

28th February, 61.

The Secretary,
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

SUBJECT:
Suspension from duty - Mr. E. G. Johnston,
Deputy Superintendent, Training School for
Girls, Parramatta.

qq Late on Thursday, 9th February, certain information was received at this Office suggesting an undesirable association between Mr. E. G. Johnston, Deputy Superintendent, Training School for Girls, Parramatta, and qq [REDACTED], an ex-aminee of the Training School.

Mr. Kefferman, Chief of the Establishments Division made enquiries at the Prisons Department on 10th February, which suggested that this girl had been bailed out by Mr. Johnston on 26th January, 1961, under the assumed name of Eric REDACTED.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Delaney, was consulted by me on Monday 13th February, and as a result Detective Sergeant, 2nd Class Lendrum and Detective Constable Webster were assigned to assist the Chief of the Field Division of this Department, Mr. Troy, to carry out investigations.

The girl, qq [REDACTED] could not be located despite an intensive search. She failed to appear at the Spring Quarter Sessions to answer a charge of breaking, entering and stealing and her whereabouts are at present unknown. However, intensive enquiries were made by the investigating officers and a copy of the report by the Police Officers is attached and marked Annexure "A".

On Friday 24th February, Mr. Johnston was interviewed by the investigating officers at this Office from 2.30p.m. until 7.25p.m. Afterwards I conferred with the investigating officers and then saw Mr. Johnston. I suspended him at 8.25p.m. on 24th February. A copy of the notice of suspension which contains the charges preferred against him is attached marked Annexure "B".

I also enclose a record of the interview between Detective Sergeant Lendrum, Mr. Troy and Mr. Johnston marked Annexure "C".

Mr. Johnston has denied any impropriety and has stated that it was his duty as a welfare officer to take an interest in any person who desired assistance. This girl had been rejected by her mother and was in need of friendly help and advice.

The organisation of this Department makes provision for the after-care of ex-aminees of institutions, and the girls from Parramatta are the responsibility of women field officers.

Mr. Johnston's continued interest in this girl, the making of gifts to her by him, and the fact that he paid the girl's fine of £20 on one occasion and on another occasion deposited £20 as bail for her, are influences which suggest that the association was more than an official one.

-2-

Mr. Johnston was aware that the girl was pregnant and in fact visited her at the Crown Street Hospital where she was delivered of a child on the 11th July, 1950. As the girl was not discharged from Parramatta until 1st October, 1950, Mr. Johnston must have been aware that there could be grave suspicions that conception took place before the girl was discharged from Parramatta. Added to this, is the fact that the Deputy Superintendent himself on 28th September, 1950, submitted a recommendation for the girl's urgent discharge. This was dealt with by the Branch on 29th September and approved by the Minister on 30th September, and the girl was discharged on 1st October to Mr. and Mrs. Djerri-rah of Murrumbidgee. As [redacted] was only committed to an Institution on 10th April, 1950, as a re-entrant, it would be unusual for a recommendation to be discharged after such a short period. It was also unusual and against Departmental policy to discharge an inmate within a few weeks of attaining 18 years of age, especially after a second committal.

It will be seen from the police report that much information was gathered suggesting that Mr. Johnston was the father of [redacted] child and that the girl [redacted] had in fact told Mrs. Ryan that this was so. However it must be appreciated that these statements could not be used in a serious charge and unless [redacted] evidence is available, there does not appear to be any possibility of proving actual sexual misconduct.

Mr. Johnston's address for service of notice is 31 O'Connell Street, Parramatta.

[redacted] R. M. WICKS

(R. H. HICKS,)
HIDDEN SIGNATURE.