

MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
IN THE HEART OF
NORTH

NB-Craven Library
311 E. Front St.
New Bern, NC 28560



VOLUME 10

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1967

NUMBER 3

"Is America as a Nation being swept by an epidemic of spiritual malnutrition?" asks J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I fervently hope not, but the danger signs are all too clear. I fear that the public may be coming to accept widespread lawlessness as an unavoidable adjunct to our way of life.

"What has happened to the civic pride, the righteous indignation, of otherwise respectable citizens who turn their backs on helpless victims of beatings and robberies?

"It has helped to turn the streets and parks of many cities into virtual jungles of fear where, according to a recent survey, nearly half of the citizens are afraid to walk alone at night.

"Despite the continuing efforts of some self-professed 'experts' to minimize the crime problem, the undeniable fact remains that crime is increasing in both numbers and intensity at an alarming rate. It is growing six times as fast as our expanding population.

"Forty-one years ago, an experienced attorney and jurist in New York issued the strong warning: 'It is not the criminals, actual or potential, that need a neuropathic hospital. It is the people who slobber over them in an effort to find excuses for their crime. The demand of the hour in America, above all other countries, is for jurors with conscience, judges with courage and prisons which are neither country clubs nor health resorts.'

"The same demands of the hour," says Hoover, "continue to exist today. Tragically, the atmosphere of many courtrooms is still polluted by some jurors who deliberately close their minds to the evidence before them. Too many of our judges seek out technicalities rather than guilt or innocence.

"A trial should truly represent an enlightened search for truth so that deception, surprise, technicalities and delay will be obliterated. The jousting in legal mumbo jumbo resorted to by far too many of our judges makes a farce of our judicial system.

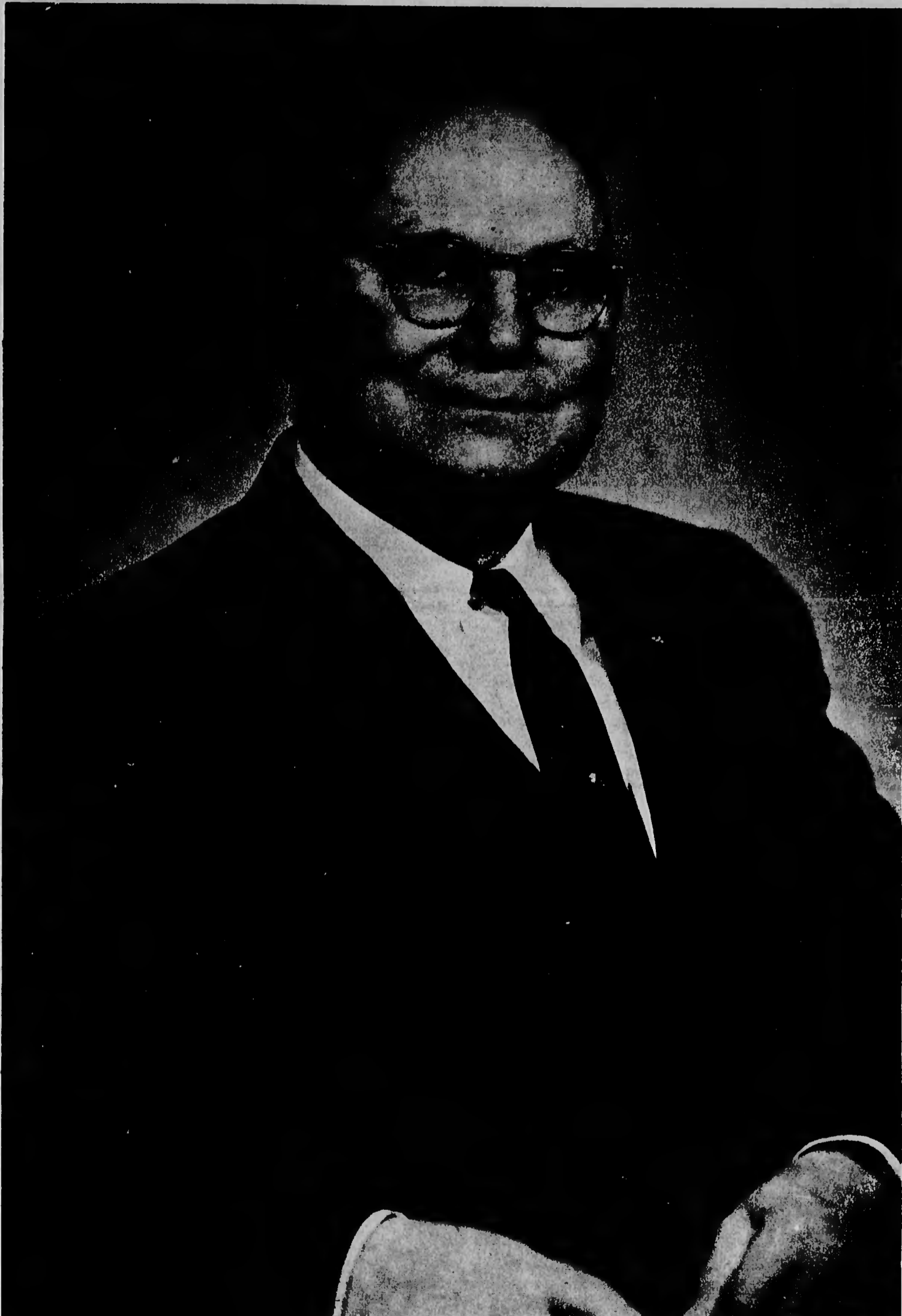
"But even if he should be convicted, the criminal knows that regardless of his past record there is steadily increasing hope for a suspended or a probationary sentence or an early release on parole.

"The decent people in all sections of the country--East, West, North and South - have suffered too long at the hands of terrorists set free with little more than a pretext of impartial consideration of their guilt.

"They are losing patience with systems of parole and probation that are little more than conveyor belts from our prisons and court chambers back to the underworld.

"And they have become nauseated by the irresponsible actions of other 'sometime' Americans such as those fair-weather patriots who eagerly grasp every right and privilege which our country guarantees its inhabitants, while ignoring

(Continued on Page 8)



HIGH HONOR—When Wednesday rolls around, New Bern's Alfred A. (Shotry) Kafer, Jr., will be elevated to the office of Grand Master of North Carolina's 66,000 Masons. Past Master and long-time Secretary of historic St. John's Lodge No. 3, Kafer will be accorded the distinction of having fellow Past Masters from his own Lodge install him at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium. He takes over at the 180th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient,

Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, and will be the 114th Grand Master of Masons in the State. A friendly, good natured man, he is completely devoid of all pretense and sham, but brings to his new office a wealth of knowledge and great capability. Without doubt, he will be one of the most popular Grand Masters in North Carolina's history, and one of the ablest.—Photo by Eunice Wray.