

Veech Acquitted

Court Tosses Out Disorderly Charge

Christin M. Veech, the Democratic candidate for Suffolk County Treasurer this past November, was acquitted Tuesday of a criminal charge of disorderly conduct by District Court Judge Colaneri at her trial in Hauppauge.

The charge of disorderly conduct arose out of a demonstration on October 30, 1973 by several hundred Commack residents demanding a traffic light at the intersection of Wicks Road and Commack Road.

Mrs. Veech had assisted in the organization and participated in the demonstration as a concerned parent whose 14-year old daughter, Rondi, and 11-year-old son, Gregory, used the intersection daily going to and from Commack's Green Meadow Junior High School.

The area had been the scene of a number of accidents and the residents decided to protest the slowness of the County in providing a traffic light for the intersection by blockading traffic on Commack Road.

There had been some speculation in political circles as to the possible effects of Mrs. Veech's arrest only one week before Election Day, and to the possible effect a finding of guilty might have played on Mrs. Veech's prospects for future Democratic nominations.

Mrs. Veech's attorney, Floyd Sarisohn, confirmed that his client had been offered a deal by the District Attorney's Office prior to trial which would have postponed the case for a subsequent dismissal this summer. However, Sarisohn said, "Chris wanted complete vindication of her innocence—and wanted it now so that the deal was declined.

"The Judge's finding of not guilty after trial completely clears Mrs. Veech and removes any cloud from her political future," said Sarisohn.

Mrs. Veech in speaking of her ordeal criticized the over-reaction of the Suffolk County Police Department to the Commack demonstration last October and offered praise "for all my neighbors who walked with me on Commack Road to demonstrate against governmental stagnation and callousness towards our children's safety."

She remarked on "the haste in which the traffic light was finally installed after the massive protest and promised "to continue to stand up for my community no matter what the inconvenience now that we have proved that justice can be obtained in our courts."

There were 45 witnesses on hand to testify for Mrs. Veech, but the case was dismissed before they were called.