

## Public Parade

### The Price of Peace

It has often been said that the world can't afford another full scale war. From the apparent price of treaties being negotiated by President Carter it is questionable if the United States can afford peace.

President Carter's personal involvement in Mideast settlement which was signed Monday afternoon is practically unprecedented in the annals of American history or around the globe. Nevertheless, the blank check which he has become quite careless with is cause for concern.

Sen. Jesse Helms put this in proper perspective earlier this month when he told his colleagues that the proposed gift of \$4.1-billion to Republic of Panama to implement the treaties could pay the cost of operation of North Carolina state government for more than 18 months.

Furthermore, Sen. Helms charged that the taxpayers' money is going to Panama in contradiction to what was assured Congress and the American people at the time the Senate "unwisely approved the treaties last year."

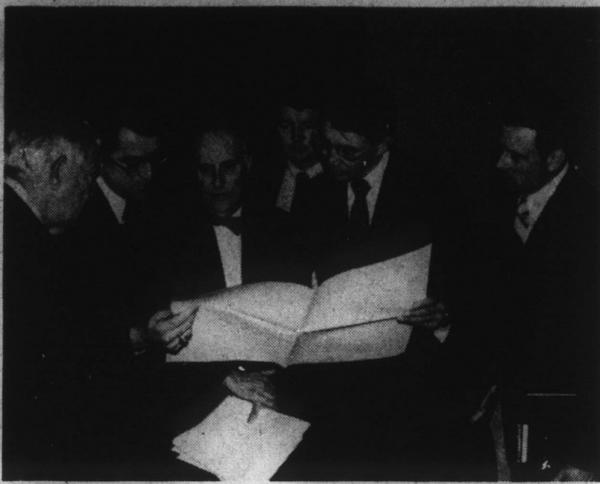
The senator, in a resolution calling for the instruments of ratification to be withdrawn before the deadline of March 31, contends that Panama is making "demands and practical interpretations which go beyond the bounds of anything ever discussed in negotiations or treaty debates."

The Senate appeared at the time to know the minute details what Panama was promised. The difference now is that they were killed into ratification in the name of peace.

What has been promised the Mideast nations in Monday's action? There are all sorts of guestmates and even President Carter himself hasn't written a figure in the concrete.

Sure, war is hell, but so can peace when the price tag is as great as what the Carter Administration is handing out. It certainly doesn't take one with particular finesse when he is armed with a blank check.

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**SERIOUS DISCUSSION** — Two officials of a partnership seeking to build a refinery in North Carolina discuss the Brunswick County location at a meeting of Coastal Resources Commission at Nags Head last week. Left to right are: Riley S. Monds, Jr., of Perquimans County, a member of the CRC Advisory Council; Dr. Parker Chesson of Elizabeth City, CRC chairman; Bill Ginder of Crown Central; Charles Wells, CRC member and Wilmington banker; Leonard Steuart of Steuart Petroleum; and Jackie Stephenson, of Brunswick County.

## Father Sent To Jail

# Child Abuse Conviction

William Brooks, Jr., Route 3, Edenton, was sentenced to 12 months in jail Tuesday after entering a plea in Chowan District Court to child abuse. The 24-year-old Negro was sentenced by Judge John Chaffin.

Sarah Brooks entered a plea of guilty to the count but Judge

Chaffin dismissed the charge after hearing the evidence.

The jurist was obviously upset by the case, especially so after viewing pictures of the body of a three year-old girl who had admittedly been struck with a belt.

Brooks told the judge he had punished the child because she kept wetting her pants. He said he

picked up a belt and struck the girl several times, but denied that he intentionally struck the child with the buckle end of the belt.

"I'm sorry I did it," the defendant told Judge Chaffin.

"It is hard for me to understand why a parent would do such a thing to their own child," the judge stated. "The court is not going to stand for such things like this."

Deputy Sheriff Joseph A. Byrum testified about the investigation he conducted with the assistance of Robert Hendrix, juvenile officer, and Mrs. Marina Crummey of the Department of Social Service.

The deputy said Mrs. Brooks admitted that she too had struck the child with the belt after the incident involving her husband. It was a week after the incident before it became known and authorities became involved.

## Thompson Receives Award

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina paid benefits totaling \$1,894,756 to hospitals, doctors, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies in Chowan County in 1978, the not-for-profit health care plan announced today.

Claims paid on behalf of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North

Carolina subscribers last year totaled \$376-million, compared to \$319-million in 1977. An additional \$350-million was paid through federal government health care and other programs administered by the plan, up from 1977's total of \$318-million.

The plan also administers the hospital portion of Medicare.



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## Progress Reports On Roads Asked

Northeastern North Carolina officials are asking the State

### Office Moves

Lloyd C. Bunch, chairman of the Chowan Unit of the Albemarle Conservation District, announces that the district office along with the Soil Conservation Service Field office has moved from the basement of the Post Office Building to a new location.

Both offices are now located on the third floor of the Bank of North Carolina, rooms 304 and 305. Bunch stated that District Secretary, Shelby White, and Soil Conservation Technician, Stanton Harrell, will still be the local staff ready to assist landusers with conservation and resource problems.

Department of Transportation for periodic updates on progress made and the status of highway programs in the Albemarle Area.

The lack of specific, official information was cited Monday night as a possible cause of a controversy which has developed in the area regarding a section of the new U.S. 17 from north of Elizabeth City to the Virginia line. At issue appears to be the height of

a bridge in Camden County.

Joe Nowell of Perquimans County, a former state highway commissioner, told his colleagues on the Highway Committee of Albemarle Area Development Association that "maybe if we had the facts everything would fall into place and we would know where we are going."

J. Gilliam Wood of Edenton, another former commissioner, called for a current progress report on priorities set by the committee and included in the statewide plan. He said DOT should not be asked for specifics.

However, he urged the committee to "keep the pressure on" the U.S. 17 project because "we've been about it for such a long time."

This caused W.B. Gardner, town administrator in Edenton to comment: "There is a lot we haven't got regarding the Chowan River but we are keeping the heat on."

Levin Culpepper of Elizabeth City, a strong advocate of U.S. 17 cited certain problems DOT is having in connecting the project. He said the local committee has stuck together on this and other priorities and should not be allowed now to be undermined at the local level.

Baxter Williams of Currituck County, committee chairman, said he did not feel a meeting with Tom Bradshaw, DOT head, is necessary. "If we get the word from Marc (Basnight, DOT board member) that's good enough for

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### Tax Deadline

Officials of the N. C. Department of Revenue advise that all tax returns required to be filed on April 17. This is because April 15 is on Sunday and Easter Monday is on April 16.

Personnel will be available on Tuesdays of each week through April 13 and also on the 16 and 17 of April to assist in filing State Income and Intangibles Tax Returns. The office is located at 216 S. Broad St., Rm. 201, Edenton N.C. Assistance is available on this day between the hours of 8 A.M.-5 P.M. W.C. Smart, local revenue officer, requests that taxpayers bring the pre-addressed forms which were mailed to them from Raleigh. Taxpayers filing their own returns should mail those which indicate a refund to the N.C. Department of Revenue, Post Office Box R, Raleigh, N.C. 27634; other completed returns should be mailed to the N.C. Department of Revenue, Post Office Box 25000, Raleigh, N.C. 27640.



**CONTINUE HIGHWAY DISCUSSION** — Baxter Williams of Currituck County, right, is shown with Larry Davenport of Washington County, left, and J. Gilliam Wood at a meeting of the AADA Highway Committee Monday night at Angler's Cove. Williams is chairman of the 10-county committee. Davenport is president of the Albemarle Area Development Association and Wood is a past member of the state highway commission.

## Programs Are On Agenda

Local, area, state and federal programs reflecting educational trends and influencing local educational planning will be among major topics of discussion at the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education meeting Monday. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the third floor conference room of the County Office Building.

Giving an overview of the Public Improvement Program recently funded for a 10-year study in

Chowan County, Dan Tew, ARPDC's community assistance planner, will explain the county commissioners' and school board's role in projecting county facility needs and in developing a five year budget reflecting prioritized needs. The school board will develop prioritized needs of the school system, together with cost estimates to be included in the county wide 10-year plans.

School board members will be extended an invitation to meet with other boards across the state for a joint House and Senate Education Committee meeting on April 11 and 12 in Raleigh. At this time, the report of Rep. Jay Huskins (D-Iredell) for the Educational Appropriation's Commission will be presented. The report includes recommendations to the General Assembly in the area of school finance, salary schedules and personnel allotments to local school units.

"The passage of this committee's recommendations by the General Assembly would serve to upgrade education all over the state," Supt. John Dunn speculated. "One recommendation involves taking principals, librarians, assistant principals and counselors out of the teacher allotment formula, which would enable local school systems to hire more teachers and reduce class size," Dr. Dunn noted in explanation.

Other items on the agenda are consideration for approval of an Exit Document upon completion of high school and a status report on ESAA Basic and Pilot remediation projects submitted for federal funding next year.



**CHANGES IN BOX SECTION** — A complete renovation of the box section at Edenton Post Office is underway, which includes adding more than 200 new boxes. Although a contract was set for the construction work, there was a certain amount of "in-house" work to be done. Postmaster James M. Bond, left, is shown with some of the new, all-metal front boxes while Joe Swanner makes a temporary key board.

## Post Office Gets Face Lift

The box section at Edenton Post Office is getting a major face lifting. Workmen for the past two weeks have been making renovations which include adding 281 more boxes.

Postmaster James M. Bond said when the project is completed there will be 898 lock boxes, all new. The new boxes have all-metal fronts, while the old boxes had glass sections.

In the process, the post office will double the number of large boxes available.

This is the second revision of the box section here in the past six to seven years. Bond said until recently there was a waiting list for the available boxes and predicted that in short order all of the 898 boxes will be rented.

The postmaster relates that the biggest problem encountered, other than the inconvenience of construction, has been the attempt to keep the same box numbers on each box that a patron now has. In a vast majority of the cases this has been done, but it is necessary to change a few numbers.

Once the new boxes are installed it will be necessary for patrons to turn in their present keys and secure keys for the new box. "Please have your old key available so we may exchange key for key and not have a delay in our service to you," the postmaster wrote in a recent memo to boxholders.



**SAVED FROM THE VILLAIN** — All the excitement and action of the old "Gay Nineties" melodramas will return April 5 and 6 as the Edenton Little Theater presents "Dirty Work At The Crossroads". Under the direction of Ross Inglis, this production will be staged at the John A. Holmes High School Auditorium. In the photo above, beautiful Nellie Lovelace (Becky Gilbert) is shown being saved from the evil Munro Murgatroyd (Flynn Surratt) by a farm hand Mookie McGuggins (Frank Roberts). This tongue-in-cheek production will provide ample opportunity for the audience to cheer the stalwart hero and boo the accursed villain.

## Spring Concert

The Edenton Choral Society will present its Spring Concert at Edenton Baptist Church on April 8. The concert begins at 4 P.M. The public is invited to attend this popular program.

**DON'T FORGET, TOWN CENSUS — MARCH 30, 31, APRIL 1, 2**