

WILSON PICKS NEW HELPER; BALSWICK OUT

Ex-Army Colonel Gets Post

BY ROBERT WIEDRICH

(Picture on back page)

Police Supt. Orlando W. Wilson fired retired Capt. William Balswick as a civilian aid Monday and hired a retired army colonel, Minor



Col. Minor K. Wilson

Keith Wilson of Cleveland, to replace Balswick.

The \$30,000 a year boss of the city's 10,000 policemen also made these announcements:

1. That he is faced with the "dilemma" of what to do about the sale of benefit tickets by the Chicago Police Benevolent association.

Time to Contemplate

2. That if he is to reform the police force, he must have more time for "contemplation" to reach decisions, and cannot concern himself now with the day to day operational matters of the force, some of which he termed "trivial."

3. That eventually his main office will be in police headquarters, 1121 S. State st., not in City hall.

Balswick learned of his dismissal from the \$11,040 a



Capt. William Balswick

year post about an hour before his firing was announced by Wilson.

Supt. Wilson arrived in company with Col. Wilson. The two Wilsons are not related but worked together in the army in World War II.

Four Suits Filed

As Wilson was holding his press conference in City hall and introducing Col. Wilson to reporters as his new "third hand," State's Atty. Benjamin S. Adamowski was announcing in the County building the filing of four suits in Circuit court seeking to have Wilson's appointment, the appointment of two of five police board members, and the police board itself declared illegal.

Adamowski based the suits on the contention that there is a one year's residency requirement in Chicago for municipal appointees and that there is no statutory

provision for creation of the police board.

The plea for immediate court action on the suits will be heard Friday by Circuit Judge Cornelius J. Harrington.

While Adamowski said he planned no suit challenging Col. Wilson's appointment on nonresidency grounds, he pointed out that if Supt. Wilson's appointment is held illegal, Col. Wilson's appointment also would be illegal.

Job to Be Different

The police superintendent said that he had not completely defined what Col. Wilson's chores would be but that they would not be similar to those performed by Capt. Balswick. Balswick for years was called "the hammer." He was charged with suppressing gambling and vice in police districts, heading a group of men from the police commissioner's office.

While Supt. Wilson said his new aid would not exercise a command post in the department, he indicated he would be a strong man in that he would be the superintendent's personal aid.

THE TRIBUNE disclosed a week ago that Supt. Wilson would bring in a number of civilian aids from outside of Chicago and that his first appointment would be that of a man to survey what should be done to reform the scandal rocked police force.

Served in Chicago

Col. Wilson, 55, once was 5th army provost marshal in Chicago and was most recently stationed in Washington with army intelligence. He retired last October.

Balswick's firing apparently came as no surprise to the veteran policeman.

"It was inevitable," he told a reporter.

Supt. Wilson opened his press conference by explaining that he would be "inaccessible" for some time to come. He said he had two jobs to perform, one of operating the police department, the other of "reforming, rehabilitating, and reorganizing" it.

"If my time is spent entirely in meeting the day to day trivial matters, that will mean time will be taken from meeting the other job—the real reason for my being here," Supt. Wilson said.

"In doing this [the reform job], there are decisions which must be pondered. They will require a lot of contemplation. Consider it a Buddha contemplating his navel, if you will.

Must "Withdraw"

"I've got to withdraw from the day to day matters in order to study these problems and this is why I will be inaccessible to you."

"If there were an element in Chicago which wanted to impede my progress, I can't think of a more effective way to do this than to keep me tied up every day so that I do not have time to consider these problems," he said.

Supt. Wilson said he did not think "the mayor brought me here to close bingo games."

"There are more important things to consider," he said. He said this did not mean that he condoned gambling in any form, but, he added: "I do not intend to get involved in minor matters at this time."

Then, Supt. Wilson posed his "dilemma" of the moment:

"Within 30 minutes after I was sworn in I received a problem which placed me squarely on the horns of a dilemma," he said.

Tickets Pose Problem

He explained that the problem involved the sale by policemen of tickets to the Police Benevolent association's annual fund raising circus in Soldiers' field.

The funds thus raised are used to meet the annual deficit of the organization, which pays a \$2,125 death benefit to a policeman's survivors. Dues are \$2.50 a month.

Supt. Wilson said that he favored the death benefit plan but not the sale of tickets.

"My principle is that no policeman shall accept any money for any purpose at any time under any circumstances," he said.

He said he had "pledged" to Policeman Stanley Sarbarneck, association president, that he would do nothing to "jeopardize" the benefit plan fund.

Supt. Wilson said he had not yet arrived at a solution but that he wanted "the citizens of Chicago" to know what the problem was. He

Police Aid as Army Colonel



Col. Minor K. Wilson (center), newly appointed aid to Police Supt. Orlando Wilson, pictured in 1955 when he and Maj. Gen. P. D. Ginder, 5th army commander, gave a simulated lie test to George Otlewis (left), then chief of park police, during military police exhibit at 5th army headquarters. (TRIBUNE Photo)

said he believed the city should set up a group insurance plan for policemen, and make up any deficit thru tax funds.

This could not be done this year because the 1960 city budget has already been adopted by the city council, he said.

Mayor Daley said he hadn't heard of Supt. Wilson's suggestion but that he would be happy to discuss it with him.

Raise \$184,000

Policeman Sarbarneck said the association paid out \$386,000 in death benefits last year. Dues amounted to \$237,000. The deficit was met with the \$184,000 raised thru the annual circus last year.

Supt. Wilson's stand against ticket sales by policemen would hamper such projects as the annual Mayor's Youth Foundation high school football game, many of the tickets for which are sold by policemen.

Mayor Daley had no comment on Supt. Wilson's anti-ticket sale statement.

"He's running the police department," Daley said.

Daley also said he knew nothing of Col. Wilson's appointment.

In firing Capt. Balswick, Supt. Wilson removed the second of "the seven old men" in the department's higher echelon.

Won't Scan Record

The first was Deputy Commissioner Charles O'Regan who was replaced last week by the superintendent. Kyran Phelan, who was acting police commissioner until Wilson's appointment, took O'Regan's job.

The "seven old men" were all retired top police officials who have served in various capacities as civilian aids.

Adamowski declared Mon-

day that he has no desire to see the record of the police superintendent screening committee that picked Wilson and that he will not accept the offer to do so made Sunday by the committee.

"I know what went on in their meetings," he said. "I want to know what went on in the back room. The record of their meetings will just give the outward appearance."



(TRIBUNE Photo)

"I must spend more time in contemplation," says Police Supt. Orlando W. Wilson as he unconsciously adopts a prayerful pose while talking to reporters in city hall.

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