Judicial history made by Judges Howard, Watts

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

A precedent was set here last week when the number of black judges serving on the Baltimore Supreme Bench jumped from one to three.

Joining Associate Supreme Bench Harry A. Cole were Judges Joseph C. Howard and Robert B. Watts.

They were among four new jurists taking the oath of office, all having a minority background.

The other two were former State Sen. Paul A. Dorf, of the Jewish Faith and Basil Thomas of Greek parentage.

Another note of color was added when Frank A. DeCosta Jr., representing Gov. and Vice President-elect Spiro T. Agnew, read the commissions to the entire Supreme Bench, sitting as a single court, and an overflowing courtroom of spectators including relatives, and friends of the new judges.

* * *

For Judge Watts, who was elevated from the Municipal Court, the ceremony marked a triumphant end to a series of bitter disappointments in which he had been repeatedly bypassed when Bench vacancies were filled.

For Judge Howard, the impressive ceremonies climaxed a victorious crusade to bring about reform in the city's highest court.

Judge Watts, like Judge Thomas, his colleague on the Municipal Court, was appointed by Gov. Agnew after a distinguished legal and community service career in Baltimore and Maryland.

Judge Howard, like Judge Dorf, was elected. They displaced two incumbents by winning overwhelming victories in the November 5 election.

Mr. Howard was the leading vote getter among five candidates. He polled 114,000-plus vote total.

* * *

As a point of history, Judge Howard was temporarily ousted from his post as an assistant state's attorney and chief of the Trial Section.

He accused the court, the prosecutor's office, and the Police Department of using double standards of justice while handling rape cases involving black and white rape victims.

At that time the Supreme Bench refused to approve his reappointment, contending the outspoken attorney had unjustly accused his legal brothers.

Following an uneventful investigation by the Baltimore City Bar Association, Mr. Howard was exonerated and reappointed by Charles E. Moylan Jr., chief prosecutor.

Shortly after he won the belated avproval of the Bench, Mr. Howard resigned the post and returned to private practice until he entered the primary race.

* * *

Mr. Howard later documented his charges, illustrated by statistical data and the detailed study was published by the Monumental Bar Association, an organization of predominantly black lawyers.

Judge Howard left his sick bed (the Hong Kong

Continued on Page 24

TOGETHER AGAIN — Supreme Bench Judge Harry A. Cole congratulates Judge Robert B. Watts, who was sworn in a associate Supreme Bench Judge this week. It marked the reunion of a combination that began in elementary school and continued through high school, college, law school, the army and their years of private practice. Looking on are Milton B. Allen, former law partner of both judges, and Frank A. DeCosta Jr., who read the commissions in the absence of Gov. Spiro T. Agnew and Secretary of State C. Stanley Blair.

Make sure Yule meal is safe

The City Health Department has issued a note of caution to those preparing meals for family gatherings or other large groups.

The warning is made in view of 2 deaths and 15 cases of illness in a family in a nearby state apparently caused by eating a stuffed Thanksgiving turkey infected with the salmonella organisms that cause food poisoning.

The fact that improperly prepared food or food carelessly handled can cause sickness is not new, but one does not always follow the simple precautions listed below that will avoid ill effects.

1. In preparing large turkeys or large fowl it is far safer to bake the dressing outside the fowl and serve it separately. In this way the inside of the fowl is heated thoroughly and the dressing is also heated adequately. It is our belief the tragedy mentioned above may have been averted had this been done.

2. Large canned hams must be refrigerated at all times. It is also safer to cook the ham thoroughly before serving.

3. Frozen food should be cared for as if it were packaged ice cream. If it thaws and is still cold it may be refrozen or kept cold in the thawed condition.

4. All perishable foods should be served either hot or cold. Leftovers are potentially dangerous and should always be reheated.

5. The old adage concerning food. "When in doubt, throw it out," is always good to follow.

M.A.D. wants citizen voice on expressway

Members of a city-wide coalition of neighborhood and civic groups known as Movement Against Destruction, or MAD, adopted the following position on expressways at its meeting recently:

"MAD is opposed to any expressway for the city of Baltimore until such time as MAD and citizens at large have been convinced that an expressway is needed in order to meet the transportation needs of the city of Baltimore."

* * *

Members of MAD went to Washington this week to

Continued on Page 24

Cheerful bandit 'greets' teller

FBI agents and city police are still searching for an unidentified man who robbed the Loyola Federal Savings and Loan Association of almost $1,300 in broad daylight Tuesday morning.

The robber, evidently a man with a deep sense of the Christmas spirit and an unusual sense of humor, approach Miss Linder Myers, 21, a teller in Loyola's office at Howard and Mulberry Sts., with a paper bag and a typewritten note, It READ:

"Be calm. I am armed. This is a hold-up, your life and others are at stake. To save them, place 100,50 20, and 10 dollar bills in this bag.

"Wait five minutes before calling the police. Thank you, Merry Christmas."

Aware that the robber might be armed as the note implied, Miss Myers placed in the bag $1,130 in 10's $100 in 20's, $50 in singles, and a pair of $2 bills.

As she returned the bag over the counter the clerk, tripped the alarm, alerting the other tellers and customers.

According to witnesses, the suspect escaped through the front door on Howard St., turned the corner eastward on Mulberry St., and then "disappeared."

A police dragnet encircled the area, checking buildings and alleys within a one-block radius of the scene, but did not locate the holiday conscious suspect.

The thief is described as a light-skinned, male, aged 23 or 24, weighing about 150 pounds, and wearing an Afro haircut.

At the time of the theft, he was wearing a dark brown three-quarter length coat with a beige collar, and dark trousers.

Chase, shoot-out foil bank heist

A holdup at the Eutaw St. branch of the Equitable Trust Company, followed by a high-speed chase through noon-time traffic and a five-minute gunfight in West Baltimore resulted in the capture of four of five suspects by police.

One of the four is a 19-year-old student at Coppin State College.

The fifth, who police say escaped on foot with about half of the $20,000 loot, was captured later in Washington on a warrant issued by local authorities.

When four of the five holdup men left the bank, located at 1121 W. Eutaw St., they were followed by an alert witness who saw them park their getaway car and enter another one, not far from the scene of the robbery, police said.

The unidentified witness reported the switch to police, who radioed a description of the second car, which carried D.C. license tags, to police cars in the area.

Tactical Patrolmen James Welsh and Barry Fee, cruising in West Baltimore, stationed themselves within view of Franklin St., on the suspicion that the wanted men were Washington residents and would attempt to return there, offi-

Continued on Page 24

RETS cited by mayor, governor

City and Date citations will be presented Friday to Radio Electronic Television Schools of Baltimore in recognition of RETS' work in training hard core unemployed under a grant from the U. S. Office of Equal Opportunity.

H. V. Leslie, president of the RETS school at 107 Market Place, will receive a citation fom Mayor D'Alesandro in the Mayor's office, and one from Governor Agnew.

The Mayor's citation notes RETS' contribution to civic welfare and its "contribution to life in the city" through the implementation of the OEO program to train disadvantaged students.

The Governor's citation is in the form of a resolution commending RETS for the success of it program and noting that the school has the Aerospace Education Foundations "Medal of Achievement" for "demonstrating significant changes in the lives of disadvantaged students."

RETS, a 3-year old educational organization, opened its Baltimore school in 1956.

It has 25 other schools in major cities around the country.

"We received our OEO grant in 1967," Mr. Leslie explains. "It was a 90-week program to prepare 100 disadvantaged students for work in the field of electronics."

FAMILY AFFAIR — One of the happiest people among the throng that crowded into Room 400 at the Courthouse this week was veteran AFRO UN- and foreign correspondent Joseph P. Howard Sr., right. Mr. Howard and his son, Joseph C. Howard newly-installed associate judge of the Baltimore Supreme Bench, embraced warmly after the latter took the oath of office. He won his seat on the Bench by leading the election ticket in the Nov. 5 election.

Harlem Park neighbors launch co-op grocery

By ADAM KLINE

Margarine for 25 cents a quarter-pound? Eggs at 12 cents each? Cigarettes at two-for-a-nickel? These were some of the prices noted by Harlem Park residents in the grocery stores in their neighborhood when they decided to check up on their local businessmen last February and March.

Like many residents of predominantly black areas, the Harlem Park neighbors expected to find some differences between the prices of every-day food items in the big supermarkets uptown and those in the little corner groceries in their own neighborhoods.

* * *

But what they did not expect to find, until ten of them began their "comparative shopping," was that the differences would be so great. Prices are generally about twice as high in the corner groceries, they report.

This research on food prices was organized by the Harlem Park residents as part of a movement to start their own community cooperative grocery store on a non-profit basis, in order to keep prices down.

This store is on the planning boards now.

The store will be a big help to housewives struggling to stay within a budget, the residents feel, not only by offering them high quality food at low prices, but by creating pressure on the outside interests who own the other stores is the area to lower their prices, too.

The residents decided that their store will be run democratically by the community people themselves, rather than by an outside authority.

They themselves will vote on what to sell and what prices to ask.

They will hire strictly

Continued on Page 24

Mrs. Helen S. Smith, 78, long Orchard St. member

"Her ready smile and wonderful carriage will always be rembered . . . she gave freely of her time to every worthy endeavor. . ."

Relatives were speaking of Mrs. Helen Smallwood Smith, 78, 412 Oxford Court, McCulloh Homes.

Mrs. Smith died on Tuesday at the home of her sister, Miss Ethel Smallwood.

Funeral services were held on Saturday at the Orchard St. Methodist Church, where Mrs. Smith was "a devoted and faithful member."

In the church, she was a delegate to the District Reserve, a stewardess, member of the Women's Society for Christian Service, the Altar Guild and the Health and Welfare Society.

She was also a volunteer worker for the Montebello State Hospital, where she regularly visited to cheer patients.

Born in Baltimore, Mrs. Smith was a member of an old Baltimore family. Her parents were Augustus and Nellie Smallwood.

She was educated in the Baltimore public schools, and was graduated from the old Coppin Normal School in 1910.

She was married to Robert Smith, department store

Continued on Page 24

Six students praised by Attorney General

Attorney General Francis B. Burch, said this week that the Consumer Protection Division has now recruited its full complement of student interns employed under a Federally sponsored work study program.

Mr. Burch said that seven college students four of whom attend the University of Maryland whom are undergraduates at the Johns Hopkins University are now employed in the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office in Baltimore.

The University of Maryland law students participating in the program are Janies Sisk Jr., Timothy Clarke, Jack Shapiro and John Woodstock.

The Johns Hopkins University undergraduates who are participating are Charles Seezer, Thomas Hoffman and Edward Dunbar.

Mr. Burch pointed out that under this program outstanding college students are permitted to work on a part-time basis

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POSTHUMOUS AWARDS — Moses Oliver Jr., 641 Carey St., last week was presented the posthumous awards for his son, Tony S. Oliver, who was killed in Vietnam, on March 2. The awards included: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Badge with machine gun bar and Marksman Badge with automatic rifle and rifle bars. Col. William F. Wadsworth Jr., Senior Army Advisor for the Maryland Army National Guard, made the presentation in the Fifth Regiment Armory.

Bills backed to create 4 new weekend holidays

Support for the enactment of legislation to create four three-day weekends for Marylanders was announced this week by the Maryland Petroleum Association.

Bills to observe Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day and Veterans' Day on Monday, beginning in 1971, have been pre-filed for introduction in the 1969 General Assembly.

Joseph P. Lanigan, executive secretary of the oil trade group, said the Association had adopted a resolution urging passage of the legislation, which would "bring Maryland's holiday schedule into conformance with the national schedule in this year."

The national law applies only to Federal government employees and the District of Columbia. Mr. Lanigan said:

"State legislation is needed to avoid the confusion which would arise if Maryland and the District observe the holidays on different dates.

"Moreover, the three-day mini-vacation will benefit the public generally, and it will help many types of small business catering to the tourist trade.

"Traffic accident studies by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads and the National Safety indicate that motorists are safer on week-end holidays than on mid-week holidays."

Strong rights bills face Agnew's okay

By MAX JOHNSIN
AFRI Political Analyst

Strong civil rights bills, covering housing, public accommodations, state employment and broader powers for the Maryland Human Relations Commission, are being readied for the coming regular session of the General Assembly.

They are under preparation by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, and are to be presented to Gov. Spiro T. Agnew next week.

Whether the governor will endorse the measures is not known, according to William H. Akins 2nd, head of the committee.

He leaves office Jan. 7, a week prior to the convening of the Assembly on Jan. 15.

There stands the possibility that the governor may just pass along the proposals to his successor.

He created the Advisory Committee almost two years ago, and it dies when he leaves office — unless revived by the new governor.

The proposed rights legislation include:

1. Housing — This would open all housing new and existing and including vacant lots, to all citizens, excluding only the traditional "Mrs. Murphy's boarding house."

Committee proposed this with a combination of the 1968 Civil Rights Act and the older measure of 1866, recently held valid in respect to open housing by the Supreme Court.

This proposed measure is thus stronger than the Federal law passed this year.

2. Public accommodations — This measure would extend the state's public accommodations law, to cover every business licensed by the state, including all types of besinesses, barber shops and beauty parlors as well.

Only exemption would be bona fied private clubs.

3. State employment — Changes are proposed to bring state agencies under the fair employment practices law as "employers" and thus give the Human Relations Commission jurisdiction in enforcing compliance.

4. Human Relation Commission — Broader powers are proposed for this agency, including the initiating of complaints and to take cases to the attorney general, rather than have them handled by a states' attorney in the subdivision of the violation.

Similar legislation can be expected from a number of Assembly members, if prior practices are to be followed.

Past thinking at the State House level has been that some tight measures often survive, when broader bills face stronger opposition.

Such study of these proposals will come when they are presented to Gov. Agnew.

Conversely, the legislative Council and several lawmakers already have a number of bills striking at firearms and civil disorders.

The Council working arm of the Assembly between sessions, wants to give the governor broader and more strigent powers.

Several lawmakers, along with the Council, are proposing a number of gun control laws, with heavy penalties for violations. The Council alone is proposing five such measures.

All are a direct result of the disorders in Baltimore and the state earlier this year.

Among the Assembly session is one which would again establish a presidential primary in the state.

The present September primary would be moved up from September to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in June.

The Council bills cover 54 different subject matters.

Provident sets extra dividend

Charles M. Miller, chairman of the Board of Provident Savings Bank, has announced that Provident, in view of earnings, is able to pay, in addition to the regular interest rate of 4½ percent per annum, another extra dividend at the rate of ¼ of one percent per annum for the quarterly period ending March 31, 1969.

This is the 17th "extra dividend" declared by Provident since 1954.

Deposits made on, or before, Jan. 10, 1969 and remaining on deposit through the quarter, will be entitled to the regular rate of 4½ percent per annum plus the extra dividend at the rate of ¼ of one percent per annum for this full quarterly period.

Interest is compounded and credited four times a year.

Mr. Miller said that these earnings have been derived from the investments which, in themselves, are extreme profit to Baltimore and the neighboring communities. Among the investments are approximately 20,000 Conventional, V.A., and F.H.A. mortgages, all of which are on properties located in Maryland.

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Mother Asks Castro To Return Child In Hijacking

Colts, Jets To Collide (SPORTS PAGE)

Baltimore Afro-American

Valis Job Stirs New Debate (BACK PAGE)

77th Year, No. 49
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BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 31, 1968 26 PAGES FIVE ☆ EDITION 15 CENTS

Find 2 Slain On Truck In Suburb

Mom asks Castro to return child

JENNIFER WASHINGTON

By MILDRED O'NEILL

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Jennifer did not come home for Christmas. Her presents were waiting under the tree — a baking set that she had asked Santa for — and a doll. And the other gifts that bring happiness to the heart of a three-year-old.

Her mother's heart is heavy as she patiently waits.

Waiting for Jennifer or word from Fidel Castro and President Johnson, or a diplomat or a politician.

Who is Jennifer???

She is the little girl whose father, Thomas Washington, 27, took her from her home where she lived with his former wife, Joanne, and hijacked a Philadelphia-Miami jet to Cuba.

It was the Thursday before Christmas, but to Jennifer's mother, it has been ages ago.

* * *

Washington informed the pilot, when they were off the coast of Florida, that he had a pistol and explosives and that he wanted to go to Cuba.

Quite as suddenly, he radically changed the lives of three people at 5542 Locust St.

The child's mother and her grandparents.

It's unbelievable — still, Jennifer is gone, living for the moment in Cuba. And, wanted or unwanted, belief comes mixed with the sense of loss and frustration.

Mrs. Washington said she sent a cablegram to Premier Castro asking for the return of Jennifer and a telegram to President Johnson asking for help.

Neither of the messages had been acknowledged.

She patiently waits for politicians and diplomats to determine the fate of her daughter.

The U.S. State Department, the Swiss Embassy

(Continued on Page 2)

7 among 81 on Pueblo

CHESTER, S.C. — The telephone rang at 3:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at the home of Mrs. Blossom Hooper of this town.

"I got good news for you," said the voice on the other end.

The news turned out to be the best news of the year for Mrs. Hooper, mother of one of the crewmen of the USS Pueblo.

She was informed that her son, Commissaryman 2/c Harry Lewis, 22, was being released by the North Koreans along with the other 81 surviving crew members of the navy ship and the remains of a dead crewman.

Later that day when the crewmen crossed the Panmunjom bridge into freedom, Navy officials in Spartanburg called Mrs. Hooper again and told her Harry would be home soon.

Lewis and Boatswain's Mate 2/c Willie C. Russell Jr., of Hopkinsville, Ky., son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie C. Russell Sr., were among

(Continued on Page 2)

No heat for cold

NEW YORK — Half-frozen children in tears, sick people bundled in heavy clothing without hot water in their homes and a mounting death toll — that was New York City last week.

Behind the problem was a fuel oil strike which, though it had ended, left thousands of homes, businesses, hospitals and schools without heat.

An emergency supply of 6,000 doses of flu vaccine reached the city Friday as an estimated 10,000 victims of the Hong Kong flu suffered in some of the 28,000 apartments without heat or hot water.

On Thursday a state of peril was declared in Fun City but later officials said the emergency was being eased.

However, schools were closed Monday and Tuesday, scheduled as make-up days, because the school system was reported 2 million gallons short of fuel.

Low-income areas were particularly hard hit by the crisis.

Some landlords who had fuel reportedly were taking advantage of the situation and keeping the heat off or low in order to save money.

By weekend, city officials were getting response to their priority list by stationing checkers at the fuel outlets to see that distributors served the designated apartments and facilities first.

During a five-day period ending Christmas night, health officials reported 20 deaths due to flu and 95 to pneumonia, more than twice the usual number of pneumonia deaths at this time of the year.

Before leaving New York Thursday for a vacation in the Bahamas, Mayor Lindsay had put up $75,000 in emergency funds for flu vaccine.

A number of officials, particularly Democrats, criticized the mayor for

VICTORY TOAST. — A royal champagne toast to victory is executed by (counter clockwise) John Mackey, Mrs. Mackey, Willie Richardson, and Bubba Smith. Lenny Moore, standing, former Colt star, hosted the gala celebration.

'No. 24' throws gala party for conquering ex-mates

Instrumental strains of "Let's Go You Baltimore Colts" drifted from the bandstand and an overflowing crowd raised champagne glasses and voiced a mighty toast in unison.

Cheers, shouts, and echoes of adulation rang throughout the club much like those from Memorial Stadium on a Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, objects of the delightful madness sat in subdued but obvious satisfaction at a reserved table and lifted their champagne glasses in with a royal flush.

That was about the only free moment they had. Their time was consumed otherwise by signing autographs and receiving congratulations from admirers whose faces appeared frozen in smiles.

* * *

The scene was Lenny Moore's Club 24 at 4723 Gwynn Oak Ave.

The occasion was Cleveland plus four hours. Put another way the Baltimore Colts had captured the National Football League championship by scalping the Browns 34 to 0.

Colt worshipers had descended on the club, approprietely operated by the former "Mr. Colt" himself Lenny (Spats) Moore.

The men seated at the reserved table were relaxing after taking an active part in exploding championship dreams entertained by the team on the shores of Lake Erie.

* * *

They included John Mackey, Willie Richardson, Bubba Smith, Charles Stukes, and Preston Pearson.

The Fuzzy Kane Trio, named after its leader and including Monty Polson and Warren Gantt, skillfully presented a musical tribute befitting the gayety of the holiday season and the heady wine of victory.

Lenny, who confessed that his heart is still on the field while watching his former teammates from behind a network television microphone, presided over the festivities.

He was ably assisted by Bob Hayes and Nat Molatch. Other staff members performing supportive roles under less than easy circumstances (there were

(Continued on page 10)

Think they were shot elsewhere

PELHAM MANOR, N.Y. — Police still had no leads at weekend in the mysterious slaying of two nonresident men whose bodies were found on Peace St. here in a U-Haul rental truck with Oregon tags.

Police Capt. Peter Zambernandi told the AFRO the victims "may have been shot in The Bronx and brought here, at least shot other than where they were found."

Pelham Manor, a wealthy Westchester County Community 12 miles northeast of Times Square, lies on the shores of Long Island Sound just south of New Rochelle and is inhabited mostly by New York City business executives.

The two dead men were identified as Clarence Eugene Christian, 49, 2200 block Cedar Ave., in nearby Bronx, and William Allen Hooker, 28, same address.

* * *

Capt. Zambernandi said neither had current occupations.

Christian, said to weigh about 230 pounds, was found slumped in the front seat of the panel truck with a cigar in one hand. He had been shot in the back of the head.

Hooker, slightly built, was found in the back of the truck. He had been shot

(Continued on page 10)

PELHAM MANOR, N.Y. —Pelham Manor police officials this week said that narcotic elements were being probed in connection with the murder of two men whose bodies were found in a truck, in that one of the victims had an extensive police record in narcotics.

Watts fire kills eight

LOS ANGELES — Seven children and a woman died Monday night in a fire that swept from a Christmas tree through their two-story wooden home in Watts.

The bodies of four small children were found in upstairs bedrooms. The charred body of a young woman with an infant in her arms was in the dining room. The body of a teenaged boy was in the living room and a seventh child on the stairs.

The only survivor was Eddie Greer Jr, 18, asleep on the living room couch when the fire started. He was in a state of shock and could not immediately give

(Continued on page 10)

Black lawmakers renew Assembly 'unity pledge'

By PETER J. KOPER

A group of 10 Baltimore legislators have banded together to form a "black coalition" in the upcoming regular session of the General Assembly to act as a bloc on legislation that affects their community.

Nine of the members are Democrats who still plan to vote together in the special session to elect Maryland's next governor Jan. 7.

Fourth District Del. Lena K. Lee broke with the group last week, announcing that she thought the group was going to vote for House Speaker Marvin Mandel and that she could not cast her vote for him.

Mrs. Lee said that "Mr. Mandel does not like black people" and stated that she plans to vote for, Francis X Gallagher for governor, a prominent attorney.

At a meeting Sunday in the home of State Sen. Verda F. Welcome seven members of the group "reaffirmed" their solidarity and reiterated their intention of voting as a bloc in the special gubernatorial election.

"The 10 of us have met here to reaffirm our solidarity. We will vote as a bloc," Mrs. Welcome announced after the meeting.

Mrs. Welcome also reported that Republican Anne Arundel County Del. Dr. Aris T. Allen will join the Baltimore Democrats if there is a second ballot vote in the gubernatorial election.

Dr. Allen will vote for Congressman Rogers C. B. Morton on the Republican first ballot vote. Sen. Welcome said that Del. Allen will join the black coalition in the planned legislative bloc during the regular session.

"We intend to work together throughout the session," State Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell 3rd stated in describing the black coalition in the General Assembly.

"We will work in unity to achieve what we seek. This will extend beyond the gubernatorial election when we find it advantageous," Sen. Welcome said.

* * *

Sen. Mitchell did not repeat the comments he made to the AFRO last week concerning his "active" opposition to Del. Lee's re-election, but said that "as far as Del. Lee is concerned, we have no comment. We are going to move ahead and maintain

(Continued on page 12)

They too were on the Apollo mission in sea

Signalman First Class Ralph J. Brown, USN, son of Mrs. Mamie R. Brown of 5227 Kansas Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. and Seaman James Edwards, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Edwards of 836 Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C., are serving onboard the amphibious transport USS Sandoval, a unit of Task Force 140 for the manned flight of Apollo 8.

Sandoval was stationed in the Eastern Atlantic near

(Continued on page 12)

chuckle

A professor of logic once asked his class, "If the United States is bounded on the North by Canada, on the South by the Gulf of Mexico, on the East by the Atlantic, and on the West by the Pacific, how old am I?"

After a minute's silence, a brilliant young student raised his hand and answered, "Forty-four."

"You're right," said the puzzled teacher. "How did you figure it out?"

"I have a cousin who is 22. He's only half-crazy."

READY OR NOT, the world is into 1969 and 13-month-old Martin David Hines of Baltimore joins the AFRO-AMERCAN Newspaper in hoping it will be the best one yet for all mankind. Martin also joins the AFRO in wishing all our readers a special Happy New Year.

Rev. Mitchell takes big contest lead

The Rev. W. P. Mitchell, Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church, took a commanding lead of 65,200 votes as the AFRO's Favorite Minister Contest pushed to its Jan. 11 deadline.

Holding second place for several weeks, the Rev. Lewis Conway, First Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, with 511,900 votes is runner-up.

A few votes behind the second place contestant is the Rev. M. R. Saunders, First United Apostalic Church, with 503,200 votes.

The deadline in this $2,000 contest is nearing fast. The final ballot will appear on Jan. 11.

There's still time for you to put your favorite minister in the lead but you must get your votes in now. Ballots are printed on page two of each edition of the AFRO.

* * *

In fourth place, the Rev. Seawood Blackstone, Crowdenville A.M.E. Church, with 429,600 votes.

Fifth place is held down by the Rev. Roscoe Williams, Orchard Street Methodist Church, with 272,400 votes.

The Rev. L. Waddy, Christ Temple Church has

(Continued on Page 2)

TJD, City Council face turbulent year

By PETER J. KOPER

The city council and Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro face a turbulent New Year when the council reconvenes Jan. 13.

Among the issues confronting city politicains will be the council's rumored opposition to the mayor's appointment of Larry S. Gibson to the School Board, and the fate of the "Pool Parlor" bill, now awaiting the mayor's action.

* * *

Strong opposition materialized during the past week among councilmen against confirmation of Mr. Gibson, a 26-year-old graduate of Columbia Law School.

Fourth District Councilman Dr. Emerson R. Julian said that he had counted 13 councilmen who were opposed to the mayor's nomination of Mr. Gibson to fill Dr. William F. Stone's seat on the city school board.

However, the AFRO has learned from a highly placed official that opposition may melt away from two of the city council's most vocal conservatives if there is a satisfactory settlement of a controversial civil service matter.

* * *

Such an agreement will clear the way for Mr. Gibson's confirmation in the city council.

Mr. Gibson, who engineered the successful election of Joseph C. Howard to the Supreme Bench, is reportedly slated for an active role on the School Board.

Sources close to the mayor said there was "no intention" of withdrawing the nomination.

The movement against

(Continued on page 12)

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