

San Francisco Chronicle, Wed., Jan. 17, 1973

## A Church Gives \$4400 To the Press

Twelve newspapers — among them The Chronicle — and a newsmagazine and a television station have been awarded grants totaling \$4400 by Peoples Temple Christian Church of the Disciples of Christ for use "in the defense of a free press."

Announcement of the grants was made yesterday in Ukiah, Mendocino county, by the board of trustees of the church, which has a statewide membership of more than 7000.

### SUMMARY

Speaking for the board, trustee James K. Pugh said: "We believe the American way of life is being threatened by the recent killings of news reporters for refusal to reveal their sources."

"As a church, we feel a responsibility to defend the free speech clause of the First Amendment, for without it America will have lost freedom of conscience and the climate will become ripe for totalitarianism."

Pugh said the church's pastor, the Rev. Jim Jones, had "publicly commended" The Chronicle and its "fine editorial staff" for taking a strong editorial position in defense of the First Amendment and for "the high quality of the newspaper."

"The San Francisco Chronicle has shown itself to be fair, lucid, comprehensive and courageous in conducting many issues long on," trustee Pugh said.

### SOCIAL

Called last formally Peoples Temple, the church is best known and highly regarded for its social works which include housing and feeding center activities and medical convalescents, maintaining a home for retarded boys, rehabilitating youthful drug users, and assisting non-members as well as members of the faith through college and legal education.

In accepting the grant in behalf of The Chronicle, Charles de Young Thieriot, editor and publisher, expressed his thanks to the Peoples Temple Christian Church.

Thieriot said the \$4400 awarded to The Chronicle will be turned over to Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalistic society, which is active in defense of freedom of the press.