

CRIME GROWS WITH LAWRENCE

by Chuck Magerl

Problems are creeping into Lawrence's panorama of go-go growth. Crime leads the list with a spurt so remarkable it challenges concerned residents to seek some answers. Robberies are up an astounding 69% over one year ago, larcenies jumped over 25%, as did non-aggravated assault. A record of six murders were reported.

It's a trend that's discouraging to residents who are concerned about the psychological shock of these high-fear crimes. Local real estate booster films claim, "We have all the advantages of a city of millions with almost none of the problems." But all the advantages of Lawrence are jolted by the fear of crime, the fear of victimization that calls into question our sense of satisfaction, well-being, and quality of life.

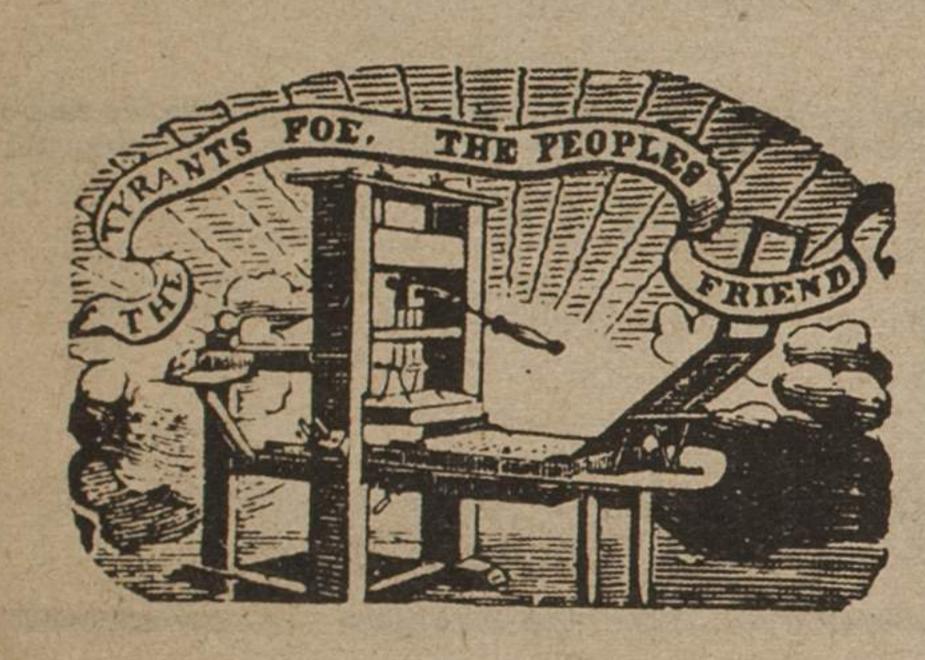
Although sociologists and criminologists cite a relationship between high-growth cities and high crime rates, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce officials disagree.

"I think there probably is a growing crime problem in Lawrence," admits the Chamber's manager, Glen West. "But I'm not at all sure there's a relationship between the crime and our growth rate. It's probably a sign of national problems such as changing moral values.

"Crime tends to pose problems, I'd say, in cities with inadequate employment, particularly with high minority unemployment figures brought on by an eroding industry in the inner city. In Lawrence we see a good employment picture and increasing sales tax receipts and assessed property valuation figures, good signs of a healthy, growing economy."

But the booming towns of America are suffering from a "crime syndrome" that far exceeds the crime rates in the "decaying cities" of the North and Northeast. This is the conclusion of Paul Brantingham, a criminology professor from Florida State University, as a result of his investigation of crime in 250 U.S. cities. Brantingham studied the FBI Uniform Crime Reports as a useful barometer of the extent of crime in our cities.

"The areas that are engaged in massive growth produce social and physical settings in which all kinds of crime can go on," he reported in an Associated Press story. "Growth creates several important social opportunities for crime."



In Cooperation with the Community Mercantile

Vol. III No. 3 Jan. 1978 Lawrence, Kansas

A Look at Farm Movements

Kadicals Kaised on Kansas Soil

BY SUSIE HANNA

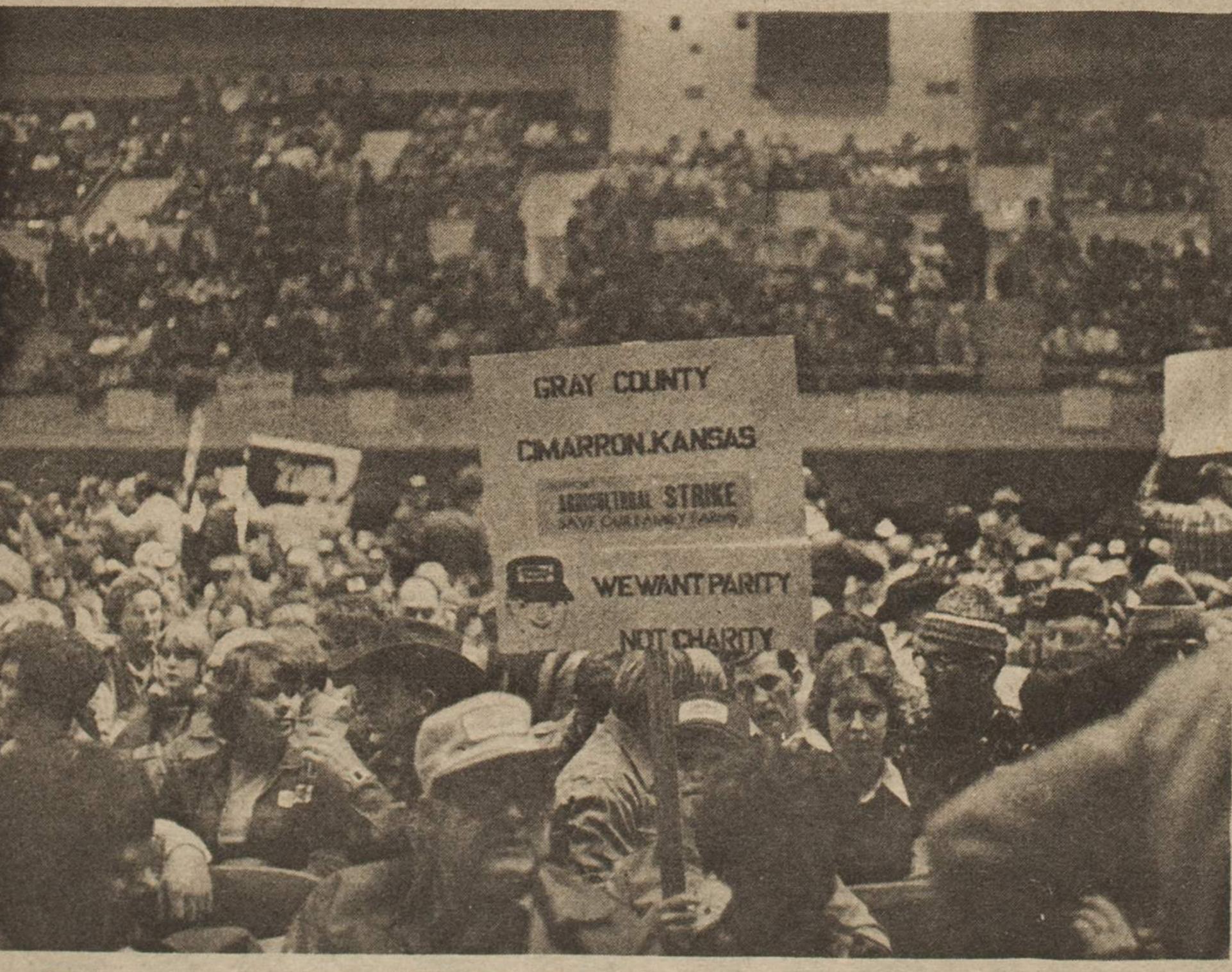
It was one of the rowdiest gatherings Topeka has ever seen. Thousands of farmers flooded the state capital on Dec. 10 to protest low farm prices. Hundreds participated in a 10-mile long parade of tractors and other farm equipment. Over 5,000 people, carrying signs and shouting and chanting, poured into Municipal Auditorium for a rally.

These are the farmers hardest hit by falling farm prices and inflated operating expenses. In freezing temperatures, many of them had traveled across the state, driving tractors and meeting in small towns along the way to talk about their problems. When they arrived in Topeka, they were angrier than ever and anxious for solutions.

The farm protest in Topeka, one of many in state capitals across the nation, was one of the most important, because the American Agriculture movement, which organized the rally started just across the state line in Eastern Colorado. The first strike office that opened in September in Western Kansas was the second in the country. Kansas is in the forefront of this farm movement.

In less than three months, the American Agricultural movement spread quickly across Kansas and now boasts more than 60 strike offices. New offices open each week as AA organizers hold meetings in more and more farming communities.

As of Dec. 14, the AA supporters say they are on strike and will plant no crops and buy only items mecessary for basic survival until the price for their products



OVER 5,000 FARMERS GATHERED IN TOPEKA'S MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM FOR A RALLY IN DECEMBER. PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL PARTS OF KANSAS TO PROTEST FALLING FARM PRICES AND INFLATIONARY OPERATING EXPENSES THAT THE FARMERS SAY ARE PUTTING THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.

reaches a level that covers the cost of production and a reasonable profit margin.

his is not the first attempt by farmers to organize and fight for better and more secure working conditions. For a strong tradition of rural radicalism exists in the U.S. And, it is in Kansas and nearby states that this radical tradition first developed.

It was here that the Free Soil movement flourished. Kansas was one of the first places to organize the Grange, a post-Civil war group that united farmers against the railroads and grain dealers who made great profits at the ex- ditions, dropping farm products pense of the farmers.

The Grange prepared farmers for the second farm movement of the 1890s, the Farmers' Alliance movement, the largest and most

effective farm protest in Kansas history.

The successes of the Alliance came through involvement in state and national party politics. Shortly after it was created in Kansas, the Alliance formed the People's or Populist party, the strongest third national party in American history. Kansas was the soul and center of the Populist movement, for it was here that the party was born in 1892.

Although the Populist party disbanded in 1900, the farm movement continued in Kansas through the Farmers' Union and the Society of Equity.

Others active in the Populist movement later joined the Socialist party in sufficient numbers to make it the third largest party in Kansas.

The Populist causes born in Kansas soil lived on in national politics long after the People's party dissolved. Both the Democratic and Republican parties espoused Populist rhetoric in turn-of-the-century politics. Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt are two of the most well known politicians who successfully ran for office on Populist platforms.

Many similarities exist between today's farm movement and those of the past. Just as now, farmers in the 19th century were plagued by adverse weather conprices and revolutionary changes in farming techniques that forced farmers to invest in expensive farm machinery in order to com-