Bits 'n Pieces
In predominantly black
East St. Louis, Ill, two
black businessmen recently called a press conference, to counter bad publicity about the city, saying their firms are alive and well and they are thankful to be there. They were Ronald L. Thompson, president of General Railroad Equipment and Services, which builds and repairs freight cars, and Ronald J. Ortyle, president of Construction and Mining Services, a firm repairing coal and railroad. equipment. Both firms have been funded by Amistad DOTA Venture Capital, the national minority enterprise small business investment company that is a subsidiary of the Inner City Broadcasting Corporation of New York.

The National Coalition 1981 Conference on 'Cities In A Time Of Change" will be held at the Washington Hilton, May 14-15.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has named Ralph Graham Neas as executive director of the 31-year-old coalition based in Washington. He was once chief legislative counsel to former Senator Edward Brooke Massachusetts.

In 'Atlanta, the Rev. Earl Carroll, a local minister who has been involved in fund-raising efforts in the case of Atlanta's missing and slain children, was arrested on charges connected to his fund-raising activities. Eleven charges included five counts of solicitation without a permit, three counts of passing bad checks, two counts of unauthorized use of a name and one count of theft by conversion.

In Los Angeles, Jennifer King, an attorney for jailed boxing promoter Harold Smith, nee Roger Fields, was indicted on charges of obstruction of justice and giving talse testimony to a federal grand jury.

Janet Cooke, Washington Post reporter whose story of an eight year old heroin addict in Washington won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize in feature writing, has resigned from the Post and gone into seclusion. The 26-year-old Ms. Cooke's story "Jimmy's World" appeared last September 28. She said she found Jimmy through a social worker and was allowed to portray his life after promising the family anonymity. It turns out that her story was a fake and so was her claim to 1976 graduation from Vassar.

HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce, who has promised that the Reagan Administration will continue in some form a key urban program that provides grants to distressed cities and communities, toured the South Bronx reviewing local projects. But he pointedly passed Charlotte Street, severely depressed area visited by President Jimmy Carter and Gov Ronald Reagan as a can didate as a symbol for the ills of the area.

Clerk Davic City personall Dinkins delivered the marriag license to Gov. Carey and then Evangeline Couletas at th Governor's 55th St. Of fice. Dinkins, who will b Grand Marshal for th 369th Veterans' Associa tion's May 17 Marti Luther King Jr. Memoria Parade up Fifth Avenue plans to make another bi for Manhattan Boroug president and has hired Boston political cor sulting firm to help him.

Georgia State Senate Julian Bond says it foolish for blacks to wa for another John F. Ker nedy or . rartin Luthe King, Jr., to lead them t a better life. "Marti Luther King was a mag man in a magic moment, Bond says. "Don't loo for a leadership fight t rally us. We ought to b able to determine our ow direction. Too many of u a sitting and waiting in stead of doing."



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