

(INS) In

## City Fathers Discuss Union At Meeting

City commissioners went into an informal huddle with Gobel F. Cravens of Oklahoma City CIO field representative who was appearing in the interest of members of the Bartlesville Municipal Employes Local Industrial Union No. 1692, at a meeting Thursday night at the Civic Center.

ACCOMPANIED BY THREE employes from city operating departments, Cravens said he understands the commissioners are of the opinion the union is illegal, and explained he came here at the invitation of a group

of city employes.

"Nobody had their arm twisted to join the union," he declared, stating that the local municipal union would like to enter into discussions or negotiations with

the city management.
"I haven't been able to find a law restricting the city management from bargaining with employes," the CIO representative declared.

"If it is a question of whether the city could enter negotiations with somebody claiming to represent the employes with the idea of entering into a contract, my own view is that the city can't do that," Mayor R. H. Hudson told the union leader.

"We are perfectly willing for city employes to come before the board," the mayor continued, agreeing "that some inequities and inequalities will have to be corrected and we intend to do that."

"I don't want the commissioners to think we're big, bad wolves," Cravens told the board. "You wouldn't be making a contract with me—you would be making it with employes."

Cravens asked recognition of (Continued on Page 2)

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the commissioners of Local 1692, and discussion followed on what was meant by "recognition."

Alton Rowland, city attorney, and Hudson told Cravens that the commissioners have never protested city employes joining a union, and have never threatened to discharge any employes for union affiliations.

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"I appreciate that," Cravens said, with this ending the topic on "recognition."

HUDSON TOLD the CIO representative the commissioners are planning a classification system for city employes and are going to try to see that heads of departments look after the interests of city employes.

terests of city employes.

"If the employes are dissatisfied with their classification or pay they can come up and be heard," the mayor stated. "We would like to raise the pay of all our employes, but the first thing we would have to do would be to find the money."

Hudson painted a sad picture on the city's financial status, citing charges for hauling garbage and trash and the use of sewers, dog taxes and occupational taxes to make up the difference between what was asked and "what the excise board says we can spend." He also mentioned coming expenses on repairing the sewer system and streets.

coming expenses on repairing the sewer system and streets. "I'm sure you recognize a wage of \$145 or \$160 a month is pitifully small on which to raise a family," Cravens coun-

Rowland r eplied: "We've scratched our heads many a night trying to figure how to fix up a broken down police car or carry wages along," after which Hudson said "if there's any way we can give them relief we will lend a sympathetic ear. I'm sure the city couldn't enter into a bargaining contract."

Cravens charged that "indirect dealings" — promises of wage increases that were never given — had created a disturbance, and Hudson replied "nobody had the authority to do that."

NONE OF THE THREE city employes accompanying the CIO representative entered into the conversation.

Cravens indicated the city employes will hold a follow-up meeting tonight when he requested City Clerk Eva Sanderson for a meeting place reservation at the Civic Center.

As the meeting got underway, the commissioners' room was filled to overflowing by a delegation, mostly women, whose spokesman said "some of us are wondering if any subversion is going on in our library.

"Some people who use the library have the feeling there is a preponderance of certain literature," she added.

Hudson informed her that is a matter under control of the library board.

Another woman inquire? "are lists of books and periodicals gone over by the library board?" RUSSELL DAVIS, a member of the library board who was at the session appared that as a

RUSSELL DAVIS, a member of the library board who was at the session, answered that as a group the board does not check the books and periodicals, and that book orders are entirely in the hands of the librarian.

Davis, speaking for the library board, said the board would make a complete investigation and report back to the commissioners within 30 days if the commissioners desired, and this plan met the approval of the city dads.

Four women were selected from the delegation to work with the library board on the investigation.

A written request from Dr. C. L. Johnson for parling restricted to patients, doctors and nurses in front of the new medical center at Fifth and Cherokee was declined by the commissioners.

The commissioners voted to meet again next Monday night to complete unfinished business.