

HOYNE PLANS FOR GRAND JURY PROBE OF CHARGES AGAINST MORALS SQUAD

A woman, who from evidence presented by her to the state's attorney's office has apparently been given a "rough deal," may be the nemesis who will finally sound the doom of the morals squad.

It has leaked out that only the illness of Prosecutor Hoyne has held back a grand jury investigation of the activities of certain members of the vice squad.

Several days ago Mrs. Violet Phipps, 3741 Indiana avenue, walked into State's Attorney Hoyne's office with the charge that she had paid money to J. E. Steel, one of Major Fufinkhouser's "sleuths," to prevent the arrest of herself and two other women.

Her story is one of a long list of similar complaints which have been made by unfortunate women of the underworld, who say that certain members of the morals squad have "bled" and "bullied" the vice world.

Mrs. Phipps said that Steel and another investigator came to Sybel Martin's at 225 E. 23d street last October. They represented themselves as "live ones" and proceeded to stow away wine and food incidentally. Mrs. Phipps said they failed to pay for the wine.

About 2 o'clock in the morning Steel told the women that he and her partners were "sleuths" and were going to arrest them.

After much arguing and protesting on the part of the women, Mrs. Phipps charges that their troubles ended when she paid money to Steel. Then the men proceeded to spend the rest of the morning with the women.

From that time on Mrs. Phipps says she was hounded by Steel.

"He nearly always arrived in my flat in time for dinner," Mrs. Phipps said. "And I was forced to tolerate him through fear of arrest. Finally

I rebelled and ordered him out."

Mrs. Phipps and Sybil Martin decided to tell all they knew about Steel. They called up Major Crippen, one of the heads of the morals squad, who is paid a handsome salary by the people to "promote efficiency in the police department." To him they told their story. He listened attentively and then did nothing.

The women say that from that time on they were persecuted by the morals squad. On one occasion the morals squad broke down the door of Sybil Martin's flat, treated her roughly and then dragged her to the station. However, they have as yet failed to get Judge Goodnow to see where she had violated any law.

Probably the darkest part of the story is the charge of Mrs. Phipps that the morals sleuths are trying to railroad her to the madhouse.

According to her story, Dr. H. R. Hoffman, who had attended her for a few days about a year ago, was asked to say she was insane.

Dr. Hoffman, who is house physician for Kate Adams' Coulter house, admitted last night that the woman's charges are partially true. He says there was a conference between Major Funkhouser and Kate Adams, at which Mrs. Phipps' mental state was considered. As a last annoyance Mrs. Phipps' telephone has been removed.

Joseph Geary, chief investigator for State's Att'y Hoyne, is now investigating the charges against the morals squad. Further action will be delayed until Hoyne recovers from his present illness.

Minneapolis, Minn. — 3 persons missing, believed dead, in ruins of Astoria hotel, 3d st. and Hennepin av.; fire destroyed building; 7 persons injured.