

several candidates and brought to the small library of 37,000 volumes her background in several Ohio libraries. "Excellent choice," was the appraisal of the board.

Not so, insisted Mayor Ted S. Perry. The hiring of the woman may have been discriminatory, he claimed. June 2 he ordered the city auditor not to sign



Assistant Librarian Judy MacMahon.

Ms. MacMahon's paycheck. Although financed jointly by city and county, the library account is controlled solely by the Logan auditor.

The mayor requested opinions of the U.S. attorney's office in Salt Lake City and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C.

In explaining his trepidation the mayor said there had been inadequate advertising of the job opening and a failure of the board to consider a city employee with past library experience. Moreover, he charged the appointment was improper unless reviewed by the city commission. Perry said he must personally be convinced that city employees are well qualified and mature.

The board was unflinching and stood by Utah law giving library boards the power to hire librarians while the issue smoldered with no word from the mayor and no pay for Ms. MacMahon.

In the interim Logan hired a city attorney who, on June 10, delivered an opinion in the matter. He upheld the board's claim to independence in hiring and urged the mayor not to attempt to override the board. Within days a city commissioner personally delivered Ms. MacMahon's back pay.

"By focusing more attention on the library the incident has done a lot of good," Ms. MacMahon commented in retrospect. "The embarrassment may have helped in getting our full budget request this year."

Mayor and Library Board Clash in Utah

[Logan, Utah] In May when Judy MacMahon accepted the job of assistant librarian in this northern Utah community of 24,000, she had little reason to believe her job was in jeopardy from the start. During seven weeks of waiting for her first paycheck, however, the 33-year-old Ohio native found herself volunteering her services. Meantime the library board that hired her came close to court action against a mayor who insisted he must have the last say in hiring any public servant paid with city funds.

Ms. MacMahon was hired May 18 by the Cache County Board of Library Trustees. She had been picked from