th president of the National Bar Association (NBA), the largest national association of black lawyers, jurists and legal scholars in the country. The installation came in Detroit, Mich., on July 31, making her the first woman to hold the presidency of the organization in its 56 years of existence. . . . . A graduate of John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Mrs. Hubbard is a past president of the Cook County Bar Association and was serving as NBA's secretary when elevated to the presidency. She has an 11-year-old son, Gregory.

NOTES OFF THE CUFF: The National Funeral Directors and Morticians annual convention which was scheduled for Kansas City was forced to move to other quarters in the city after that shocking accident at Kaycee's Hyatt Regency Hotel . . . . *Alexander Joseph Allen Jr.*, the National Urban League's vice president for programs, retired recently. He was honored at the NUL's Conference in Washington in mid-July. Allen, popularly known as "Joe," started his Urban League career in Baltimore where he once wrote a column for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN . . . . Incidentally, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper began its 90th year in business as of August 13 . . . . *Marita Rivero*, filmmaker and former television producer, has been named general manager of WPFW-FM in Washington, D.C. and a vice president of the Pacifica Foundation, the station licensee . . . . *Gloria M. Ward* has been named human resources manager of Western Electric's Eastern Region, Bell Sales Operations, headquartered in Cockeysville, Md. . . . . *Bernice Williams* of Gainesville, Ala., has been appointed director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization by HUD Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr.