

2AP (Camp 3) 2/15-5800/17



Department of State Police

HEADQUARTERS
SALEM

October 6, 1941

Mr. A. G. Dunn
Captain, Oregon State Police
Baker, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Inclosed is copy of a letter addressed to Governor Sprague the third instant by Mr. F. B. Swayze, Banker, relative to the situation at Hermiston, of which we are all aware.

We shall be glad to have you and Sergeant Miller discuss this situation with Mr. Swayze at your early convenience. We have no thought of minimizing the seriousness of the problem with which the community is confronted, but the difference between the problem of that community and some other communities in the state affected by the defense activities is one of degree, only. It would not be amiss for you to inform Mr. Swayze that we have had several like requests; you will recall the insistence of the authorities at Pendleton a few months ago that we undertake, or at least participate in, the regulation of traffic within that city. There have been numerous others. If we acceded to them all, we would have no force available to discharge the duties with which we are charged by law. We can see the gravity of the payroll situation presented. If pay day falls on certain days of the month or a certain day of the week, you may arrange, if practicable to do so, to assign a member to operate in that area on such pay day, providing such assignment is agreeable to the local police authorities.

We should be glad to have you express to Mr. Swayze our confidence in the local enforcement agency. If special significance is attached to a uniform, we know of nothing to prevent that municipality from requiring its police officers to wear uniforms.

In the course of your talk with Mr. Swayze we would like to have you ask him when and where he observed single automobiles to which escorts had been assigned by this Department. You know our policy in that regard. We should also like to know when he observed our members stationed at street intersections in Salem. We know of no such occasion except during the week of the State Fair or during heavy troop movements, when our members are assigned as traffic needs require at highway junctions and street intersections outside the city limits.

Yours truly,

Charles P. Pray
Charles P. Pray,
Superintendent

CPP:EF
Copy to: Governor Sprague

October 8, 1941.

Mr. F. B. Swayze
Hermiston, Oregon

My dear Mr. Swayze:

Following receipt of your letter of October 3, I talked with Superintendent Pray concerning the problem of police protection in Hermiston and asked him to have Captain Dunn, who is commander of the northeastern Oregon district, discuss the situation with you at an early date.

The State Police has recently had two men added to the Pendleton district and as a result of the action of the Emergency Board last week will now add another man. This will enable the State Police to give much better service in the Hermiston area.

I assure you that we are anxious to do all we can to assist your community during this very trying period.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

CAS:B

Governor.