

# Trial atmosphere at hearing

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 got this far. The whole situation is a mockery."  
 Rev. Knox said that at one time the residence at 710 Colver St. had been considered by him for a half-way house, but that he did not pursue the idea when he realized that the neighbors in the area would be opposed to it.  
 More than 100 people nearly filled the city council chambers Thursday night for the hearing at which Noble was to have three appeals heard. However, after a 10-minute recess halfway through the session, Noble said he was dismissing two of the appeals, for occupancy of 710 Colver as a rooming house or apartment building. He said he might refile the other appeals later.

Noble previously had been denied permits to operate the building as an apartment house or rooming house and two misdemeanor charges, filed by zoning inspector Carl Tiecek, are pending against Noble.

Thursday's hearing was held in the atmosphere of a courtroom trial, complete with attorneys for each side and a court reporter. Seated in the jury box of the council chambers, used for Associate District Court during the day, were present and former city council members, along with other city officials who were subpoenaed to testify.

After opening statements by Atty. Vern Robinson of Iowa City, representing the Church of the Silent Prayer, and Atty. Pat Ryan, representing Colver St. property owners, Noble testified for 45 minutes. Following his testimony, members of the subpoenaed group asked why they had been instructed to attend, but had not been called to testify.

Noble told them he had them subpoenaed but that on the advice of his attorney none of them was summoned as a witness.

In his opening remarks Atty. Robinson said the Church of Silent Prayer is dedicated to the teaching of the things of the Lord and the Bible, along with meditation and prayer.

He introduced into evidence documents which showed the church has been incorporated with the Secretary of State.

Noble told the zoning board that he is the study the Catholic religion and that he is the only one who conducts the services, usually from 5 to 7 p.m. on Fridays. He said the services include discussion sessions and that members often pray in silence. Establishment of the church has been considered for about five years, said Noble.

It is not necessary, Noble said, for his church to affiliate with others in order to carry out his religious beliefs based on an unwritten doctrine of following the Bible and its teachings. Noble, who smoked throughout most of the proceedings, said his church is not against drinking in moderation.

In testifying concerning the arrangement of the church quarters and furnishings at the building, he said the church meeting room is near the front entrance and has some chairs, although some members may sit on the floor or bring their own chairs. Noble said that there are some religious paintings on the walls.

Some of the rooms do have beds, said Noble, and some of the people more dedicated to the church stay there seven nights a week. Noble said there presently are three such members staying overnight, but there have been as many as nine or 10 at one time.

He said those people staying at the church make monetary donations to help support the church and the suggested donation is \$13 a week. Noble added that if the member is unable to pay the \$13 there is no problem and that when the member is financially able he or she usually makes up the donations they are behind.

City Atty. Jon Pearce quizzed Noble concerning the sale of the house from Noble

and his wife to the church, for which the Nobles are listed as the purchasers and incorporators of the church. Noble admitted that no money changed hands in the deal and that he bought the house at a depressed value and sold it to the church at actual value.

Pearce brought up the question of a possible capital gains tax on the venture, but Noble said he planned to use the difference as a tax deductible gift to the church.

In discussion concerning new churches, Noble's attorney mentioned The Church of the New Song, which was formed at the Iowa State Penitentiary at Ft. Madison.

Pearce, however, interjected that there was no zoning problem concerning the meeting place for the new prison church and that there was, in fact, "only one place to go."

At one point, Pearce secured an answer from Noble that all 24-hour meditators at the church now are men, but the city attorney said he was wondering about the co-educational meditation in rooms with beds in them.

Noble said that some supervision was provided and that there were facilities for 17 around-the-clock meditators. Asked if he expected to reach capacity, Noble said that might depend on how much publicity his church receives.

Other witnesses testifying Thursday night were Capt. Ronald Martin and Patrolman Grant Pickering of the Muscatine police department, Mrs. Inagene Wendlandt, who presented protest petitions on the behalf of neighbors of the church, and Carl Tiecek, city zoning administrator.

Martin told of calls the police department received in the early morning hours of Feb. 16 concerning a loud party at the church. He said he went to the scene twice and on the second visit arrested two individuals for disturbing the peace.

Martin said the entire police shift of seven men responded to the second visit to the house and entered the premises. The policeman said the eight males and one female there all appeared to have been drinking and that the female's clothing was disarrayed.

The police captain said obscenities were yelled the first time he visited the premises and that on the second occasion, during the arrests, someone in the building said "Get me a shotgun and I'll kill as many of the pigs as possible."

At that point Martin said the officers pursued the person to determine if he was not armed. Martin testified that a sign on the door was the only indication that the building was a church and a quantity of beer was visible, but there were no religious pictures, statues or Bibles evident. He added there were no chairs or pulpit in the alleged church meeting room.

Patrolman Pickering, who formerly was on the Iowa City police department three years, said he also entered the house and that his previous training indicated to him there was an odor of marijuana present.

Mrs. Wendlandt, 801 Colver, said lots of cars come and go at the church, with people staying only about five minutes. She said the neighborhood is comprised mostly of elderly people and couples with children. The petition she presented, signed by 74 neighborhood residents, asks that the church be enjoined from operating there.

Tiecek testified that he had denied permits for Noble to use the building as a rooming house or apartment house and that it was only after these denials, that he was presented any information, and then not from Noble, that it was desired to operate a church there.

Tiecek's testimony indicated he has attempted to inspect the building because he had reports of remodeling without a permit, but has been denied access by Noble.



(Journal photos by Dennis Stoupe)



## Measuring fat

Obesity is another risk factor related to heart disease. Shelley Scheizer is measured for body fat by a University of Iowa nurse. Fat level is determined by measuring a fold of skin with a caliper-like device. In the past four years more than 5,000 Muscatine students have been screened for various risk factors.

## Salt preference

Theresa Mathias, a student at Franklin School, is tested on her liking for salt. She drinks tomato juice containing varying

amounts of salt. High salt intake has been linked to high blood pressure. Researchers are trying to determine which children prefer high levels of salt in their diet.

## Obesity is a problem for students

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child displaying certain risk factors. Treatment for other members of the family is also possible," he said.

After many screenings are made and the risk factors fully determined and identified, treatment such as special diets or drugs are prescribed for the child and others in the family.

"The survey provides people with an excellent opportunity to find out for themselves if they risk heart disease before it is too late," Dr. Lauer said.

He added that he wanted to emphasize that a high blood pressure or cholesterol level found at one screening is not cause for alarm. "We want to make sure, that is why we continue to recheck."

Kindergarten and first grade students are now being examined. Weight and height is measured, blood is drawn to determine cholesterol and triglyceride levels, blood pressure is recorded and skinfold (the density of fat under the skin) is measured.

Obesity is a problem the researchers did not expect to be as prevalent as it is. About 10 percent of the students in the sample have problems with weight. Dr. Lauer calls the number a monumental amount and said he was overwhelmed by the number of children affected.

The researchers are attempting to find out how long weight problems will persist for the children as they grow. "If a child is fat at six years of age, will he continue to be fat at age 20? We're trying to find out if this is true and if so, how it can be prevented."

Children who may be plagued by high blood pressure when they become adults are being identified by yet another study being conducted by the University of Iowa team. Dr. Lauer explained that the project records the salt preference and salt threshold of the children.

High salt intake is a cause of high blood pressure and the researchers hope that children who have abnormally high salt intake can be identified and advised of the risk factor.

Threshold is determined by having the children taste tomato juice and indicate which has the most and least amounts of salt. Preference is determined by asking the children to salt the juice to their liking.

Nurses working on the project said the children like this phase of the study best although they report that students have been brave about other parts of the study including blood drawing.

University of Iowa doctors and project nurses involved in addition to Dr. Lauer are Dr. William Connor, Dr. Linda Rames, Dr. Guy Carter, Dr. Helmut Schrott, Mrs. Mary Ann Reiter, Mrs. Carolyn Judge, Mrs. Verna Mae Wilson and Mrs. Teresa Gibbs.

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### Housing model to be shown

The Muscatine Low Rent Housing Commission invites the public to a meeting in the Musser Public Library conference room Tuesday, March 19, at 3:15 p.m. to see the model and plans of the 100 unit high rise for the elderly that is to be built next to the library.

Features, accommodations and equipment that will be incorporated into the building will be explained.

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