Innis Calls Attack 'Ridiculous Fabrication'

NEWS SOURCES PRIVILEGED
(SEE BACK PAGE)

Baltimore Afro-American

TRAGIC DEATH OF KIND MAN
(SEE BACK PAGE)

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'Friend' Charged In Matron's Death

Roy Innis' Statement

"The story in the AFRO-AMERICAN dated Nov. 17, 1970 is based on total fabrication and distortion of facts. The charge in the headlines of CORE being a guerrilla band is almost too ridiculous to even reply to.

"These accusations against me are no more than the bitter outbursts of a disgruntled ex-employee. Instead of accepting his fate, he is now trying to disregard all of the CORE programs in Baltimore and to get them for himself.

"He is just mad at me because I fired him.

"It is too bad that he does not have the decency to keep from hurting the image of the program, the local black community of Baltimore, and the national black organization, CORE.

"I thought we were doing the right thing by not exposing the reasons why Holmes was fired. It has always been our position that fights between black people should be kept behind closed doors so that white people who do not have the interest of our community at heart would not seize upon them to destroy the programs that all black people have worked so hard to establish.

"Because of his bitterness towards me he is now trying to destroy CORE's hard-earned, 30-year reputation for courage and excellence in the movement. He wants everyone to forget that at one time he was a part of this, but now it is clear that he has fallen by the wayside.

"It is a tragedy and I pity him for this attempt to destroy us and all that we stand for in order to save his own skin.

* * *

"The public should not be misled into believing that this is a power struggle between local CORE people and national CORE people because in this we have the full support of the local people of CORE led by Mr. Frank Pullen, chairman.

"This is merely an employer-employee dispute based on charges and complaints brought by local people over a period of two years in and out of the organization which have been substantiated by our own investigation.

"The people of Baltimore should not be fooled by Holmes' attempt to run to the mayor to settle what is essentially an all-black dispute.

"We invite the public to the Target City office at 1640 Gorsuch Ave. and the Halfway House located at 1105 E. Fayette St. to observe for themselves. If they find any guerrillas, let me know about it."

The squabble

CORE says

Roy Innis, national director of CORE has accused Milton Holmes, local head of CORE's Target City Youth Program of questionable administrative conduct and not satisfactorily explaining an expenditure of $34,875 which the national chief says he is still investigating.

In the meantime Mr. Innis has fired Mr. Holmes from his position as TCYP director. In explaining his position on dismissing Mr. Holmes, Mr. Innis declared he is investigating "two leases made by Milton...with CORE funds."

He describes the first lease as being one contracted between "Holmes and Panky's Home Improvement Company for property known as 22 Sherwood Ave. at a monthly rental of $2,475.

"Panky was, in turn, leasing the premises from Mrs. Rose Kessler for the sum of $450 a month. The total money that went to Panky under this arrangement was $34,875 and CORE is now trying to discover what happened to the money."

He further says "Panky claims it was all used for improvement on the property. Kessler claims that nowhere near this amount of improvements was made."

Mr. Innis goes on to say that "Panky did make some improvement on the property and billed CORE separately for these over and above the profits he was making on the lease."

Finally Mr. Innis claims, "the best estimates of the total amounts of improvements made on the property by the owner do not exceed $6,000."

In addition to Mr. Holmes, Roosevelt Miles, former head of the CORE Half-Way House which opened last week, was fired by local CORE chairman Francis Pullen on October 23 and ousted from the building in the 1100 block East Fayette St. on October 26 after he attempted to return to work.

In the wake of the dispute which followed, the issue was taken to Mayor D'Alesandro and the Steering Committee of the Model

(Continued on Page 3)

TCYP says

The Target City Youth Program's position in the current squabble with CORE national director Roy Innis as explained by Milton Holmes, former TCYP director, grew "primarily out of a directive of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare which ordered that the local program was to no longer pay any funds to the national organization for consultant fees and travel expenses."

When TCYP "refused to comply with the national request that this directive be violated then national people came to Baltimore and physically took over the program," Mr. Holmes declared.

In line with this take-over Mr. Holmes pointed out that 31 local members of TCYP have resigned from CORE and the issue was turned over to Model Cities, the funding agency of local TCYP training programs.

"Since then," Mr. Holmes claims, "Model Cities has made it clear that it does not want the disputed Halfway House nationally controlled and HEW has stated affirmatively that Urban Housing should remain locally controlled as it was originally structured."

He went on to describe accusations made against him by Roy Innis, national director of CORE as

(Continued on Page 3)

NOTICE

The Advertising Department of

THE AFRO-AMERICAN WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday, Nov. 26, THANKSGIVING DAY

All display (block-type) ads for the Friday, November 27th issue should be in this office before 4 p.m. Tuesday, November 24th—and all classified reader (per words) ads should be in this office before 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 25th.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS newly elected head, his mother, Mrs. Estelle Griffin Chester, at her 95th birthday party Sunday, Nov. 15, 12 days after Baltimore voters put him into the office never before held by a black citizen.

AFRO Staff Photo by Ben Phillips

Mrs. Chester lives to see son in political career

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Happiness is victory at the polls for any public official but an added dimension came this month to Paul Chester, new head of the Court of Common Pleas, when his mother lived to witness the event.

The lively, interesting lady who reached 95 on Sunday, Nov. 15, is Mrs. Estelle Griffin Chester, a resident of Sterns Boarding Home, 1410 McCulloh St.

Her son Paul, one of her two children, was elected to clerk of the court which includes Marriage Licenses on Nov. 3 to make history as the first black citizen ever to hold such a post in Maryland.

The Court of Common Pleas, with a lily-white staff throughout its nearly 100 years of existence, also issues traders' licenses, has over 30 employees, mostly appointed as "political plums."

At her birthday party last Sunday Mrs. Chester was gifted with innumerable greeting cards, candy, cookies, money, night gowns, dresses and a white sweater from family and friends.

Present besides relativcs were three of her close friends from East Balti-

(Continued on Page 2)

AT SCHOOL BOARD

Banks' raise delayed pending leaders' rally

By PAUL EVANS

In an unusually short session lasting only 3 hours (from 8 p.m. until 10:55 p.m.) and conducted with dispatch, the Board of School Commissioners met last night at the War Memorial Building, and voted to table several items of major importance.

High on the list of those matters delayed was the issue of a $5,193 raise, ordered by the Board, for Samuel L. Banks, chairman muel L. Banks, chairman of the Commission on the Revision of the Social Studies Curriculum for the Baltimore Public Schools.

Overcoming much opposition from unconvinced members, the five-man liberal majority which rules the board ordered the raise to be given to Mr. Banks so that his title and status would be comparable to those of other commissions and agencies of the Department of Education.

Up to this point, Mr. Banks said in an appearance before the Board last night, he felt that the matter was a closed subject

(Continued on Page 17)

chuckle

A ship's captain was telling of his adventures at sea. "In a thick ocean fog I saw a light in the distance. Slowly it became clearer and clearer, and finally I could make it out. It was the end of my cigarette."

Mother killed while on job

"Everybody loved Katie," but Mrs. Katie Allen, 23-year-old mother of two was shot to death Wednesday morning in front of the Valet Cleaners, 2500 block Edmondson Ave., where she had worked 18 months.

Mrs. Allen, of the 500 block N. Monroe St., was pronounced dead on arrival at Lutheran Hospital from two gunshot wounds in the chest.

Charged with the homicide is her longtime friend, Thomas Sye, 38, of the 500 block N. Monroe St., who turned himself in late Wednesday at the Central police headquarters.

* * *

Mr. Sye, a truck driver at the Maryland Office Supplier Company, is being held without bail for action of the grand jury.

One of Miss Allen's closest friends, Miss Willie Mae Barker, of the 700 block N. Carey St., told the AFRO, "Everybody loved Katie because she was one of the best people around.

"I just don't see why anyone would want to shoot her," she added.

According to police witnesses' reports, Mr. Sye arrived at the Edmondson Ave. cleaners at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday and fired Mrs. Allen when she followed him out of the building apparently on a voluntary mission.

Miss Barker had known the victim since they both attended Montrose School for Girls in 1964.

Funeral arrangements remain pending until the victim's 21-year-old brother, Butch Allen, receives emer-

(Continued on Page 2)

Happy, jolly Ted McKeldin is 70 today

By MAX JOHNSON

Still hale and hearty with the warm personality that has attracted Baltimoreans and Marylanders down through the years, Theodore R. McKeldin, former governor and twice mayor of this city, celebrates his 70th birthday today (Friday)

He is as happy about it as are his many, many friends.

How is Ted McKeldin these days, and what is he doing? Here is some of what he had to say Thursday afternoon:

"I'm still in good health and going strong, but not at the near 24-hour a day rate I used to go.

"...this country, making speeches on equal rights of every person and preaching the Gospel on goodwill and the brotherhood of man.

"Also I have my law practice to keep me busy. I'm happy with my work."

Mr. McKeldin said, for example, he is speaking this Sunday at the Faith

(Continued on Page 2)

Good Conduct Appeal

AN EDITORIAL

The AFRO joins with Baltimore public school officials and the police department in a city-wide appeal for cooperation in the maintenance of good conduct in tomorrow's (Saturday) championship football game at Memorial Stadium.

City and Poly will meet in their traditional rivalry, and it is fervently hoped that the switch from Thanksgiving Day will signal the return to the peaceful, sportsmanly, wholesome era its students and alumni once knew.

This newspaper realizes, as do most citizens, that the threat to cancel the game because of repeated acts of hoodlumism would not solve the problem. Those who for the most part create the disturbance, are not personally involved in the athletic program.

Removal of the game from the educational curriculum would hurt only the young people that the program is designed to develop.

It is generally admitted that the hooliganism which has begun to overshadow these interscholastic championships to the work of dropouts and non-students.

However, those students who now comprise the majority of the schools' student bodies have an obligation to help their dropout brothers understand the need for lawful conduct.

TO HELP THE NEEDY AT CHRISTMAS

Readers Give Mrs. Santa $$$

"The way things are going a whole month ahead of time, I am sure this will be the best Christmas ever for me and the deserving families on my list."

This is the comment which came yesterday from the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Claus, shortly after she received a $100 contribution from the Twelve Personality Girls Inc.

"We don't want to have our picture made, we just want to give to help others," is what Mrs. Mary Queen, countess of the club told Mrs. Santa.

The group, composed of 14, is a savings and pleasure club which has been organized 29 years. Recently, the members contributed $500 to Provident Hospital. Mrs. Edith King is president.

* * *

In addition to this club's $100 contribution, other new Mrs. Santa helpers this week include the Lottier-Nixon Interviewing Service Inc., $60; St. Luke Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, $50.

The $25 contributors this week are the Afro-American Labor Council, Myra Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Big Sisters Inc.

Judge and Mrs. Robert B. Watts contributed $20. The complete list of contributors to date, appears with this story.

* * *

YOU, too, can help Mrs. Santa provide toys, food and clothing for the needy. Make your checks or money orders payable to Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities Inc., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. All contributions to Mrs. Santa are tax deductible.

Or you may bring your contribution to Mrs. Santa at the AFRO office, at 628 N. Eutaw St. If you give $25 or more Mrs. Santa will take your picture with her. Call Mrs. Santa at 728-8200 and make an appointment.

Other groups which are planning benefits for Mrs. Santa include the Pauline Brooks Salon in Mondawmin.

This year, the Men's Night is set for Tuesday,

(Continued on Page 14)

REFUTING CHARGES by local CORE employees that he is building a guerrilla army within the ranks of his organization, the Congress of Racial Equality, Roy Innis, center, national director of CORE appeared in Baltimore with Attorney William H. Murphy Jr., left and local CORE president, Francis Pullen, (r), to set the stage for court proceedings. Mr. Innis' position appears in today's issue of the AFRO.

FOR MRS. SANTA — George G. Brown, C and P Telephone Co. executive and civic leader, presents check for $100 to AFRO's Mrs. Santa Claus (Mrs. Marie Cooke). Mrs. Santa will use contributions to help needy families at Christmas. Accompanying story tells how YOU can help Mrs. Santa.