

Lennon Freed on President's Pardon Order

State Senator Released
After Serving Half of
Year's Sentence.

Clemency Notice Wired to
Winona Sheriff From
Washington.

Fought Commitment for
Two Years Following
Lodge Hall Raid.

State Senator Ambrose L. Lennon of Minneapolis Saturday was granted a pardon by President Coolidge, according to a dispatch from the Washington bureau of The Tribune. Shortly after the order was signed at Washington, Senator Lennon was released, upon telegraphed instructions, from the Winona county jail, where he has served six and one-half months of a year's sentence for violating the prohibition act. The charges against him grew out of alleged liquor law violations at the St. Anthony Eagles' club at 117 Fourth street southeast, three years ago.

It was stated at the Lennon home, 221 Second street northeast, that the senator is expected to arrive home from Winona Sunday. He was released at Winona by Sheriff George Huck, who reported that his former prisoner expected to leave for Minneapolis at 11 p. m. Saturday night.

Surprised at Pardon.

Senator Lennon, as a trustee of the Eagles' club, was held responsible for the alleged liquor law violations, although at his trial no testimony was introduced to show that he had any personal connection with the alleged liquor sales. He was one of five men found guilty on charges of violating the nuisance provisions of the national prohibition act. Eight others pleaded guilty.

After his conviction, he fought commitment for nearly two years, while perfecting an appeal. The conviction was upheld, however, by the circuit court of appeals on June 8, 1927, and on October 27 he voluntarily appeared at the Winona county jail with the commitment papers in his possession.

President Coolidge's pardon came as a complete surprise, the senator told Sheriff Huck, when notified of his release at Winona Saturday. Then he thanked his "keeper" for the courteous treatment accorded him while a prisoner, packed his belongings, and left the jail.

Re-elected After Conviction.

"This is the work of my friends, and I am very grateful for their intervention in my behalf," he said, adding that he had not known there was a move on foot to set him free.

Senator Lennon's term expired following the conviction, and he entered the race for re-election, winning by a two to one vote. When the state legislature convened early in 1927, a flood of requests was poured upon the state senate, asking that body to prevent the senator from being seated. After considering requests either to expel or to request him to withdraw from participation in the senate proceedings, the senate committee on elections finally voted to withhold action until after the appeal had been heard in the federal circuit court of appeals. The legislature adjourned before this appeal was decided.

Illness prevented Senator Lennon from taking an active part in the proceedings during a considerable part of the last session.

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