

From the Chief Superintendent at

To the Chief Constable.

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second incident and following Mother's complaint, the boy, RO-A50, was dismissed from Smith's employment.

RO-A67, now aged 22 years. He alleges that in December, 1961, after singing in a school carol services, he was approached by Alderman Smith who said that RO-A67 had a good voice and offered to pay for singing lessons. This eventually resulted in RO-A67 receiving tuition from a music teacher, Miss Ruth Mitchell of Rochdale. The lessons commenced in December, 1961, and continued thereafter for some two years. A few weeks after their commencement, Smith asked RO-A67 to attend his office which, at that time, was situated in the Hippodrome Building, Rochdale. Smith enquired how his singing lessons were progressing and whether or not RO-A67 was carrying out breathing exercises. He then told RO-A67 to drop his trousers and placed his hands on his bare stomach and told him to breath in and out. Exactly similar conduct took place on numerous occasions thereafter.

Together with Detective Chief Inspector Wheeler, I have interviewed all these complainants separately and I am satisfied there has been no collusion. The majority of offences complained of took place during 1965, although in the case of RO-A67 they occurred as early as 1961 and 1962, and in the case of RO-A50 as recently as 1966.

The delay between the dates of the commission of these indecent assaults and complaints being made to the Police is fully appreciated. It will be noted that this enquiry was not instituted until the 10th October, 1969, following the arrest of RO-A48. Several of the complainants have criminal records, the details of which are attached to this report. In my opinion, RO-A48 is perhaps the most unsatisfactory witness, the others should stand up well to cross-examination. In view of the circumstances surrounding these complaints it is perhaps not difficult to understand the reason for this delay. These youths were, in the main, away from home, had no-one to turn to for advice or assistance and the residents at the hostel appeared to have been under a general misconception regarding Alderman Smith and