

CONSTRUCTION CO QUILTS WORK ON POLICE BUILDING

City Behind in Payments, Officials Charge.

"Well, the roof is on, anyway," Chief of Detectives John Egan remarked yesterday after workmen on the new police and city courts building at 11th and State streets were called off the job on a "no pay, no work" edict by the Great Lakes Construction company.

According to officials of the company, the city has not kept up its payments and is now \$350,000 in debt to the contractors. Because of this the building was left in a chaotic condition yesterday, with much of the work on the upper floors unfinished.

Commissioner of Public Works Richard Wolfe said no notice had been served on him that the contractors had any intention of abandoning the work. He said he had recently left orders that a voucher be drawn for the Great Lakes company for any amount in reason, but that he intended to withhold a substantial sum pending satisfaction with the work done.

Cracks in Floors Reported.

It had been reported to him that there were cracks in some of the floors and he had been advised by the city council finance committee staff to have a committee of architects inspect the building before the city made final payments, Commissioner Wolfe said.

He admitted that the building would cost far more than was at first anticipated and said that some of the additional cost was due to changes made when the police administration changed twice and that a considerable portion of the "extras," which run up to \$600,000, was due to a belated decision to add two floors to the building.

As explained by the finance committee staff, the contract was awarded to the Great Lakes Construction company during the Dever administration for \$2,278,949, the money to come from a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for that specific purpose. The additional expenditures of \$600,000 were to come from bond issues for other police stations.

Interior Is Rearranged.

At the station yesterday it was said that sixty-five changes had been made in the inside arrangement of the building since it has been under construction. Whereas the eighth floor was originally intended to house the police printing press and the traffic violation department, it was later decided to put courtrooms on that floor and the change cost \$35,000. The plan of the sixth floor was said to have been revised twice since the architects' first plan was accepted.

Windows that should have been of plate glass were of Florentine glass, it was said, and for other windows the glass was described as "thin as paper," with the result that there was considerable breakage.