## —Firemen's union

(FROM PAGE ONE)

neighborhoods.

The complaint Johnson filed in U.S. District Court names four black fire officers as plaintiffs. They are Louis R. Harper, Jr., captain; Thomas G. Deshields, lieutenant; Carl E. McDonald, lieutenant; and Alphonso Thornton, lieutenant.

Judge Stanley Blair has granted a Johnson-petitioned preliminary injunction preventing the filling of 6 new battalion chiefs posts, 1 new deputy chief post and 10 new lieutenant posts until the case is settled.

Black firemen lack equal opportunity, said Johnson, because the Department maintains "racially segregated houses," because blacks get inferior initial assignments, and because the Department refuses to "communicate, transfer rights and advancement opportunities to black employees."

According the Johnson, the promotion tests are more difficult when many black firemen seek promotion;; only white employees are provided with job test training; and test dates are changed to disqualify black employees.

"Fortunately," commented Johnson, "I have been able to put aside my regular work to engage in nothing but this case."

Kenneth Johnson received his law degree from Howard University in 1962.

He told the AFRO the key reason for being chosen by City Solicitor George Russell for this case was he worked under former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark on employment practices cases throughout the South.

Residing on the 2600 block Woodlawn Ave. Johnson, 34, is married to Mrs. Carolyn Johnson. The young couple have been living in Baltimore for about one year.

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The engagement calendar in a limited edition of 1,000 copies is now on sale at the central circulation desk of the main library at 400 Cathedral St. Copies will be $3.50 each, with a reduction to $3.00 per copy for purchases of ten or more.

## -Dim holiday

(FROM PAGE ONE)

out on the street."

The youngsters were living with their 87-year-old great grandmother and their 57-year-old grandmother who was ill.

Chucky's death and their father's arrest has greatly dimmed Christmas for Mrs. Harris's daughter, Teronda, 4, and her step-daughter Jacquelyn, 7.

Chucky's brother, John, was quiet and sad and told the AFRO he remembers the fun he had playing games with Chucky, especially baseball and football.

Funeral arrangements, said Mrs. Harris, are uncertain but last rites will be held Monday or Tuesday.

## -Thumbs down

(FROM PAGE ONE)

for which I felt and I still feel our law is sufficient.

"What are we talking about now, is the ability of the police to control crime through more latitude to do something about it.

The present law doesn't give them adequate means to prevent what's happening on the streets."


Baltimore Afro-American

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## -Execution

(FROM PAGE ONE)

searched by the unknown persons who commited the crime."

• • •

When the AFRO talked with former members of the STOP Squad, an officer who was regularly assigned to the Pennsylvania Ave. narcotics investigation beat revealed he knew a Lamont Reed as a noted pusher, "in our books."

Longtime experienced in activities that concern pushers and addicts or waring gangs of "dope chieftains," the officer speculated, "This is either the act of some angry users of members of an enemy dope group."

At AFRO presstime, homicide officers were still investigating the incident.

## -Allen takes

(FROM PAGE ONE)

they charged under this Section.

"From this day forward, we will press vigorous prosecution under both of these Sections, as well as Sub-Section (b) of Section 445, which deals with persons who transfer revolvers or pistols to persons in these restricted categories.

"This appears to us to be a perfectly proper step in stepping up the effort to get hand guns off the street within the existing laws."

## —Gold and death

(FROM PAGE ONE)

carefully guarded building.

CHURCH ENVELOPE TRICK

Asked for a list of other tricks the seller of hard narcotics is now using, police told the AFRO, "There are just about as many methods of distributing drugs as there are pushers."

Among the mot astounding to be reported to police is the rumored practice of a Northwest Baltimore "church" packed with young people up to nearly dawn on weekends. Word is, they say, that pushers arrive in Baltimore calling themselves a famed gospel quartet from Norfolk."

The "church" which is really not a religious institution, announces the gospel fest and the addicts know the "stuff" will be brought in soon. Too crafty to be caught and so smart even plainclothesmen are unable to spot them, the pushers get the bags into church envelops.

The narcotics user knows what he needs to feed his habit is in church envelops and he has his money ready—For a joyful Christmas, he will no doubt be placing $10 in the collection plate.

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## —Rep. Mitchell

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Nixon, ignoring the plight of black Americans, works under the theory: "What is good for General Motors is good for the country."

The theory, said Mitchell, is to pump billions of dollars into big industry and the benefits trickle down.

This shows an "attitude of callous indifference toward the working poor, those on welfare, those who have jobs below the management supervisor level," Rep. Mitchell told the conventioneers.

Mitchell noted the Bureau of Labor Statistics refuses to release unemployment figures for black Americans for "the Administration fears the consequence of that release."

In remarks directed specifically to Local 1199 members, Parren Mitchell urged them:

"Vote against run candidates against those City Councilmen who work always to protect the interests of the owners of nursing homes and hospitals.

"Vote against run candidates against, those members of the state legislative body who are the pawns of the owners of nursing homes and hospitals.

"Follow this pattern at every level of government."

## —Newton freed

(FROM PAGE ONE)

hung jury.

Newton has been tried three times for the 1967 killing of policeman John Frey on an Oakland street. He was convicted in 1968 but the state court of appeal overturned the decision on grounds of judicial error.

Two separate trials on manslaughter this year have ended in hung juries.

"I feel this is a frustration of justice, but I am compelled to ask at this time for a dismissal," Jensen said.

"I do not feel that we will get other than a hung jury on the basis of the present evidence."

Newton was accused of shooting Frey to death in a gun battle after the policeman stopped him for a traffic violation.

He was charged with murder in his first trial. The jury reduced it to manslaughter and convicted him. He served 22 months in prison before the Appellate Court reversed the decision last year because the judge gave erroneous instructions to the jury.

The second jury, last summer, was deadlocked 11-1 for conviction. The third, last week, split 6-6.

## Fire Board moves not to drop Blazers

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Tuesday, unanimously ruled not to discuss dissolving the Vulcan Blazers, an organization representing most of the Fire Department's black firemen.

The request for such a discussion was made by Peter J. O'Conner, president of fire officers local 964, and Charney L. Harris, president of the fire fighters local 734.

The Board denied the request because:

1) the Board does not want the fate of the Vulcan Blazers determined by Commissioners whose terms expire Dec. 31

2) a court suit, initiated by the Vulcan Blazers, is pending to see if the Fire Department's promotional practices are racially discriminatory.

The union presidents had wanted the Board to authorize a special election to see if the preponderantly-white Balitmore fire fighters would want the Vulcan Blazers to represent them as a union.

Assured of the outcome, Harris and O'Conner wrote, "The purpose of this election is to disenfranchise the Blazersonce and for all."

Unofficially, Commissioner Konstantine Previs remarked he could not enter such a discussion with Local 735 "when 734's house is in great disorder."

commissioner was referring to 734's recent election for president which was declared void because of possible ballot stuffing.

City Solicitor George Russell, Jr. advised the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, Sr. Fire Commissioner, to drop any talk about the legality of the vulcan Blazers until the court case ends.

## Jail denies any Muslim diet problemsi

The City Jail administration is doing its possible best to satisfy the dietary needs of its Muslim inmates.

"We have a book on diets presented to us by one of their Ministers and we try to look for substitutes for any diet their religion forbids," Calzert Melocick, captain, told the AFRO.

Mr. Melocick states so far as diet is concerned the administration has no problems at all with the Muslim population.

"There might have been dietary problems sometime ago but there is none now I know of," he said.

To his knowledge, he said, there has been no protests from the inmates about how food is prepared.

Period of confinement has not built a wall between the inmates and their religion.

"We allow them to hold their weekly Sunday religious services.


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