

Councilman, Crull Clash Over Chief

By **JERRY RICHMOND**
Staff Writer

City Councilman Joe Moody Monday confronted City Mgr. Elgin Crull about the method used in naming a new police chief and charged that Mr. Crull should have notified councilmen in advance as a matter of courtesy.

Mr. Crull replied that he acted on a matter solely within his province when he named Asst. Chief Charles Batchelor to succeed retiring Chief Jesse Curry.

The exchange of words came during the City Council's luncheon at the Engineers Club.

"PRESSURE" TOLD

"Members of the City Council have been under tremendous pressure about the crime situation, and we've been called the murder capital of the world," Mr. Moody said. "For that reason, I think it would have been proper for the city manager to inform us of this important appointment."

Mr. Moody renewed a complaint he first registered Saturday — a complaint which Mayor Erik Jonsson said was an injustice both to the Police Department and Chief Batchelor.

City Mgr. Crull told Councilman Moody he had not intended to mention the appointment because the City Charter leaves such matters solely to the city manager.

"Frankly I know no purpose served to have delayed the appointment until Monday or to

share this responsibility with council members," Mr. Crull said. "As you know, the charter places the full burden on the city manager, and it is a heavy responsibility."

MAY BE REMOVED

The charter provides that a City Council member may be removed from office for misconduct if he attempts to interfere or influence the appointment of personnel under the administrative jurisdiction of the city manager.

Mr. Moody charged there is "tremendous dissension in the upper echelons of the Dallas Police Department."

Mayor Jonsson interrupted and charged Councilman Moody with committing "a grave injustice against the police department and Chief Batchelor."

Mr. Moody said he would have objected to the appointment of Chief Batchelor for "several reasons I thought you (Mr. Crull) knew about."

"Apparently you did not know," Mr. Moody said.

Mr. Crull said the timing was not his but followed the announcement by Chief Curry that he was resigning.

WANTS NO DELAY

"Delay and uncertainty in the Police Department, which is under constant pressure, is a bad thing," the city manager said.

Mayor Jonsson supported Mr. Crull and said if any criticism is due the Police Department, the City Council should take it up directly with the city manager and not with anyone designated under him.

"We have no right to investigate the Police Department except through Mr. Crull, the mayor told Mr. Moody. "I think you have done serious damage to Chief Batchelor and the Police Department."

Councilman Joe Golman praised Chief Batchelor as "well qualified and the best man for the job."

"The big bone of contention is the apparent breakdown in communications," said Mr. Golman. "We feel we as councilmen should be knowledgeable."