



RENO FRIENDSHIP TEA--Members of Washoe County United Church Women who helped plan Friendship Tea at Reno home of Mrs. Gilbert Lenz, last week included (from left) Mmes. Leslie Hood, Alfred O. Smith and Robert Wyant. Occasion honored wives of local ministers.

Former Rochester Teacher Returns as Top Law Official

ROCHESTER, N.Y. --Almost four years ago, a young Negro from McCool, Miss., led a march on police headquarters in this upstate New York city to protest police brutality against members of his race. Next month, Laplois Ashford, now 29, will become one of Rochester's three top law enforcement officers.

In taking over the position of Deputy Safety Commissioner on April 5, Ashford will be the highest ranking Negro on the city payroll, with an annual salary of \$14,531. One of two Deputy Commissioners, the onetime interscholastic track champion will deal mainly with youth problems.

Ashford was a Rochester high school teacher until 1962, when he became national youth secretary of the NAACP with headquarters in New York City, a position he will relinquish to assume his new duties. He came to Rochester from Mississippi as a child with his parents and received a degree in history from the University of Rochester before earning a master's degree in social studies at Albany State University.

A city official recalled that when Ashford and some of the city's other "Young Turks" left Rochester several years ago, "the youth in the community lost their best leaders. The crime rate climbed and there was a marked increase in the number of juvenile gangs."

Mounting racial friction in Rochester reached a violent climax last July when the arrest of a Negro at a street dance by white policemen touched off a three-day disturbance. The state sent



Laplois Ashford, 2,500 highway troopers and 1,200 National Guardsmen to put down the rioting.

In announcing Ashford's appointment, Public Safety Commissioner Harper Sib-

ley Jr. said:

"One of the major problems and opportunities facing the City of Rochester is in the area of youth. I have been most anxious to find a person who can focus on this area, in relation to the bureaus in this department and to other governmental and private agencies in the city concerned with youth problems. Mr. Ashford is not only a nationally recognized expert on youth, but also a person who is known and respected in Rochester. I am confident he will do a good job."

Ashford said he felt his appointment was the result of the city's desire "to do something about many of the problems that are characteristic of the city's entire population and not just confined to Negroes."

(SPORTS, from page 9)

he could handle in two 10-round non-title fights in Cleveland last year.

ANOTHER INTERESTING ITEM cropped up in the news recently. It seems that two Negroes played on the Tulane University freshman basketball team this season and thus became the first of their race to compete for a Southeastern Conference school.

It was reported that the two youths, Steve Martin and Isaac Adams, are not enrolled at the New Orleans school on athletic scholarships, but if they have any real talent at all, you can almost bet they are receiving some sort of aid from someone close to Tulane. It may be significant that Tulane has announced its intention of withdrawing from the SEC after the 1965-66 school year.

It was further revealed that a Negro tried out for the Tulane track squad last year but left school before competition began.

Yes, siree, "the walls of Jericho" are slowly but surely falling down.

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