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The hospital workers strike

The anti - union climate that was fostered by President Reagan's breaking of the air traffic controllers union is intense. In the wake of Reagan's triumph over PATCO, threatened the postal workers' unions. If 1199E deserts the 60 workers dismissed from Sinai, other blows will follw in an attempt to finish off the weakened labor organization.

The acceptance by 1199E of an agreement with GMBC Hospital that allows the hospital to be an open shop is either an attempt at suicide or a complete capitulation to the hospital. If employees are continually hired who do not belong to the union, attrition will end the union.

Also, this capitulation is a blow to the entire union. If GMBC can cower the union, then the other hospitals and the nursing homes will be lining up with foaming mouths in anticipation of breaking the union at their institutions. It appears that 1199E is selling out.

The brief, but bitter strike carried out by Hospital Workers Union 1199E against Lutheran, Sinai and GBMC hospitals has been settled, but serious questions remain.

The hospital administrators claim that the strike was unnecessary and that the leaders of the union manipulated the rank and file into the confrontation. This is hard to believe because the strike came so close to the holiday season, the worst time for workers to be without their regular paychecks.

The union also showed its prudence by giving Provident Hospital an exemption from the strike because of the pernicious internal fighting at the facility.

An analysis of the action taken at Sinai Hospital concludes that there was an element of truth in the contention made by the union that the hospitals were intent on breaking the union.

Sinai's action of hiring 60 workers to replace some of the strikers while reaching an agreement is suspiciously like unionbusting. The workers voted as a local to go out on strike. The action of settling the strike and allowing the hospital to fire 60 of the strikers while retaining the rest is an act of capitulation that the union might not long survive.

The only strength the workers have is their collective actions. If 1199E deserts the 60 fired workers the union will lose all of its leverage. The firing was a divide and conquer tactic of the hospital. Distrust and divisiveness will be the result of letting the firings stand.

Provident still unsettled

Provident Hospital's stalemate continues. While the hospital hemorrhages financially from the doctor's boycott and the institution lives on borrowed time in terms of its labor agreement, the board of the hospital has fired the president who was not the object of the boycott in the first place.

Questions have been raised by this action that must be answered. First, why was the situation allowed to deteriorate to this point? Second, when the board was confronted with the possibility of a doctor's boycott, why did they not agree to at least part of the doctors' demands?

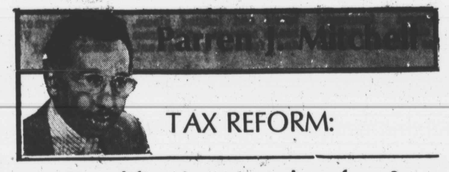
Third, why did the board remove Howard Jessamy when he had offered the solution of a joint resignation of himself and Dr. Saunders as a way of removing two subjects of controversy and allowing both of them to save face by saying that they stepped down for the good of the hospital.

The hospital workers union seems to be one of the few elements in the Provident Hospital mess that is willing to sacrifice even a little for the good of the hospital. They gave the hospital four months to settle internal conflicts.

If Dr. Saunders is indispensable to Provident, then he should assume the presidency. The board has consistently backed him in the controversy and refused to place his vice presidency under the authority of the president of the hospital. Let him take the top position and run Provident.

His job would be a most difficult one since most of the boycotting doctors express no great admiration for him.

Something must be done to save Provident Hospital and the actions taken by the board recently do not appear to be helping the situation at all.



TAX REFORM:

Simplification or subterfuge?

Although tax reform faces strong opposition, particularly from powerful special-interest groups that are certain to protest repeal of their favorite loopholes, the anger over perceived inequities in the tax code, plus revenues lost through non-compliance has created the impetus for action in the next Congress.

Nearly a dozen reform proposals, including one recently released by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, have surfaced as either reforms or alternatives to the current tax system.

These proposals range from a flat tax on income to a graduated tax on consumption. Most proposals claim to simplify the tax code to: make it easier for the IRS to administer and taxpayers to comply with, reduce the myriad of loopholes for tax lawyers and accountants to exploit; lower rates; and raise much more in revenues in order to narrow the budget deficits.

If you think this sounds too good to be true, you are right. Most people would not have lower tax bills, because the trade-off would be the loss of many current tax-cutting deductions, exclusions and credits.

Exactly which breaks you would give up and which assets you would find taxed vary from proposal to proposal. Let's look at a few of the more popular proposals.

The tax revisions receiving most attention can be divided into two categories; (1) those which would retain the basic structure of our current tax system — that is — based on taxing net income, and;

(2) those which would fundamentally alter the structure and would tax expenditures rather than income. The latter is called a consumption tax.

The idea of taxing consumer spending has gained much appeal as many begin to accept the fact that domestic spending cannot be reduced much more and a tax increase (or reform) is inevitable if we intend to help out debt-ridden Uncle Sam and remain competitive with other industrial nations.

While economists have long liked the idea of consumption taxes — including the European-style value-added tax — Congress has avoided them like the plague, and with good reason I might add.

The most common way to tax consumption is a transaction tax that would supplement the current income tax system. The federal government could either impose a national sales tax, similar to those now levied by many state and local governments;

Or a value-added tax (VAT), a kind of indirect sales tax paid by business, and ultimately consumers, on the "value added" to a product or service at each link in the production and distribution chain.

The VAT offers many advantages. It can raise huge amounts of money with relatively little pain, since it's levied in very small amounts on millions of different transactions,

Because international trade rules allow a VAT to be rebated to exporters in this country, it could ease America's seemingly chronic trade deficits problem.

There are, however, major drawbacks with VAT. For one, it would raise retail prices and hence spur inflation,

Another negative factor of a particular concern to me is that a VAT would be regressive — that is, all taxpayers would pay the same rates regardless of income.

It would place a heavier proportion of the tax burden on low-income persons because they spend a greater percentage of their income on necessities such as food, medical care and housing than do the wealthy.

This results as businesses pass along the tax at each stage in the form of higher prices until the product reaches the retail level and ultimately the consumer.

The other popular tax reform idea getting most attention these days is the "flat tax". All variations of the flat-tax theme share three basic objectives. They aim to simplify the tax system by doing away with most loopholes and by reducing the number of brackets,

They seek to make the system more fair by imposing the same tax liability on all taxpayers with roughly equal incomes, also accomplished by eliminating loopholes,

And they strive to increase economic activity by spurring productive labor and investment through lower rates.

The theory behind increased productive labor and investment is that people will work longer hours and invest in more enterprises when they are allowed to keep a greater percentage of what they earn.

In theory, the truly simplistic approach of the flat tax is hard to beat in terms of administration. In its purest form the flat tax would tax individuals and corporations at a single low rate, typically set to match current tax revenues.

It would make complicated rate schedules obsolete by wiping out write-offs and credits, except for a standard deduction and exemption for dependents, so filling out returns would be much easier.

However, the flat tax in its pure form has little of chance of being enacted by Congress.

Some modified version of the flat tax on income is most likely to get Congressional approval.

Senator Bradley and U.S. Representative Gephardt have a proposal which blends the essential components of a flat tax — lower rates and fewer loopholes — with the most popular features of the present system.

These include the widely used deductions, such as home-mortgage interest and charitable contributions, as well as a progressive rate structure that taxes people according to their ability to pay.

In short, taxpayers who are financially well-off would continue to pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes than would middle and lower-income people, and tax payments from various income groups would stay at roughly the same levels as they are now.

The specifics of the new proposal just released by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan — the so-called tax simplification plan — have just been issued, and it appears to closely resemble the Bradley-Gephardt proposal.

The Regan plan would create three new individual tax brackets of 15 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent. In return for lower rates, many present deductions, exemptions and other special provisions would be dropped from the code.

Only mortgage interest deductions would remain intact.

On the corporate tax side, the Regan plan would set corporate tax at 33 percent, down from the current 46 percent.

Because of the special provisions con-

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Letters

Long live Provident Hospital

It causes me great concern that the Provident Hospital staff physicians are not being spoken for during this crisis and turmoil at the hospital. There are those who may wonder why this is so, since they are certainly capable of speaking for themselves.

Rather than seeking self-glory, most of the physicians have been busy for many years demonstrating how they feel about Provident Hospital by, not only caring for the many patients who are admitted through the emergency room who have no insurance or assets to pay for them, but also by working hard to encourage their private patients who do have good benefits, to use the hospital facilities.

Unfortunately, we, as a people, tend to be distrustful of our own institutions.

Thereby, much of the burden has been placed on the individual physician to defend Provident when complaints are made by their patients (complaints that might never be noticed or expressed at one of the other hospitals), while seeing that each patient gets quality medical care.

This is where a cooperative effort with the hospital administration enters the picture.

The physicians must be heard by the administration and by the board of trustees because the physicians are usually the first to be made aware of problems - in all areas. There needs to be a smooth-working relationship for the good of the institution.

Lastly, it cannot be said that the physicians don't care about the hospital. It is this caring that precipitated their present action. There are many unsung, hard-working men and women among the staff physicians. Most of them gladly give far more to Provident than they have ever requested or received from the hospital.

Financially, they could surely do better at some other hospitals where most of the patients admitted through the Emergency Room have good-paying benefits, rather than the reverse being true, as at Provident.

It is unfortunate that there is no record kept of all of the free services rendered to the hospital by these physicians.

It needs to be noted that Provident Hospital is a source of pride for our physicians, as well as for the community at large. LONG LIVE PROVIDENT HOSPITAL - for at least 90 more years!

(Mrs.) Alice W. Russell, R.N.

Ethiopia and family feasting

The recurrent exposure to suffering and pain that television provides viewers eventually tends to numb our sensibilities. I thought I had become inured to the TV newscasts which depict so graphically the devastation wrought by the drought and the resultant death and horror in Africa.

Sometimes we want to say, "I've seen those pictures before . . . I realize this is happening in the world. .but enough, turn it off."

But we can't always "turn it off." The cameraman brought it all into focus again this past week. And I can't seem to make one picture go away.

It was a shot of a tiny child, frail, but with a huge head and a distended belly, a belly that rose and fell as he panted for breath. And the eyes, wide and staring, a milky blue in the brown emaciated face. That's the picture that won't go away for me.

That child didn't make it through the night according to the newsreporter. And there are going to be thousands more like him in the months ahead. So I would like to suggest one small way we all could help at this time of year, this time of religious celebration.

Let each one of us who is planning a festive family dinner figure what it will cost—and then send twenty-five percent of that amount to one of the African relief organizations. Will we be depriving our families?

Think a minute: Do we need stuffing AND mashed potatoes AND sweet potatoes AND rolls? Do we

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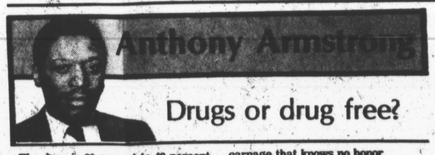


Anthony Armstrong

Drugs or drug free?

The dope is 30 percent to 40 percent pure, when 3 percent has generally been the best available in Baltimore and; the price is down. Together the purity and price signal the newest drug net to be thrown over Baltimore by profit crazed drug dealers.

If the ploy works as intended this latest net will snare a whole new market of users, all potential addicts.

A vicious struggle between dealers and narcotics agents had already begun to dangerously escalate and; now a police officer is dead - shot to death in the uncoordinated confusion of a drug raid.

This latest tragedy was no more than a cowards response yet; it comes at a time when the serious drug dealers are adopting more sizzling Latin style violence, where indiscriminate and rippingly graphic murder is the method of choice.

The dealers are starting to send a message borrowed from international terrorists. The message is, "We will create such an unacceptable level of violence that public pressure will force law enforcement people to back away from their current offensive."

With pure violence they are hoping to scare this city into submission.

Drug wars, be they dealer against dealer or dealer against the public (police included), are so ugly and messy because they are so internecine and, because the quest for money brings on carnage that knows no honor.

We know about the little kids, most still in elementary school, who are fast becoming the couriers of choice and; we know the subterfuge of the office or factory dealer who is always willing to give it to you "on your arm" until payday.

So much money is being made, by people who here-to-fore could only feel list in their pockets, that nothing is ever predictable in the drug business anymore.

Who are these people? Everyone can answer the question because we all know someone who is involved in the selling of drugs. What we can't answer is the question of why so many known dealers are able to succeed so long.

Is the answer money, fear, or both? Is there so much money that no matter how effective is the law that ten new dealers will pop-up for every dealer arrested; are we becoming so freightened that fear is winning the war?

Or, is the drug business becoming as passe as a flight of the Space Shuttle and, thus, just something we become enraged about only following the latest jolt to our dulled senses?

It's all such a terrible evasion, the public level of the problem we see and react to. The real problem with drugs is of course wrapped in disguise, false announcement and, deceit. Sure, catch the lowly street dealer.

From time to time catch a bigger "fish", take his fast Italian made car and gaudy furs and jewelry. While all the time the king pin drug dealers survive behind momentary excitement, the behavior of respectability and, layers and layers of intermediaries.

The business of selling drugs has long been international and interlocking. Yet drug kings hide behind so much that we envy that subconsciously we seem to need them because they fill a distorted hero vacuum in our national psyche.

We all want the dealer caught unless the dealer turns out to be our favorite movie star or the wife or husband of some well known person, who has earned our deference.

Deep inside our outrage is colored by our awe, our disgust is often itself disgusting because it is applied so selectively.

We know this and yet we hide it; the kids know it too and they say, "How you gonna criticize me?" This is not the first time that our society has come close to being shut down by drugs.

This is, however, the first time so much psychiatric avoidance has arisen about dealing with the problem, probably because so many of us don't really know if we want it dealt with or not.

Without drugs so many rags to riches stories could not happen; some of us don't want those stories to stop until we've been included on the "riches" side. Others are just afraid to know who on their hero list will be revealed next.

Abraham Lincoln, though in another context, once said, "A house divided against itself cannot long stand." The drug problem has created in Baltimore a house divided against itself.

Yes, catch the drug dealer but, leave mine alone. Stop the drugs at the docks, before they get to the public but; don't stop the incredible amounts of money that flow from its sale.

Well, once and for all, what's it gonna be - drugs or drug free?

Samuel L. Banks

Christmas 1984: Time of joy and pain

There is an infectious lilt and exquisite sense of happiness at this time of the year. The Christmas season has a remarkable way of transforming sorrows into joys; doubts and frustrations into assurance and confidence; anger into love; indecision into confidence; meanspiritedness into altruism and love. It is, indeed, a delicious, buoyant and redemptive time of the year. The supreme tragedy is that the loving and joyous thoughts associated with Christmas are ephemeral and pass too quickly.

The poet, William Wordsworth, offers a potent and urgent challenge for all of us:

The world is too much with us late and soon. Getting and spending we lay waste our powers.

In the frenetic rush and hustle associated with Christmas, there is a widespread tendency to focus on material rather than the deeper and more profound spiritual and universal significance of Christmas: The birth of the messiah over 1900 years ago in a lowly Manger (Stable) in Bethlehem. The point is well made in the hymn, "Joy to the world, The Lord is come."

However, the obsession with material things, rampant conviviality and "BOOGEYING DOWN" and other BREAD AND CIRCUS activities erode and diminish the spiritual meaning. It is, to be sure, a calamity that so many of us have misdirected our priorities. There is a troubling tendency, especially during this season of cheer and renewal, to MAJOR IN MINORS AND MINOR IN MAJORS. THE primary prescription remains the same: GET SERIOUS.

Christmas should evoke joy, happiness, radiancy and a pervasive sense of human possibilities. In essence, Christmas symbolizes and depicts, in the birth of Jesus Christ, a timeless and imperishable LIFE open to all who will accept "THE PEACE WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING." An acceptance imposes upon the receiver a moral and ethical imperative to witness, in season and out of season, for the MORE EXCELLENT WAY which is anchored in love of God and love of others.

The LOVE ETHIC is the yeast which should propel believers to speak boldly and unabashedly for the poor, the excluded, the dispossessed and the widening socio-economic underclass. You may wish to ponder, as Christmas approaches and a new year dawns, how you have helped to improve the quality of life in your immediate neighborhood and within the larger community. Have you been a victim or silence or vague and unfulfilled promises or have you taken the leap of faith and been a force for positive and constructive change? You can make a vital difference in this community if you will only believe in yourself and act now.

Amidst the contagious joy, timeliness and sober exhilaration of Christmas, there is an unsettling aura of pessimism, hurt, unease and pain. Too many of our brothers and sisters are unemployed; too many packed in penal institutions; too many black, Hispanic and poor children are programmed for failure in our nation's public schools; too many of our senior citizens, in their twilight years, worry about being forgotten and their meager resources being taken away.

The somber and demoralizing developments in Third World nations, especially in Ethiopia and India, the continuation of the vicious, brutal and dehumanizing system of apartheid in South Africa and the proposed budget cuts of President Ronald Wilson Reagan, focusing on social program, are sources of discontent and unrest. Nonetheless, as I have often indicated in this column, we must not capitulate to pity and depression.

We must, in spite of the hardships, privations, disappointments and cruelties visited upon us, muster the will and spirit to proclaim the universal, timeless and impregnable message: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.

May you have a most joyous and fulfilling Christmas and New Year. If we do not faint or grow weary in well-doing, through it all, We Shall Overcome.

—AFRO SURVEY—

Should striking workers be replaced by management?

James Douglass — Delores Miller — Shirley Jackson — Angela Jones

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Should employees be able to replace striking workers?"

James Douglass, 61 businessman, "No. You have been on a job for 18 years, and they hire someone to replace you. That's bad. It just does not work."

Delores Miller, 49, housewife, "People who have been working for years for a company are entitled to proper privileges, even if that includes extra money. Bosses should not try to replace workers on strike. I think they should make some serious attempts in their negotiating procedures to work it out."

Shirley Jackson, 48, housewife, "It is wrong. Workers should always have first preference. There must be two-way communication though. No one should be hired over committed workers."

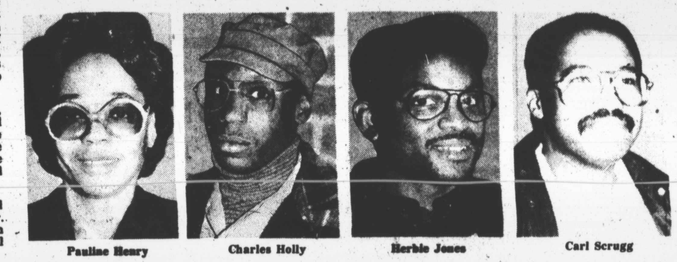
Angela Jones, 22, housekeeper, "No! That's bad. Employers should give them what they want. I would not be one to attempt to replace a striker. I just do not think it is right."

Pauline Henry, 36, nurse's aide, "Initially, I do not think it is fair or right for employers to replace strikers; however, it also depends on what the workers are striking for. There must be some effort by both parties to sit down and try to work out a realistic solution. I would never break a strike line. I mean, I have thought about it and even had the opportunity to do it, but I couldn't and just would not do it. I would not want it done to me."

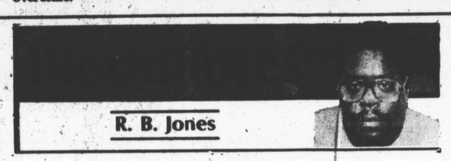
Charles Holly, 28, maintenance worker, "Indeed not. If you have been working for years for a particular job, maybe 20 years, then you are suppose to get more. I guess, though, that if push comes to shove, I'd eventually have to accept whatever is offered to me."

Herbie Jones, 31, student, "It is a trend of the times. When Reagan fired the air traffic controllers, every (boss) began using the tactic. It is unfair, especially in the midst of people trying to get what they think they deserve. In spite of that, unions are still as effective as ever. In fact, people must unify moreso to get what they want. They must cause economic difficulty to an establishment. Make them feel it."

Carl Scruggs, 34, psychology aide, "I think you have to look at the particular situation specifically. You must look at the type of stress created due to the strike. Management could very well be in order in its requests while on the other hand so could the workers. Under no circumstances, however, do I think workers should be replaced if it can at all be helped. I imagine some situations might leave no other choice."



Pauline Henry — Charles Holly — Herbie Jones — Carl Scrugg



R. B. Jones

Execution

America has a phobia about death that is very unbecoming of a nation that has so much blood on its hands. This country has in its brief, but often murderous history, utilized genocide as government policy toward subject peoples, elevated potentially lethal sports to national past times and made simulated murder and mayhem, part of the daily entertainment of almost all the households in this country.

Thousands upon thousands of Americans are murdered each year for passion and profit. The slaughter is widespread on the highways as many people kill and maim themselves and others through the irresponsible mixture of cars, alcohol and carelessness.

Until very recently black people were lynched with the implicit approval of the government. They were shot, hanged, burned alive and otherwise killed almost as a form of spectator sport. Now the lynching is done through entrapment in pathological social conditions.

Yet it is ironic that this nation with its propensity for violence is so squeamish about death. People in America dress it up in euphemisms, but the stench and finality of death remains. People don't die, they pass away. Corpses are prettified so that they look just like they are asleep. Pets are put to sleep.

It is fascinating to me to live in a predominately religious nation, full of various faiths that profess the belief in the after life which also features so many people afraid of even discussing the subject. It would seem that the inevitability of death would make it easier to deal with.

I suppose the sanitizing of death makes it seem less real and more like an escapable fate. That's why the countless television violent deaths produce very little blood and a minimum of suffering. A clean neat demise seems like the deceased can get up again. An ugly painful death is frightening to Americans.

That is why I'm puzzled by the failure of America to televise its executions. Supposedly, most Americans support capital punishment in at least some of the worst cases of murder.

Capital punishment basically serves three functions. It is revenge on the convicted felon. It is supposedly a deterrent to other would-be lawbreakers. Finally, it is a way of removing the possibility that the convicted felon will ever commit a similar crime again.

All those functions would be served by public executions. Families and friends of murder victims could savor their revenge and even videotape the event for future viewing, if their stomachs could stand it. Perhaps the advent of injection executions will be the first step towards televising the executions. It's less dramatic but aesthetically more in line with televisions standards.

Of course a more gruesome t.v. execution would frighten more would be killers, according to the deterrent theorists, but as someone once said there is no good way to die. The felon would be just as dead. And a dead person would never be able to repeat his crime. Only the nasty possibility of wrongful conviction could mar the proceedings.

On Wednesday, Georgia authorities had to shoot two 2080 volt charges of electricity through convicted murderer "Sonny Boy" Stephens because the first surge didn't kill him. Televising that would have been quite a deterrent to potential killers I'm sure.

I oppose capital punishment because we do not have equal justice in this society. If the proponents of executions are sincere then they should do their work publicly. Let the executioners and their proponents show all the world their handiwork.

COMMENTARY: There is a chasm at Provident Hospital

By Verda Welcome

There is a chasm at Provident in need of a bridge!

We all remember the struggle put up by the black community, the legislators, both black and white, the governor who offered a sympathetic ear and gave full support helping to raise the funds needed to build the New Provident Hospital.

How pleased we were on the dedication day! Together, we had built a bridge over the chasm of neglect.

Now there is an unnecessary chasm of a deadlier dimension at Provident. One that could destroy the institution.

Unfortunately, we have a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees who are charged with the responsibility of operating Provident efficiently, banding together to save the job of one person, while ignoring the jobs of 243 people who are to be dismissed immediately.

Also, jeopardizing "the jobs of over a thousand persons employed by the hospital"; plus ignoring the imminent danger of the hospital going into hands of a receivership.

Yes, there is a chasm in need of a bridge at Provident.

To think that one person could step out of the way now and settle the controversy which continues to deepen the chasm, is unbelievable. And to think that the Board condones his refusal to do so is also unbelievable.

This unfortunate situation at Provident has caused me to reflect on a prediction made by my late husband, Dr. Henry C. Welcome, just prior to his death in 1979.

I recall distinctly his coming in from making rounds at the hospital very disturbed. Upon inquiring what the problem was, he responded: "Oakley Saunders will cause the destruction of Provident Hospital if he isn't stopped."

I thought his statement was rather rash and ask "how one individual could destroy an institution like Provident. What would the Board of Directors be doing while this was happening?"

I thought my husband was over wrought by some minor incident and dismissed the thought. It never occurred to me again until this latest development.

Now, I have learned that in every "fight" or serious disagreement involving management-policies Dr. Saunders is in the middle of it.

This is strange but true. I am now afraid that Dr. Welcome's prediction is about to become a reality.

As an honorary member of the Board, I have the privilege of attending its meetings. When I read of the serious factional fight going on between the hospital administrators and the doctors, I decided to attend the next Board meeting.

To my dismay, I discovered that something was indeed wrong! It was not a matter of taking sides, it was a matter of what was right to save the hospital.

The "Hospital does have an appropriate governance structure requiring performance and accountability of the President and Vice President of Medical Affairs."

Therefore, "the performance evaluation criteria could have easily been established, based on the enumerated duties and responsibilities, and the goals and objectives of the hospital."

So, the by-laws and regulations spell out the direction for board action.

It was simple to use the guidelines already proven workable; but, I found the board split with the majority leaning heavily toward Dr. Oakley Saunders' position.

At that time, the board had the option and the power to settle the problem in a just manner. Instead, it voted, in essence, to prolong and complicate the situation - the welfare of Provident was not considered.

Again, one individual became more important than the institution. We now hear the doctors saying:

"We have complained over a number of years about certain conditions. We have had enough, and will take no more from Dr. Oakley Saunders."

The Board of Directors should listen. No one person should be permitted to become a little Hitler, if the hospital is to survive.

If the community loses Provident Hospital, the Board of Trustees will be the bottom line perpetrators Oakley Saunders will have to bear his share of guilt.

He should resign now before it is too late. The dissenting members of the Board of Directors should also resign. They have done enough damage.

Yes, there is a chasm at Provident in need of a bridge. Let's not dig it any deeper.

—Tax reform

Continued from Page 4

tained in the present tax structure, including accelerated depreciation, which was the centerpiece of Reagan's 1981 tax cut, the effective corporate tax rate is much lower now than 46 percent.

As reported, the result of this plan would be to increase corporate taxes in 1986 by roughly one-fourth while decreasing individual taxes by about the same amount.

No one knows for sure which, if any, reform measure or new tax will ultimately be enacted. But one thing is certain, revenues will have to be increased to offset increases in federal spending.

Reagan would have us think that economic growth coupled with domestic spending cuts will solve all our problems, and there is no need to cut defense, social security, or medicaid and medicare.

Realistically, however, we know that this is not the case. We shall soon see whether the tax simplification plan is simply subterfuge for a tax increase.

—Ethiopia and family

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really have to have mince pie AND pumpkin pie AND whipped cream AND fruit cake?

If you have a mental picture of that panting child and of those beseeching eyes, the thought of an overloaded holiday table becomes obscene.

There is in Baltimore a group called Clergy and Laity Concerned. The emergency task force on Ethiopia which they have established is a coalitio of twelve interfaith groups. Their address 10 E. Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore, 21202. They are one of the groups which you might consider for your 25 percent holiday donation.

Norma K. Fulton