

Request Inquiry In Police Action

5-2863

Twenty Newark residents, including seven ministers, have asked for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation of police action in two recent cases.

In a telegram to Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, the 20 asked that the federal government find out whether any citizen was mistreated in the incidents on March 29 at Pennsylvania Station and April 10 at the Lido Bar, 60 Bradford Place.

In the station case, Mrs. Carrie E. Powell, 58, vice principal of Hawthorne Avenue School, was arrested on a charge of interfering with an officer when she complained about police treatment of Raymond Bryant, 52, of 540 Market St.

Mrs. Powell was cleared of the charge in Municipal Court on May 16. Bryant was indicted by the Essex County Grand Jury last week on charges of assault with a knife on a city patrolman and a railroad guard.

In a brawl at the Lido, William Brown, 31 of Linden and another patron were both wounded by a single shot from the revolver of off-duty Patrolman Earl Triplett. Brown, who is awaiting grand jury action on assault charges, sought unsuccessfully in Municipal Court to file countercharges against Triplett and Sgt. James B. Duffy.

The sergeant is still under suspension while awaiting trial on departmental charges of leaving his home without permission while he was on sick leave, and failing to have a fully loaded revolver in his possession.

Ministers who signed the telegram—all members of the United Ministerial Association for Progress—were Rev. John W. P. Collier Jr. of Israel Memorial AME Church, Rev. D. A. Cowart of Bethel AME Church, Boonton, Rev. Claude C. Kilgore of Thirteenth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rev. William R. Mayberry of St. John's Methodist Church, Rev. Frank Hardwick of Paradise Baptist Church, Rev. Horace P. Sharper of Abyssinian Baptist Church and Rev. Joseph R. Randall of Little Friendship Baptist Church.

Other signers included Assemblyman George C. Richardson, D-Essex, leader of the recent campaign for a police review board; Clarence D. Horton, chairman of

president of Newark Local 889, Asphalt Workers, and several officers of the United Essex Civic Association, a group headed by Richardson.

On April 9 a similar request was made by 13 Negro leaders, including eight signers of the latest telegram, for an investigation by U.S. Atty. David M. Satz Jr. of the Powell case. Satz said he referred the request to the FBI and to the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division in Washington.