

# WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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## In Little Case

# Ministers Urge Investigation

A telegram has been sent to Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. calling for a "full investigation" into the stabbing death of Beaufort County jailer, Clarence Alligood. JoAnne Little, 25, was charged with first-degree murder in the case.

The telegram, sent by the Rev. Douglas Shamburger on behalf of the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates, requested answers to "many questions that are unanswered." In an interview Wednesday, The Rev. Shamburger said the group is concerned with raising the issue to a higher level and uncovering questionable practices in the Beaufort County Jail.

"We feel that there's a lot of hanky-panky surrounding the case," he said. In addition, "all of the facts have not been brought out in the case and a full investigation may reveal gang operations going on in

Washington (N.C.)."

Reports state that Alligood's body was found on the bed in Ms. Little's cell with icepick wounds through his heart. Ms. Little subsequently escaped, but surrendered to SBI Director, Charles Dunn, eight days later in Raleigh.

The Rev. Shamburger, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, said the group is concerned about the case for several reasons:

"One, it will begin to state, at the highest level of government in North Carolina, the direction in which a case of this kind is going to go. We are concerned, too, about freeing JoAnne and uncovering the illicit practices that are going on in the jail."

He said they were also concerned about "due process of law and justice for all citizens of North Carolina."

A rally of more than 350 people was held in front of the Beaufort



REV. SHAMBURGER

County Courthouse Sunday to show support for Ms. Little. At

some point in the rally Golden Frinks, SCLC field secretary, read a list of "negotiable" demands relating to the operation of the jail and Ms. Little's court trial which may be held soon, according to a local newspaper.

Following is the text of the telegram sent to the governor by the Rev. Shamburger, president of the organization:

"We the concerned ministers of the Baptists Ministers Conference and Associates of Winston-Salem and vicinity do request a full investigation of the peoples case against Joanne Little who allegedly killed the jailer, Clarence Alligood of Beaufort County. We make this request because we are concerned about due process of law and justice for all citizens of North Carolina. Therefore, it is our feeling that in the above mentioned case there are many

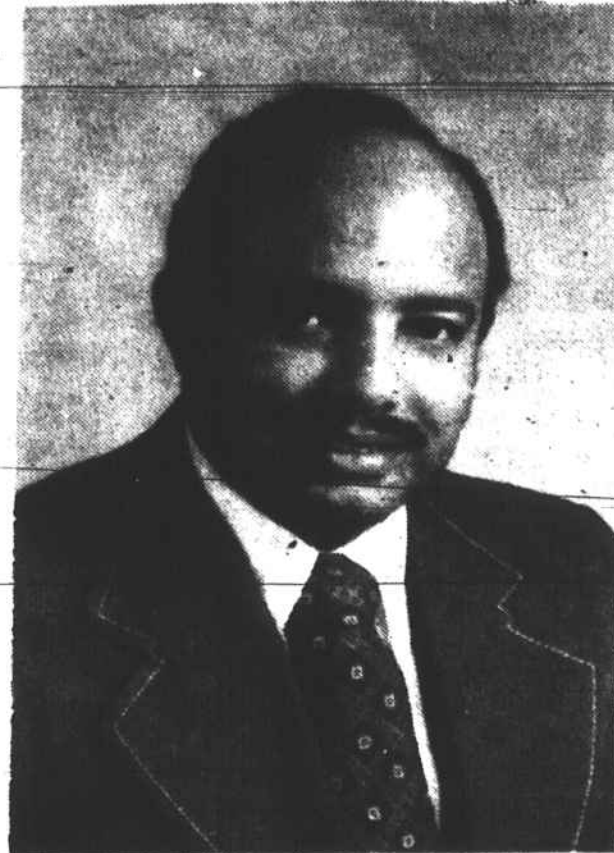
questions that are unanswered, we would like to know the answers. 1- Why was the jailer in a cell of the female section of the jail half naked? 2- Why were the keys missing to this particular cell? 3- Why were the FBI or SBI not notified sooner than eight hours? 4- How did the alleged death weapon get from the jailers desk to the jailers right hand in the locked cell?

In capital cases a person's life is at stake in North Carolina. Where the final verdict may lead to capital punishment all the facts should be uncovered and be presented so that justice may be served and peace established in the land for all.

Reverend Douglas Shamburger, President of the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates and Reverend B.F. Daniels, Special special reporter for the Baptists Ministers Conference and Associates.



RUSSELL



DAVIS



BUTLER



BAILEY

## Nixon Pardon

# BLACK LEADERS RE-ACT

Former President Nixon responded with remorse over his mistakes concerning the Watergate scandal Sunday after President Ford granted him a full and absolute pardon.

Ford said that Nixon had suffered enough and wanted to end the Watergate affair. The pardon keeps Nixon from being prosecuted on any criminal offenses committed while he was in office.

Several of Winston-Salem's black politicians expressed their feelings on the pardon and most were shocked and dismayed over what they termed a blow to the judicial process.

"The pardon slaps the concept of justice in the face," said Cecil Butler, a democrat who ran for Board of Aldermen in the past election. "If Ford was aware of

the fact that Nixon was going to commit suicide, then it was an act of mercy. But, if he wasn't then it was a very uncool move." Butler said in a telephone conversation that he was beginning to have some faith in Ford but now "it makes me look at him again."

Richard Davis, a democrat and member of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, said "it appears that we have a different element of justice in this country." Davis said that justice is supposed to be blind, with no respect as to persons but said that Ford's decision was no surprise to him. "I classify this as Mr. Ford's first major blunder." In addition, he said that the move by Ford would be a plus for the Democratic Party.

Mrs. Virginia Newell, who lost

a bid for a board of alderman seat in the last election, said she was shocked at the swiftness with which Ford pardoned Nixon. "I thought he (Ford) would wait and let the justice department run its course," she said. "The decision was entirely too hasty. It put a shadow over Ford's integrity."

Mrs. Newell said Ford's decision may keep the truth about the Watergate scandal hidden forever. "The American people are due an explanation as to what went on in the White House," she said. "No one is suppose to be above the law; not even the president of the U.S."

Carl Russell, Mayor Pro Tem, expressed deep sorrow over Ford's decision and said he was surprised. "I felt sorry for Nixon to some extent," he said, "but not to the extent that he should be

totally released when other have gone to prison." Russell said that the other participants in the Watergate scandal now deserve to be considered for release because "they were acting for the president at the time."

Russell said that justice will not be fully done until those persons serving sentences are released. "I feel that the American people have been let down," he concluded.

Beaufort Bailey, who ran for the Forsyth County School Board in 1972, said that the men now convicted for their part in the Watergate scandal and those who

Bailey feels that the decision may lead to doubt on the part of the American people in the judicial system. "I think this will make people have less belief in the judicial system."

are presently awaiting trial were acting on behalf of Nixon. "If they go to jail, why should't Nixon?" he asked. "It was a hasty decision," he warned, "there might be a body dug up in the backyard later on."

Nixon can, however, face any civil court proceedings arising out of the Watergate scandal and can be called as a witness. In effect, the pardon relieves Nixon from being prosecuted on all offenses except perjury.

Many feel that this is just another example of the inequities of a system that is overly just to a few and severely unjust to many. Drunks fill the county jails, they say, while a man who perhaps committed the most heinous crime in decades is free and being subsidized by taxpayers.

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