

City Directs Drafting Of Review Board Law

City Council last night directed City Manager Porter W. Homer and Corporation Counsel Arthur B. Curran to prepare an ordinance setting up a citizen's review board to consider complaints of alleged police abuse of authority.

The council directive led to an impromptu sit-in outside the council chamber by a group of sympathizers of the Integrated Non-Violent Committee, which had been discussing 10 cases of alleged police abuse of authority with city officials. A spokesman for the sit-ins said the group was demonstrating its disappointment with the council's action.

Other developments in the situation yesterday included:

—Release of a seven-page statement by the non-violent committee describing its discussions with city officials. The account said a basic disagreement developed between the two groups over the question whether immediate action should be taken in the A. C. White case under existing law or whether action should be postponed pending establishment of new legal procedure such as a citizen's review board.

—The Police Locust Club, which represents policemen under the rank of sergeant, called for legislation that would require complaints made against police and firemen be investigated for "probable cause" before departmental hearings are ordered.

—Public Safety Commissioner Donald J. Corbett said a hearing would be held Wednesday, March 20, on charges filed by A. C. White against three police officers involved in his arrest.

—Police Chief William M. Lombard issued a statement saying there was "absolutely no truth" to feelings that "the police officer . . . (is) an enemy of the minority group . . ."

—The Rochester Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, released the text of a resolution of Feb. 21 that condemned police brutality and requested "immediate

Mercury Hits Sub-Zero

The temperature dropped to 1 below zero at midnight last night to break the record low of zero on Feb. 27 in 1934.

The mercury was expected to plunge to 7 below early today, the Weather Bureau said.

The low at midnight marked the second record-shattering day. The temperature reached -2 at 6:30 a.m. yesterday, surpassing the 1 below set in 1888.

Should the mercury dip to -7 today, it wouldn't be the lowest reading this winter. That was 10 below zero Jan. 24.

The mercury skidded from a high of 13 at 12:15 p.m. yesterday to zero by 11 last night.

The Weather Bureau predicted a high of 20 today with temperatures expected to drop near zero late tomorrow. Tomorrow's expected high is 17.

13 Wolcott Pupils Hit by Hepatitis

Infectious hepatitis has struck a second Wayne County community.

Thirteen cases of the viral disease were reported yesterday among students at Leavenworth Central School and Florentine Hendrick Elementary School in Wolcott. About 200 other students at the schools were reported ill with a flu-like ailment. The two schools have a total of about 1,200 students.

At the same time, one new case of hepatitis was reported at Newark State School, bringing the total number of cases reported there to 71. The outbreak at the Newark institution began in early December.

Health officials said they don't believe there's any relationship between the two outbreaks. Wolcott is about 20 miles from Newark.

Meanwhile, in Rochester, the Monroe County Conservation Council made public a letter written by Nelson M. Fuller, former executive engineer of the Monroe County Water Authority, to Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, state health commissioner.

Fuller contended in the letter that normal chlorine disinfection of sewage and water supplies will not

destroy such viruses as that which causes infectious hepatitis, and he speculated that "back-siphonage" of treated sewage may be responsible for the outbreak at Newark State School. Monroe County health sanitarians confirmed that public health studies have indicated that standard chlorination will not kill off many viruses, including the hepatitis strains.

Dr. Frank Henne, director of Newark State School, took odds with Fuller's contention. Dr. Henne said that if "back-siphonage" were responsible the entire school would have been stricken. Instead, he said, all but two of the 71 cases have occurred in buildings housing male inmates. He said sewage from the school goes to the village sewage plant for treatment.

In Wolcott, Dr. Charles M. Single, village health officer, said the majority of the 13 hepatitis cases there have occurred chiefly among the children in two families.

"A few other scattered cases have been reported among other children," he said.

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dismissal of those officers who have been frequently charged by the municipal authorities as the source of the trouble."

Hayden V. White, chairman of the University of Rochester history department and spokesman for the sit-ins said they demonstrated last night because they were "offended that the council should act as though this (the proposed review board) was ordinary business and could be put off for two weeks (the next council session, Tuesday, March 12)."

In reply, Mayor Henry E. Gillette said the council had "recognized the urgency" of the situation by authorizing drafting of an ordinance to set up the review board. He

also said that while a public hearing was not required, one would be held.

White later told the demonstrators that further sit-ins before the next council session would be "folly" and said a steering committee would consider what demonstrations should be held. The sit-ins moved into Police Headquarters Feb. 20 to protest the reinstatement of four patrolmen suspended in the A. C. White case.

White, 46, of 383 Joseph Ave., was arrested Jan. 26 on charges of driving while intoxicated, three degree assault, resisting arrest, and driving without an operator's license or registration.

The March 20 hearing will consider charges lodged by White under the city charter against three of the officers

reinstated. White alleged use of "unnecessary force" in arresting him Jan. 26 and false statements to superior officers.

Support for the citizens' review board was voiced before the council session by Prof. White and Rev. Richard R. Whitman of Calvary Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Mr. Whitman called for a special session of the council, if necessary, to obtain quick action on the board proposal.

The NAACP's resolution also urged that municipal authorities take "immediate steps to insure that the members of the police department are more carefully screened so that this legalized pseudo-lawless element is prevented from joining the police force."