

SWANSON BEGINS MOVE TO PROBE CITY HALL BOOKS

Overloaded Pay Rolls His Target in Inquiry.

The opening move for an investigation of the city hall, department by department, was made yesterday by State's Attorney Swanson. The prosecutor served notice on Commissioner of Public Works Richard W. Wolfe that he would seek a subpoena duces tecum this morning from Chief Justice D. J. Normoyle of the Criminal court calling for all the pay roll records of the department. Three assistant prosecutors were assigned to conduct the investigation.

Prosecutor Swanson refused to discuss the reopening of the often threatened city hall investigation, but it was generally understood at the Criminal Courts building that each city hall department was to be investigated for overloaded pay rolls and possible violations of the civil service law by the employment of 60 day appointees.

See Possible Curb on Waste.

The prosecutors would not disclose whether the move was intended to keep a watch over the funds being turned over by the Strawn rescue committee to help the city out of its financial difficulties. However, it was pointed out that periodical investigations would prevent squandering for pay roll padding of the money lent to the city by the Strawn committee.

"The state's attorney can see all the records of my department," said Wolfe when he was served with the subpoena notice by Detective Daniel Madigan. "We have nothing to conceal.

"I, however, can see nothing but politics behind this move. I believe I have made a good record and it is an important question for the taxpayers as to whether that record should be injured by prosecution and persecution."

Has 10,000 Employés.

According to the last report of the city controller, Commissioner Wolfe has charge of approximately 10,000 employés, whose salaries for a year amount to nearly \$23,000,000. The various bureaus of the department of public works and their pay rolls are as follows:

Bureau—	Number of Employees.	Amount of Salaries.
Streets	4,405	\$7,595,819
Water	2,637	8,429,156
Commissioner's office....	20	70,413
Maps	27	72,372
Architecture	13	30,557
City hall	180	344,100
Rivers and harbors....	389	875,698
Bridges and viaducts...	121	331,600
Waste disposal	230	408,928
Capital account	*	567,582

*Number of employes not specified.

In addition the commissioner supervises the expenditure of the vehicle tax money, which will amount in 1930 to approximately \$5,000,000.

The license bureau was the first to come in for investigation. This department was investigated some weeks ago, but so far no prosecutions have resulted.

Assistant State's Attorney Homer Dodge conducted that investigation, which he said is still not complete.