

# PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY PRISON OFFICIALS

## Plot to Liberate Murderers Hillstrom and Brewer Said to Be Feared.

## SPRY IS THREATENED

## Men Closely Watched and None but Their Attor- neys Can See Them.

Precautionary measures to prevent the formation of a plot to liberate Joseph Hillstrom and Harry Brewer from the state prison, where they are confined under sentence of death, were adopted, it was learned yesterday, by the prison officials after a conference with Governor William Spry. Both prisoners have been held in solitary confinement for two weeks. Aside from their attorneys, no one has been permitted to visit them.

When the plot to liberate Harry Brewer from the prison was brought to light, two weeks ago, immediate action was taken by the prison officials to prevent the formation of a second plot. The theory that Hillstrom might be concerned in the plot was not given credence by the prison authorities. Nevertheless, it is said that if a concerted effort was again made to liberate Brewer, Hillstrom would logically be taken into the plot.

Repeated efforts to visit and talk with Hillstrom have been made, according to prison officials, by Hilda Erickson, a woman member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Hillstrom belongs to this organization, the members of which have written hundreds of letters to Governor Spry. The Erickson woman figured conspicuously in the investigation of the movements of Hillstrom prior to his arrest, January 13, 1914.

## Note Was Found.

A note bearing the name of the woman was found in Hillstrom's possession when he was searched at the county jail and she was found at her home in Pleasant Green. She denied knowledge of Hillstrom's connection with the murder of John G. Morrison and his son, J. Arling Morrison, for which crime Hillstrom is to be executed.

As many as fifty letters a day are being received at the office of Governor Spry in Hillstrom's behalf. The I. W. W.s are running clippings in various publications asking readers to sign the clipping and send it to Governor Spry. These clippings protest against Hillstrom's execution.

Four telegrams were received yesterday at the governor's office and a like number are received almost daily. The telegrams and letters are written in various languages, Greeks, Scandinavians and Hebrews being among those who have written the governor.

Many of the letters are of a threatening nature, stating that the Industrial Workers of the World will hold Governor Spry personally responsible for Hillstrom's death, in the event that he is executed. The letters have stated the writers will stand ready to use influence, physical force and funds in Hillstrom's behalf. Other letters have stated that physical force will be used to avenge Hillstrom.

## Board Gets Letters.

It is also said that other members of the state pardon board, of which the governor is chairman, have received threatening letters. It is probable that some of the letters received at the governor's office will be placed in the hands of the federal authorities for investigation.

John K. Hardy, secretary to Governor Spry, said last night that steps were being taken to prepare printed copies of the decision of the state supreme court on the Hillstrom case. These copies will be mailed to every person who signed a letter sent to the governor in Hillstrom's behalf. Many of the letters have stated that Hillstrom was not given a fair trial in the district court and the decision of the supreme court covers the subject in its entirety.

Just what further action will be taken by the prison officials to prevent a demonstration or perhaps the formulation of a plot to liberate Hillstrom has not been decided upon. It has been definitely decided, however, that no one, aside from Hillstrom's attorneys, will be allowed to visit him in the prison until after September 18, when the case will come before the state pardon board. Unless the pardon board takes action in the case, Hillstrom will be executed October 1.