

Citizens Wondering When Robbery Wave Will Cease in City

Police Department Censored by Tax-Payer for Not Apprehending
Criminals

Police Department Declared Too Small

No Police Alarm; No Driver for Patrol in Day Time – Statistics

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WHEN WILL THE CRIME WAVE IN JOHNSON CITY CEASE?

WHEN WILL THE SERIES OF ROBBERIES COME TO AN END?

These two questions have been asked and re-asked numerous times by Johnson Citizens who have been the victims of robbers and by many prominent local business men as well as those connected with the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce.

Just how many robberies have been committed in Johnson City in the past year is unknown and may never be reported. No separate check of these crimes is kept by the police department for future reference, unless some officer makes a brief note in his scratch pad.

Only the past week six or seven robberies were reported at the police department. While several of these were investigated, no arrests were made. In a downtown business house, one of the large plate glass windows was crashed by a robber who gained his entrance without being molested, secured a quantity of loot amounting to about \$200, and made his exit. This occurred between midnight and 6 a.m.

But – another angle enters the proposition. Johnson City has an approximate population of 30,000 people. Then – Johnson City has five patrolmen in the day and a similar number at night. Or each patrolman has 5,000 people to look after. Another angle is the fact that Johnson City now covers an area of approximately 7.5 square miles. The city is about twice as long as it is wide. Yet the patrolmen are expected to patrol their beats regularly. It can't be done – business men big taxpayers point out.

Another point, daily referenced to by citizens, is the fact that they can rarely locate an officer when he is really wanted. In explaining this, a citizen stated, **“Well they have no police alarm; neither do they have enough officers or a driver for the patrol truck in the day time.”**

“It looks like those at the head of the police department would concentrate some of their efforts on having the small force to work on some of the recent robberies and apprehend the guilty parties instead of always being after a “pint peddler” who is really not committing as great a crime as the robbers. In other words get

the brains of the gang of thieves and put a stop to the long list of robberies which is growing larger daily," someone stated.

While it is known that the police department is entirely too small for a city of this size, Mayor Barton, who is head of that department, contends that the force is plenty large.

Numerous complaints are heard daily on the police department with reference to the robbery wave which has been sweeping Johnson City for many months and taxpayers are plain in their denunciation that if something isn't immediately, steps will be taken by civic clubs and individuals in an attempt to stop the crime wave, which has caused Johnson City the embarrassment of being called the **"Little Chicago of the South."**

