

16 September 1994, 54 Fayette St. Cambridge Ma. 02139

To: Letter to Editor,

cc.: SPOA, MHC, Cambridge City COUNCIL

Subject: Unsolicited Advice on Proposition 9 and People of Low, Moderate, and Fixed Income

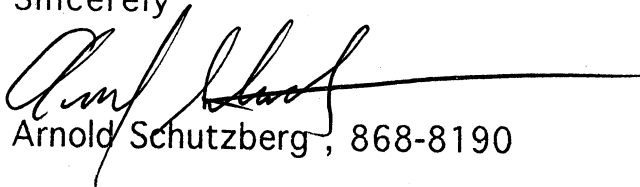
A perception (or misperception) poses a serious threat to the passage of proposition 9, the elimination of rent control. This perception is that significant injury to many low, moderate, and fixed income families or elderly may result on passage. Many voters fear the harming of this fragile population by voting yes. This justified concern may provide the margin of votes which may cause the failure of proposition passage.

It is highly likely that the individually affected cities of Boston, Brookline , and Cambridge will apply and get relief from the legislature to aid this specific target population. It will be very difficult to convince the cynical public to have the confidence that the politicians will do this. Despite the progress made by Boston and Brookline, political ineptitude was at the source of the problem and dominates the Cambridge situation.

To overcome the only hurdle to passage and relegate the "Greed" invective to the dustbin of history as "red herring," a significant number of Cambridge property owners must take the initiative and lead the way. They must dedicate a pool of housing at affordable rents to the existant long term resident target population. This action must be a timely, sufficient, non-revokable, legal commitment without any strings on governmental action exept for social agency identification and certification of individual tenants.

Organization of Cambridge owners may be sufficient to preempt the opposition, embarrass the politicians to act, turn the tide, mobilize the knowledgeable but sensitive electorate, and remove of this specious but powerfully emotional argument. It may even get the statewide influential Globe which is rumored to be considering coming out against the proposition to either support it or at least remain neutral.

Sincerely


Arnold Schutzberg, 868-8190

Consent Comm. # 3 8-403

Comm. from Arnold Schutzberg regarding
unsolicited advice on Proposition 9
and people of low, moderate and fixed
income.

In City Council,

Sept. 26, 1994

Placed on file