

**Night Beat: Walt Bodine Interviews Mayor Ilus Davis (Walt Bodine Collection)**

Walt Bodine: Mayor Davis, Good evening sir, from Night Beat.

Ilus Davis: How are you Walt?

Walt Bodine: Just fine, how are you is the question?

Ilus Davis: Well, it would appear at the from the most recent review of the incidents and the arrest figures here at police headquarters that the trend is toward the restoration of calm in Kansas City. We still have some problems, or have had some problems this evening with some snipers and some people with guns but certainly the attention to the trend is in the right direction.

Walt Bodine: Yeah, the you spend most of your time at the command post or how have you for instance, in sizing up this day... Could you give us a quick rundown, I suppose you went out at one point and had a look at what we couldn't really see last night?

Ilus Davis: Well, No Walt. This morning I spent most of the morning in the police headquarters going over the reports that had come in during the night, and then the ones that I've missed after I went home about 1:30. And then we had a council meeting which involved the budget that we have to have under the charter and then this evening, I returned back to City Hall and police headquarters where I spent the evening.

Walt Bodine: The charter, in this instance the charter is rigid and then that meeting has to be held, I take it, come hell or high water on this date.

Ilus Davis: That's right, we have the business of paying for the... city goes on whether we like it or not

Walt Bodine: paying for the city. We already had a problem we already had a dollar squeeze. Now, every big city that's been through this comes up with a whole additional bill, does it not?

Ilus Davis: Certainly we're going to have problems involved. And right now, for instance, we're running tremendous overtime costs for the police department, the fire department, there will be heavy cost connected with some of the other departments. And I think we're all concerned about having adequate manpower. In this department

Walt Bodine: We already had a squeeze to begin with, didn't we?

Ilus Davis: That's right.

Walt Bodine: Then so the squeeze is set to be more intense. You know, the other thing that I bet you haven't had time to give much thought to, with all of this going on, but you know, I will hear people talk about and around the city today. They wonder and who has a passage by in Congress here of some legislation on open housing, about the Fair Housing vote, they also wonder what the effect is going to be on that vote, whether we're going to see, you know, people more awakened to the deep needs of other people and more apt to support it or whether we're going to see, you know the old word backlash?

Ilus Davis: Well, there's a there's a lot of problems connected with the legal and otherwise, because as I understand it, I haven't had really a chance to look into the bill during all the past few days here. But the bill apparently refers to local law too, and we'll have to review it with the lawyers in light of the passage of the Congressional act and you see just where we are.

Walt Bodine: It's conceivable, a local ordinance, conceivable anyway, it might not be needed.

Ilus Davis: Well, and on the other hand, the Federal act apparently takes into consideration, laws that are passed at the local level and you apparently have your choice of enforcement by federal officials or if an enforcement by local officials those things will all have to be reviewed in the next few days very carefully.