

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY,

JL/VE.

No.5 District Task Force, Oldham, 11th March, 1970.

Det.

From the Chief Superintendent at No.5 District Task Force.

To the Chief Constable.

Via: Assistant Chief Constable, No.5 District.

ALLEGATIONS OF INDECENT ASSAULT AT ROCHDALE

With reference to the above, attached copy report by Detective Sergeant Brierley and covering letter from Chief Superintendent, 'P' Division, I report that this enquiry was passed to me on the 16th February, 1970, and I now report as follows.

These allegations of indecent assault concern Alderman Cyril Smith, M.B.E., a Company Director, aged 41 years, of DPA Rochdale. Eight complaints have so far been received; six are regarding his conduct whilst Secretary of a Committee administering Cambridge House Hostel, Castlemere Street, Rochdale, the remaining two being from boys who had no connection at all with that Institution.

It may be of assistance if, from the outset, a few details regarding Alderman Cyril Smith are mentioned. He is a self-made man, single, aged 41 years, illegitimate and was born at Rochdale on the 26th June, 1928. Currently, he is a Company Director and proprietor of a small business manufacturing springs which is situated at Flannel Street, Rochdale. He has been a member of the Rochdale Town Council since 1951 and was Mayor of that Borough during the year 1966/67. He was elected to the Aldermanic Bench in 1966 and a few years ago was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to youth. There is no doubt that he is the best known public citizen of Rochdale, Chairman of the Education Committee and a former Chairman of the Children's Committee. He is extremely active in public life, dominant in Council affairs and, through his connections with the Liberal Party, enjoys extremely good relations and receives favourable publicity from the town's newspaper, the Rochdale Observer, which has traditional connections with that Party. At a meeting of the Rochdale Liberal Association on Monday, 2nd March, 1970, he was adopted as the Liberal Party's prospective Parliamentary candidate for the forthcoming General Election.