Baltimore Afro American

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S. Africa embassy focus

The increasing number of national and Washington D.C. black leaders who are staging sit-ins at the South African Embassy in Washington D.C. has evoked a multitude of comments many of them reminiscent of statements made during the most intense days of the civil rights movement.

The arrests of Congressmen John Conyers and Walter Fauntroy and Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Berry have caused some persons to say that public officials should not flaunt the law and engage in civil disobedience.

Conversely, the officials, several of whom come out of the civil rights movement that used civil disobedience as one of its primary tools insist that issues of justice transcend the narrow confines of the law.

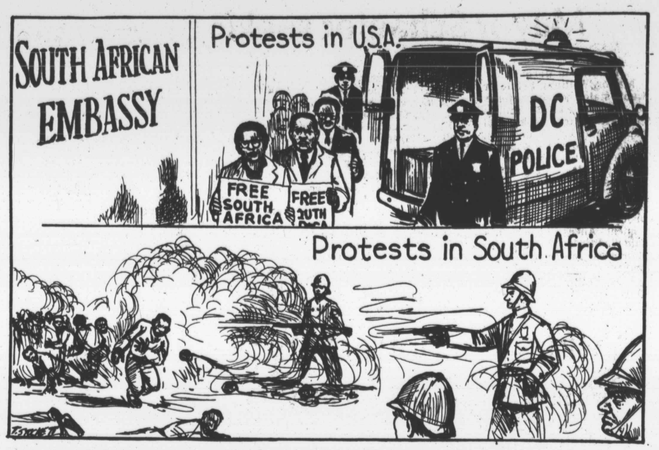
The ambassador to the U.S. from South Africa "compared the peaceful sit - ins" with the Iranian takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran. It seems that government spokesmen for the Pretoria regime believe in hyperbole as much as they believe in racial oppression.

The takeover in Iran involved armed revolutionary guards who held the Americans captive 444 days. That in no way compares with peaceful demonstrators in the streets and a miniscule number of sit - in protestors inside the embassy who refuse to leave at closing time.

At no time have any South African officials been detained or harassed in any way. The protestors are merely calling attention to the odious practices of the Pretoria regime.

The South African Embassy has not been attacked the way its government has launched attacks into neighboring African countries. They should also understand how repugnant their system of racial oppression is to black Americans who have historically struggled against similar conditions.

The Afrikaaners have to realize that unlike their country, the slightest violation of the law in the name of human rights is not punished with excessive means.



Provident and survival

The situation at Provident Hospital is still unclear. Two community meetings were held this week on the stalemate between the doctors and the board of trustees, in an attempt to settle the conflict.

Parren J. Mitchell, congressman for the district that includes the hospital, offered his services as mediator, held a community forum and then made accusations that some of the doctors were involved in a conspiracy to have the hospital taken over by another health institution.

One of the hospitals mentioned as a possible conspirator, University, delivered a statement to the press drafted by its trustees declaring that it has no intentions of taking over Provident.

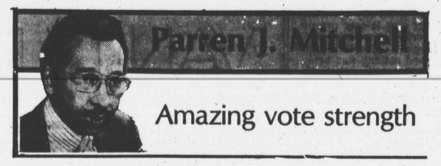
If there is evidence of a conspiracy it should be brought out in the open.

The administrators and board members of the hospital should give the black community some clarification of the conflict and what the areas of disagreement are.

If there are over 270 doctors on the staff of the hospital and only about 50 took part in the vote that initiated the boycott, the other doctors should also come forward with their position.

If the vice-president of medical affairs can have a press conference to reassure the public that Provident still offers quality health care, it would certainly be in the interest of the hospital for him to make some statement concerning the present conflict.

The longer the crisis continues, the more the position of the hospital erodes. There is community support for a negotiated settlement and accusations of conspiracies and stubborn silences on the part the conflicting sides weaken Provident each day they continue and therefore weakens the health status of the entire black community.



Parren J. Mitchell

Amazing vote strength

The Voter Education Project has released its study which shows that almost 3,391,000 blacks voted in the south on election day, an increase of almost 600,000 over the number of blacks who voted in the general election in 1980.

All across the county there was a significant increase in black voter turn out. I will use the 7th Congressional District of Maryland to show the dramatic increase in the general election when compared to the spring primary election. However, first let me thank you for the phenomenal support you gave me.

The latest data I have shows I received 129,556 votes in Baltimore City and 9,952 votes in Baltimore County, making a total of 139,488 votes cast for me in the 7th Congressional District of Maryland.

Preliminary analysis by the Board of Election Supervisors recalls that as the highest number of votes ever cast for a black candidate in Maryland. I am truly grateful for the faith you have shown in me, and I community myself to live up to that faith each and every day.

Even more dramatic is the surge of black voters in the general election. A look at some of the precincts in the 7th congressional district shows that the vote doubled and, in some cases, tripled in the general election.

In the Primary, ward 4 cast 195 votes, in the general 665 votes were cast. The pattern followed in all the wards:

PRIMARY 84: WARD 7 - 1,131, WARD 11 - 814, WARD 15 - 10,884, WARD 28 - 377, WARD 27 - 5,695.
GENERAL 84; WARD 7 - 5,140, WARD 11 - 4,244, WARD 15 - 27,164, WARD 18 - 1,500, WARD 27 - 18,326.

Black votes in the South were 95.5 percent for Walter Mondale, and the same pattern obtained in my congressional district where Mondale received 139,792 votes and Reagan received 22,174.

Black citizens sent the word with a vengeance. Our votes said no matter what other ethnic groups did out of political expediency, we would not follow suit.

Our votes said if others chose to compromise on what the role of government should be, we would not compromise. Out votes clearly cast us in the role of the conscience of America.

During my tenure in Congress, I have tried to embrace a large number of interests and have tried equally hard not to be known as the Congressional captive of one or two or three special interest groups. It appears that I succeeded in doing that when a review is made of the wide range of diversified interest groups which endorsed my candidacy.

The following is a sampling of some of the more than fifty groups who endorsed me:

AFL-CIO, American Association of University Women, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers;

Campaign for U.N. Reform, Communications Workers of America, Consumer Federation of America, Friends of the Earth Handgun Control, Inc., International Ladies Garment Workers Union;

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Maryland State Teachers Association, National Alliance of Postal Workers, National Association of Retired Federal Employees;

National Association of Social Workers, Sane Sierra Club, United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers of America.

The endorsements, your votes, your determination all spur me to work even harder. I must and shall live up to the confidence you have given me.

Letters

The Provident Hospital ruckus

The outrageous ruckus over Provident Hospital demonstrates clearly one of the most damaging and insidious effects of racism—the self-hatred of the oppressed.

Through the muck of ill-defined issues, all that emerges (at least in media coverage) is a welter of personal grudges and a struggle for personal power.

There is obviously a lot of behind-the-scenes activity to which the public is not privy and which undoubtedly contains the real story. But the public, especially the black public, is vitally affected.

I understand that the physicians who decided to boycott the hospital have admitted that they are attempting to drive Provident into a financial disaster so that the state will take it over. We can only conjecture what reward they expect from this action.

My family has lived in Baltimore since long before the Civil War. My father, Maceo Williams, attended medical school at great sacrifice to his widowed mother.

He practed during the Depression years and often not only received no pay but also had to leave money for the patient's medicine.

He was one of the black physicians who struggled to effect Provident's development through the Depression years, the World War II years, and after.

I recall our pride when Provident moved from Division Street to the splendid new building on Liberty Heights Avenue. Many years later, in his old age, my father died at Provident.

I do not know the ages nor the backgrounds of the doctors who now plan to take Provident from the black community. I would be willing to bet, however, that they are of a newer generation and that they are not native Baltimoreans.

It wasn't their struggle. The groundwork was laid when they first darkened the door. In the absence of any clearcut issues, I find their conduct unworthy of their professed calling. They have sold us down the river.

Eugenia W. Collier

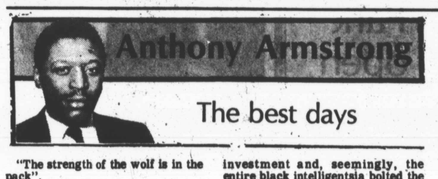
Councilman dismayed at headline

I am deeply hurt, disappointed and dismayed by your headline of November 13, 1984 regarding the unfortunate incident on the floor of the City Council. Although the body of Ms. Winbourne's article was representative of the chain of events that occurred, the headline was misleading and sensationalized what was clearly a misunderstanding.

If you speak to any of my colleagues on the Council or any official in Baltimore City or observe my actions, I am sure you will ascertain that my record of performance dispels any notion that I would ever cast or support any action to be racially insulting. Your headline implies otherwise.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell recently said in a public forum, "Councilman Ambridge is truly an individual that represents all the people, whether black or white."

ANTHONY J. AMBRIDGE



Anthony Armstrong

The best days

"The strength of the wolf is in the pack".

Nothing is more clear for blacks, than the assertion that "so go you, so go me". The principal that if one of us fails then all of us fall has long been the lightning rod of progress for entire groups and nations of people.

The energy generated from this kind of "one for all, all for one" philosophy was the major internal factor in the success of the civil rights movement, and the legal progress it wrought, during the 60's.

Without such helpful unity the exterior forces, that sought to maintain the legal and racial status quo, would not have had the incentives, brought on by severe pressure from all of us, to submit to any changes.

But then something happened, something that is so characteristic of black Americans; we then thought we could "get out of the canoe".

Individuals among us thought that because the changes had provided opportunities to get college degrees, to get the proverbial "good job", to move out to Liberty Road, to be asked to lunch by a white person, to be told that you're not like the other blacks" and, to be given the American Express green card meant that they could forget about the rest of us.

Black women got their "two dollar" jobs and all of a sudden black men were not good enough anymore, except on Saturday nights.

Black men no longer found the "girl from the Projects" to be a good investment and, seemingly, the entire black intelligentsia bolted the race to go somewhere: between getting away from the rest of us and not being fully accepted by whites.

The last 25 years for blacks have seen more progress than the whole century that went before. We have more of everything now than has ever been the case.

Yet, the relative togetherness that brought about these gains has been thrown away by the very people who were helped most by it. As soon as a few of us "got-up" we forgot a large part of how we got what we gained.

Some of us are so proud to tell others "I did it all by myself". The pride and self confidence, although often false, is certainly something, however; to forget that without "the pack" none of us individual "wolves" would be prospering is stupid.

Today, in America, white people can no longer be said to be our major enemy. Today, in America, we are clearly our own worse enemy.

National policy is leaning toward a position that government has provided the means for a foundation on which blacks can build lasting economic and social progress.

The missing link now is not more government or white help but more blacks helping other blacks. Why we can't see this is a function of why we often wish not to see ourselves.

To admit the current problem is ourselves, is to admit that blacks, particularly those among us who think we've "made-it" or are making-it, are still very much caught-up in the business of being "better than."

Everyone wants to be better than some body, even blacks and; the only group we have enough nerve to even think we are better than are other blacks.

All these cries about what the government isn't doing is nothing but psychological salve for guilt wounds we feel at not doing more to help each other.

A very astute man I know has a phrase that time and time again proves correct, "You can always, he says, tell when you've helped a black person — you never hear from him again."

This "take the help and run" attitude never allows any gains to become cumulative, never allows us to build on what has gone before. Thus every new generation of young black men and women have to start all over again at ground zero.

Those of us who are making-it simply cannot forget the others because, as things go, we will probably need the others again. Further, if you took the pay checks away from those who are now "doing so well" they would starve to death in another two weeks.

These are our best days! There is more opportunity in this country today than there has ever been before. Every other group in America has seemingly learned that. Some blacks among us know it too.

The difference is that many of these blacks think, like some selfish little boy who will take his basketball home because he can't play every game, that they ought to keep the opportunity, all of it just for themselves.

Somehow, they think they will live on forever, never having to pave the way for anyone else. To them we say, "Don't be afraid, there are enough "best days" to go around for all of us".

Drunk driving — an overview

Almost every state in the Union has legislation of some type relative to remedial and punitive action for drunken drivers. The serious nature of this roadway hazard does not need detailed review but the public should be reminded that the untoward use of alcohol occasioned the death of 329 individuals on the highways in Maryland in 1983.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 19 states and the District of Columbia have administrative license suspension statutes. Two other states also have earlier-created suspension regulations based upon different criteria.

Maryland is not on the list of states geared to take prompt administrative action when a drunken driver is apprehended. The reasons for this lack in the law are not clear and this problem needs early, satisfactory solution.

Prompt license suspension is one of the prerequisities for a state to receive a federal alcohol traffic safety incentive grant for a program established by Congress in 1982.

States which have programs to attack the drinking-and-driving program effectively are eligible for aid. Why has not Maryland readjusted its sights to qualify for this program and stop this needless highway carnage?

The loss of a license to drive is a potent weapon to stop the drunk from driving. Drunkedness is a personal concern, but the responsibility for permitting such individuals to operate a motor vehicle allowing manslaughter on the highways belongs to the citizenry.

Minnesota has taken the lead in an effort to solve this problem. Their

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Samuel L. Banks

Forging and sustaining a revolution of hope

The shattering and decisive re-election of President Ronald Wilson Reagan has caused immense pain, disillusionment and serious reflection among 35 million black Americans. Black Americans, to an overwhelming degree, are bereft of support and elemental interest of the larger white community.

Approximately 90 percent of the white community gave its support to the reactionary and insensitive policies of Reagan. There was clear evidence in terms of the magnitude of the vote of institutional racism and a propensity to punish blacks, Hispanics and the poor. Stated differently: KEEP THEM IN THEIR PLACE OR IN A SUBORDINATE POSITION.

Crane Brinton, in his epochal and widely read, Anatomy of A Revolution, makes a telling point: "Revolutions are not born of despair, but of hope." It is in this spirit that this column is written at a time of enormous crisis, travail and uncertainty. In terms of an historical perspective, we are, as a collective people, in the worst state since the end of Reconstruction and the removal of Federal troops in 1876-1877.

The nation's sanctimonious washing its hands of the "Negro Question" in 1876 assured the election of Rutherford B. Hayes as President of the United States and the return of Jim Crow to a position of power and white supremacy. Over five million blacks who had gained a taste of freedom were, once again, rendered impotent and a nullity in the American social order. The backs of black Americans were driven to the wall while the larger white society looked the other way.

Just as the back of the recent recession was broken on the backs of black Americans, there is a strong propensity, following Reagan's re-election, to reduce our soaring deficit, now in excess of 190 billion dollars, on the backs of blacks, Hispanics and the poor. The opening salvos of Reagan's second term have been fired. Reagan promises the nation more of the same; Secretary of Education Terrel Bell, a decent, able and just man, who, along with the Congress saved the Department of Education and black toadies and sycophants vying for center stage. Tom Sowell of Stanford University and Clarence Pendleton, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, lead the feckless pack of black apostates. Pendleton makes known his venomous disregard for black leadership in a recent speech to a business group in Akron, Ohio:

"The black leaders have made an industry out of racial politics ...I say to America's black leadership, 'open the plantation gates and let us out.' We refuse to be led into another political Jonestown as we were led during the presidential campaign. No more Kool-Aid Jesse (Jackson), Vernon (Jordan) and Ben (Hooks). We want to be free.'

The tragedy, to be sure, of Clarence Pendleton is that he has an abysmal and obtuse understanding and knowledge of history. Plantations, past and present, were not developed by black people for chattel slavery and profit.

As we face four (4) more years of Ronald Wilson Reagan, we cannot and must not become involved in self-defeating and internecine warfare with rank opportunists and apostates such as Clarence Pendleton and Tom Sowell. We must now, in the midst of the withdrawal of the larger white society for civil and human rights and frontal attacks on our manhood-womanhood, dare to seize the initiative and struggle for our survival and dignity. We must hit hard in winning local and state elections where we possess the ability and power. No society respects weakness, cowardice and docility. Seizing the political levers of powers will enable us to acquire our equal share of economic power There is a clear correlation between political and economic power. The acquisition of power necessitates, tenacity, struggle, sacrifice and perseverance.

We are not strangers to suffering, denial and vicissitudes not of our making. We shall survive Ronald Wilson Reagan. Black middle and upper income groups and black professional and skilled retirees must be in the forefront of our REVOLUTION OF HOPE AND POLITICAL ACTION for social justice and human uplift.

As others give their WORST; let us give our Best. However, through it all, we must insist on SIMPLE JUSTICE, DECENCY AND OUR FAIR SHARE AS AMERICAN CITIZENS.

—AFRO SURVEY—

What is your reaction to the Provident Hospital problem?

Willie Fields

Mabel Smith

Theresa Williams

James Garrett

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Should doctors at Provident Hospital be able to stop the admittance of non-emergency patients as a strategy for dealing with administration?"

Willie Fields, 20, salesman, "No. Just because there are problems with hospital rules, patients should not have to suffer. There could really be an emergency situation that cannot be easily diagnosed and the patient may not be accepted and further complications develop. I do not think the doctors should use that as a strategy. A lot of times, you just cannot tell what is going on inside of a person who just walks in and says he is sick."

Mabel Smith, 76, retired, "No, doctors should not do that. They should help us. Where else do we go if they refuse us?"

Theresa Williams, 32, student, "It's wrong! People go to a hospital because they are sick. You do not go because you're healthy, so everybody who goes need to be seen. Meanwhile, you wait for a dispute to be settled you might die."

James Garrett, 31, unemployed, "I do not think it is right because doctors are there for the public. We pay their expenses. We really should not have to suffer for what they really want. They are responsible for helping the sick. People should come first."

Betty Jones, 20, student, "I think it is OK. Why should they work under conditions with which they are dissatisfied? I think it may be bad for patients, but I think what the doctors are doing will benefit the patients in the long run. I believe in their sincerity to their cause."

Ruth Douglass, 69, retired, "No. Doctors are put there for the purpose of helping the sick. They must have love and most of all patience. I suggest they come up with another way of getting what they want."

Terry Scates, 19, student, They ought to try something else. This surely is an inconvenience to people. If they treat people like this, the doctors will not be thought highly of."

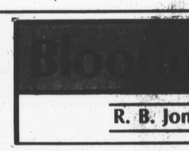
Chuck Dailey, 20, model, "People should be more important than any other issue. The doctors at Provident seem to be concerned about themselves and what only they want, but I think they should have considered people first. The elderly and disabled around Provident rely on its location. Some people just can't go elsewhere."

Betty Jones

Ruth Douglass

Terry Scates

Chuck Dailey



R. B. Jones

Bourgoisie Blues

The black bourgeoisie is not doing too well in Baltimore these days and it's not surprising. Up at Provident Hospital, they are fighting to the death while the hospital teeters on the edge of calamity. A group of prominent black ministers have put their prestige and credibility on the line by demanding affiliate status from the United for their nebulous and hastily- formed group Black Protestant Charities.

Part of the group, the right wing of the black bourgeoisie, defected to the dreaded Republican Party in the last election. Another segment, Mayor Schaefer's black valets, suffered the bitter disappointment of having their hero snatch away their beloved inner harbor hotel with an unceremonious and undisguised contempt. According to Schaefer's priorities, a parking lot was more important than rewards for his slavish supporters in the black community.

As if the above setbacks were not enough, there is the enlarging specter of the economic power of the Asian community. Their enterprises proliferate throughout this city and they are well on their way to supplanting blacks as the number two economic group in the city. Only their small numbers, at the present, prevent them from supplanting blacks politically.

To what can one attribute the apparent decline of the black middle class which so stridently proclaims its valor in defending the race? I would suggest that they suffer from an antiquated ideology and a lack of troops.

Their ideology is antiquated because they still perceive themselves as leaders of the black community by default. It is outdated because they seek to embrace the system and fight it at the same time and it is outmoded because it is based on the premise that the opponents of black progress will cease and desist after an initial defeat.

The members of the black bourgeoisie who hold leadership positions in churches, businesses and fraternal and social organizations have large constituencies. But their constituencies are based on narrow goals. A minister of a church can deliver the word and evoke shouting, but that does not necessarily translate into votes or pickets or boycotters or investors. They are recognized by the media, but they don't seem to be able to deliver the way they could in the heyday of the civil rights movement.

Of course, during those triumphant days the interests of the bourgeoisie and the larger black community were perceived to be the same or at the very least complementary. Now, with the increasing gap between blacks who have and those who have not, there is a subtle complacency setting in.

Because many members of the black bourgeoisie, not only are a part of the system, but dearly love it, their confrontations with it are half - hearted. They seek compromise rather than victory. Last year's mayoral election was a perfect example.

Billy Murphy was the perfect black middle class candidate. He was from a prominent black family; he had an impressive educational background and record as a lawyer; he was perceived as a man of the people who could get grassroots blacks to vote for him; he was light skinned with flowing hair, linking him in many black people's minds with a messianic image.

A group of prominent, liberal up and coming middle class blacks set out to draft Murphy to run. He was a proven vote getter as evidenced by his race for a judgeship. What happened to the Murphy campaign was what continually plagues the bourgeoisie, a lack of ideology and very few troops.

Murphy's campaign was not radical and hardcore enough. It was almost a white gloves campaign while his opposition used every tactic imaginable to discredit him.

They had the power structure scared on the heels of black mayoral victories in Chicago and Philadelphia, but they didn't utilize the momentum.

Again the question arises, where are the troops? When the NAACP instituted a boycott against the city's largest daily paper, the ranks of the picketers outside the building were exceedingly thin. Eventually, the conflict was settled by a mounting number of subscription cancellations in concert with the picketing, but a show of force consisting of about 1000 picketers one Saturday would have driven the message home more quickly.

With the reaffirmation of Reaganism in the last election and the contempt shown for blacks at the Republican convention last summer, the black bourgeoisie will find it more and more difficult to bluff the white power structure with the threat of the black masses. The perception that conservatism is the rising tide, also means that the acceptability of racism will increase also.

The black middle class can not afford to fall apart under pressure if it is still aspiring to lead the freedom struggle. The feuding sides at Provident must reach a settlement. The doctors involved and the board members do not depend on Provident for their livelihoods, so they can afford to be stubborn and play with the future of a vital black institution. The larger black community can not afford such recklessness.

The ministers who have taken on the United Way are playing for high stakes also. They can not afford to become a zany nuisance to white people. They must be taken seriously. They appear to be on shakey ground because their message is not clearly perceived in the black community. Their picketing is limited to very small numbers and their prospective Black Protestant Charities is mostly a theoretical construction at the present time.

They are in for a protracted struggle that they can not afford to lose because black middle class leadership has not had many victories of late.

To paraphrase Jesse Jackson it's time for a change of ideology and tactics. To paraphrase the late Adam Clayton Powell can anything good come out of the black bourgeoisie?

—Drunk driving

Continued from page 4

law provides for license revocation for 90 days which can be effected by the investigating police officer at the time of the accident if a breath test indicates that blood alcohol concentration is greater than 0.10 grams of alcohol per 100 ml. of blood.

Convictions for drunken driving are not always fast and sure in Maryland. A backlog of court cases may lead to a delay of many months during which the driver under suspicion may drink, drive: and perhaps kill again.

Some lawyers are particularly skilled in the use of a wide range of dilatory tactics.

Plea bargaining is another method to avoid conviction of the proper charge which may be reduced to a lesser offense unrelated to drinking.

A suspended sentence or a period of probationary conduct may be approved to permit retention of driving privileges.

Pre-trial and pre-conviction diversion in some courts shifts the defendant from criminal adjudication into an educational or treatment program before a conviction is entered. Upon completion of this program, the original charge is frequently dropped.

The Safety Administration believes that the most effective way to remove the drunken driver from the roads and to avoid such delays is license suspension before the defendant appears in court.

If the enforcement officer has obtained the necessary chemical test result showing an elevated blood alcohol concentration, the officer must serve the revocation of license notice on behalf of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Immediate test results permit serving the notice while the subject is in custody. The arresting officer should take possession of the driver's license at this time.

If the test results are not available immediately (and they should be), the enforcement officer forwards his findings to the Department.

Notice of revocation is mailed to the person involved, and it should clearly state the reasons therefore, the penalty; and the right to request an administrative review.

The period of license revocation depends upon the record of the accused individual. Without prior conviction, a suspension period of three months is recommended.

Should one or more such episodes be encountered at any time during the driving record of the immediately preceding five years, the period for loss of license should be one year.

Hardships imposed by revocation of the license should not be considered as ameliorating factors. The licensed driver should be made aware of these factors at the time a license to operate a motor vehicle is granted.

The application for such a license should contain a statement by which the driver-to-be recognizes that drunken driving will lead to a loss of license. He must sign this application to indicate that he is aware of the provision.

Automatic restoration of the license should not follow the termination of suspension. The Department of Motor Vehicles must be satisfied that the concerned individual has been made safe to drive. The cost of administration of the program should be recovered from the drivers who made it necessary.

Questions of procedural due process may be raised by the fact that a driver has a property interest in his license to operate a motor vehicle.

The Supreme Court has traditionally recognized certain areas: however, in which property may be seized summarily.

Maintenance of highway safety and prevention of automobile accidents are important interests of the State and license seizure to effect this desire has been ruled to be constitutional.

One other fact gleaned from the legal review provided by the Safety Administration is that suspension of a license while driving under the influence of liquor is completely independent of any criminal prosecution for the alleged offense.

The concept of double jeopardy does not apply to the civil action. Clear insight suggests that suspension of a license for drunken driving is remedial and not punitive. The purpose of the action is to remove a safety hazard from the road.

The program advocated by the Safety Commission to control drunken driving and the related unnecessary deaths is a sound approach to the solution of the problem.

Any number of individuals will fault this method of attack but the time has come for Maryland to initiate proper legislative action to rid the highways of drunken drivers.

The cry may be heard that the penality is too harsh and may deprive the head of the household from providing for his family.

Driving is a privilege which should be granted only to safe drivers, however, and if the household head is not sufficiently knowledgeable of his familial responsibilities, he should not be driving.

Actually, the State may act to preserve his life for his family.

Our legislature has had sufficient time to solve this problem. The suggested mode of action of the national administration provides a safe, legal means of action. Why does Maryland not act now?

JOSEPH M. MILLER, M.D.

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.