

3 STATES HUNTING DILLINGER

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SLAYER'S BOLD ESCAPE IS MADE WITH TOY GUN

Ease of Desperado's Flight Arouses Comment.

How it was possible for John Dillinger to outwit a dozen or more guards hired especially to watch him and then walk leisurely from the supposedly escape-proof Crown Point jail was a subject of discussion among public officials and citizens generally in Chicago and other cities last night.

Indiana authorities seemed bewildered by the getaway. Chicago police officials said they were "disgusted." Other commentators accused Sheriff Lillian Holley and Prosecuting Attorney Robert G. Estill of Lake county of being too lenient with the prisoner.

Judge Blocks Removal.

That an effort had been made to take the prisoner to the state penitentiary at Michigan City for safekeeping pending his trial was disclosed last night by Judge William J. Murray of the Lake county Circuit court. Judge Murray said that he had prevented the prisoner's removal and took the responsibility on his shoulders for his act.

"Prosecutor Estill came to me with an application for Dillinger's transfer from the jail to the penitentiary about two weeks ago," said Judge Murray. "I told him I felt Dillinger was being adequately guarded where he was, that a hundred men could not take him out of that jail. I explained that the statute did not contemplate the transfer of a prisoner unless there was danger of mob violence, and no such danger existed here."

Inquiry Is Ordered.

Gov. Paul V. McNutt of Indiana ordered an investigation of the escape, but admitted that he "didn't know what comment to make." His secretary, Wayne Coy, said an offer had been made to place the killer in the state penitentiary for safekeeping, but that Sheriff Holley had declined. He added, however, that "Mrs. Holley was a lovely woman."

Warden Louis Kunkel of the Michigan City prison announced that he had suggested twice to Sheriff Holley that Dillinger be moved to the penitentiary, but that Mrs. Holley had declined each time.

Meanwhile the escape brought wrathful comment from Chicagoans.

Mayor Kelly said: "I'm sick about it. It couldn't have happened in Chicago and I don't

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CITIZENS STIRRED BY THE EASE OF DILLINGER FLIGHT

Investigation Promised by Gov. McNutt.

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understand how it was allowed to happen. Dillinger won't come here, because he knows it's too hot for him."

Acting Police Commissioner Ira McDowell spoke in terms of action.

"If Dillinger sticks his head inside of Chicago he will be shot at first sight," he said. "Those are my orders. All Chicago police have been notified to be on the lookout, down to the oldest patrolman on a beat."

Laubenhelmer Blames Guards.

Blame for the escape was laid on the shoulders of the guards in Dillinger's jail by United States Marshal H. C. W. Laubenhelmer, who said:

"The thing is absolutely incredible! There's something wrong with those guards. Even at the risk of their lives they should have prevented his escape. Apparently they didn't take the chance that every officer of the law is expected to take as part of his job."

Frank J. Loesch, president of the Chicago crime commission, said wrathfully that he was "red headed about it."

"That's what might be expected of having a woman for a sheriff," Mr. Loesch said. "That's also exactly what should have been expected after the prosecuting attorney (State's Attorney Robert G. Estill of Lake county) was photographed with his arm affectionately flung around the shoulders of a vicious murderer like Dillinger."

Chamberlin Is Angry.

Col. Henry Barrett Chamberlin, operating director of the Chicago crime commission, conferred with Mr. Loesch about the outlaw's getaway. He was angry.

"It's just one of those impossible—why, I'm speechless," he sputtered. "The idea of a man with a record like his—getting away! There should have been a competent, trustworthy, proven guard assigned to watch only Dillinger both day and night. I can't understand it."

Supervising Captain John Stege, who directed a number of raids in previous attempts to seize Dillinger, said the desperado's delivery "smells to the high heavens."

"I'm shocked," said Acting Chief Justice Donald S. McKinlay of the Criminal court. "There is too much sentimentalism in the country in re-

gard to criminals, and it has permeated jails and penitentiaries. This may have something to do with the successful escapes that are all too common. The graft and corruption existing in many quarters probably also enter the picture."

Judge Harry B. Miller, who is hearing the Wynkoop murder trial, declared that those responsible for Dillinger's escape should be prosecuted as accessories to murder if the fugitive lengthens his record of killings.

Judge Walter Steffen said he was unable to conceive how the outlaw who already had cost authorities an enormous total of effort, time, and money was allowed to get away.