Public Parade

Yes, We're Guilty

When the board of directors of Economic Improvement Council met June 19 to discuss other business, Robert H. Mathes demanded an audience. He wanted to air his grievances over being displayed by the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

In so doing, we are informed, The Chowan Herald was the target of one of the Mathes attacks. So, we are here to set the record straight for all of those who meander along the Public Parade.

When the deputy director was arrested here in early August, 1968, we were surprised. After talking with Roy Lowe, EIC director, we were reassured time would take care of everything.

When on February 18 Mathes was in Chowan County District Court on two speeding charges, we again contacted Lowe and John T. Biggers. They again said time would take care of everything.

The following letter speaks for itself:

May 22, 1969.

Mr. John T. Biggers, Director,
Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Economic Improvement Council,
Edenton, N. C. 27932.

Dear Mr. Biggers:

During the past several months the conduct of one of your employees, Robert H. Mathes, has caused much unfavorable conversation about the entire EIC program in the Northeastern counties of North Carolina. Because of his repeated appearances in Chowan County District Court, his past record has become public knowledge and is certainly not what is desired of those who are directing youth programs.

In addition to the attached copy of his record on file with the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, he was tried here on August 8, 1968, for carrying a concealed weapon and discharging firearms inside the Town of Edenton. It was said in his defense at that time that he had "just had too much to drink" and was not fully aware of the seriousness of the offenses.

On February 18, 1969, Mr. Mathes entered pleas of guilty to two charges of speeding within the Town of Edenton. At that time the solicitor read in open court the attached record.

Those who believe in the work of EIC find it quite difficult to defense against public attacks when a man like Mr. Mathes remains on the payroll. In his position he acts as guidance director and counselor to the youth of Northeastern North Carolina. Can a man with such a record effectively perform these duties? I hasten to answer this in the negative.

At a time when law and order, as well as the morals of our country seem to be on trial, the best talent should be sought out to fill positions of responsibility within the various programs. So long as people like Mr. Mathes continue to be associated with such public programs, those of us who want to support you find it increasingly difficult to do so. In my position as newspaperman I have heard numerous people express the same opinion.

With all good wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Most cordially,

L. F. AMBURN, JR.

If we, therefore, are to be judged guilty of anything it would be of omission rather than commission. Public exposure of the Mathes record, of which EIC knew nothing, could have saved the program $7,732—a lot for the affluent, not to mention the poor—and quite a few red faces.

At times, when dealing with certain people, kindness can prove to be painful. Right now it is extremely painful for us as well as EIC to admit our second thoughts were not sufficient to handle the matter.

Minimum Wage?

A handsome young farm lad walked into a local office with his father. The dialogue went something like this:

Question: "You work for your Daddy?"

Answer: "I sure do."

Continued on Page Four

EIC Defending Position In Ex-Employee Attacks

Economic Improvement Co[illegible] Inc., the anti-poverty agency in [illegible] orth-eastern North Carolina count[illegible] em-broiled in its first major cont[illegible]y.

It apparently came about [illegible] a Neighborhood Youth Corps d[illegible] di-rector ran afoul of the law and [illegible]ast record was exposed and his pos[illegible] was not funded in the program b[illegible]ng June 1. Roy Lowe, EIC direc[illegible]id the series of events is a matter o[illegible]i-dence.

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220-230 S First St—40202

Robert H. Mathes, 32-year-old Negro, who was deputy director under John Biggers, has protested his dismissal, even to the point of writing President Richard Nixon. The Civil Rights Division of the federal government has already investigated the matter as well as state officials.

Mathes publicly attacked several EIC workers at a June 19 meeting of the board of directors. At that time a motion passed which authorized payment of. Mathes' salary for June, July, August and September. When there was no money in the budget for payment of the $178.50 per week for these months Lowe asked the board to reconsider.

The board on June 24 rescinded the earlier motion. Mathes was paid for 30 days after he was dismissed, plus 15½ days accumulated leave.

Lowe said the harsh statements by Mathes on June 19, including one relating to suit being brought against EIC, were made to frighten the board into meeting his demands. "It apparently had its affect," he said.

The director said Mathes had repeatedly been advised that his conduct was hampering his effectiveness with NYC. On August 22, 1968, Biggers wrote Mathes that he was being placed on probation pending action by the EIC Personnel Committee.

On September 23, the deputy director was informed no action had been taken and he was given "the choice of either resigning" or "having all minutes of the discussion concerning your situation included in and becoming a part of your permanent personnel file."

Biggers said ranking officials of NYC had advised him there was no need for a deputy director in his program. He said they told him counselors would be of more value and cost less. "All we were trying to do was do the most for the program at the lowest possible cost," Biggers said.

After Mathes was involved in incidents in Edenton early in August, 1968, he was transferred to Elizabeth City.

Lowe said the "childlike" attitude of Mathes had caused EIC much embarrassmnet and unnecessary work. "As far as we are concerned, Mr. Mathes is no longer connected with EIC in any capacity," Lowe stated firmly.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
DRIVERS LICENSE RECORD CHECK FOR ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

NAME AND ADDRESS	LICENSE NUMBER	RACE	OPERATOR RESTRICTION CODE	OPERATOR ISSUE DATE MTH DAY YR	OPERATOR DUPLICATE DATE MTH DAY YR	OPERATOR EXPIRATION DATE MTH DAY YR	SEARCH DATE
ROBERT HUNTER MATHES 421 PERRY ST ELIZ CITY, N.C.	1461875	NEGRO	NONE	09 20 68	11 14 68	09 22 72	FEB. 11,1969
	09 22 35 MTH DAY YR BIRTH DATE	MALE SEX	CHAUFFEUR RESTRICTION CODE	MTH DAY YR CHAUFFEUR ISSUE DATE	MTH DAY YR CHAUFFEUR DUPLICATE DATE	MTH DAY YR CHAUFFEUR EXPIRATION DATE	1 PAGE NUMBER

MAIL DATE OF SUSPENSION MTH DAY YR	EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUSPENSION MTH DAY YR	DATE ELIGIBLE FOR REINSTATEMENT MTH DAY YR	SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION	NATURE OF RECORD OR REASON FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION	OCCURRENCE DATE MTH DAY YR	CONVICTION DATE MTH DAY YR	COURT LOCATION	COURT TYPE
				CASE CLEARED-DL60	10 24 68			
				PICK-UP NOTICE SERVED-NO LICENSE	10 20 68			
09 20 68	09 25 68	10 24 68	SUSPENSION	POINT SUSPENSION-8 POINTS-G.S.20-16A-5				
				SPEEDING 70/60	08 26 68	08 29 68	EDENTON	SUPERIOR
				ACCIDENT	03 22 68			
				SAFE MOVEMENT VIOL	03 12 67	03 23 67	ELIZ CITY	DISTRICT
				SPEEDING 70/55	12 30 66	01 17 67	PLYMOUTH	RECORDERS
				CASE CLEARED-DL60	05 26 66			
05 25 65	05 19 65	05 19 66	REVOCATION	DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE-G.S.20-17-2				
				LICENSE PICKED UP BY COURT	05 18 65			
				DR WHILE INTOX	03 25 65	05 18 65	NEWTON	RECORDERS
				SPEEDING 65/55	06 14 56	09 24 56	BOONE	SUPERIOR

I CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING IS A TRUE COPY OF THE DRIVER'S LICENSE RECORD OF THE WITHIN NAMED PERSON ON FILE WITH THE N.C. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

SIGNED Edward H. Wade
DIRECTOR, DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION

EMPLOYEE'S PAST RECORD EXPOSED—Robert Mathes, a former employee of Economic Improvement Council, had his lengthy record with the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles exposed when he objected to his position with the Neighborhood Youth Corps was omitted from the new program. Other charges do not appear on this copy of the record.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Erie Haste Gets Banking Position

HOBBSVILLE — T. Erie Haste, Jr., young Hertford merchant, has been named to the board of directors of the Bank of Hobbsville. Announcement was made this week by L. W. Hathaway, board chairman and president of the bank.

T. E. HASTE, JR.

Haste, with his father, operates the Hertford Hardware & Supply Co., Inc., in Hertford and City Marina in Elizabeth City. He is well known throughout Northeastern North Carolina.

He is a former resident of Edenton and has lived in Hertford for the past 10 years. He is immediate past president of the Albemarle Area Development Association, a charter member of Perquimans Chamber of Commerce, is an active member and past presidnet of Hertford Rotary Club, Hertford Jaycees and other community organizations. He is a Mason.

Haste attends Holy Trinity Episcopal Church where he is a past vestryman.

The director attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He is married to the former Patricia Howard of High Point and they have three children.

ABOUT READY FOR PICKING—Truck farming is becoming more and more popular in Chowan County and this is the time of year growers reap the harvest. A. C. Griffin, one of the pioneers in this endeavor in Chowan, is shown here in his watermelon patch where melons are about ready to be picked. Tuesday afternoon Griffin was considering a picking Friday. Ripe melons and vegetables don't take a holiday.

Troy Toppin New Chowan Sheriff

Chowan County got a new sheriff Thursday afternoon and the county ABC Board lost a veteran officer. It came about at a called meeting of Chowan County commissioners where Troy Toppin was elected sheriff.

Sheriff Toppin, 49, of Route 1, Edenton, was immediately administered the oath of office by Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of Superior Court. His first official act was to re-appoint Glenn Perry as a deputy and jailer.

Sheriff Troy Toppin

The term Sheriff Toppin is in expires in December, 1970.

The special session of the commissioners came only a matter of hours after the funeral of veteran Sheriff Earl Goodwin. Sheriff Toppin had served under Mr. Goodwin for more than seven years. He had been ABC officer since 1956.

County commissioners paid tribute to the excellence of service of the late Sheriff Goodwin in an ordered resolution of respect to his memory.

The new sheriff told newsmen he was "grateful for the vote of confidence" manifested by the commissioners. He said the late sheriff was an "outstanding sheriff . . . a good teacher."

"It will be a big job to fill his shoes . . . " Toppin declared. He pledged to do his best and called for the cooperation of the people of the county.

Sheriff Toppin is active in the Ruritan Club, having served as president, and is presently commander of Edward G. Bond Post No. 40, American Legion.

Electrician Faces Counts For Calls

An Elizabeth City electrician nas been arrested and charged with making obscene calls to a local woman. He faces similar charges in his hometown.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said Joseph Earl Todd, 23, was arrested last Thursday in a telephone booth in Elizabeth City while talking with an Edentonian.

Todd posted $500 bond for his appearance in Chowan County District Court.

Chief Parrish said the local department had been advised on several occasions of obscene calls being received here. Through the cooperation of Norfolk & Carolina Telephone Company, the chief said the calls were traced to Elizabeth City.

While the suspect allegedly talked with the local party, the lines were locked open. As the Elizabeth City policeman approached the booth Todd occupied, the suspect hung up. However, since the lines had been locked open the policeman was able to talk with the local woman and verify the call.

Todd admitted to police that he had made several calls to women in Edenton, Hertford and Elizabeth City, according to Chief Parrish. Each time he would identify himself as "Dr. Williams" and say he was making a medical survey, then ask personal questions, the chief continued.

Bloodmobile Visit

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be making its first visit to Edenton in several months July 9 and a new Jaycee chairman hopes old records can be broken.

All who have donated a gallon of blood or more over the years are asked to come to the National Guard Armory July 9 between the hours of 11 A. M., and 5 P. M., give more blood and receive Red Cross pins.

John (Pete) Ward, chairman, said

Continued on Page Four

Dividend Is Voted

A 100 per cent stock dividend will be paid to stockholders of Peoples Bank and Trust Company of record June 26. The stockholders on last Wednesday approved the recommendation of directors to increase the authorized capital stock of the bank from 400,000 to 1,000,000 shares of $5 par.

The total shares outstanding will be 494,716 including the Harrellsville bank merger and the 100 per cent stock dividend.

It is expected that the new shares will be mailed early in July.

HOSPITAL ACCOUNT GROWS—The extra community effort to aid the Chowan Hospital Building Fund got additional support this week in the form of a check from Seabrook Blanching Corporation. C. B. Smith, left, general manager, hands the check to R. Graham White, building fund chairman. The Seabrook contribution was in the name of employees. More than $50,000 has been raised toward the fund and industrial firms have played a major role in this effort.

N. J. George

George Gets Post For Auto Dealers

RALEIGH — N. J. George, president of George Chevrolet Co., Inc., Edenton, has been appointed to serve as Chowan County Area Chairman for the N. C. Automobile Dealers Association, according to an announcement by NCADA President George W. Lyles, Jr., of High Point.

George succeeds J. Eugene Perry, also of Edenton.

George will act as liaison officer between new car and truck dealers in this area and NCADA and the National Automobile Dealers Association. He will be responsible for promoting the various programs and activities of NCADA and NADA, and will head a county-wide membership campaign for both organizations in the fall.

Control Of Firm

Mayor George Alma Byrum has purchased controlling interest in Quinn Furniture Company of Edenton, Inc. Participating with Mayor Byrum in the purchase of stock held by five persons was W. L. (Bill) Norvell, Jr., of Ahoskie.

Norvell will manage the store. He is expected to assume his new duties here around July 15.

Stockholders selling their interests in the firm were: M. M. Perry, Mrs. Rodney Byrum, O. G. Whaley, Mrs. Helen W. White, and Mrs. Thelma C. Wilkins. Those retaining stock are: Mrs. Dan Reaves, Mrs. Murray Byrum and Mrs. Louis George Wilkins.

Norvell, 30, is territory manager for Westinghouse Appliance Sales. He is married to the former Jean Francis of Edenton and they have three children.

Mayor Byrum said no immediate changes in personnel are anticipated.

Speaking of his purchase, Mayor Byrum said the Quinn firm is one of the major retail businesses in Edenton. "It has been managed by people with high integrity and leadership in the community," he said. "I feel very fortunate to buy interest in a company which has been very successful and enjoyed a fine reputation in the retail furniture business."

For the past seven years, Mayor Byrum said, he had worked closely with Norvell. "He is known to be a young man with ability and initiative," he said.

"He will be an asset to this community," the mayor added.

Whaley, secretary-treasurer of Quinn's,

Continued on Page Four