

# KINSTON POLICE LIEUTENANT'S RESIGNATION ACCENTS MAJOR PROBLEM OF ALL CITIES

This week the resignation of Kinston Police Lieutenant Rudolph Hill, a veteran of more than 12 years' service, brought sharply into focus a problem confronting every small town and city police department, as well as every sheriff's department in the nation.

That is the problem of continued low wages and increasingly hazardous duty. These two very hard facts of life have cost and are costing every small law enforcement agency men with good records, such as Hill, and men whose experience is vital in view of the many technical problems dumped into the laps of law enforcement officers by wild court opinions that are more concerned with the rights of criminals than of the protection of the public or the support of police.

Lt. Hill refers to the small pay raises he has had over a long period, and when he leaves the department this month, after 12½ years, his pay will be considerably lower than that of a rookie member of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Kinston police officers in addition to having pay scales drastically lower than the highway patrol also must work 20 per cent longer hours. The patrol works a 40-hour week and the police of Kinston have a 48-hour work week.

At present a rookie highway patrolman starts at \$6,108 per year, or \$509 per month, and he gets an automatic raise every other year until the top level for a regular patrolman is reached after 13 years, when his pay has increased to \$8,250 per year, or \$710 per month.

In Kinston a rookie police officer starts at \$401.40 per month and in 18 months may move to the top pay for patrolmen which is \$442 per month.

A highway patrol line sergeant is paid \$9,384 per year, or \$782 per month. On the Kinston Police Department a sergeant is paid \$464.88 per month.

A highway patrol first sergeant is paid \$860 per month.

A highway patrol lieutenant is paid \$11,376 per year, or \$948 per month. A Kinston Police Lieutenant is paid \$487.76 per month.

A highway patrol captain is paid \$13,800 per year, or \$1150 per month. A Kinston police captain is paid \$537 per month.

To: Chief Bates  
From: Lt. R. Hill  
Subject: Resignation  
Dear Sir;

It is with great sorrow that I have to write this resignation. I have given this matter a great deal of thought and consideration, before making this decision. For the past twelve and one half years I have had great hopes for the professionalization of Law Enforcement.

Each year that passes, I keep telling myself, "it can't be much longer," that the people will soon demand and receive, good, Law Enforcement. For the last few years, I have seen quite a few changes in this profession, but, none of these changes has helped the public opinion on

Law Enforcement (on the local level).

Local Law Enforcement today seems just as far away from professionalization as it did eight years ago. After the Riots April 6, 1968, I felt sure the public would give us a little more support and respect, I was wrong. To show their gratitude, I felt sure the City Fathers, without any encouragement from the public or merchants, would appreciate the way we handled the Riots, keeping the damage to a minimum. I was proud of the way we handled the situation. Its true we didn't make as many arrests as some of the other unfortunate Cities, but we controlled them. We didn't have the damage, looting, and pilferage as other cities.

A couple of our City Fathers, made the statement, "we did a good job, and that they were proud of the way we controlled them, and that they wouldn't forget." Some merchants also made the same statements.

Maybe they didn't forget, but being proud, and not forgetting, isn't feeding my family. In the last two years, the cost of living has increased 15 per cent, in the City of Kinston and a little over a year ago I received a 4 per cent increase in salary.

My take home pay after deductions is over \$7.00 less per month now, than it was September 15, just 5 months ago, due to the retirement, Insurance and Social Security increases. This doesn't count the cost of living of 15 per cent.

The little 4 per cent in over 4 years has done very little to help feed and cloth my wife and two children. At the present time the County Commissioners and City Fathers have no choice but to raise taxes again this year to meet their goals and complete projects already under way.

There seems to be nothing for Law Enforcement in way of a substantial raise in our wages to help offset the high costs of living. I have been working two and sometime three jobs for over the last 8 or 10 years, to supplement my income, so I could meet my obligations. There just isn't enough hours in one day to keep these jobs going and getting any sleep or time with my family.

I realize I am not alone, that there are more Policemen in Kinston besides myself, who are in the same boat. Its not fair to my family, to the Police Department and to the other employers to hold so many jobs, because I can't possibly give my best when I am tired and fatigued from so many hours.

During the National campaign, all we heard from all three candidates was Law and Order. The public hasn't reacted to the pleas of the Authorities. But then again, how can we expect the support from the public when we can't even get the support of our City Fathers?

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's statistics show an overall increase in crime of 18 per cent in the last year, but, our statistics for Kinston show we have a decrease over the past 12 months. To me, it sounds that our Department has done a tremendous job of crime prevention. I begin to wonder how many people in Kinston appreciate the fine work our Department has done.

I have been told by some of our citizens that the next step or job will be a cab driver, which in their opinion is as low as you can get. I had thought up until the past 12 months that we had at least 25 per cent of the citizens of Kinston that appreciate good Law Enforcement, but now, I am more inclined to believe only 5 per cent appreciate a Law Enforcement Officer. What really convinced me at arriving at that conclusion was a couple of

months ago, a reporter asked 4 people on the street "if the City of Kinston had a surplus of 5 million dollars, how in their opinion should it be spent?" One of these said the whole 5 million should be spent on Education and schools, the second said he thought it should be spent on welfare, the third said, he thought it should be spent on education and welfare, the fourth person said that he thought the whole 5 million should be spent on Law Enforcement. This was the one out of the four who even mentioned law enforcement and this fourth man was prejudiced because his brother has been with this Department and he understood the needs and problems of the Police Department.

I thanked the fourth man for his fine statements, but during the conversation, he stated that he had been criticized by a lot of people (the public) for his stand on Law and Order.

In the last 12½ years, I have been kicked, spit on, cursed at, stepped on, assaulted and even my family has been cursed by the lower elements of mankind. Due to the lack of respect, support, financial as well as other, I have no other choice but at this time to submit my resignation. I request my resignation become effective the 16th of March 1969, the 16th being my last day.

Thank you, sincerely  
Rodolph Hill  
Lt. Kinston Police  
Department

## THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 46

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1969

VOLUME XVI

### Contradictions Numerous Between Testimony of Witnesses For Prosecution and Defense of Sheriff Brown Yates as Much Publicized Effort is Heard by Judge Walter Cahoon

At press time (2 p.m. Thursday) the feeling of courtroom observers was that the trial of Sheriff Brown Yates would last the rest of the day and might even run over in a Friday session.

#### ABC Probe Ordered In Lenoir County

Monday the State Alcoholic Beverages Control Board in a split vote gave the Lenoir County ABC Board two weeks to investigate charges made by a fired truck driver, Elton Butts.

Butts in newspaper interviews, in appearances on TV and before official boards has accused several employees of the Lenoir County department with illegal acts in which he has implicated himself.

Monday the joint county boards of commissioners, health, and education met and named John Mitchell of La Grange to the County ABC board, replacing Sid Myers, who is now a magistrate.

This week one of the most publicized trials in the history of Jones County has seen more than 50 witnesses take the stand either in prosecution or defense of Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates.

An effort instituted last November by five officials of the Jones County Fair reached the trial stage this week to remove Yates from office because of alleged habitual intoxication.

The list of those called to assist in the prosecution of the effort included County Commissioner Denford Eubank, District Judge Walter Henderson, Mrs. Henderson, Wellynn Dawson, Highway Patrolmen C. W. Oakley, R. R. Mason, Leo Taylor, Deputy Sheriff Dan Killingsworth, Pollockville Fireman Walter Bray.

Defense witnesses included Judges John Larkins, Albert Cowper, Howard Hubbard, Ro-

bert Wheeler, Court Clerk Rogers Pollock, Assistant Court Clerk Mrs. Nolan Jones, State Bureau of Investigation Agents John Edwards and Warren Campbell, Magistrate Joe Beaton, Election Board Chairman John C. B. Koonce, Township Constable Maggie Small, Lenoir County Sheriff Fred Boyd, Onslow County Sheriff Tom Marshall, Lenoir County Deputy Sheriff Horace Small, Barfield Haddock, F. G. Simmons, Ray McDaniel, Duff Taylor, Bartha Meadows, Earl Yeomans, Marvin Philyaw, Clyde Monette, Garland Pike, Murray Whitaker, Joe Monette, Henry Mills, William Mills, Benjamin Parker, Les Parker, Fred Murphy, Thomas Lucas and Adolph Cox.

The case is being heard before Judge Walter Cahoon of Elizabeth City without a jury, as provided by laws pertaining to such matters.

### Jones Board Supports Statewide One Cent Sales Tax for Local Usages

Monday the Jones County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution asking their representatives in the general assembly to support an additional one-cent statewide sales tax that would be distributed to city and county governments on a per capita basis.

The board also asked the State Highway Commission to construct a crossover at the county whisky store at Wyse Forks.

The board agreed that in the future the county would not pay any part on any indigent's funeral in which the total funeral cost was over \$400.

The highway patrol was given temporary use of a room in the courthouse to give breathalyzer tests. A bill is being asked in the general assembly giving the sheriff authority to issue per-

mits for purchase of pistols, approval was given to hiring two nutritional aides in the extension department at no cost to the county and April 7th was set as the day when the board will be convened as a board of equalization and review.

#### One Civil Suit Filed

In the past week one civil action has been filed in the office of Jones County Clerk of Court F. Rogers Pollock. In it John L. Monk is suing for divorce from Donnie Rhodes Monk. The suit alleges their marriage on February 10, 1962 and their separation on May 12, 1967.

### LAND TRANSFERS

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports the recording of the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From Rosa Lee Collins to Mammie Collins 56 acres in White Oak Township.

From F. W. and Thelma Gooding to J. Edward and Ruby Gooding .93 acres in Trenton Township.

From William and Della Hill to Johnny and Carol Hill a lot in Pollockville Township.

Correction: Last week this transaction was reported wrongly: From Roslynd and Virginia Pollock and Jacqueline and Walter Carson to Norman Kellum a tract known as the Simmons Place in Pollockville Township.

### Two Pollockville Men Killed Friday; High Speed Blamed in One-Car Wreck

The investigating patrolman blamed high speed for a one-vehicle wreck Friday afternoon that claimed the lives of two Pollockville men.

Herman L. Meadows, 36, driving a pickup truck and Earl Esmond Bell, 49, died instantly when the truck went out of control in a curve on the Island Creek Road about six miles east of Pollockville and crashed in-

to a tree.

The men were driving toward Pollockville when the crash occurred at about 5:45 p.m.

Patrolman C. W. Oakley said the truck was demolished in the crash.

These were the third and fourth highway deaths so far in 1969 on the highways of Jones County.