Breier and Mrs. Phillips Clash Over Police Photographs

Police Chief Harold A. Breier and Ald. Vel R. Phillips debated to a stand-off Tuesday over the propriety of policemen taking photographs at the July 12 common council meeting.

The 50 minute word battle took place at a city hall meeting called by Ald. Phillips. The result:

Breier said that taking the pictures of spectators was legal. He refused repeatedly to say why the pictures were taken and what was done with them.

Ald. Phillips replied that the police action was “intimidation and harassment of the highest order.” He called Breier autocratic.

Mrs. Phillips said Tuesday’s meeting was necessary because complaints had been made to the community relations commission.

Most of the spectators at the photographed council meeting were Negroes and civil rights workers, there to observe the vote on an open housing ordinance proposed by Ald. Phillips. The proposal was defeated, 18-1.

One of the spectators, Eugene H. Abrams, assistant in an anti-poverty project involving high school students at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, said there were 12 of the pupils.

Breier read a statement at the meeting which said the police department had been criticized for “allegedly” taking pictures of the high school pupils and for having 10 police men at the hearing.

Breier added that only three uniformed men had been assigned to the meeting. The assignment was made at the request of a common council member because of a disturbance who attended the meeting.

However, photos were taken by the police department.

“Because the taking of photographs of the high school students who attended the meeting did not intimidate or harass, Mr. Breier, I will not discuss any Breier asked repeatedly what happened to the pictures, and whether they were made part of a master police file.

“‘I’m not going to talk to you,” Breier said. “I am saying we don’t have any photos of the Negroes and civil rights workers that were taken at the meeting and whether they were made part of a master police file.

Mrs. Phillips asked repeatedly what happened to the pictures that were taken at the meeting and whether they were made part of a master police file.

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However, photos were taken by the police department.

“I didn’t say how many plain clothes men assigned to the togs does not violate anyone’s rights, and does not violate any

He told her he didn’t know what procedures and policies are concerned; I am not going to talk to you,” Breier said. “I am saying we don’t have any photos of the Negroes and civil rights workers that were taken at the meeting and whether they were made part of a master police file.

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Breier Defends Pictures

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Breier replied. "Law abiding citizens have nothing to worry about."

Ald. Martin E. Schreiber, council president, said that perhaps the entire council should discuss the problem.

"Personally I don't think pictures should be taken by the police or anyone else in the council chambers that makes people feel they may be in danger," he said.

"Form of Innuendo"

Edward S. Ciechanowski, a member of the community relations commission, said the public understood why the press took pictures at meetings.

"Police picture taking is a form of innuendo we don't understand," he said.

Calvin Beckett, executive secretary of the commission, said Abrams had difficulty explaining why policemen were taking the students' pictures.

At one point in the meeting, Mrs. Phillips noticed a man in sports clothes sitting near the door of the conference room. She identified him as one of the police photographers and asked him to answer questions. He had no camera with him.

The man, later identified as Kenneth Feilen, an identification technician in the police identification bureau, said it was his day off. He said the chief would speak for him.

Germantown Meeting Set

Candidates for the Germantown school board will discuss their qualifications at a public meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday at Washington high school in Germantown.
Ald. Phillips Asks Ban on Police Photos

Ald. Vel R. Phillips asked the common council Tuesday to take action that would prohibit the police department from taking photographs during meetings of the council and its standing committees.

In a resolution, Mrs. Phillips said:

"The taking of police photographs during meetings of the council tends to discourage citizens from participating freely in the affairs of their local government."

Earlier Tuesday, a majority of the chairmen of the council's seven permanent committees said they would oppose such a proposal.

A police photographer was present at a council meeting in July at which civil rights groups appeared to speak for a city open housing law.

Mrs. Phillips' resolution asked the council to instruct Police Chief Harold A. Breier to issue a departmental order that the department should take no photographs at council or committee meetings.

Democratic Chief of House Stricken

Washington, D. C. — UPI — House Democratic Leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma suffered what was described as a minor heart attack Tuesday. He was taken to Bethesda naval hospital. The 58 year old lawmaker suffered chest pains after arriving at his office. After an examination, he was taken from his office by wheel chair. His physician said Albert would require complete rest for several weeks.

Albert has been Democratic leader of the house since 1962. Before that, he was Democratic whip, beginning in 1954. He has been in congress since 1947.
RESOLUTION requesting that no Police Department photographs be taken during formal meetings of the Common Council or its Committees.

Introduced on SEP 6 1966
and referred to the Committee on FINANCE-PRINTING

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

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<tr>
<td>SEP 9 1966</td>
<td>Refer to Licenses-Rules Committee.</td>
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<td>SEP 28 1967</td>
<td>place on file.</td>
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COMMITTEE REPORT OCT 17 1967

To the Common Council:

Your committee to which was referred the above-described matter, reports thereon by recommending that it be:

☑ Placed on File  ☐ Indefinitely Postponed  ☐ Adoption of Substitute Resolution  ☐ Disallowed & Indefinitely Postponed

Counter-signed:

[Signature]

ACTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OCT 17 1967

☐ Adopted Under Suspension of Rules
☒ Committee Report Adopted
☐

Ayes 19  Noes 0

- APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR -

Submitted to His Honor the Mayor on: Approved on:

[Signature]

[Signature]
Resolution requesting that no Police Department photographs be taken during formal meetings of the Common Council or its Committees.

WHEREAS, It has been called to the attention of the Common Council that our Police Department takes photographs during formal meetings of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, The Council recognizes that such photographs may assist the Police Department in carrying out its law enforcement activities; and

WHEREAS, The taking of police photographs during meetings of the Council tends to discourage citizens from participating freely in the affairs of their local government; and

WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to eliminate any practice or procedure which does discourage citizens from attending and freely participating in meetings of the Common Council and its Committees; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Chief of Police be and hereby is requested to issue a departmental order that no photographs be taken by Police Department personnel during formal meetings of the Common Council and its standing Committees.