

In the mid-seventeenth century, Blackstone laid down the rule that "The liberty of the press . . . consists in laying no *previous* restraint upon publications and not in freedom from censure for criminal matters when published. Every freeman has an undoubted right to lay what sentiments he pleases before the public; to forbid this is to destroy the freedom of the press; but if he publishes what is improper, mischievous or illegal, he must take the consequence of his own temerity."

The dual concept of freedom and responsibility has become a cornerstone of American liberty. The very first amendment in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States proclaims that "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press . . ." In Maryland, Article 40 of the Declaration of Rights says similarly "that the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved; that every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege."

We congratulate the Maryland Press Association and the newspapers of Maryland for their great role in disseminating information to our people, and for their fine record in observing the responsibilities as well as the privileges of journalism; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That this body reaffirms its steadfast belief in the priceless American heritage of freedom of the press and commends the Maryland Press Association for its part in promoting the high standards of its great profession; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Secretary of State of Maryland be directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Maryland Press Association, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland.*

Approved April 4, 1958.

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No. 16

(Senate Joint Resolution 22)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting that all agencies spending State or other public funds on public works projects so prepare their specifications that certain preference be given to the employment of Maryland residents and requesting the Board of Public Works to coordinate and cooperate with the State agencies in the preparation of a proper specification on which bids are based.

WHEREAS, because of the existing business recession many residents of this State are without employment and it is believed to be

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.