

31st December, 1969.

From the Chief Superintendent at **ROCHDALE**.
To the Chief Constable. (C.I.D.)

ALLEGATIONS OF INDECENT ASSAULT AT ROCHDALE.

I forward herewith the report from D.S.4946 Erierley and statements in connection with an enquiry he has undertaken for the past three months.

Of necessity, because of the security risk involved slow progress has been made, but from the statements it will be seen that a certain amount of indecency was taking place some years ago in relation to the activities of Alderman Cyril Smith and it is hoped that as a result of more information coming to light, information of such activities more up to date will be forthcoming.

In the meantime this report is submitted as an interim measure principally because of the high standing Alderman Smith holds in local political and social work circles within the town and the very strong hold he will no doubt have over a number of influential people in the town if his activities have not been confined to the younger element.

Attached are also a number of cuttings from the local newspaper. I am quite certain that he has the ear of the Editor and very seldom does a week go by without some quote or photograph of the man concerned. I know, to my cost on a previous occasion, of the strength of his word in publications in the Rochdale Observer.

Reference is made at para.7 of the Sergeant's report to certain information being passed to the then Chief Constable of Rochdale by Mr. Price, the children's officer. I have enquired amongst the senior officers of the former Borough Force, including pensioned Chief Inspector Alcock, but no-one seems to have any knowledge of an enquiry being carried out by the Chief Constable at that time as a result of this information and I feel confident that, whilst the statement of Mr. Price may be true, it is quite feasible that Mr. Ross would keep it to himself because of the status of the man involved.

May I suggest that Sergeant Erierley be allowed to continue his enquiry in relation to the eight youths mentioned but not interviewed to date, and at some stage a decision be made as to whether there is a case to answer bearing in mind the period when the alleged assaults took place. At that point it might be considered prudent to hand over the enquiry to the Superintendent Task Force prior to Smith being interviewed. Once such an interview took place, of course, there may well be a considerable inflow of information on the activities of this man.

DPA

Chief Superintendent.

*I will discuss this
with Mr. Prescott.
R.C. (Crime) M.*