

# 200 More Policemen Asked To Stem Crime Wave Here

Disturbed over Atlanta's crime wave—with 50 armed robberies in a 20-day period—the aldermanic board's police committee Wednesday night called for 200 additional Police Department personnel.

The committee voted to ask the city administration to provide

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*Arrests analyzed by Crime Commission. Page 5. Robbers strike twice Wednesday. Page 36.*

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funds for the additions as soon as possible.

The committee, headed by Al-

derman Ed A. Gilliam, also authorized establishing a punch-card tabulation system to enable better assignment of police in areas with heavy crime rates.

The action came after the city's crime commission was told that hardened, habitual criminals are responsible for the city's upsurge in crime.

The committee was called into session Wednesday afternoon to hear the findings of an investigator assigned to check into the reasons for the outbreak in lawlessness.

The investigator, Charles Weltner, said, "It appears that only separation from society by ade-

quate sentencing and security will suffice."

With this in mind, the crime commission asked officials of the Pardon and Parole Board and the Board of Corrections to its next meeting.

Many of those arrested here so far this year have been escaped convicts and parolees from prison, the commission was told.

Chairman Morris Abram said the state officials would be asked to discuss the problem of parole supervision, the rehabilitation program and the problem of escapes.

The commission apparently was

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# Crime Wave Is Blamed On Hardened Criminals

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most concerned with the escape from a prison work detail in Stone Mountain of a 55-year-old convict whose criminal career dates back to 1923.

Although the commission called no names, the prisoner referred to was Tom Hambrick, who has a life term pending at Kilby Prison in Alabama and 44 to 77 years pending in Georgia.

Hambrick and Robert Mathis, another life-term convict, escaped Dec. 31 from the work detail after tying up six other prisoners and a guard. They were arrested in Atlanta last week.

## QUESTION UNANSWERED

The unanswered question revolved about why such men should not be held under maximum security.

Weltner pointed out his summary report on the persons arrested in connection with the crime wave was not intended as criticism of corrections or parole authorities.

"It is offered for consideration in the light of recent spectacular crimes here," he said. "Nothing the city, the police department or this committee can say or do will prevent escapes. Local authorities have no control over state detention or parole activities. The city has no control over sentencing. The most our police force can do is to apprehend criminals.

"From there, responsibility passes into other hands. The commission realizes that little, if anything, can be done to stay hardened, professional, habitual criminals, bent upon crime, from its accomplishment. The threat of punishment seems to be but small deterrent and the probabilities of rehabilitation are slight. In such cases it appears that only separation from society by adequate sentencing and security will suffice." /

Of 16 persons arrested in connection with the crime wave, the commission pointed out, each was a prison escape, a parole or had a long record.

## SPURS DRIVE

In addition, the commission authorized the creation of a committee to enlist the aid of churches, schools, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Chest in a drive against juvenile delinquency and a movement to help care for emergency cases.

Abram said the committee met earlier with Fulton Sol.-Gen. Paul Webb, Criminal Court Sol. John I. Kelley and Judge Claude Shaw,

presiding judge of Fulton Superior Court, and worked out an agreement whereby pending cases would be listed after April 1.

Dr. Paul Shroeder, a psychiatrist, told the group that recurrent crime often stemmed from lack of adequate prison programs, such as rehabilitation and clinical studies of cases.

## VOTES AGAINST MACHINES

Ald. William A. (Bill) Sims proposed new police personnel and vote against the proposed \$15,000 needed annually to finance the tabulation system. He said personnel is more needed than machines.

Jenkins said he has consistently recommended that the department be increased by 75 employes—50 policemen, 10 detectives and 15 civilian employes. He said a recent survey of the Atlanta department showed an increase of 200 policemen is needed.

Indications were that funds to finance the program might be obtained from a projected increase in city business licenses.

The legislature has voted to take the \$1,000 maximum off city business licenses, leaving the city free to raise the limit and revise the whole license structure.

Gilliam, Sims, and other committee members pointed out that more police are mandatory as a deterrent to crime. At one point, Alderman Charlie Leftwich said the police shortage as a result of expansion and growth is catching up with us if it has not already done so.