

The cause being of the Lansing Police Dept and
the so-called Labor Holiday of June 7th 1937
at Lansing Mich

This so-called Sit down Strikes started in
the City of Flint in The Plant of the Buick
Auto Co in January of 1937 and of course there
was some talk of similar strikes in Lansing
and realizing our Dept was somewhat beyond
engineering as to what help I could get in case
such disorders started I first inquired of
the State and was informed by Capt Lawrence
Lyon who was in command of the Uniformed
Division that we could expect no help
whatsoever the chief the warden of the State
Police were not to interfere with the strikes
nor allow local officers to interfere with
them either he also advised that he understood
the National Guard had received the same
orders (But do you think has not been
enforced)

The first strike in Lansing was at The Red
Motor Car Co where they took over the entire
plant and held it about one month The
Plant Officers made no attempt either by
force or complaint to recover the use of
their Property The next strike was at The
Capital City Knocbing + Amuser Co

and lasted several days and finally the
 Lumber Co petitioned Judge Nelson W
 Carr of the Ingham County Circuit
 Court for an Injunction which was
 granted and was served by Sheriff Allan
 & Dr Donald Sheriff of Ingham County
 But no attention was paid to the Injunction and
 as a result several Warrants were issued by
 Judge Carr for violation of Injunction at
 the same time several Warrants were
 secured by Prosecutor Thomas Baird from
 Justice of the Peace Wm Seeley of Mason
 under a State Statute making it a
 misdemeanor to interfere with anyone
 wishing to work. The Warrants in both
 cases were placed on the hands of
 Sheriff Donald for service. The Sheriff
 then came to me and asked for help
 which I gave him. Arrest were made
 during the night previous to the Holiday
 and when I arrived at my Office on the
 morning of the Holiday I found that 8
 persons had been arrested by the Sheriff
 and were being held in the City Jail
 which is under my charge.

and inasmuch as they had been arrested on
 warrants I expected the Sheriff would be
 in and have them arrested But about 8³⁰
 A M I received a Phone Call from The
 Attorney for The Lumber Co who appeared
 greatly excited saying The Lumber Co
 wished to drop The case and have The
 Prisoners released I told him he ought to know
 that he must see The Prosecuting Attorney he
 said The Prosecutor refused to do it and The
 Lumber Co and The Sheriff wished me to
 do it Of course I refused he then informed
 me there was a large mob at The Lumber
 yard and was afraid they would reach
 The Court I then sent several Officers to
 the yard But before they had time to
 get there I was informed The mob was
 coming to The City Hall in which my Office
 and The Jail are located to demand The
 release of The Prisoners and my informant
 was hardly through talking when they
 arrived I was immediately wanted then
 by a Committee who demanded The release
 of the Prisoners I refused and at that
 time told them there was no doubt the

Sheriff would be ever and from then
 onwards On looking over the warrants
 I found that 3 of the prisoners were
 arrested on warrants issued by Judge
 Coar the other 5 on misdemeanor
 warrants issued by Justice Dealey
 I then received a call from Sheriff Ketchum
 who was frantic in his request that the
 prisoners be released saying he was
 afraid the mob was coming over to Innes
 and wreck the jail and if they did it
 would kill his wife I told him I would
 not release them and the thing for him to
 do was to come and get them and have
 them arraigned as it was their legal
 right to be brought before the Court
 His reply was by God taking I dare not
 come into Lansing I then told him to have
 his deputies at Lansing bring them to
 Innes He said his deputies had been
 chased by the mob and were then hiding
 My next call was from Tom Templeton
 who said that Judge Coar wanted the 3
 prisoners who had been arrested on warrants
 issued by him released I asked him if

He had an Order from Judge Carr and he
 said he did not I told him that I would not
 do it my next call was from the J W
 Knapp Co that they expected trouble I sent
 Simeon Farby and 4 Officers to the store
 and on their return reported that one Shatwell
 Proprietor of Knapps made the call and was
 afraid they would wreck the new store they
 were then hibernating but had found out they
 wanted them to come for the day which
 they did Simeon Farby offered them protection
 if they wished to remain open but one
 Shatwell said no I enquired of Simeon Farby
 if any other stores were closed and he
 said they all were which I found to be
 true and with the rare exception (the
 Knapp Co) no one asked for help or
 protection The Committee of strikers again
 called and made a demand for the release
 of the Prisoners and on my refusal made the
 statement that they had 1500 men outside
 and they might tear the City Hall down
 I told them to go ahead as I did not
 expect my small force could stop
 them but I informed that if they made

The attempt some of them would get hurt
as well as us they then told me they had
ordered the Mayor to close the City Hall
Offices and he had done so which I found
to be true As in going through the Building
I found notices on all doors including
the Municipal Court saying closed by
order of the Mayor And I did not see
a single City Official for the rest of
the Day At about this time Attorney E C
Smith came to me and said Judge Carr
had him to ask me to release the 3 Prisoners
Arrested on Warrants issued by him And
to tell them they were released on their
Personal Recognizance to appear when wanted
And that Judge Carr would enter that
on the Court Journal I told Mr. Smith
there was nothing regular about that
and that I wanted something more than a
verbal order He agreed with me and
advised me to go up and see Judge Carr
which I did and found Judge Carr and
Attorney Harry Partridge in the Judges
Office with the door locked I asked
Judge Carr if he had sent Mr. Smith

To me with the request above mentioned
 and he said yes I then tried to persuade
 him to have them brought before him
 saying I would bring them up myself
 But he refused to see them so I sat
 all night then give me the Order which
 he did I then released the 3 men I do
 not know if Judge Coan made the entry
 on the Court Journal or not But do know
 those 3 men were never before Judge
 Coan shortly before noon I received a phone
 call from Bras City Thomas Bentley telling
 me that the Governor The Sheriff The
 Judge and the Luncheon Co were putting
 the heat on him something terrible
 to get him to dismiss the cases against
 the prisoners But that he would not do
 it He also informed me where he was
 and in case I wanted him I could call
 and he would be right over

Concerning the Governor I had been informed
 that the Governor was not in the City
 But shortly afterwards was told he had
 arrived I decided to make an appeal to
 him personally for help and was on my

way to his Office and was passing
 around the large crowd that had gathered
 on the Capital lawn when the Governor
 appeared on the Capital Steps and began
 talking to the crowd telling them they
 were welcome that they had come to the
 right place and that he would see
 that they were not disturbed with
 Alfred hearing this I returned to my
 Office satisfied the only thing to do
 was to see they did not get the Prisoners
 There was no one attempting to clear the
 Streets as all business had closed
 without a protest and all Public Offices
 closed In fact in my opinion the City
 had been surrendered to the strikers and
 they had the backing and support of
 the State Government

About 4:30 P M I received word
 from Justice Seelye at Mason that
 he was coming to Lansing to arraign
 the 5 Prisoners I sent for Mr Bentley
 the Prosecutor and he came right over
 and Justice Seelye arrived about 5 P M

The Prisoners were brought in and arraigned and Bail fixed Bail was furnished and they were released and within 30 minutes the streets were clear and everyone had gone home showing very plainly that of the Sheriff and the Courts had done their duty in the morning much of the trouble would have been avoided

Abner S. Garrison
 Chief of Police
 during the time of this trouble