

Dunne Suspends 20 County Road Employees for Loafing on the Job

BY THOMAS BUCK
AND WILLIAM CURRIE

George W. Dunne, Cook County Board president, announced yesterday that 20 highway workers found loafing on the job by TRIBUNE Task Force reporters and Better Government Association investigators will be suspended.

Dunne said the workers, including three district engineers and three road maintenance supervisors, would be suspended for three days without pay.

THE TRIBUNE reported widespread loafing in the county's highway maintenance department as a result of over-hiring.

THE TRIBUNE article on Jan. 19 which revealed the loafing was one of an 11-part series which documented more than \$14.2 million in waste in seven areas of the county government.

Each of the 20 county pay-rollers was suspended after admitting to loafing during the

times each was observed by investigators.

Dunne said not all suspensions would go into effect at the same time so that the county would not be short staffed in case of a snowstorm.

Those suspended, Dunne said, were charged with violating department rules. Some suspensions will begin today, he said.

A committee appointed by Dunne after THE TRIBUNE disclosures, said the men stopped to get coffee and failed to no-

tify radio room supervisors when taking their vehicles out of service.

Thomas Cots, county highway superintendent, said department rules forbid coffee breaks and unauthorized stops.

Reporters and B. G. A. investigators spent days in the last three months following and observing the workers in their daily routine. The incidents cited in THE TRIBUNE series were examples of instances of loafing observed daily in the surveillance of road crews.

They were used in the series

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20 County Highway Workers Suspended 3 Days for Loafing

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to support conclusions that the highway department hires twice the number of persons needed for road maintenance.

List Others Suspended

J. Terrence Brunner, B. G. A. executive director, said of Dunne's action:

"Dunne's actions are commendable but fail to address themselves to the overall problem: too many people to do too little. I would urge Mr. Dunne to expedite his study of the county highway department with a view toward trimming

the padded payrolls on his maintenance staff."

Those suspended included R. C. Gorski, F. N. Harris, and M. J. Philbin, district engineers; and T. W. Flahaven, H. P. Lucas, and J. W. Lyons, road maintenance supervisors.

Road repairmen suspended were P. Carr, M. D. Degenova, M. Pizzoferrato, W. Schilling, R. Senka, E. Smollen.

Four laborers suspended were C. Devoney, R. Falkner, S. Kurban, F. Nadile, and D. Walters. F. Pugliese and R. Perry, road sign hangers, and A. Gomolski, a motor vehicle driver, were also suspended.



George Dunne