

THE MAYOR QUESTIONED

By Councillor Woermke at Monday Night's Session of the Council

On Monday evening as the order sheet for the evening was being disposed of, Councillor Woermke asked permission to ask a question.

He questioned the Mayor with reference to certain statements that had appeared in the Ottawa Journal.

He said considerable hot water had been stirred up over this thing and he wanted to know why the Mayor took that stand and objected to the whole German population being slandered in this matter. Of course he knew it was the fashion of newspapermen to make a thunderclap out of the crack of a pistol. He intimated that the Mayor should make the matter right. If there were German spies in Pembroke, he (Woermke) as well as others will give every assistance in hunting them down. He said, "You may as well class me and all the rest as spies. If I was a spy I wouldn't warm my seat here in this room."

The Mayor said that he had prepared a full statement of the interview for the local papers, as well as those for Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and he could await their appearance.

He said in effect, however, that if a very large section of our community had separated themselves from the rest of us in this time of stress and took the position of quiet neutrality they must expect to be criticized.

Those people receiving and enjoying all the privileges of citizenship in the freest country on earth, should be prepared to pay their fair share.

We don't ask the German people to enlist, we can hardly expect it. He added that he did not think the German mind understood the British attitude in this matter.

The British never killed a woman or murdered children in the heat of battle. When they declined to participate in our public meetings and assist in the various Patriotic and Red Cross movements they should expect to be judged accordingly.

Reeve Bromley was on his feet asking permission to question Councillor Woermke's right to question the Mayor on any statement he should make in speaking of the interests of our Empire. He heartily concurred in the expressions of the Mayor and he believed the main facts as stated in the interview were correct. What right have you, said the speaker to Councillor Woermke, occupying a seat as a British subject, in a British council to question His Worship the Mayor, as to what he shall or shall not say in favor of British interests?

Councillor Bowden, with considerable emotion rose to protest against German residents attempting to justify such atrocities as the sinking of the Lusitania and the murder of Miss Cavell.

Councillor Woermke asked permission to speak again but was not permitted.