Fr. Franklin on bail spent 21 days at Pen.

Father Patrick Henry Franklin, pastor of St. Martin's Church of Christ, formerly at 405 Orchard St., was released Thursday from Maryland Penitentiary on a $25,000 appeal bond after spending 21 days at the Pen.

Members of the Orchard Street Church raised $2,500 for the appeal bond.

The 55-year-old minister was sentenced on June 27 to eight years in prison for using a hand gun in commission of a crime of violence.

A Criminal Court jury found Father Franklin not guilty of second degree murder. He was charged with second degree murder of James Lee Gregg, 18, 4300 block Adelle Terrace last Dec. 28.

Defense Attorney Nelson Kandel represented Father Franklin at his trial. However, since he has been incarcerated he has changed attorneys.

When Father Franklin appeared in court Thursday, he was represented by defense attorneys Michael B. Mitchell and Dwight A. Pettit.

Robert Bonaparte, chairman of the trustee board of St. Martin's and owner of Bonaparte's Florist, testified Thursday, that, "The church was vacated on Wednesday because it is to be torn down."

"FR. P. H. FRANKLIN seemed weak in court"

Sources told the AFRO that Sunday services are scheduled to be held at the Charles Law Funeral Home until a new church home is available.

When the AFRO called the funeral home to verify the information, a spokesman claims he knew nothing about it. However, a spokesman from Bonaparte's Florist stated church services will be held Sunday "11 a.m." at the funeral home.

As Father Franklin left the courtroom on Thursday, he seemed to be a little weak and walked very slowly as he leaned on the chairs and railing.

Before he left with the jail guard, he threw a kiss to the members of his church who were in court to give their minister support.

Mrs. Davis reported missing

Mrs. Mattie B. Davis, 41, has been reported missing since Monday by her family.

Mrs. Davis was last seen Monday morning around 10 when she left her home at 1202 E. Lafayette Ave. to go shopping.

She was then wearing a biege honeycomb dress, red shoes and a blue scarf tied around her head.

Mrs. Davis is described as brown-skinned, with medium hair and brownish eyes. She weighs 150 lbs. and stands 5' tall.

The police have been notified.

Anyone with information about her whereabouts should contact either her mother, Mrs. Edna Davis, or sister-in-law, Mrs. Fannie Mae Davis at 865-6366.

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10,000-signature-save-Liddie-campaign starts

Recent stories about jailed narcotics kingpin John Edward (Liddie) Jones took a dramatic turn this week when his attorney announced a city-wide campaign Wednesday to solicit 10,000 citizens' signatures for the release of his client.

Attorney William W. Carrier's move followed recent reports that Liddie staked his life in a prison riots to save the life of a threatened jail guard.

The AFRO learned Thursday Liddie's Good Samaritan stance has led to threats on his life.

Jail authorities reveal fearing for Liddie's life they have moved the dope convict to Lewisburg, Pa.

Meanwhile, Attorney Carrier's "Get Liddie Out" campaign is gathering momentum. In a statement to the public Mr. Carrier says: "Liddie is one who is known and loved by most of us. He just saved the life of a Baltimore City Jail guard . . ."

* * *

In the statement which urges the President of United Statesto grant his client a pardon, Mr. Carrier quibbles: "Is this the sort of man that you would call a threat to society? A man who risks his own life in order to save the life of another?"

Mr. Carrier says he believes Mr. Jones is fully rehabilitated and no more a threat to the community, noting, that if he is allowed to go free, either by parole or pardon, Liddie will prove himself productive.

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ROC HOLLOMAN

Roc Holloman gets 20 years for heroin

Gordon G. (Roco) Holloman, 24-year-old alleged narcotics dealer, was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Criminal Court Judge Meyer M. Cardin imposed sentence on Monday. Holloman, widely known as Roc, pleaded guilty to distributing heroin.

According to the prosecutor William Giuffre, police raided Holloman's home in the 1700 block Collington Ave. Oct. 22, 1971.

Police recovered 20 plastic sandwich bags filled with narcotics and 94 glassine packets. Street value was estimated at $250,000.

The police also found 8,000 empty glassine bags, measuring spoons, strainers, two shotguns, a revolver and $321 in cash.

The prosecutor told the court, Holloman had received a 10-year term in 1970 for narcotics violations but escaped custody.

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New firm on the world's 3rd largest port

By BRYAN HOLT and Roman Hankewcz

As one of Baltimore's top businessmen, Theodore N. Holmes is continuing to move upwards. The president and founder of Atlantic Personnel Services, he revealed to the AFRO that as of Aug 1, that company will move into the stevedoring business.

Mr. Holmes founded the company four years ago after working as personnel officer at B. and O. Railroad for one year. Though there were many reasons behind his leaving the well paying job, he states, "Let's just say I wanted to be my own boss."

Atlantic is one of only two black food services businesses in the country and is the only one in stevedoring on the Baltimore waterfront, the third largest in the nation.

The company started out working in industrial temporary help and janitorial services. It expanded into food services just last year. With this move, assets grew from $165,000 to $930,000. It is speculated that the company will gross over $3 million next year.

Atlantic's first stevedoring contract is with the U.S. government. They are to handle all military cargo coming into the Dundalk Marine Terminal for the next two years.

Mr. Holmes also hopes to expand in the area of food services. He expects to emerge with another black business in the near future.

He also foresees going into other areas of dock work.

Of Atlantic's 220 employees, 80 per cent is black. The management is also predominantly black.

THEODORE N. HOLMES — "Opportunities are fantastic. The brothers just don't know it."

State schools take-over may weaken city politicians

By Bill Rhoden

The city's decision to keep its public school system separate from that of the 23 other state systems is politically motivated, according to Dr. James A. Sensenbaugh, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools.

In a written statement sent to and circulated among city school personnel three months ago, Dr. Sensenbaugh said that the addition of Baltimore's school system to state jurisdiction would strengthen the city's Board of School Commissioners "at the expense of the Mayor and City Council."

The state superintendent noted that a strengthened school board would be able to address the common concerns of education "better than the Mayor and City Council, whose concerns and priorities are broader and not infrequently in conflict with education."

He added that the "mystique of independence" is "blinding Baltimore to the opportunities for service and benefits" at the same time that it conditions others not to offer them.

* * *

Dr. Sensenbaugh echoed these sentiments last week during a meeting of the Commission on Structure and Governance of Education in Maryland, and openly suggested that Baltimore schools join the state system.

"At a time when the city needs more help from the state, particularly in financing, it is anomalous for the system to operate separately," he said, adding that state funding does not necessarily mean state control.

Although the State Board of Education has broad powers, most of the autonomy rests with the local systems. The state board's visitorial powers, including its powers to help solve local problems, cannot be applied in Baltimore city.

* * *

Baltimore city's school system has been an independent one since 1967 when it had both the richest and most efficient educational structure in the country.

The only attempt to strip the city system of its autonomy came in 1968 when the Zimmerman Commission recommended to the State Legislature that Baltimore's school system become part of the State.

But the idea was rejected by the legislature when, according to a department source, "Baltimore used its influence to have the measure thrown out."

But Dr. Sensenbaugh said the city's reasons for autonomy are "shrouded in history," and that Baltimore's 'independence' is a "handicap.

'. . . Baltimore's powers in the General Assembly is declining," he says, ". . . while the power of other areas is growing."

He adds: "If the General Assembly feels less responsibility for Baltimore's schools than others it cannot be expected to listen as sympathetically to its problems."

* * *

State control advocates maintain that much of the "red tape" encountered by city school administrators in the area of purchasing would be eliminated if the city would merge.

As it now stands, a purchase request must go through two levels of one bureaucracies, the Board of Education and City Hall. In the other subdivisions, however, once the annual budget is approved by the County Council, it is controlled by the Board alone.

* * *

Independent or not, however, Baltimore city schools receive more state aid than any of the 23 state subdivisions. In fiscal 1974 the city received 98.8 million state dollars.

(Included in this figure is $62 million for current expenses, i.e., salaries, materials, supplies, etc.; 8.4 million for transportation, $7 million for special programs, $13 million for department services and $12 million for school construction).

Although the city's fiscal allotment would not automatically increase if it joined the state, the school system "would be in a better bargaining position," says a state education administrator.

"What they (city school and government officials) are doing is asking for special status and special attention," he added.

Dr. Sensenbaugh noted as much in his written statement and added that "Independence can be isolation."

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Man charged with narcotics violations

James Addison Cromer 30, 5700 block Hazelwood Ct., was arrested near his home last Monday and charged with possession of narcotics, according to police.

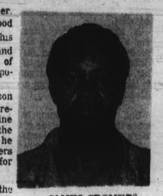
Det. Kenneth Anderson of the Narcotics Unit reports while on routine check in the area of the 100 block Deisner Pl. he and other three officers stopped the suspect for routine check.

The reports say as the officers alighted from their vehicle they observed the man putting his hand forward as if to get rid of a small shiny packet.

As the officers walked towards the suspect, police claim, the man gave the impression he was putting something in his mouth.

Police said Mr. Cromer was immediately subdued and handcuffed.

A tinfoil was recovered and later police examination of the white powder contained in the packet turned out to be heroin. Police reveal $381 in US currency was also recovered from him.



JAMES CROMER?

Police reports show he is also charged with possession with intent to distribute, common nuisance for distribution and operating a motorcycle without a valid class "E" license.

Seven inmates escape Patuxent, four seized

Four of the seven men that escaped from Patuxent Institution on Tuesday are still at large.

Forest Chinoun Patuxent's superintendent told the AFRO there were approximately 100 inmates in the recreation yard when the seven men managed to escape.

Three officers and two recreation supervisors were on duty at the time of the incident. The seven inmates cut a hole in the ten foot high chain fence.

Those that were apprehended in a wooded area near Patuxent were: Allen K. Frances, 17, sentenced to 12 years for robbery with a deadly weapon.

Jeffrey Henry Matthews Jr., 21, of Washington serving a 30-year sentence for murder and robbery.

Carlton M. Wheeler, 21, of Landover, serving 20 years for robbery with a deadly weapon, and Sylvester Mayfield, 25, convicted 10 years for rape.

Police are now looking for Francis Jones, five feet, five inches, 170 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, now serving 15 years for robbery.

Franklin James, 26, of Washington who was sentenced to 14 years for robbery with a deadly weapon.

Kenneth V. Pace, 23, of 2900 block Edgecombe Circle, who was given 20 years for assault and robbery with a deadly weapon.

Frances M. Jones, 29, of Washington who was serving 15 years of armed robbery.

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