—Racism charge

(Continued from Page A1)

tiated report from management informing him that after a two-month analysis of various aspects of his unit's operations, he did not successfully manage the people or workload assigned.

Soon after these findings Johnson was placed on special assignment to conduct an investigation of charges made against him, although no previous managers, who were white, had to disprove themselves guilty until proven innocent.

"Upper management felt they had sufficient evidence to discharge me. It was never a question of performance, they put me on this witchhunt so they could say, 'we gave him every opportunity to help himself'," said Johnson.

He also alleges that former Executive Director of MAIF, Vincent Howley, was prejudiced and disliked him because of his race, and had categorized him in several derogatory ways when discussing his performance with the Director of Claims.

To date there has been no written documentation indicating disapproval of any work performed by Johnson, or any references made in connection to the quality of communication between coworkers or subordinates, according to the State Human Relations Commission.

Johnson was relieved of his duties, and transferred to nonsupervisory position nine grades his rating, at the same pay.

During his investigation, Johnson learned of meetings conducted by Howley without the knowledge of an Equal Opportunity Officer or claims management being present in which employees were asked if any "racial problems" existed in the unit.

The assistant Attorney General of the agency, James Himes who serves in an advisory capacity, was actively involved in the incident in which management staff was attempting to squeeze Johnson out, according to Lee Hoshall, commission attorney representing the state's case against MAIF.

"It is obvious that management was not making an effort to look as if anything constructive was being attempted, they never intended to be fair," said John Singleton of Gendler Berg and Singleton Law firm, which represents Johnson's private interest in the case.

Johnson's research also found that other white supervisors who had similar problems in the department were appropriately notified, and correct company policy was used in reprimanding them.

Company policy states that MAIF should utilize the services available through the Employees Assistance counselor to correct behavior, or implication of the company's Merit System Law.

What is missing from the MAIF case that would hold any weight, is documentation or evidence that would constitute the removal of Johnson from his position.

Due to the fact that his white counterparts who had served in management capacities and had a record of poor performance were progressively disciplined, Johnson and his lawyers have found probable cause to believe that unlawful discrimination has occurred because of his client's race and in retaliation for having filed a complaint of discrimination.

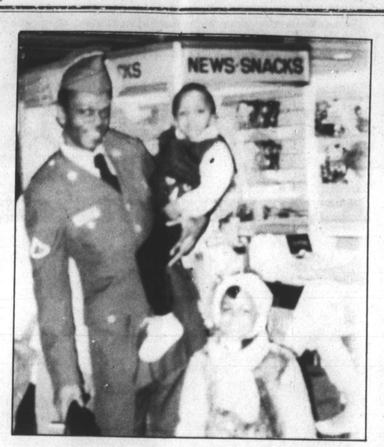
What legal remedies does the State Commission want to pursue in due process of the alleged complaint?

The respondent be reinstated to his previous position, back pay, including interest in an amount representing what he would have received upon promotion, market value of the use of the automobile provided to management at his level, and the restoration of all fringe benefits associated with the position of manager of his unit.

A public hearing will take place in September on the matter.

The agency has yet to provide any defense in the case submitted by the State Relations Commission.

"It's been rough," stated Johnson. "Being black, you learn how to handle the ups and downs of this situation.



VINCENT HARLEE, JR. rests in the arms of his dad in a photo taken at an airport waiting room. Vincent, Jr. is now in critical condition at the Army hospital at Triers, Germany.

—Baltimore couple

(Continued from Page A1)

well as a new bride, the former Beth Cryille Butler.

The couple was married in Baltimore on March 17, 1988.

After graduation Vincent earned a graduate degree in Business from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At the time of her death Beth had begun graduate studies in Public Policy Administration at the University of Europe.

The accident's only survivor, four-year-old Vincent Lee Harlee, Jr., was critically injured in the accident and remains in the hospital at Triers.

Vincent, Jr.'s injuries include two broken thigh bones, a collapsed lung, and an operation for the removal of his spleen.

Vincent's paternal grandmother, Mrs.Mae Harlee says,"Vincent Jr. is responding well to the therapeutic treatment and medication he is receiving at the Army hospital in Triers.

"Rose Butler (mother of Beth) and I are making plans to travel to Germany next week. As of yet no plans concerning Vincent, Jr.'s future have been made."

Both Mrs. Harlee and Mrs. Butler are in touch with Army spokespersons who have revealed to them only the bare facts concerning the accident. Mrs. Harlee Said, "I will find out the particulars when I go to Germany."

Mrs. Butler said," The Army had done a good job of taking care of its own. I too will be able to know more details after the trip to Germany."

Beth was the child of Emanuel and Rose Smith Butler. She has both a sister, Barbara Ann Butler and brother, Emanuel, Jr.

Vincent is one of seven children born to the late Brooklyn Harlee, Sr. and Mae Harlee. His siblings include Brooklyn Harlee, Jr. George Harlee, Dennis Harlee, Brenda M. Carter, Bernadette A. Luster and Quindarian S. Harlee.

Funeral rites of 34-year-old Vincent Harlee, and Beth Harlee, 34 were held on Thursday 27 at the St. Edward Roman Catholic Church at 901 Popular Grove St.

The funeral was conducted jointly by father Maurice J. Blackwell of St. Edward's, and the Reverend Willie J. Williams, pastor of Vincent Harlee's church home, New Unity Baptist Church, 2604 Polk Street.

More details in If you Ask Me. Page D3.

—Drug culture

(Continued from Page A1)

charge as interest on what you borrow. If you sell us the chain back we will pay you half of what you purchased it for.

This reporter was told that this particular pawnshop's largest and most costly gold chains run between $25,000 and $15,000. Often young people come into the store and purchase a $15,000 chain, paying in cash and returning only days later to redeem the chain receiving only $7,500 for it. This results in a cash loss that is uncomprehensible for the average person.

This investment strategy is used not only in jewelry stores but also in the showrooms of some car dealerships, most often those of BMW and Nissan, maker of the automobile most popular with the well to do young drug set, Maxima.

Victor Clash, a salesman at Imperial Datsun has numerous stories about the antics of youths sometimes as young as 17 or 18 coming to the car dealership with paper bags filled with "wrinkled 5's, 10's and 20 dollar bills," he said.

Clash said "When they come in on delivery day with that kind of money I take them in the back office. They will pull up in a rental car similar to the one they are buying, always have an entourage with them.

"I guess they travel with their lieutenants and soldiers. They will be carrying a portable cellular telephone and wearing their trusty beepers and wearing a ton of gold jewelry.

According to Clash these trademarks of the young drug dealer are exhibited 90 percent of the time they come to buy an automobile. The Federal government requires that all cash purchases over $10,000 be documented and the social security numbers of the buyer listed.

Several times Victor Clash has been called to appear as a witness in cases where the purchases made by suspected drug dealers are questioned.

Clash said, "In cases when the guy is ignorant, I start worrying that they might misinterpret my pretense at the trial thinking that I am telling on them. I am only there because I have been subpoenaed by the government as a witness."

"I wonder why they often won't just put down $9,000 on the car and pay off the balance over the next few months or some kind of arrangement similar to that."

"I have to work forever to see the average price of their favorite car, a $20,000 Maxima. The young punks off the street are living the life while the rest of us working stiffs are working — hard."

Another point that bothers Clash is the competition between a drug dealer and the average guy for the attentions of young lady. "I can't compete with a guy who can give a girl everything material she could ever dream of."

"These guys not only don't have to go to work but they also have the money to take a lady shopping everyday, go to the movies or whatever. This means that they have both the time and the cash to get any girl they want. How in the world can I follow an act like that?"

(First in a series on the drug crisis in the streets)

—Board upholds

(Continued from Page A1)

water pistols and toy guns in their lockers.

Board member, Stelios Spiliadis had many reservations about the case, however he still voted to uphold the expulsion.

"I am feeling very disturbed about what has happened to this young man and I voiced my concerns at the school board meeting," says Spiliadis.

He continued, "The rigidity of the policy is one of the concerns I have. The principal should have been able to handle the situation at that level. This case should have never reached the board."

The principal of Mt. Royal Elementary when the 10-year-old was expelled was Marguerite Walker. She has since left Mt. Royal and taken a job at School Board headquarters at 200 North Ave. The AFRO contacted her office, however she refused comment on the case.

"The decision should be reversed and his record should be cleared," according to Meldon Hollis.

If the ruling is not overturned, the young honor student, who has never been a disciplinary problem before this incident will have to attend a middle school on the other side of town this fall instead of Mt. Royal.

—Civilian Review Board

(Continued from Page A1)

possible reimbursement. Some citizens eventually end up taking the costs out of pocket.

"We make a conscious effort to deal with the problem," said police spokesman Dennis Hill. "We take pictures before and after raids are conducted to submit for reimbursement to protect the department against fraudulent claims from those who willingly damage their property."

Other numerous incidents involving questionable actions of the police department include: physical violence, using abusive language, and generally abusing the power and prestige of office.

One solution was the result of a public forum conducted by the NAACP last week at which citizens told of their dealing with questionable police behavior.

Mayor Schmoke had previously established, by executive order, the creation of an advisory council to the

(Continued on Page A6)

—Reading for record

(Continued from Page A1)

such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, BG&E, the Junior League, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers and many others.

The Enoch Pratt Library has provided reading material for the event, however several participants have selected their own, including Mayor Schmoke.

The Mayor kicked off the reading marathon by reading to a group of young children from one of his favorite books, **Green Eggs and Ham** by Dr. Seuss.

"Maybe we'll get national publicity and others will accept the challenge to deal with the problems of illiteracy. It's been very exciting to say the least," says Heather Campbell.

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Judge Alcee Hastings: Has justice been blind?

By Hamil Harris
AFRO Staff Writer

It has been a gripping scene at the Impeachment proceedings of Federal Judge Alcee Hastings.

The carpeted room has mahogany paneling with the prominent symbol of the U.S. Senate hanging on a marble base behind the senators. The room, called the Central Hearing Facility, has sky boxes like in a football stadium.

The students hang onto every word, the senior citizens just shake their heads in disbelief, the House prosecutors scratch their heads in frustration and the 12 white Senators stare...probably wondering should 'they' impeach this black man on the same charge he was acquitted of.

You look at the eyes of these prosecutors and you see men with glassy eyes in their dark suits and you think of the lynch mobs that roomed the south.

This American saga began after a panel of Judges recommended that Congress investigate Judge Hastings. But the judge felt he would finally get support from the 23 members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

It never came, largely because the actions of one man: Rep. John Conyers (D-Mi) who chaired the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and helped deliver Judge Hastings to the Senate.

When asked about Hastings, each member of the CBC would direct press inquires to Conyers as if they had no opinion on the matter.

As the wheels of impeachment began to turn nobody listened. Most of the CBC membership, except Reps. Mervyn Dymally (D-Ca) and Gus Savage (D-Il), the NAACP and even Rev.Jesse Jackson remained mute as the House voted 413-to-3 to impeach Hastings.

Defeated, Hastings eloquently pleaded his case before the entire Senate, but after the last supporter left the packed gallery not much changed in the Senator's minds.

This week Judge Hastings was reserved as he hug his hearing room chair. At each break the judge, always groomed ,goes into the gallery and thanks the people for coming out like a pastor sending home his flock.

Those who have come out or watched the proceedings on C-Span II have witnessed a complex play. This final act in the Hastings saga has brought out many characters, many of whom are uncomfortable with their story lines.

There is Terence Anderson, a powerful Washington lawyer who has become a millionaire defending a judge who most say should have needed no defense.

There is Pat Williams, also a Hastings' lawyer whose brisk inquiries of the witness played second fiddle to her other role as consoler to Hastings.

There is the FBI and special agent Christopher Mazzella who investigated Hastings and wire tapped his phones.

In the end it was Mazzella and the FBI which came under scrutiny as it was found that they were "spying" on Hastings from the press gallery of the Senate Central hearing facility.

Missing are the Romano brothers, the mobsters, who are both dead now.

But there is William Borders, the prominent D.C. lawyer who went to jail and could go again because he will not testify.

There is the United States Senate who held court while handling Clean Air, Minimum Wage and host of other bills. Only about half of the Senators ever attend the hearings at one time.

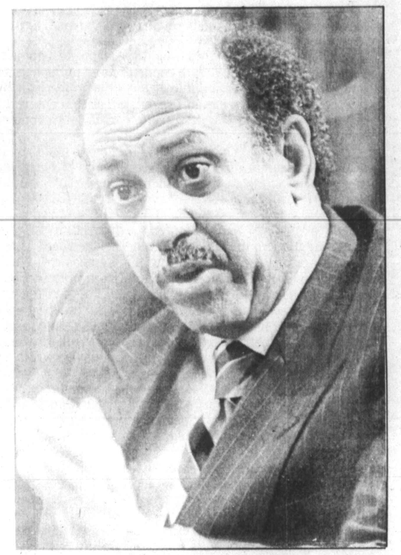
Then there is Rep. John Bryant (D-Tex.), the lead prosecutors who after months of testimony admitted this week he was tired when the entire thing was over.

Then there is the Congressional Black Caucus which relied on the staff of one black lawmaker to decide the fate of the highest ranking black judge in Florida.

There is Conyers, who has been in congress for two decades, pioneered much civil rights legislation, but today is being perceived as someone who is not sensitive to black people.

And finally there is Alcee Hastings 52, who despite a career in one of the busiest court circuits in the country, may be forced to leave the bench in disgrace. But a man who all go down in history as a martyr who truly fought the fight.

And yes, this is America, the land of the "free" and the home of the brave.



AN EMBATTLED Judge Alcee Hastings speaking out in his own defense. Photo by Courtney

Atlantic City mayor arrested in corruption investigation

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Mayor James Usry, who ousted a corrupt incumbent and rose to the presidency of the National Conference of Black Mayors, was arrested Thursday in a state corruption investigation along with at least 11 other people, authorities said.

In addition to Usry, those arrested on bribery and official misconduct charges included Atlantic City's council president, two other council members and at least eight more public officials and businessmen, state police spokesman Capt. Thomas Gallagher said.

The suspects were arrested in the oceanside gaming resort between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., authorities said.

A spokesman for the New Jersey attorney general's office declined to release further information on the charges. Details were to be released at a news conference in Atlantic City later in the day, spokesman Christopher Florentz said.

In addition to Usry, those arrested include Atlantic City Council President Walter Collette, Zoning Board Chairman Kaleen Shabazz, City Councilman Arnold Orsatti, Jr., City Councilman Gene Dorn, and former Atlantic City Housing Authority Director W. Oscar Harris, Jr.

Harris, the owner of Atlantic Linen Co., was one of three people charged earlier this year with using threats and offers of clout in City Hall to pressure casinos into doing business with a linen firm owned by one of the men.

Usry is the only black Republican mayor of a major New Jersey municipality and has been president of the National Conference of Black Mayors for about a year and a half.

He was elected in a 1984 recall election in which Mayor Michael Matthews was ousted from office. Matthews is now serving a 15-year federal prison term for bribery and extortion.

Usry won election to his first full term in June 1986, taking 54 percent of the vote in besting maverick white Republican Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper in an intra-party runoff election.

He caused considerable embarrassment for New Jersey Republicans last spring when he endorsed Democratic president candidate Jesse Jackson before the New Jersey primary and went on to serve as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

Usry was released from the hospital within the past week after surgery to repair damage from a gardening accident.

Parran heads state Education Board

Wilson H. Parran, from Calvert County, was elected president of the expanded State Board of Education.

The vote by 11 voting members was unanimous.

Parran has served as vice president of the state board for the past year and formerly served as vice president of the Calvert County Board of Education and president of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

The new members, who took their seats on the board at its meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, are Patricia K. Cushwa, a former council member in Williamsport in Washington County;

Robert C. Embry, president of the Abell Foundation and former president of the Abell Foundation and former president of the Baltimore City Board of Schools Commissioners;

Donald P. Hutchinson, former county executive of Baltimore County and president of Maryland Economic Growth Associates;

And John C. Sprague, retired IBM external program director from Montgomery County.

Also new on the board this week is Justin Bekelman, a junior at Walt Whitman High School in Montgomery County, who is this year's nonvoting student member.

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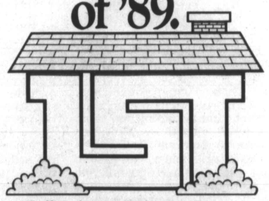

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