

STERLING

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but without mounted officers for the first time in more than a week, were on hand to prevent worker-picket incidents which to date have resulted in arrest of about a dozen persons.

The union, in a letter to Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey, Jr., requested assurance from him on five points relative to picketing at the plant. It asked that police recognize the legal right to picket and the right of Jamestown Sterling employes to continue peaceful picketing by walking with hands in pockets while non-strikers are crossing the picket line.

The letter asked that police give same protection to picketing employes by enforcing their rights as company rights are enforced and that deputies not be instructed to break up legally constituted picket lines and, by doing so, prevent legal picketing. The fifth point was that picketing union members not be subject to arrest if a non-striker causes body contact with them while crossing the picket line.

Sheriff McCloskey said he felt police at the scene already were complying with union requests and their presence was necessary to carry out a Supreme Court memorandum giving workers right to enter and leave the plant without interference.

The sheriff said, "I told Proudman that we're just as tired of coming down there in the mornings as he is and that if his men behaved like they did this morning, I'll be glad to call off my men." He noted that Mr. Proudman's only comment was, "I can't control my pickets."

Sheriff McCloskey commented, "The thing that bothers us most is the fact that two uniformed officers were attacked Dec. 21 and this seems a flagrant disregard for authority and that is why we are on the scene in force."

Police reinforcements were sent to the plant more than a week ago when the seven officers on duty were felt inadequate to cope with the situation. Since then, mounted officers have been among them, except for this morning when none were present.

Sheriff McCloskey previously explained that police were not taking sides in the action but are there to see that the law is upheld.