

LAND FOR FIRE, POLICE SCHOOL WINS APPROVAL

An ordinance authorizing the city to acquire a square block for construction of a 3 million dollar police and fire training academy was recommended to the city council yesterday by its finance committee.

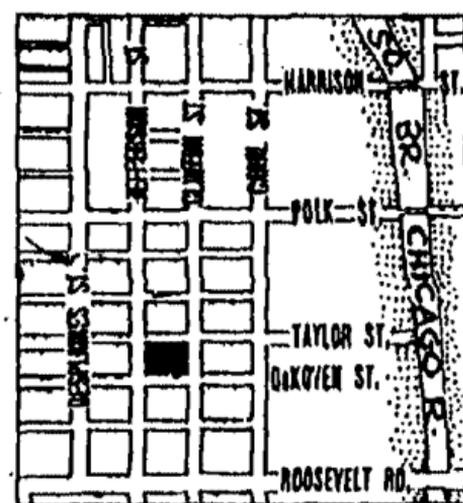
The block is bounded by Clinton, DeKoven, Jefferson, and Taylor sts. and includes the property at 558 DeKoven st. where Mrs. O'Leary's cow is said to have kicked over a lantern to start the Chicago fire of 1871.

The block is to be bought from the Chicago land clearance commission. It is in an area where the commission is acquiring, clearing, and reselling land for industrial development.

Plans Nearly Ready

Paul Gerhardt, city architect, said preliminary plans are nearly completed and he hopes to begin construction within four months. He said a year would be required to complete the academy's three buildings.

One is to be a 6 or 7 story building to provide classroom space for 600 policemen and 200 firemen. Another is to be a drill hall large enough to



accommodate 1,000 men. It will have a firearms range in the basement.

The third structure is to be a fire department training building where rookies will practice rescues with ladders and jumping into nets. It will contain such facilities as smoke and gas chambers.

Police Use Schools

The fire department is using an ancient and outmoded drill school at 720 Vernon Park pl. Police training has been conducted in public school buildings and on upper floors of the Brighton Park station, 3900 S. California av.

The committee was told no price for the block has been set, and that negotiations are in progress. The funds for the academy and land are to come from a 9 million dollar building bond issue approved by voters last June 3.

The committee also recommended council designation of 18 banks as depositories for the city's time and demand deposits—a move which removes Carl H. Chatters, city controller, and Sidney D. Deutsch, city treasurer, from personal liability for safety of the funds.