

## Must Be Cleared

It was not so long ago that Las Vegas business men were stirred into a frenzy by propaganda circulated about the city that repeated arrests of large numbers of Boulder Dam workmen was causing the men to steer clear of Las Vegas as a recreational center. A careful check on this matter revealed it was without substance in fact—primarily gossip circulated by those with a definite object in view.

However, there is at the moment a condition existing which constitutes a real menace to the continued flow of this business to Las Vegas—a condition which is freely discussed among the dam workers, and which is building up a sentiment against visiting this city at regular intervals as in the past.

This has to do with the large number of “moochers” present on the streets and in the clubs of Las Vegas, who have adopted a policy of hounding the river workmen from the time they land in town until they leave again, in the hope of prying them loose from a portion of their hard-earned cash.

These moochers hold forth at several of the clubs, and according to statements of dam workers, the minute they walk up to the cashier's window to cash their paycheck, they are immediately surrounded by a group of the “gimme” brethren who hang on until they get something out of that paycheck. The same condition exists wherever they go—whether it be along the sidewalk on Fremont street or other sections of the city.

This condition is not imaginary—it has existed for some time to a less marked degree—but has gradually grown worse until it is operating to make Las Vegas decidedly unattractive to visitors, and especially the river workmen who would rather stay home in the evenings than be pestered by the organized gang of moochers who dog their footsteps thruout their stay in Las Vegas.

There has been a distinct effort in the past to clean up this condition, but too lenient treatment in the municipal court has hampered the operation of police authorities in this direction.

It is not a desirable situation, Boulder dam or no Boulder dam, but the effect is doubly serious because of the proximity of the project and the dependence of Las Vegas on it for a portion of its business.

Immediate steps should be taken to clear the city of this condition, and all branches of the city government should cooperate toward this end.