

Police Ordered To Enforce Ban

Must Keep Houses Of Ill Fame Closed

An adamant order to close and keep closed all houses of ill fame in Peoria, was issued by J. Edward Wombacher, superintendent of police at noon today, shortly after drastic court action was taken against two women charged with being inmates of such places.

In his order to all members of the police department, Chief Wombacher instructs them to arrest all women found to be inmates or operators of disorderly houses. He warned that detectives and policemen will be held responsible for their respective districts and any members of the department failing to comply with the order will face charges of inefficiency and insubordination.

It was the demands of the city and Camp Ellis officials that brought the most drastic action in recent years against two women, according to health authorities.

Women Fined \$200 Each

Irene L. Cason, 28 years old, and Renne Johnson, 25, who gave their address as the Lee hotel, were fined \$200 and costs each and also were sent to the state hospital at Bartonville under quarantine by order of Dr. Sandor Horwitz, state health officer. In addition to this action, bonds totaling \$400 and posted by Abe Silberstein, Peoria bondsman, were forfeited at the insistence of officials when the girls failed to appear in court.

Heated discussions marked the hearing before Justice of the Peace Herman J. Bridegroom whose courtroom was filled with representatives of the camp, city and state health departments, Junior Chamber of Commerce, the city legal departments and even the FBI.

Arrested In Raids

The two women scheduled for hearing were arrested on raids on a disorderly house more than a week ago. A third woman, Dorothy Waters, 28, who also was arrested with them is now being held at the Bartonville state hospital by order of the health department.

Captain Charles Ozmun, legal representative from Camp Ellis and advisor to Lt. Col. Ralph C. Scott, the camp's liaison officer stationed here, made strong demands that the women be arrested following their sentences.

"These women are ignoring the court," he told Justice Bridegroom. "In fact, they are making a laughing stock of this court."

Both Captain Ozmun and J. Edward Radley, corporation counsel, insisted that the maximum penalty of \$200 be assessed upon the two women and also that the bonds of \$200 each be forfeited. Mr. Radley announced that action in circuit court will be taken as soon as possible to collect the full amount of bonds.

Arrests Ordered

In taking the action demanded by the officials, Justice Bridegroom set the fine at \$200 each and then issued mittimus for the arrests of the women. Within less than 30 minutes police had the women in custody and they were turned over to Dr. Horwitz.

Among others who took part in the court session were City Attorney Russell James; J. Lewis Bond, attorney for the city health department and Dr. O. M. Goodloe, deputy commissioner of health.

Attorney George Sprenger, representing the two women, called Justice Bridegroom from Pekin and announcing he was busy with a circuit court matter asked that the case be continued. His request was denied.

In a similar case brought before Police Magistrate Charles Schofield, late yesterday, Ethel Jackson, 43 years old, charged with being a keeper of a disorderly house, was fined \$5 and costs. The woman did not appear in court and the fine was assessed.

Several other similar cases are expected to be heard within the next week and it is believed that city officials will demand that drastic action be taken in all future arrests and convictions.