Clark challenges FBI on King wiretap rumor

NEW YORK (UPI) — Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark challenged the FBI to reveal the truth about rumors "that tapes from bugs secretly installed in hotel rooms used by Dr. Martin Luther King were played to publishers, senators and others."

"The people of the United States should know whether this is true. Their government should tell them," Clark said.

Clark issued his challenge in a copyrighted article in McCall's Magazine released last week.

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"The risk of leaks, blacklists and blackmail arising from the existence of so much data is extremely high," Clark said.

"Eavesdropping brings out the worst in human nature. Clearly irrelevant to most crime — murder, mugging, robbery, rape, burglary, theft — it is used to seek unknown facts about known people. Often it is guided by the prejudices of those who would overhear.

"That the FBI would tap the phones and bug the hotel rooms of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. should tell us all we need to know about the desirability of those practices," Clark said. He said King was "a public man, his conduct open."

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Clark said, "the risks of surreptitious police surveillance of such a leader are immense. It is the act of an incipient police state."

The former attorney general said eavesdropping destroys confidence and instills a fear of government and fellow citizen. It corrupts the investigator who uses it and compels greater cunning among those who will commit crime anyway.

CLEVELAND'S new police chief, William Ellenburg, 50, left, with Mayor Carl B. Stokes, after being sworn in at City Hall, Monday. Ellenburg, a veteran Detroit police executive replaced police chief Patrick Gerity who was fired because of rising crime rate. Mayor Stokes said, "No major city in the United States even comes close to that (Cleveland's) horrendous figure." (UPI Telephoto)

End to 'harassment' in Ala. sought in court by Muslims

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A three-judge federal panel was asked last week to intervene in a case in which Black Muslims are accused of driving cattle to a church site on Sundays and permitting them to "moo during the service."

The Muslims asked the court to prevent the Pine Forest Missionary Baptist Church from proceeding with a $250,000 suit against them.

The church property adjoins the land the Muslims have purchased near Pell City, and the church claims the Muslims purposely have driven cattle nearby to interrupt services.

The purchase of land in the state for Muslim farms in recent weeks has led to other legal actions, including a series of arrests of white authorities under such laws as one outlawing "Nazis, Muslims and Communists."

The court was also asked to permanently enjoin Alabama and St. Clair County from prosecuting persons involved in the sale of land to the Muslims, and to declare unconstitutional state laws which require Muslims to register when they come to the state.

Parties to one land sale were arrested as "agents of a foreign power."

Previously the court temporarily enjoined Alabama officials from prosecuting those allegedly involved in the land deal, but the Muslims requested the injunction be made permanent.

The judges took the motions under advisement, but a ruling was not expected for at least 30 days — thus giving both sides additional time to file briefs in the case.

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The suit was brought by John D. Wallace and Joe Sledge, members of the Birmingham Muslims; Orzell Billingsley Jr., a Birmingham attorney; and Jimmy Holmes, a Georgia employee of the Muslims.

Wallace and Sledge were accused of failing to register as Muslims when they entered the state. Holmes was charged with trespassing and Billingsley was charged with representing a corporation (the Muslims) not licensed to do business in the state.

George Dean, an attorney for the Muslims, charged "the officials were looking for ways to prosecute these men."

Dean charged Gov. Albert P. Brewer and Atty. Gen. MacDonald Gallion "have lone things to inflame the situation."

He charged Callion had issued press releases asking the public to report to his office Muslims' attempts to buy land.

In a related action, the United Klans of America revealed plans last week to lease about 1,000 acres of land as a "buffer zone" around Muslim farms in the state.

Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton, recently released from federal prison, said the Klan has no plans for use of the leased land in St. Clair County.

He said the Klan just wants to be in a position "to know what's going on."

The Muslims plan to farm the land to obtain produce for shipment to their stores in the ghettos of northern cities.

AF boss probes plane manufacturer

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Robert Seamans Jr., secretary of the Air Force, began a personal investigation Friday into allegations that McDonnell Douglas Corp. does not comply with federal standards on Equal Employment.

The McDonnell plant here, which employs 35,000 persons, was awarded a $7 billion contract for F-15 fighter planes Dec. 23.

Rep. William L. Clay, D-Mo., has criticized the huge aircraft manufacturer for not hiring more blacks.

Company officials have consistently maintained that their employment breakdown along racial lines complies with federal regulations for recipients of government contracts.

Seamans flew here Friday from Puerto Rico, where he was attending an Air Force commanders conference, and immediately went into a meeting with James S. McDonnell, founder and chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corp., and Sanford McDonnell, president of McDonnell Aircraft.

Reluctant Dixie complies with desegregation order

ATLANTA (UPI) — Even the Feb. 1 school desegregation deadline has passed an unbelieving South continues to voice discontent despite dwindling hopes of a legal victory.

Florida Gov. Claude Kirk, a leader in the South's battle to ease effects of the Supreme Court's order for immediate desegregation, Friday issued an executive order warning school officials in two Florida counties they could be suspended if they meet the court's Feb. 1 deadline. Kirk could be cited with contempt of court for issuing the order.

Earlier last week, the high court refused to consider a suit by Florida seeking to force the federal government to apply the same school desegregation standards to all 50 states.

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A similar suit filed by the state of Alabama is still pending.

Kirk filed a petition with U.S. District Judge C. Clyde Atkins in Miami earlier Friday seeking the legal definition of a "unitary school system," contending it otherwise would be impossible to comply with integration orders.

The court did not rule specifically on Kirk's petition, but it denied a similar plea by the Dade County (Fla.) School Board.

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In another instance of last-minute legal maneuvering, Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox Thursday sued the federal government in seeking relief from the desegregation orders.

The Georgia suit claims that endorcement of racial quotas violates the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the due process and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

In addition, the Georgia governor urged students and teachers to boycott schools rather than submit to racial quotas.

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Mississippi Gov. John Bell Williams, in a similar demonstration of vocal opposition, proclaimed last Friday "Freedom of Choice" Day.

He said the vast majority of Mississippi citizens have been denied freedom of choice in the selection of schools for their children.

Despite a statement by Sen. Strom Thurmond, leaders whose comments "serve only to encourage Integrationists," South Carolina Gov. Robert McNair joined North Carolina Gov. Bob Scott in urging citizens to comply with the desegregation order.

Explained McNair, "There is nothing we can do we have not already done. This is the time to subscribe to the policy of law and order and respect for the law we have all talked about."

South Carolina officials of the NAACP made their first public comment on the court order Wednesday, calling them "nothing new."

The Rev. M. C. McColl0m, state NAACP chairman, told a news conference that while complaints of busing to achieve racial balance in the two school systems are a meaningless furor.

"Busing has been used in this state in the past to perpetuate racism, and the order offers the chance to move from unconscionable racism to something more democratic."

In other school desegregation developments Friday, a federal judge in Tallahassee, Fla., approved a Feb. 1 desegregation plan for students and faculty in Bay County, but permitted Leon County to delay until September pupil integration.

A formal order was handed down by U.S. District Judge Frank A. Hooper in Atlanta directing that facilities in the city school system be integrated on a 57 per cent black, 43 per cent white basis beginning March 5.

Hooper delayed until Tuesday a hearing on realignment of school zones, which will determine student integration.

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In Mobile, Ala., the county school board issued a statement advising the federal courts it could not "in good conscience" revise its plan for desegregation by Feb. 1. The courts now must decide what further steps to take.

U.S. District Judge James B. McMillan is expected to order into effect plans for desegregating the Charlotte — Mecklenburg schools, North Carolina's largest system with about 84,000 students.

students. The hearing is scheduled for Monday.

'Private eye' awarded rights to Ray's weapon

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — A private investigator was last week awarded damages of $6,625.34 — including possible rights to the gun that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — to pay for the more than 1,000 hours he claimed he worked in defense of James Earl Ray.

Chancellor Charles Nearn said Renfro T. Hays should be paid a fee of $4,850 and expenses of $1,775.34 for the work he performed for attorney Arthur J. Hanes Sr., Birmingham, Ala., who represented Ray in 1968. Hays had asked damages of $11,046.84.

Hanes was dismissed from the case in November, 1968, and attorney Percy Foreman retained by Ray before he ultimately pleaded guilty March 10, 1969 to the slaying of Dr. King in exchange for a 99-year prison term.

However, the suit named only Ray. The award would give Hays the right — should the state ever release them — to attach a 1966 white Mustang automobile and a 30.06 Remington rifle the police said Ray used in the King slaying here on April 4, 1968.

The car and the rifle remain in the custody of the Shelby County district attorney general's office, to be used as evidence should Ray be successful in winning a new trial.

C. M. Murphy, Hays' attorney, introduced as evidence a letter, dated March 27, 1969, written to Hays by Ray in which Ray conceded that the investigator "should be paid for whatever work you performed."

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"I'm not familiar with the work you have done," Ray wrote, "but I believe if it was performed you should be paid."

Hays, estimating that his time was worth $6 an hour, said he spent 1,139 hours in compiling evidence in the Ray case.

Attorney Richard J. Ryan, representing Ray, said there was no evidence before the court to show that Hays had performed the work he claimed.

Ryan further argued that Hays was paid for a magazine article which was published after Ray pleaded guilty.

Panthers file suit, may train in Jordan

A federal suit by Davis Hilliard, Black Panthers chief of staff, in San Francisco and a report of training plans in Jordan were revealed last week.

But in Chicago, a grand jury indicted seven party members on charges of attempted murder and armed violence in the Dec. 4 shootout in which two Panthers were killed.

The seven will appear before circuit court Judge Joseph A. Power Friday. Bail recommendations were $35,000 for one defendant, $25,000 for four and $15,000 for two women.

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Hilliard asked in a suit filed in U.S. District Court that Atty. Gen. John Mitchell be restrained from "impeding, intimidating and hindering" the Panthers in the exercise of their constitutional rights

Mitchell has set up a special task force to destroy the party, Hilliard said.

The suit also asked that the federal law which makes it a crime to threaten to kill the President be struck down as unconstitutional.

Hilliard filed the suit through his attorney, Charles Garry, on the same day he came before a federal judge for setting of a trial date on charges he threatened to kill President Nixon last Nov. 15.

U.S. District Judge Alfred C. Wollenberg, presiding over the charge against Hilliard, put off setting the trial date until March 20 on Garry's argument that the constitutional challenge should take precedent.

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Hilliard's lawsuit, assigned to Judge Alfonso Zirpoli, another member of the panel for the Northern District of California, named Mitchell as defendant along with two Washington Justice Department officials.

The Panthers and the Arab Fatah guerrilla organization are establishing "close ties of solidarity" and discussing possibilities of Arabs training Panther members in guerrilla war tactics, CBS news reported Friday night.

CBS News correspondent Richard C. Hottelet said a Fatah spokesman had told him the next step in the discussion was for Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, now in Algiers, to go to Jordan for further talks.

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Hottelet said the spokesman told him Arab leaders are giving serious consideration to training Black Panthers on Fatah bases and have them actually take part in Arab operations in the Middle East.

Hottelet said the Panther training would include that in combat, sabotage and other tactics. Hottelet said the spokesman told him:

"When the time comes, the Panthers will carry out quick and deep strikes in the United States, assassinations of men responsible for the policy of discrimination, from high to low, and sabotage to factories and capitalist installations."

The seven indicted Chicagoans were occupants of a West Side apartment which police raided in a search for weapons. Fred Hampton, Illinois chairman of the Panthers, and Mark Clark, a downstate Panther leader, were killed.

Police charged they were fired upon as they entered the apartment. Panther spokesmen said the police opened fire and that Hampton was shot as he slept in bed.

Miles College alumni push annual fund drive

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — If Miles College alumni succeed in raising $60,000 it will go into the college's general operating fund, according to Benny McGhee, president, National Alumni Association, and Dr. P. D. Jackson, president, Birmingham Alumni Chapter.

In a joint statement last week they said, "We are trying to raise our share of the $2,786,000 budget which officers and trustees of the college approved for this year."

They added that every graduate and former student whose whereabouts are known by the college will be contacted and asked for a contribution.

Area chairmen will comb various sections of the city and county in an effort to provide alumni the opportunity to make direct contributions. Area chairmen are Mrs. Earlene Ellison, area one; Miss Daisy Winston, area two; Mrs. Thelma Catlin, area three; and E. W. Windham, area four.

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Campaign leaders are urging alumni to enroll in either of the three clubs of donors — the Century Club, whose members will contribute $100 each; the Gold Bond Alumni Couple Club, in which each couple will give $500 and the President's Club, whose members will give $1,000 each.

If the goal for the campaign is reached, it will represent the largest contribution ever made by alumni of Miles College on a single occasion. The previous high of $46,000 was contributed last year.

The drive is scheduled to close March 20 with an alumni banquet at the Parliament House in downtown Birmingham.

The speaker will be Dr. Luther S. Williams, alumnus '67, and presently professor of biology at Atlanta University.

Ex-grid star to get seat on Wall St.

NEW YORK (UPI — Former college football star Joseph L. Searles III says he's "overwhelmed" at the prospects of becoming the first black man to have a membership on the New York Stock Exchange.

"It's a personal challenge to me as a black man to become part of the economic mainstream of this country," the Asheville, N.C., native said last week.

Searles resigned his post with the city's Economic Development Administration to join the brokerage firm of Newburger, Loeb and Co. His admission to the exchange requires a two-thirds vote of the board of directors. Sources have indicated the 30-year-old Searles will be approved.

Searles played football at Kansas State University and graduated in 1963 with a B.A. in political science. He was in the top 10 per cent of his class.

Prior to joining the administration of Mayor John V. Lindsay in 1967, Searles worked with several government departments in Washington.

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Forced Exodus Of Aliens Causes Much Ill Will Toward Ghana

By CAMERON DUODU

ACCRA, Ghana (UPI) — For many non-natives who have made Ghana their home for decades, recent weeks have been a nightmare.

The Ghana government, having decided that the pressure of economic and social factors dictated a reduction in population, turned its attention to aliens.

"We are a country with an external debt of about 300 million pounds sterling ($720 million)," announced Deputy Minister of the Interior Kwaku Baah. "We have a rising population and a well nigh explosive unemployment problem. If we are going to reduce our indebtedness or reduce the cost of living, we will necessarily have to reduce the number of mouths we have to feed. Since we have no money we are compelled to choose the latter alternative: reduce the number of guests."

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The country's alien population was estimated at about two million. Ghana officials explained that a high proportion of criminals serving sentences were alien.

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Having decided to reduce the number of alien mouths to feed, the Ghana government in December devised the relatively simple method of asking all aliens who did not possess residence permits to obtain them within a fortnight or else leave the country. Its reason for the short notice given was that six months before, the then government had asked foreign embassies to issue identification papers to their nationals, as many had managed to enter the country without any papers whatsoever.

Apparently, the embassies had not taken much notice of the request to register their citizens, or, if they had asked their citizens to come for papers, this had not been heeded. For when it became clear that the Ghana government would, after its deadline had expired, order the arrest and deportation of aliens without residence permits, the foreign embassies were besieged.

The embassies which bore the brunt of the siege were those of Ghana's immediate neighbors: Togo, Dahomey, Upper Volta, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Niger Republic, Mali and Senegal. So large were the crowds that milled around the precincts of the embassies that their staffs were hard put to it to enter or leave their offices.

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Those aliens who managed to receive documents from their embassies had to obtain a tax clearance certificate from the Ghana Internal Revenue Department before they could apply to the Ministry of the Interior for their residence permits. The two departments were literally driven out of their offices by the pressure that ensued: they had to set up camp at the Accra Sports stadium.

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But it was the aliens who decided to leave Ghana forthwith who suffered the most. Their offers had to obtain international certificates, but as they had packed themselves into the trucks beforehand, any delays meant they had to sleep at the roadside. Some of the trucks broke down on the way to the borders. Others were involved in accidents. When the aliens reached the border posts, they found that sometimes the line of trucks stretched for two miles or more.

At Aflao, on the Ghana-Togo border, was the worst hit, for Togolese, Dahomeyans, Nigerians and Niger Republic nationals all had to pass there on their way home. Such was the pressure on food, water and public facilities that for a time the Togolese authorities closed the border and would only allow Togolese nationals through.

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Those who had managed to enter Togo faced another problem when the Dahomey armed forces chose that moment to depose their president. Such were the distressing stories that reached Nigeria from Togo that the boat, "King Jaja," which had been asked to go to the Ghana port of Tema to fetch some Nigerians, had to be diverted to Lome.

With the exodus producing so much misery, the Ghana authorities were forced to institute relief programs. Three camps were opened at Aflao alone, where the Ghana army provided rations three times a day for the travelers. Water tanks were brought and emergency toilet facilities rigged up. All time-wasting emigration formalities were eliminated.

Similar camps were set up on all the border posts, and near Accra, at a gliding school at Afienya, those who had been delayed by licensing difficulties were provided shelter and food. As a result of the diversion of the "King Jaja" from Tema, a large crowd had built up at the port, and since it is only a few miles from the Afienya camp, the authorities managed, after meeting with some initial resistance, to evacuate them to the camp to wait for the boat.

The foreign ministers of Togo, Niger Republic and Nigeria have all visited Ghana to express their concern at the hardship that has been inflicted on their nationals. The Ghana welfare measures impressed them, but it is quite clear that diplomatic relations between their countries and Ghana are at a rather low ebb. Before the exercise is over, therefore, Ghana would have been put to some expense, both as regards her good name and the diversion of army rations to feed the needy travelers.

Also, many of those who have left were farmlaborers, loaders and other workers engaged in areas of labor that are generally frowned upon by Ghanaians. Others are specialists — Nigerians make very good butchers, Dahomeyans are good washermen while Niger nationals excel in the trade in yams. The state of the markets in Ghana's big towns at the moment shows that a vacuum has been created which will take some time to fill.

But over and above the economic considerations are the social implications of the exodus. There have been instances where an alien man has had to divide the children from his marriage to a Ghanian woman with the woman before departing.

There have also been instances where the children of immigrants, whose parents are now dead and who have not much knowledge of their origins, have not found it easy to decide whether to stay or to go. This is because even though the government says special consideration will be given to all those born here, the unemployed among them are not willing to go forward to apply for residence permits, in case they are refused.

To many who had made Ghana their home for decades, therefore, life since mid-December has been a nightmare, probably exceeding in gravity the dark hints which demographers make when they speak about the population explosion that is sure to afflict the under-developed world before the end of the 20th witnessed even this mild form of it can only hope that economic cooperation between the have and have-viate the pain of it all.

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Durham man fined for firearms

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (UPI) — A Durham man convicted of firearms and curfew violations during racial trouble here last fall was fined and given a suspended jail sentence last week.

Superior Court Judge William Grist fined Preston Eugene Dobbins, 25, on the curfew violation charge and gave him a six months suspended jail term on the firearms count. He also ordered Dobbins placed on probation for three years.

Defense Attorney James Ferguson of Charlotte said both sentences will be appealed.

BUF declares city area off-limits to whites

CAIRO, Ill. (UPI) — The Black United Front Sunday declared an area of the city off-limits at night to whites.

The action came after a night of shooting in the neighborhood Saturday and the arrest of two students.

The Rev. Charles Koen, director of the Front, said the curfew was "the only way we have to protect ourselves, since Gov. (Richard) Ogilvie will not declare martial law" in the town.

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The statement follows months of confrontations in the city of 8,000 persons. Blacks have boycotted white-owned stores in the community since April. They have staged weekly parades in support of the boycott.

State police confirmed there was gunfire in the area Saturday night, especially around the all-black Pyramid Court housing Project, but said the gunfire was not heavy compared to previous gunbattles in the area. No injuries were reported.

The students arrested attend Chicago City College, Malcolm X Campus and were visiting friends in Cairo, spokesmen said.

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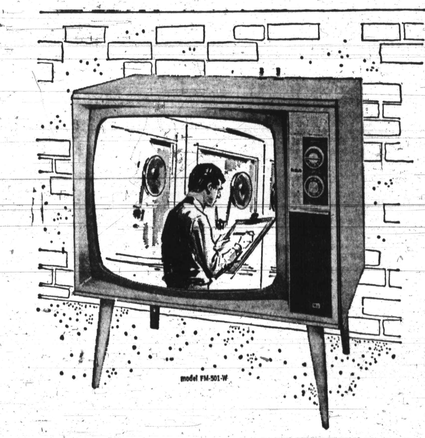
State police said James Stewart, 20, and Harry Freeman, 21, both of Chicago, were charged with unlawful use of weapons, and not having firearm owners identification.

Stewart also was charged with driving without an operators license. They were being held on $1,000 bond each.

Koen said the area in which whites would not be permitted at night, unless invited, is a three-block section including the Pyramid Courts.



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