

PROTEST ATTACK ON I. W. W. 'NEST'

Protests Made to Council Over I. W. W. Raid—Po- lice Make Denial.

Before 50 citizens of Duluth and representatives of labor organizations the city commissioners affirmed their stand for law and order and against mob rule at the city hall yesterday afternoon. The scene came as a sequel to the raid on I. W. W. headquarters by soldiers Saturday night.

Three identical petitions, two from labor organizations and one from a citizens meeting were presented, bearing a vigorous indictment of the police department for alleged apathy at the time of the raid. The protesting citizens were present to back up the petition.

Police Are Arraigned.

"What evidence is there that there were any officers around at the time," asked Commissioner P. G. Phillips as the arraignment of the policemen was read by the city clerk.

"Eyewitnesses," came the reply from the crowd.

"Do you know them?" he asked again.

"We have one number," some one replied. "I think it's 28 but don't know surely."

"This is a reflection upon the city police department, and I'm not endorsing mob rule or anything else; but as a commissioner of the city of Duluth I want to know what evidence there is for such a statement," said Phillips.

"Gentlemen," said W. E. Reynolds, editor of a Socialist paper, addressing the council. "We did not come

CHARGE POLICE WERE APATHETIC AT RAID

**Labor Organizations and Citizens
Protest Wrecking of I. W.
W. Room by Soldiers.**

COUNCIL FOR LAW, ORDER

**Chief of Police McKercher Denies
That Police Could Have
Prevented Raid.**

(Continued from Page One.)

here burdened with evidence. We knew we were coming to the city council and not to a court of law. We are not here to argue the merits or demerits of the case. If I were a lone policeman in a crowd of 60 maybe I should keep quiet too. What we expect from the council is an expression of opinion that it does not officially sanction mob rule and will restrain those who try to initiate it."

Mayor C. R. Magney asked for evidence from those who had been present or who had suffered at the raid; but no one answered. Several others presented hearsay evidence tending to prove the laxity of the policemen on the beat.

Mob Rule Worst Plan.

"We are agreed from the start that mob rule or the taking of the law in one's own hands is always the worst plan of action," said Mayor Magney. "The city council offers scant sympathy to such offenders.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the hand of the government is going to be stronger against the I. W. W. from now on, not against its propaganda for the betterment of labor, but against its disloyal and treasonable acts. They should, if disloyal, be treated by the legal forces of the government and not by mobs or even individual action.

"The I. W. W. have gone out of their way to further the interests of alien enemies. They do not stand as a representative of labor unions. To the average American they have become treasonable. I offer this, not as an argument, but as an explanation of the events leading up to the deplorable incident. The city council agrees that mob rule should never be permitted where it can be stopped, and never sanctioned."

Support Mayor Magney.

The remainder of the city commissioners took a stand against usurpation of the powers of the courts by individuals.

"Editorials have given a strong characteristic to the I. W. W., but we find that most of the violence occurring has been suffered by them," was Reynolds' parting remark.

The three protests presented to the council were from local organizations, one from the Duluth Jewish Socialist branch, another from the Workmen's circle branch 353, signed by Max Meyers, L. Hoffman and Sam Meyers, and the last from a meeting held at Woodmen's hall Sunday night, signed by O. E. Thompson, M. J. O'Rourke and E. N. Edes.

Wording of Protests.

The wording of all three communications was identical, except for the names of the organizations and the signers. They read:

"Whereas, There has happened in the city of Duluth a most violent outbreak against law and order, against citizens peaceably assembled in their meeting place in a lawful and orderly manner, and

"Whereas, A company of soldiers in uniform broke in the doors and windows and did unlawfully enter with intent to destroy property, and did destroy books, furniture, pictures, records and all manner of property contained in the hall of a labor organization, and

"Whereas, Members of the organization were beaten, kicked, struck and manhandled, and

"Whereas, Citizens in no wise connected with the I. W. W. were also manhandled and beaten, and

"Whereas, This is only one of many deliberate attempts and raids upon labor organizations going on throughout the country, and

"Whereas, It is known that uniformed officers of the law were present and made no attempt to stop the soldiers from destroying property or beating citizens, and

"Whereas, Such action leads to disrespect of law and order and tends to a condition of mob rule,

"Therefore, Men and women members—(name of meeting or organization) do hereby protest against such violent action and call upon your honorable body to bring to justice those who are guilty of this foul outrage and guarantee that the citizens of this city shall be protected in the future."