

City of Cambridge

In City Council March 10, 1936

The Special Committee appointed to ascertain ~~whether~~ whether or not the city of Cambridge is adequately protected under the so-called "Garrett Plan"

Reports, the following:-

As a result of an order of the City Council passed on January 14, 1936 a committee consisting of Councillors Delaney, Mahoney, Donovan, Sennott and J. J. Sullivan were appointed to confer with His Honor, the Mayor and the Chief of Police for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the city was adequately protected under the so-called "Garrett Plan." Pursuant to the purpose of the committee, meetings were called on January 20, 26 and 27, February 6 and March 2 and 3 at which meetings the committee heard the testimony of the Chief of Police relative to the operation of the "Garrett Plan" and the new units created by it. A full and complete examination of the Garrett Report was made by the committee and discussed with the Chief of Police. At that time protests as to the police protection were coming in from all over the city both from the businessmen and residents. The Chief of Police testified that under the "Garrett Plan" the city was not getting adequate protection. On this point he referred solely to the foot patrol system which had been reduced from 41 routes to 11 routes.

REPORT

Committee on

The Garrett Plan created a tactical squad which was responsible only to the Chief of Police. The Chief testified that he knew nothing about them, gave them no directions and didn't know what they were doing or what value they were to the city. He testified that men who were experienced and able were standing around station 2 waiting for assignments to be made and that he was very anxious to get the men back and in a happy frame of mind once more because of the many complaints coming in.

Shortly after the first meeting your Chairman conferred with His Honor, the Mayor, and was instructed by him to inform the Chief to reorganize the Police Department so that the citizens of Cambridge would get proper protection and upon receiving that information your Chairman immediately reported to the Chief of Police the wishes of His Honor, the Mayor, and within a short time thereafter the Chief of Police did reorganize the police force so that at the present time conditions are greatly improved.

The tactical squad has been abolished, the men are all back on their routes and the city of Cambridge is getting adequate protection. The school children are being protected in the vicinity of thier various schools and your committee reports that the present condition, with reference to the management of the Cambridge Police, is satisfactory, the Chief of Police having been ordered to reorganize his department as he thought desirable, keeping it free entirely from the interference of politicians.

The founder of the so-called "Garrett Plan" should be given due credit for the splendid job done by him in bringing the department equipment up to its present standard. It is due mainly to his recommendation that the equipment which was then obsolete - and this includes motorization as well as guns of all characters - was brought up to its present standard. Your committee reports that the equipment of the Cambridge Police Department is in satisfactory condition.

During the process of examination of the Chief of Police he testified that there is no longer a reserve force in Cambridge because

men who had been on the reserve force have been promoted to the grade of patrolmen. He testified that ten or a dozen additional patrolmen could be used very satisfactorily in the city. At another meeting he repeated that thought and your committee recommends that a Reserve Police Force of not less than fifteen men be established. The committee points out that the establishment of a Reserve Police Force will not mean the steady employment of those who compose the Reserve Police Force. They may be used for such temporary work as the Chief of Police, in his discretion, decides to be necessary.

At the present time there is no training school for police officers which would aid and assist them in the procurement of evidence in order to secure convictions of criminals apprehended. There is within the Department plenty of material out of which can be created a teaching staff, whose duty it would be to properly instruct young officers in the procuring of proper evidence and in the presenting of the same before the court. Your committee recommends that such a school be created within the department.

A great deal of dissatisfaction is found to exist by reason of attempting to close stations 3 and 4. Station 3 serves the so-called East Cambridge section of our city. Station 4 serves the North Cambridge section of our city. These stations at the present time are open mainly for the purpose of receiving signals from patrol boxes sent in by officers in their particular district. It is the opinion of the Chief of Police on the ground of economy that these stations should be closed. The only saving which can be made by closing these two stations is the saving of light and heat bills because the men now operating in these two stations will be placed in other positions in station 2. The janitor who now serves stations 3 and 4 will be placed in a position in the headquarters at station 2 so that the money which is now spent for the salaries of the policemen and janitor in charge of the stations will not be eliminated.

The districts served by these two stations are thickly settled. The East Cambridge section is the cosmopolitan area. In the main the residents of that district are too poor to have telephone service installed in their home. It has been the custom for many years for the people of that district to go to the station house and there make known their complaints and many times, as a result of their calling at the station house, cases which might ordinarily result in criminal prosecution have been adjusted and in this way a great service has been rendered to the people of that district. What has been said of the East Cambridge district is also true of station 4 with the exception that it is not a cosmopolitan area. Many people of that district at the present time find themselves in a position where they cannot afford telephone service and the station as it now stands instills confidence of the people of that district.

In connection with the desire of the Chief of Police-in whom your committee has great confidence - the attention of the people of Cambridge is called to an ordinance passed by the City Council in 1934 which makes it mandatory on the Chief of Police irrespective of the economy plea to keep both station 3 and station 4 open with a full compliment of men and officers and it is the recommendation of your committee that both these stations be put in proper shape and be reopened within a reasonable time.

On or about August 13, 1935 the City of Cambridge entered into a contract with The Gamewell Company by the terms of which The Gamewell Company was to install at Headquarters, or Station 2, a two-way radio communication system. The contract was to be completed on November 6, 1935, and the cost of said radio equipment was \$8065.00. Under the contract the radio system is to be paid for only when the same has been approved by the City Electrician and the Chief of Police.

On January 27, 1936 your committee met, having before it the City Electrician, the Chief Operator of the radio system employed by the

City of Cambridge, the representatives of the Westinghouse Electric Company, the New England Sales Manager of The Gamewell Company and a representative of the Engineering Department of The Gamewell Company. The Chief of Police was also present. On the testimony of the Chief of Police it could be found that the Chief of Police was getting discouraged, that other cities having two-way radio systems were not having the troubles that were apparent in the two-way radio communication system sought to be established in Cambridge. He testified that the trouble was "with the set." The chief operator of the radio system employed by Cambridge testified that the transmitting end of the system was in first class condition, but that the trouble seemed to be in the receivers in the cars and also the receivers in the central station.

Prior to the meeting of January 27, 1936, your committee on Sunday, January 26, 1936 inspected the radio broadcasting station at headquarters and thereafter inspected the apparatus in two of the radio cars. The towns of Arlington and Brookline and the cities of Newton and Waltham were visited. The radio systems were examined by your committee. Arlington and Newton have a one-way system which functions adequately. Waltham has no radio system, but has radio cars in operation. These cars receive their instructions from the Newton Police Department for which service Waltham pays the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) per year. In Brookline the committee inspected the two-way radio communication system at present used by the town of Brookline. Instantaneous contact was obtained in the presence of the committee with all of the five cruising cars and a report was made to the Brookline Headquarters from the operators of the cruising cars.

During the examination of the radio system while your committee was riding in the radio cars, contact with Headquarters was difficult to make. As many as forty calls from the car in which your Chairman was riding were made to Headquarters, but only one perfect connection was

made. So-called "dead spots" were discovered from the moment we left Headquarters throughout the city until we left the city limits entering Arlington and outside of the City of Cambridge connection with Headquarters was found to be impossible.

On February 6, after meeting the representatives of The Gamewell Company and The Westinghouse Electric Company and those who represented the City of Cambridge these complaints were made known to the representatives of The Gamewell Company and at that time a request was made by The Gamewell Company for two or three weeks further time to see if the radio system could not be put in working condition satisfactory to the Chief of Police and the City Electrician. Your committee suggested that further time be given to The Gamewell Company for the purpose of eliminating the trouble which was then apparent in the two-way radio communication system.

The Committee met again on March 2nd at which time the Field Engineer of the Westinghouse Electric Company testified that a two-way radio communication system had been established. This was agreed to by the representatives of the city. So-called "dead spots" had been eliminated so that communication had been established from all parts of Cambridge, but noise from outside electrical interference was so great that the two-way radio communication system was not working in a satisfactory manner. This fact was agreed to by the representatives of The Gamewell Company and the Westinghouse Electric Company. This condition exists at the present time both in the receivers in the cars and in the receivers at headquarters. The engineers of The Gamewell Company assisted by the engineers of the Westinghouse Electric Company informed the committee that these conditions can and will be eliminated and that the two-way radio communication system can and will be put in shape to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police and the City Electrician.

At the present time your committee finds that the two-way radio communication system is not in satisfactory condition and recommends that the matters pertaining to the said two-way radio communication system be referred to His Honor, the Mayor, so that the rights of the City of Cambridge may be protected.

City Council MAR 10 1936

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 15 members.

Frederick M. Burke City Clerk

For the Committee

Patrick J. Delaney
James E. Mahoney
Edward H. Moran
Francis J. Sennot
J. J. Sullivan

City of Cambridge

In City Council.....

The

Committee

to which

Reports,

REPORT

Special
Committee on

Garrett Plan

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March 10, 1936

Report received, and

recommendation

ADOPTED

Frederick H. Burke

Attest:

City Clerk