

## Fiscal Pain in Neck

# County Court Costs Make Boston Twinge

By **ROBERT A. McLEAN**

Boston wants support of the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns in getting Suffolk County Courthouse off its financial back.

The city will ask league endorsement to shift the costs from the counties to the state.

Boston may have a point, considering it foots the bills for Suffolk County alone, and about one-third of Bay State court activity centers in Pemberton sq., city officials estimate.

Mayor Collins and Boston legislative counsel Louis K. Nathanson emphasized the state's function as administrator of justice in remarks to the league's annual convention in Worcester last week.

Nathanson will confer with the league's executive board in mid-June to consider drafting

a policy to be appended to the league's municipal code.

The Boston proposal would have the state pay for the courts and penal institutions, now supported in part by the various counties.

"How can you talk of home rule when you have no control over county budgets?" Nathanson asked the league delegates. "Suffolk County isn't the only one paying," he added.

"New courthouses are going to be built in Cambridge and Woburn — and Middlesex County will pay for them—but that cost will be spread over 54 cities and towns, not one."

Nathanson cited the 1955 Wessell Commission report on Massachusetts' correctional system, which, he noted, recommended a central penal administration for the state, paid for by state funds.