—No heat

Continued from page 1

[illegible] station before I could [illegible] said.

[illegible] upon entering Mrs. Cheatham's home, Johnson found a situation that made her stomach [illegible].

[illegible] no heat. It was freezing [illegible] told me she had just [illegible] half of her 16 children [illegible] there, and with his death, [illegible] no income for the [illegible].

[illegible] to Mrs. Cheatham, [illegible] was able to find out that [illegible] had been without heat [illegible] cook, but that she had not [illegible] anything but watered down [illegible], and her great - grandchildren and great - great - grandchildren had not been able to do much better.

"She had applied for food stamps some time ago and hadn't been able to get them, and although she's a widow, she hasn't been able to get her Social Security benefits."

Johnson said that the woman's 20-year-old great - granddaughter, Tasha, had also been unable to receive her SSA benefits. Tasha's father is dead, and the young girl, along with her two small children, lives with Mrs. Cheatham.

"We called for some help with the heat," Tasha told the AFRO. "But we haven't heard anything yet."

When we visited the Cheatham home, we found the family huddled in the kitchen, heated by the stove. The two small great-great - grandchildren lay on a mattress on the floor, uncovered. The kitchen was the only warm spot in the large, 3-story home.

Tasha told us that when the Cheathams moved into the home in August, a condition of their lease was that they would provide their own heat. The landlord - management company, the Baltimore Management Company, had not given the family any assistance, despite repeated requests for help.

"Unfortunately, in cases like that," Johnson said, "there is really nothing the tenant can do but apply for emergency help."

Mrs. Cheatham told the AFRO that although things were bad she had faith that the Lord would come to her aid.

"He said He would make all the crooked places straight," she said, her eyes lighting up, "and I know it will be alright."

And it probably will be, thanks to a housing inspector named Carolyn Johnson who happened to care.

—Justice dept.

Continued from page 1

Klansmen Jerry Paul Smith of Maiden; Coleman Blair Pridmore of Lincolnton; Lawrence Gene Morgan of Lincolnton; David Wayne Mathews of Newton; and Nazis Roland Wayne Wood and Jack Wilson Fowler Jr., both of Winston-Salem. They were charged with first-degree murder and could have received the death penalty if convicted.

The defendants rushed out of the courthouse without speaking to reporters after they were found innocent Monday. They first said they would demand money for news interviews but Smith began talking to reporters Wednesday.

Smith, interviewed by a Greensboro Daily News reporter, said he was "going to work for the church more than the Klan." He said he will continue to fight communism although he plans to distribute literature instead of going into the streets with guns.

"I don't regret going to Greensboro to protest communism but I regret what followed," he said. "The only way I'll pick up arms against communists in the future is if we declare war on them, or if they come down my driveway."

Harold Covington, head of the American Nazi Party, said the verdict shows North Carolina and South Carolina are ready to secede from the United States and form the Carolina Free State, a country for white people only.

Covington said North Carolina has a "history of racism and resistance to federal authority," and said he will seek to form a new nation from which everyone of "non-white, Jewish or mixed racial blood" will be deported.

City's home loan program in jeopardy

Baltimore's much-publicized $65 million home ownership program may be in jeopardy, due to City Council president Walter Orlinsky's hesitation at approving an expenditure of $750,000 to help subsidize the plan.

Orlinsky, in reaction to Mayor William Donald Schaefer's decision to seek the additional funding in city monies, requested and received a legal opinion from Benjamin Brown, city solicitor, which pointed out that Schaefer's plan may prove illegal.

Brown stated in the opinion that council was restricted by law to approve one year's budget annually, and that a decision to supply the funds requested by the mayor for the program may entail approving subsequent yearly payments of the monies in advance.

The city solicitor also said that the city might be held liable by various banks participating in the housing program if future city legislators decide not to provide city funds needed to subsidize mortgages provided under the home ownership program.

Originally the city had planned to fund the program by selling $100 million worth of special bonds, but recently mayor Schaefer announced that the additional city monies would be needed to subsidize or keep interest rates on the mortgages below market prices. He said that such a move was the only way low - income families would be able to participate.

The program is expected to benefit more than 3,000 city families who are currently renting.

Brown offered a possible amendment which would absolve the city of liability in the event that a future city council decides not to provide municipal funds for the mortgage subsidies. If that did occur mortgage holders and not the city would be required to pay the higher rates.

Schaefer's request is still in debate in council.

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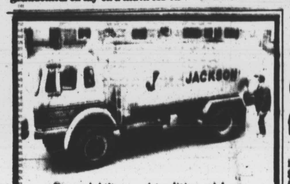

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5 groups get funds from Catholics

Five local groups have received a total of $110,000 in funding grants from the United States Catholic Conference's Campaign for Human Development, boosting programs in home ownership, leadership training, tenant counseling and the rights of working women.

Marking the tenth anniversary of the campaign, Catholics in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Baltimore will again be contributing to this unique effort to alleviate the root causes of poverty in a special collection on Sunday, Nov. 23.

With funds received in 1979 appear the five recently announced grant recipient groups are Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development, Baltimore City Tenants Association, Anne Arundel Coalition of Tenants. An additional $21,000 in local CHD funds were awarded to the Adopt-A-House Program and Baltimore Working Women.

Since its establishment in 1970 by the U. S. Catholic Bishops, the Campaign has collected nearly $80 million. Each group must be self-governing and with a policy making board composed of at least half its members living at poverty level or below.

BY THE WAY...

By Joe Black

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an effort to uplift the morale of America's citizens during World War II, said: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." But nothing stays the same, and those words have little meaning today for many who are approaching the age for retirement.

Senior Citizens have many things to fear: insufficient funds, robbery, loneliness, poor housing, inadequate nutrition, and plain ol' indifference from society. But that is not how it should be in these United States of America. These older citizens have worked hard on many jobs, weathered the storm of bias and hatred, paid taxes to support this nation, fought in wars to preserve democracy, and fallen on their knees to "open doors" so that we Blacks, coming behind them, could work at new and better jobs.

And yet we stand by, silently, and watch them struggle to live their remaining years with some dignity and pride. We can write our political representatives and tell them that the Social Security laws must be amended so as to be relevant to today's economic requirements. We can alert the police about that hoodlum element which steals their checks, snatches their purses, or breaks into their homes because they are old and defenseless; and we can take the time to extend the hand of friendship with a friendly hello or an offer to run an errand.

The suggestions are simple, economical, and real, and, my friends, don't ever forget that the hands of time continue to move, and soon *they* will be *you*.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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