Annapolis alderman wants club crackdown

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — City Alderman Carl Snowden proposed a bill Monday that would force private clubs to accept women and Blacks as members — or lose their liquor license.

The legislation would give the city's Alcohol Beverage Control Board power to investigate allegations of discrimination and revoke licenses for clubs that exclude members on the basis of sex, race, religion or national origin.

The bill would affect the gathering places of some of Maryland's most influential citizens.

Judges, lawyers, politicians and businessmen belong to the Annapolitan Club, the Elks Club and the Annapolis Yacht Club, organizations that exclude Blacks and women, or both, by policy or practice.

A fourth group, the Eastport Democratic Club, has only White male members.

"Liquor licenses are the cash cows of private clubs," Snowden said. "They thrive on them."

Snowden introduced a similar bill four years ago but it was rejected on a 5-4 vote. At the time, opponents argued the provision would violate constitutional guarantees of free association.

But since then, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a New York City law that prohibits certain private clubs from discriminating in their membership policies.

In New York, any club that has more than 400 members, serves drinks and meals and derives a substantial part of its income from non-members is considered a commercial enterprise and must be open to the public.

Snowden expects the high court decision to help his case this year, and notes that five of the nine council members are Blacks or women and should be supportive.

The alderman also said he expected the city's new mayor, Alfred Hopkins, to support the bill, although Hopkins voted against it as an alderman in 1986.

Hopkins said he would have to read the bill before he decided whether to support it.

Although he does not believe clubs should be allowed to discriminate on the basis of race, Hopkins told Monday's Baltimore Sun he does not see anything wrong with an organization like the Knights of Columbus, which restricts its members to Roman Catholics.

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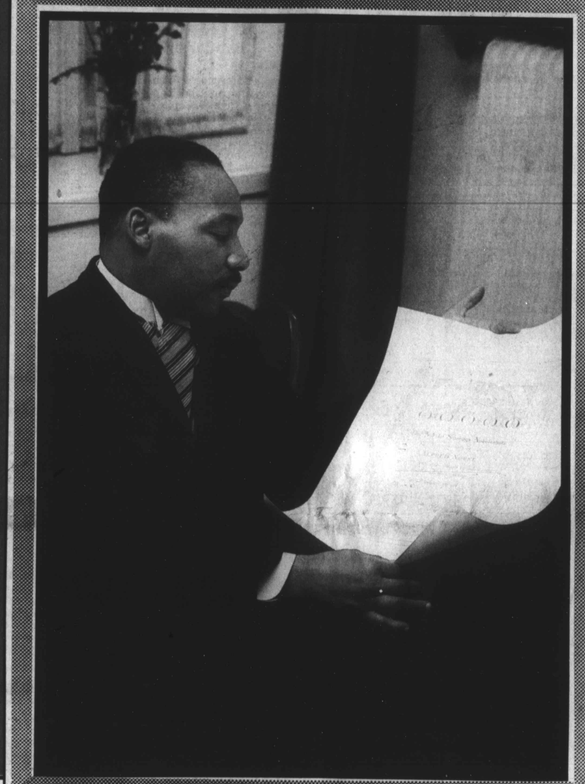
The Afro-American
Saturday, January 13, 1990
Section B

'SALUTE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING'



NOBEL PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

December 10, 1964
Oslo, Norway
Your Majesty, your Royal Highness, Mr. President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

I accept the Nobel Prize for Peace at a moment when twenty - two million Negroes of the United States of America are engaged in a creative battle to end the long night of racial injustice. I accept this award in behalf of a civil rights movement which is moving with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice.

I am mindful that only yesterday in Birmingham, Alabama, our children, crying out for brotherhood, were answered with fire hoses, snarling dogs and even death. I am mindful that only yesterday in Philadelphia, Mississippi, young people seeking to secure the right to vote were brutalized and murdered.

I am mindful that debilitating and grinding poverty afflicts my people and chains them to the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

Therefore, I must ask why this prize is awarded to a movement which is beleaguered and committed to unrelenting struggle: to a movement which has not won the very peace and brotherhood which is the essence of the Nobel Prize.

After contemplation, I conclude that this award which I received on behalf of that movement is profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time — the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression.

Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts. Negroes of the United States, following the people of India, have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood.

Excerpts

If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

The tortuous road which has led from Montgomery, Alabama, to Oslo bears witness to this truth. This is the road over which millions of Negroes are traveling to find a new sense of dignity. This same road has opened for all Americans a new era of progress and hope. It has led to a new civil rights bill, and it will, I am convinced, be widened and lengthened into a superhighway of justice as Negro and White men in increasing numbers create alliances to overcome their common problems.

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept the idea that the "essence" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him.

I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life which surrounds him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brigher tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood - flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men.

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self - centered men have torn down, other - centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome.

I think Alfred Nobel would know what I mean when I say that I accept this award in the spirit of a curator of some precious heirloom which he holds in trust for its true owners — all those to whom beauty is truth and truth beauty — and in whose eyes the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more serious than diamonds or silver or gold.