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Attorney Brock Takes Exception To June 23 Statement in Journal

Mr. Jack Rider
Jones Journal
West Vernon Avenue
Kinston, N. C.

Dear Mr. Rider:

I hereby take exception to the following statement which you published in the June 23, 1966 issue of the Jones Journal: "One is County Attorney Donald Brock, who succeeded some years ago in getting a slate of commissioners elected who fired the Late George Hughes as county attorney and gave the job to Brock, which he still holds, while also serving as county veterans service officer, attorney to the school board, attorney to the ABC board and attorney to an assortment of other quasi-public non-profit, non-stock corporations that are either presently using or planning to use tax funds." Your statement that I "succeeded . . . in getting a slate of commissioners elected who fired the Late George Hughes as county attorney and gave the job to" me is untrue and misleading. It is true that the Board of Commissioners referred to did not employ Mr. Hughes and did employ me; however, a majority of the Board of Commissioners asked me to accept the position of county attorney. I declined to accept the position and suggested that they reappoint Mr. Hughes. Later the Commissioners informed me that they would not reappoint Mr. Hughes and renewed their request that I accept the position and I did so. I had nothing to do with the members of the Board of Commissioners seeking election, and during that particular primary (1960) I spent my entire efforts in behalf of a gubernatorial candidate from Jones County.

I have undertaken to discharge the duties of county attorney in the best interest of the people of Jones County; since my service as County Veterans Service Officer began, many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been received by Jones County veterans and their dependants; the amount received by them in 1965 alone was approximately \$254,000.00.

I assisted the Jones County ABC Board in connection with its original organization. I am not regularly retained by that board. In this connection I actively supported the establishment of ABC Stores in Jones County because I believe strongly in the control of sales of alcoholic beverages, moreover the establishment of these stores has provided revenue for Jones County in excess of \$300,000.00 and this benefits all the taxpayers of Jones County.

In the past two years problems have confronted the Jones County Board of Education in connection with which they needed legal advice to a considerable extent. I am honored that the School Board has sought my advice in regard to these problems, many of which arise out of the civil rights efforts of the federal government.

It has been my privilege to render professional service in behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Jones County, the Jones County ABC Board, and the Board of Education. The services

rendered by me have enured to the benefit of the people of Jones County. In the past six years Jones County has paid on its bonded indebtedness \$329,618.00 and at the present time, the total indebtedness is only \$196,800.00. During this same period of time all classrooms requested in a recent bond issue, which was defeated, have been built along with several additional classrooms for our schools, and all have been paid for. You might also check with Mrs. Doris Oliver concerning my assistance to the Jones County Health Department.

I claim the privilege of serving my community constructively and I reserve the right to support such programs and such candidates as I see fit and to oppose all programs with which I do not agree and to vote against any candidate I do not choose to support. I regret exceedingly that you exercised yourself in an effort to create strife and dissension among Jones County people by means of the article you published in the Jones Journal June 23, 1966 issue. The false statement to which I have taken exception in the first paragraph of this letter, if not malicious, is born of a reckless and wanton disregard of the truth and adds nothing to your stature as a newspaper man. In my opinion, you could render a constructive service to the people of Jones County by informing yourself in reporting to the people upon the problems confronting the County Commissioners, the Board of Education and other public agencies charged with the responsibility of conducting the public affairs of Jones County. The members of these boards are dedicated public servants, anxious to do their best for the people within the limits of the law, which has undergone some most distasteful and far reaching changes in recent years.

Yours very truly,
Donald P. Brock

DPB:ab

Editor's Note: The Journal has never made the slightest inference that Attorney Brock did not represent Jones County well. The Journal has, in fact, supported him in his efforts to legalize the sale of whisky in the county and in bringing about a thorough survey of the county's water resources and the possibilities of flood control measures. The Journal most of all certainly does not deny Mr. Brock the "privilege of serving" and the "right to support such programs and such candidates" as he sees fit. As to the truth, half-truth or malicious lie Mr. Brock refers to in the Hughes matter the record speaks for itself, and the people of the county, who perhaps know as well as the Journal or Mr. Brock will have to be the final judges of who is closer to the truth in this matter. But most specifically The Journal reiterates that Mr. Brock, whether he knows it or not and whether he likes it or not is a major political issue in Jones County and he will remain so until he learns to let others serve the community in a professional (paid) capacity. The

Three Divorces and One Tax Suit Filed in Court

Walter P. Henderson clerk of superior court reports docketing four civil cases in the past two weeks.

William Earl Bell seeks a divorce from Linnea Graham Bell alleging their marriage in April 1964 and separation June 4, 1965.

Glenda Sue Pringle seeks a divorce from Donald Pringle, alleging marriage February 18, 1961, and separation July 6, 1965.

Town of Maysville is suing Robert H. Jones and wife Gladys Jones for taxes which are allegedly owed to the town for the years 1956, \$9.59; 1958, \$23.70; 1960, \$17.73; 1961, \$22.64; 1962, \$19.58; 1963, \$17.29; 1964, \$10.25; and 1964, \$21.75.

Dennis Gray Hill seeks a divorce from Thelma Hill whom he married May 12, 1962 and was separated from July 5, 1963.

Commissioners Tell County Attorney Brock to Bring Suit Against Judge Larkins for Rent on Basement Suite

In July session the "lame duck" Jones County Board of Commissioners hobbled bravely forward by instructing County Attorney Donald P. Brock to bring suit against Federal District Judge John Larkins Jr.

The exact language of the minutes of the meeting is: "P. Nelson Banks made a motion for County Attorney Donald P. Brock to use any legal procedure to collect back rent from Judge John D. Larkins Jr. of office in basement of court house. Seconded by Charles Battle Jr. and motion carried unanimously."

Banks was in a motioning frame of mind. He also "made motion" authorizing the county attorney to "use any legal terms to discontinue the Neighborhood Youth Corps during the months of July and August, and also that Mrs. Grace Pollock be notified that "rent will be discontinued for two months on Neighborhood Youth Corps offices in Trenton" which the county has been carrying.

Banks also resigned as the board of commissioners' representative on the "War on Poverty" program that is being waged in the county.

More Controversy

Another touchy item resulted in a 3-2 vote by the board to restore funds deleted from the budget of the office of superior court clerk. Following a June budget session the board indirectly informed Court Clerk Walter Henderson that pay for an assistant in his office was being deleted from his office budget.

Last week after Henderson had done some in-between politicking this deletion was restored.

Journal freely admits that the services rendered by Mr. Brock have "enured to the benefit of the people of Jones County." But the Journal also freely asserts that benefits have enured Mr. Brock as well as the county.

Jones Commissioners Cut Tax Rate 34 Per Cent, Boost Tax Values 59 Per Cent, Hike Budget by \$20,631.07

In approving the 1966-67 county budget in their July meeting the Jones County Board of Commissioners played a typical modern political game.

They cut the county tax rate on the \$100 valuate from \$1.92 to \$1.25, which is slightly more than a 34 per cent cut in rate.

But they boosted the county's tax listed valuation from \$11,803,000 to \$18,855,154, which is slightly more than a 59 per cent increase in valuation.

Finally the board adopted the 1966-67 county budget which is \$20,631.07 larger than last year's; an increase from \$899,266.17 to \$919,897.84.

This budget increase came about despite the fact that in the past year there was an item for general county bond debt in the amount of \$47,480, which did not occur this year since all general county bonds have been retired.

The boost in total budget also came despite a cut from \$14,154 last year to \$4,623.32 this year for tax listing, since a revaluation was held last year and caused the higher allocation for this purpose.

The biggest increase in the budget went to schools, with \$43,335.42 more being allocated

this year than last from county funds. Total school cost from county funds amounts to \$324,558.42 this year and last year it was \$281,223.

The second biggest increase came in the welfare department budget, which climbed from \$402,512 last year to \$428,861.68 this year; an increase of \$26,349.68 in this department alone.

The tabulation on this page shows the comparative allocations for the 1965-66 budget period and the 1966-67 budget period.

	1965	1966
Aid to Poor	\$8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
Aid to Blind	3,254.00	4,205.68
Welfare		
Adm.	40,558.00	43,700.00
Aid to Aged	79,200.00	86,400.00
Aid to		
Children	190,300.00	195,228.00
Aid to		
Disabled	73,700.00	81,648.00
Medical Aid	7,000.00	9,180.00
Accounting	4,913.00	4,980.65
Extension		
Agents	12,295.00	12,681.03
Forestry	4,537.50	4,537.00
Health		
Dept.	24,193.60	28,431.22
School		
CE*	232,896.00	250,420.42
School CO	29,000.00	44,300.00
School Debt	19,327.00	29,838.00
Mosquito		
Control	4,900.00	5,000.00
Recorder		
Court	3,126.00	3,062.22
Commissioners		
	3,485.00	3,610.10
Tax listing	14,154.00	4,623.32
Tax		
Collection	8,873.00	9,277.98
Sheriff		
Office	16,816.95	21,971.66
Election		
Board	3,717.00	1,864.50
Court House	8,364.00	9,152.36
Register of		
Deeds	8,478.00	9,498.27
Coroner	300.00	300.00
Jail	1,100.00	980.00
Superior		
Court	4,500.00	3,460.48
Clerk of		
Court	11,914.72	12,341.90
County		
Attorney	1,890.00	1,984.50
Veterans		
Officer	1,254.00	1,310.70
Auditing	3,500.00	3,500.00
Soil Conservation		
	1,500.00	1,500.00
Special		
Phones	240.00	300.00
Libraries	3,500.00	3,500.00
Miscellaneous		
	20,500.00	18,609.84
Totals	\$899,266.77	\$919,897.84

*School CE is current expense and School CO is capital outlay.

These items for individual offices include all salaries and expenses in that department and do not represent the salary of the person holding the office.

MOORE AT FT. DIX

Pvt. Shade Moore Jr., 20, whose parents live on Star Route, Box 56, Maysville, completed a field communication crewman course at Fort Dix, N. J. on June 24th.

Thirty Five Cousins Seek to Break Will of Late Robert T. Johnson

Legal action has been filed in Jones County Superior Court by three first cousins of the Late Robert T. Johnson, seeking to break the will under which he left the bulk of his estate in a trust for the education of deserving Jones County boys and girls.

Johnson, who lived at Phillips Crossroads, died July 10, 1965 and on July 21, 1965 agents of the Branch Banking and Trust Company presented a paper pur-

porting to be Johnson's last will and testament which was processed and approved in the courts of Jones County.

Under this will Branch Bank was named executor of Johnson's estate which included 560 acres of land, a small amount of cash, stock in Branch Bank and assorted furniture and tools. An inventory of the estate listed a gross value of \$22,044.02 at the time the will was probated. But

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