

## CLAIMS HARRASSMENT BY BAR ASSOCIATION

# Chesimard supporter attacks critics

By LORRAINE STONE  
Home News staff writer

NEW BRUNSWICK — Lennox Hinds, president of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL), says he is being "harrassed and intimidated" for speaking out against trial proceedings and in support of JoAnne Chesimard.

Hinds, a Franklin resident, last night read a letter sent him by the Ethics Committee of the Middlesex County Bar Association, citing statements he made to the press in January.

According to the letter, which was signed by David M. Foley, a committee member, Hinds "violated disciplinary rules" of the state bar association.

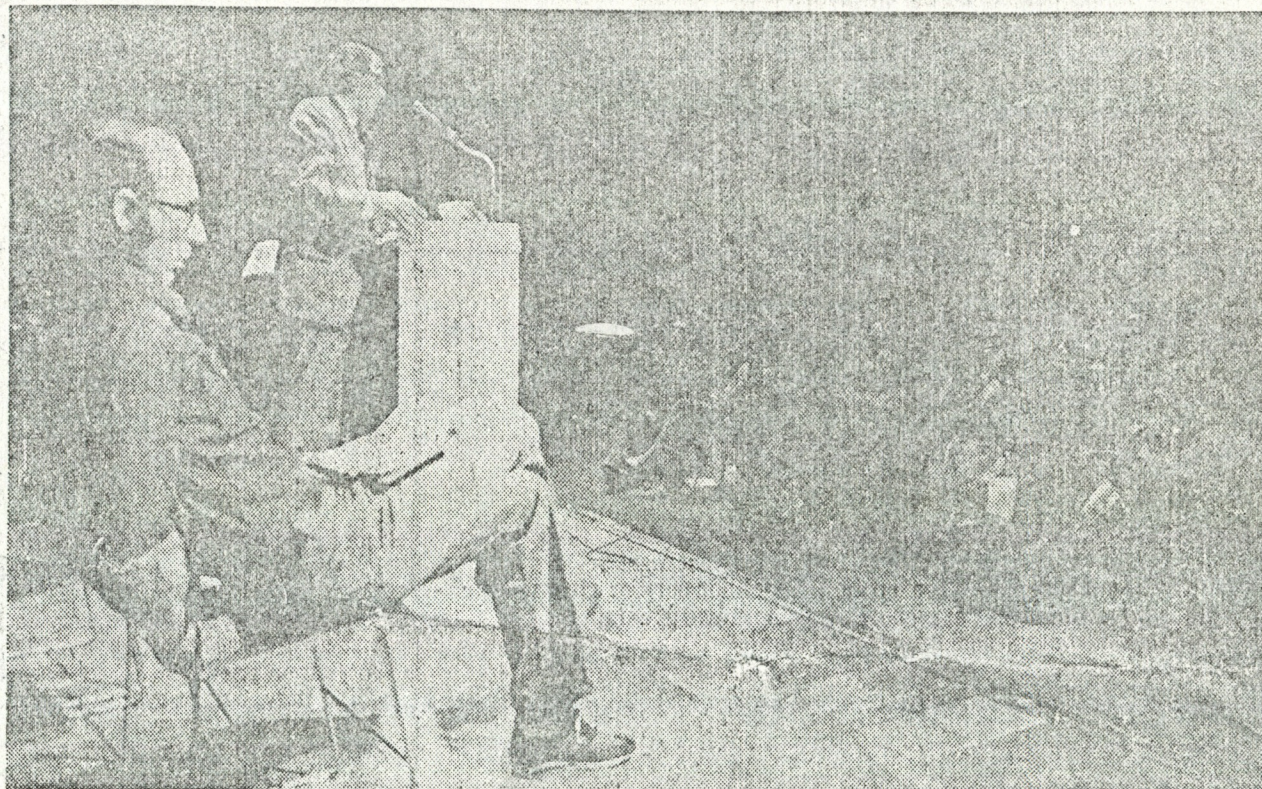
Speaking last night at a fundraising program for Mrs. Chesimard at the Rutgers University Student Center, Hinds said his comments were carried in stories in the Newark Star-Ledger and the New York Daily News.

Those accounts, Hinds read from the letter, quoted him as describing the "Lawyers have a duty," he said, "a duty to curb lawlessness in the courts."

Hinds said he would appear before the ethics committee with a team of lawyers from NCBL, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Lawyers Guild and the Garden State Bar Association.

In addition, he said he would call upon the bar association to monitor Mrs. Chesimard's trial daily and to investigate the conduct of the prosecutor's office.

Defense attorneys Lewis Myers and



Home News photo

IN THE WINGS—Phil Shinnick, the controversial athletic instructor at Livingston College was among those on the dias last night as supporters of JoAnne Chesimard held a benefit at the Rutgers University Student Center. Speaking in the background is William Kunstler, one of Mrs. Chesimard's lawyers.

William Kunstler also appeared on the program, each urging the audience to see that the situation described by their colleague was not a separate or isolated incident.

"This threat to take away the license (to practice law) of a man for speaking out — you must see how inextricably it is entwined with the fate of Assata

Shakur (Joanne Chesimard)," Kunstler said.

The chief defense attorney spoke about his own troubles after speaking out during an appearance at Rutgers last October. He was charged with violating court rules governing New Jersey lawyers and with contempt of court. Charges were dropped Dec. 14.

Myers read the opening day statement by the defendant, which Appleby barred her from reading in court. The attorney also pointed to last week's removal of a Chesimard supporter from the courtroom as another incident of harrassment.

Poet and playwright Imamu Amin Baraka also participated in the benefit.