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S.C. pastors await ruling in dispute with AME bishop

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Eight AME ministers looked for a decision this week in their dispute with the Rev. William F. Ball, AME Bishop of South Carolina.

The ministers charged in a suit filed here in October that the bishop had improperly increased budget assessments, accepted honoraria from churches and members, participated in fund-raising banquets and required personal contributions from pastors, all violations of the church's Book of Discipline.

Bishop Ball replied, through his attorneys, that the matter was entirely ecclesiastical and beyond the jurisdiction of the civil courts.

When Judge Frank Eppes, early in the hearings, attempted to prevent the transfer of the W. J. Nelson, one of the complainants, from Bishopville to Conway, he was overruled by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

The judge then referred the matter to Harry M. Lightsey, master for Richland County, who heard testimony Dec. 13 and promised a decision this week.

The other plaintiffs are the Reverends George A. Ashford, J. R. Whitaker, C. W. Herbert, Alex Findley, C. C. Dixon, James A. Holmes, and Lee M. Seward.

Regarding the suit, the Rev. Mr. Ashford said, "We are attempting to be the voice of thousands of unsung heroes who have faith in the church and have no one to speak for them."

The Rev. Mr. Seward charged that "the bishop engaged in punitive and retaliatory action against those who protested the unreasonable assessment. Most of them were left without appointments."

Bishop Ball's attorney told the court, in an earlier hearing, it was traditional in the church for bishops to have sole power over the appointment of pastors. This tenet and practice "is at the very heart of African Methodism," he said.

The bishop was elected in 1956 and moved to South Carolina from his Florida diocese last year. He is serving a one-year term as president of the Bishops' Council and titular head of the 1,500,000-member church.

This point was upheld in the state Supreme Court.

The bishop is also chairman of the Board of Trustees of Allen University.

He could not be reached for comment at press time.

Albert M. Carroll, 50, teacher, printer, dies

WASHINGTON

Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 4925 East Capitol St., for Albert Maurice Carroll, 50, assistant principal at Eastern High School.

Mr. Carroll, who resided at 44 Galveston St., SW, died at Washington Hospital Center, Monday, Dec. 30, after a month's hospitalization.

Mr. Carroll had served as assistant principal at Eastern only since September but has been in the District school system for nine years.

• • •

A native of Washington, Mr. Carroll attended local primary schools and Dunbar High School, earned a bachelor of arts at Howard and a master's at George Washington University. He also had attended the University of Buffalo, Columbia University and D.C.

ALBERT M. CARROLL

Teachers College.

He was appointed to the District school system in 1959, teaching printing at Eastern for one year and at Ballou Junior High for eight years before taking a counselor's post at Coolidge High School. He left Coolidge to accept the assistant principal's post at Eastern last year.

Prior to his teaching assignments, Mr. Carroll operated a printing shop of his own, The Vogue Press, and worked at various times as a compositor for local daily newspapers and Government Printing Office.

He also had worked as a compositor at newspapers in New York City.

• • •

Mr. Carroll was active with the D.C. Teachers Union, the Washington Urban League and during his service at Coolidge was director of the Coolidge Scholarship Program. He was past president of the D.C. Industrial Art Association.

A Rosary will be recited at the Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Bennings Rd., NE, Friday (Jan. 3) at 8 p.m. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Carroll are two sons, Albert M., Jr., 5419 Fitch St., SE, and William F., 218-78th St., Seat Pleasant, Md.; a brother, Leonard F., 1847 24th St., NE, and two grandchildren, Aundria M. 8, and Michelle L., 5, both of the Fitch St. address.

Catholic Urban Task Force to tackle areas of concern

Rev. Fr. Charles D. Burns,

WASHINGTON
By JOE ELAM

Certainly they have found the right man to head the Urban Task Force! established by the U.S. Catholic bishops at their April 1968 meeting in St. Louis to promote and coordinate the work of Catholic agencies on urban and racial problems.

Father Charles D. Burns, 36, member of the National Committee of Negro Churchmen and the Black Priests' Caucus, was named the executive field director of the Task Force.

Burns was ordained in 1962 and received a masters' degree in education from the Catholic University of America in 1963.

He was vocation recruiter and editor of The Divine Word Messenger for the Southern province of the Society of the Divine Word and was named assistant provincial and dean of Divine Word high school seminarians.

With his broad ecumenical experience in the South and knowledge of educational programs for the Divine Word Fathers and his active participation with the programs of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, Fr. Burns is expected to bring an unusual verve and vitality to the Task Force.

Announcing the appointment, top Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary U.S. Catholic Conf., said:

"As a black priest with background of interest and experience in the matters with which the Task Force is concerned, Father Burns will bring special insights to the many faceted fields of the Church's commitment."

Currently Fr. Burns is Assistant Provincial of the South-Province of the Fathers of the Divine Word (S.V.D.), headquartered in Bay St. Louis, Miss. The services of Fr. Burns have been made available to USCC through the cooperation of the international superiors of the society and that of Very. Rev. Fr. John Bowman, S.V.D., Southern Provincial.

Very Rev. Msgr. Aloysius J. Welsh, executive secretary of the USCC Task Force on Urban problems, 1312 Mass. Ave., NW said that Fr. Burns will assume his new office early in January.

USCC Task Force on Urban Problems was formed in response to a statement on the National Race Crisis, issued on April 25, 1968 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops held in St. Louis, Mo.

The statement enumerated the types of racial discrimination existing in the urban agglomerations of the country and the laity that "We must recognize the fact that racist attitudes and consequent discrimination exist not only in the hearts of men but in the fabric of their institutions.

"We must build bridges of justice, compassion and understanding, and we must do so at once. As the Commission on Civil Disorders warned, we are moving rapidly in the opposite direction, toward two societies, one Black, one White; Separate and unequal.

"We must enter into a full dialogue on matters of substantial interest with members of minority groups who suffer from discrimination and its effects."

"Within our own communion we hereby direct the various departments, offices and bureaus of the United States Catholic organizations, to set up Urban Task Force to coordinate all Catholic activities and to relate them to those of others working for the common goal of One society, based on truth, justice and love."

Six months after the inception of the Task Force, a national office has been established at the USCC Headquarters within the Department of Social Development, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, D.C.

Msgr. Aloisus J. Welsh, executive secretary of the Force, has a great deal to say about the structure, targets and present problems of the Task Force.

He told the AFRO that the National Task Force is not a super-agency, but a coordinator of existing programs, an information and service center for national and diocesan organizations, "a catalyst for the new commitment of the total Catholic community in the areas of concern such as race and poverty."

In the first issue of a monthly newsletter of the Task Force, Msgr. Welsh made a concise progress report of six months operations of the Force.

"The report states that a national office for the Force has been set up at the USCC headquarters within the Department of Social Development, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, D.C.

"Discussions with national Catholic organizations have been held, and lines of communication have been established: Msgr. Welsh pointed out that exchanges of information and plans for communication continue.

"A national advisory board has been formed. Consisting of 49 representatives of organizations and directors of regional programs, it has met formally once and agreed on some priorities and procedures.

"It will be enlarged to represent minority groups, women, youth and territories, he added.

Rev. Hall home from hospital

WASHINGTON

The Rev. Benjamin F. Hall was a patient at Newton D. Baker Memorial Hospital Martinsburg, W. Va. from Sept. 20, to Dec. 16. While a patient there he met several of his friends and church members.

Rev. Hall saw military service in the U.S. Army from 1916 to 1919. After his discharge in 1919 he joined Nash Memorial Methodist Church and then he became a minister.

In 1923 he received his first appointment in Brookville, Md. under the leadership of Dr. D. D. Turpeau who was then the district superintendent. From then on it was the ministry for Rev. Hall. He started to school and joined the conference in 1924.

Rev. Hall spent most of his time in Southern Maryland, which included Calvert, Charles and Prince Georges Counties. After he served his time in the Southern Counties he was appointed to Colesville, Md. from which he retired in 1961.

With the exception of the appointments in the Southern Maryland counties, Rev. Hall served Brookville, Md. two years; Poolesville, Md., four years and New Windsor, Md. for two years.

After Rev. Hall retired in 1961, Dr. Kenneth P. Barnes who was the District Superintendent of the West Baltimore District saw fit to appoint him to the Charlestown and Harpers Ferry, W. Va. charges, to complete a vacancy left by the death of Rev. Ernest W. Mattison.

Washington Notebook

By MARY E. STRATFORD

WASHINGTON

The contempt of some of the cab drivers in D.C. for the riding public is evident in the transportation field only by O. Roy Chalk's D.C. Transit company.

The holiday season served to buttress the criticism that many cab drivers of both races discriminate against potential passengers because of sex and color. One black hacker, during the frantic last minute Christmas shopping spree downtown, was observed passing by two separate groups of black persons who tried to hail his cab. He then made an illegal U turn to pick up a white woman on the opposite side of the street from his sol brothers and sisters.

Reportedly, the unsatisfactory taxi service in the District is one of the matters which has been brought to the attention of the incoming administration. Some of the complaints include the fact that taxis loitering downtown with "on call" and "off duty" signs which they remove upon spotting what they consider desirable passengers.

Some Congressmen are still discussing ways to improve this situation such as requiring meters and two way radios for all taxis. Government agencies may also be told to bar employees from moonlighting as cab drivers except in hardship cases.

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Speaking of "soul", some of the brothers have been accosting motorists at night who are alleged for the red light at 14th and Park Rd. NW and demanding a "toll" fee of 50 cents to continue unmolested.

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Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jenkins sent out unusual New Year's greetings, showing a pair of hands in an attitude of prayer and the American flag. The message reads:

"An invitation to you from us to pray and push together in 1969 in the town where we live. Benefit of all mankind, and so a Happy New Year!"

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Gaston Neal, founder of the New School of Afro-American thought and its former director, was married at 12 p.m. New Year's, if things went as scheduled at this writing on New Year's eve. The bride is the former Judith Shelton who has been active in the Movement for the past six or seven years and also involved in New School activities. The ceremony was scheduled to be performed by the Rev. David Eaton, a dean at Federal City College.

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C. Sumner Stone, former aide to Adam Clayton Powell, says he hopes to be of informal assistance to his former boss in any way he can but has written commitments until next summer which would prevent him from taking any kind of full time employment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AFRO readers join the AFRO in wishing a Happy Birthday to those born between Jan. 2 and 7. Be sure to send all cards and letters to this column to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201, two weeks in advance of publication date.

Don't forget to list the correct names, dates and cities of residence of those to be remembered.

JAN. 2
Martha Jane Hammond, Lancaster, S.C.
Mrs. Lillie L. Brown, Marston, N.C.
Mrs. Sarline G. Bigmon, Champlain, Va.
Francis Holmes, Hustle, Va.
Mrs. Mary D. Wilson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

JAN. 3
Audrey Johnson, Baltimore
Miss Paula Dr. McClain, Fort Richardson, Alaska

JAN. 4
Robert A. Charity, Charles City, Va.

JAN. 5
Fred A. Lottier 3rd, Roanoke, Va.
William (Monk) Poole, Pulaski, Va.
Herbert Cox, Passaic, N.J.
Mrs. Clara Cannon, Newberry, S.C.
Geraldine Newman, Tucker Hill, Va.
V. Thomas Moser, Charles City, Va.

JAN. 6
J. Saunders Conner, Philadelphia
James A. Charity, Charles City, Va.
Lawrence McCrella, Baltimore
Marian Blanchard, Concord, N.C.
Mildred Alexander, Wistonsalem, N.C.
Mrs. Lillie L. Brown, Marston, N.C.
Mrs. Sarline G. Bigmon, Champlain, Va.
Francis Holmes, Hustle, Va.
Mrs. Mary D. Wilson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

JAN. 7
Reginia Rinehardt, Hanover, Pa.