

July 12, 1946

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When I was elected Mayor I pledged
~~I was elected Mayor on a platform which cat-~~
~~egorically pledged enforcement of the law without fear~~
That pledge has been kept!
~~or favor. I am proud to report that I have lived up to~~
~~that pledge in the last year.~~

Minneapolis is a clean city. The organized rackets are operating no longer. To be sure, some of the former big-time operators are still about. Some of them still wait hopefully for the "fix" to go back on. We are not uninformed of their activities and we will continue to wait hopefully for the chance to put them behind bars where they belong. The law is being enforced equitably and fairly. This is not to say that sneak joints do not pop up occasionally or that prostitution has been eliminated. It is impossible with the present facilities at our command to patrol the city carefully enough for that. However, organized vice, and gambling rings simply are not operating today. Every time these activities stick their head up, we have and will continue to chop it off.

This has not been an easy job--it never is easy to stamp out lucrative practises which feed from the work and labor of the good and God-fearing people. Continued vigilance and increased efforts by all good citizens are required if we are to maintain the gains already made and are to eliminate the sneak stuff as well as the organized activity of the racketeers.

A movement for law enforcement never stands still--either we go forward or we go backward. For my part, as long as I am Mayor, it will go forward. However,

I need the continued support of the entire community. To go forward, we must attack this problem from two approaches. First, we must have adequate police facilities to enforce the law. Second, we must concentrate on eliminating the causes which breed crime and delinquency.

I am sure that very few of you realize how inadequate our present police force, both as to personnel and equipment, is at present. This picture is best seen by comparison. To that end I have compiled the attached report comparing the police force of the year 1928 with that of 1946. Some of the conclusions brought to light by this comparison are shocking. Notice that an increase in population of 67,792 people has been followed by a decrease of 46,129 total man days of police service. This, despite the fact that police experience has shown proportionality more police protection necessary as population increases. There are today 93 fewer police officers available for enforcement work than there were in 1928.

Law enforcement cost the people of Minneapolis \$2.88 per capita in 1928, in 1946 the rate is \$2.65. Yet the Police Department now yields more than \$600,000 in revenue each year as compared to \$175,400 in 1928. It is also startling to compare our police facilities with those of some other cities in the U.S. comparable to Minneapolis in size. Minneapolis has the fewest police officers per 1000 of 13 cities having a population

between 300,000 to 700,000--as compared to Kansas City, Missouri with 2.47, New Orleans 2.34 and Buffalo 2.12 Minneapolis has 1.05 officers per 1000 population. Some nights there are as few as six to eight patrolmen on the beats. The average never exceeds 10. Of course, this is inadequate protection, but it is the best that we can do with our present manpower. Please keep these figures in mind--they tell their own story. /

I do not hesitate to state unqualifiedly that we have and will continue to get the maximum in the way of efficient service from the present police force. Recently, the whole police department was reorganized along modern, efficient administrative lines. Such a reorganization has been a crying need for many years. Continued neglect to elementary administrative principles resulted in overlapping, confusion, and duplication of functions. Administrative confusion has been eliminated. Lines of authority and responsibility are now definite and clear. Increased efficiency has resulted. ^{HP} Prior to my administration, Minneapolis had one of the most antiquated police record systems in the nation.)

→ With the help of the F.B.I., a new up to date record system was recently installed. The value of accurate, up to date records to effective law enforcement cannot be overestimated. We now have such a system.

Police in service training has been emphasized the last year. Two schools were held and the officers attending received instruction for 10 days, six hours each day. The subjects covered included: Evidence, City Ordinances, Jurisdiction between Federal, State and City Organizations, Arrests, Identification, and various other pertinent subjects. This instruction was enthusiastically received and, to my mind, the continuance of such in service training is essential if we are to have an alert, well-informed police force. A recent graduate of the F.B.I. School is now busy ^{making plans} ~~planning~~ for a new school.

Various minor reforms have also been instituted. Police cars are now equipped with fire extinguishers in case of fire and blankets and first aid kits (soon to be made available) to cope with emergencies involving injuries. Traffic enforcement has been emphasized along with the crack-down on the rackets. To my mind, the driver who recklessly ignores traffic laws is a criminal as certainly as the vice lord. The record shows results -- traffic fatalities are down 22%, issuance of tags has increased 43.3%. A special school in accident investigation, first aid, and related subjects has been held for our traffic division men.

June 26, 1946 a special Moral Squad was established to go after certain sneak activities in the city which had been called to my attention. This Squad

reported that by July 7th they had already arrested 52 adults and six juveniles for offenses ranging from vagrancy to common prostitution.

I take great pleasure in listing the activities above. I think the record bears out my claim that the Minneapolis Police Force is doing a top-notch job. I have complete confidence and every respect for Mr. Mac Lean, Mr. Bernath, Mr. Fabriz, and the other men who head up our police program.

I feel this same confidence in the entire Police Force. Our police officers ^{want to} enjoy enforcing the law without fear or favor. They know that that is their job and that they can fearlessly carry it out on that basis. I have tried to convey to each of them the knowledge that, as Mayor, I will back them up to the limit regardless who the law violator may be. By the same token, they know that neither my supervisors in the Department or myself will stand for any laxness or gross inefficiency, let alone any "pay off".

I have repeatedly stated that the Police Dept. needs more men. During the year, the City Council granted an additional 20 men. We need 200 ^{more men} to bring our department to the strength it requires to provide complete police service. Money allocated for adequate law enforcement is not money "spent"--it is money invested. The investment will pay off in the form of decreased crime and juvenile delinquency and a generally improved city. I also feel that a pay increase is ~~merited~~

merited throughout the Police Department. We can't expect diligent, conscientious service unless we are willing to pay for it.

The citizens of Minneapolis who want a clean city must provide the tools to do the law enforcement job. Practically speaking, this means letting your elected representatives on the City Council know you want more policemen. It means that you or representatives from your various organizations attend the hearings before the Ways and Means and the Police Committee of the council when those committees sit to consider this matter. It also calls for ^{hard} ~~legislature~~ work by every interested citizen to swell the ranks of those citizens who realize this need and want to do something about it.

There will always be law violators, and we will always need law enforcement. However, it is my firm conviction that the percentage of violators will be minimized once we stamp out the causes that ~~it~~ breed crime. Crime is fostered and bred in our slum areas. It blossoms forth in families with inadequate food, clothes, and shelter -- who never know the meaning of the word security. You all know the conditions I speak of and that they can be found in many areas in our city. These long run social and economic conditions produce the sores that gall and fester our city. The same energy and pre-severance that many citizens devote to unearthing

after-hour liquor sales and sneak gambling spots could better be devoted to attacking these fundamental problems.

Minneapolis needs a Housing Authority so that we can attack the slum problem under present Federal Legislation. But we can't set up such a program until proper enabling legislation is provided by the State Legislature. Today Minneapolis has over 9,000 unemployed *Jobs must be found for veteran* veteran, and non-veteran alike if the social wreckage wrought by unemployment and followed by vice and crime is to be avoided. Our School Board and Park Board must be backed to the limit in the fine programs they propose for our young people. Juvenile delinquency must be attacked sensibly by eliminating the basic social causes and providing adequate normal outlets to absorb the energy of our boys and girls. I recognize that these ~~are~~ fundamental problems ~~which~~ require long range plans *and* ~~that~~ are sometimes classed as "controversial". Nevertheless, we must all pull together to find and apply the best solution we can devise.....and we must keep at the job. These are the problems I hold closest to my heart. I earnestly hope my administration can contribute to their solution. Then, and only then, will the problem of law enforcement in our city be relegated to the realm of the unimportant. We can do this job---- it must be done!

In concluding this report for the Wesley News, I want to express my very deepest appreciation for the support you of the paper and you other good friends of the church and community have provided me. The job of Mayor is a stimulating one. However, at times I find myself harassed and vexed with the fear that I am making mistakes and failing to adequately serve the people of Minneapolis. On such occasions it is good to know that I have friends whom I can count on for support and understanding. I am proud to include the "Wesley Family" among the group of real supporters for a better Minneapolis.



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