

2 AGENCIES STUDY MATTHEWS CASE

Criminal Libel Charges Against Shore Publisher Reviewed For Possible Action

Two organizations were reported last night to be studying charges of criminal libel against Rives Matthews, publisher of the *Somerset News*, with a view to possible action on his behalf. Mr. Matthews was arrested and later released on bond in connection with statements regarding a motor trip taken to Georgia by J. Millard Tawes, State Comptroller.

Eli Frank, Jr., attorney for the Maryland Civil Liberties Committee, said that he and John Henry Skeen will investigate the case for the committee to determine whether a threat to civil liberties which would warrant legal aid exists.

Mr. Matthews said he understood that the executive board of the American Newspaper Publishers Association will meet today in New York to decide what, if any, action it should take. Officials of the ANPA could not be reached for further information.

Letters From Sailors

In reference to charges that articles he has published tend to hurt the morale of the armed forces, Mr. Matthews reported that he has had numerous letters from soldiers and sailors asking for copies of his newspaper.

He said that he had forwarded the requested copies with the query:

"Am I corrupting you?"

A sailor and a Boy Scout, he added, offered to help him get out his weekly paper yesterday afternoon.
