

1 July 77

Le Monde 25 June 77 p. 6: Penalties for fraude

(See 1 July 77 notes on the law in question generally)

Complementary penalties ^{grave} for fraude proposed were

- 1) temporary prohibition to practice the industrial, commercial, liberal ^{Profession}
- 2) SUSPENSION OF DRIVERS LICENSE!! Lots of amendments to the latter offered, concerning the conditions under which it would apply, length of the suspension, etc. It is manifestly clear that ~~the~~ driving a car is a fundamental element in the status of Frenchmen (and I don't include women - just men), an element of machismo which a man would really suffer badly by losing. It is not a question of bad economic disablement (as co^{th} , against the person's profession), since France has one of the best public transportation systems in the world. It is really only machismo at issue.

The first proposal mentioned, to suspend the practice of one's business, is, on the other hand, far more drastic than I can imagine being ever considered in the U.S.A. This is to condemn the individual to a kind of poverty for some years -- or would it? Does it assume that anyone in these high classes necessarily has wealth on which to fall back, and thus the indirect effect of the law would be to tax wealth.