Next Thursday night's hearing before the license commission might possibly end the present controversy as to whether or not Lowell's own "Manny" Diaz is a female impersonator.

Supt. of Police Sayers claims that the Lowell entertainer did female impersonations fifteen years ago and that under the present ruling, which prohibits the hiring of "known and reputed female impersonators," this is enough to keep him from performing in local clubs. Diaz and his counsel, Atty. Archie Barlofsky, claim that since the rule has only been put into effect recently, it shouldn't be interpreted to include acts dated back fifteen years. The license commission is just sitting tight hoping for the night when all three commissioners are present so that it may act.

"Manny" states that the act referred to by Sayers took place some fifteen years ago when he was first starting in show business. At that time, he says, the act was considered peculiar and he dropped the routine soon afterwards. Since then he has limited his act to singing and dancing and emceeing shows. During the recent immigration of performers at a Dracut club Diaz has found innumerable of interested in participating in an immoral show. Diaz had refused to emcee the show at the Dracut club and had consented only to do his own act at the end of the bill's performance.

In reference to Sayers' statement about the followers that Diaz attracts and their conduct and immoral influence on Lowell citizens Diaz claims that his act is not as suggestive as some of the motion pictures that have played in Lowell recently.

Cause of much of the favorable comment for Diaz is the fact that during the war and after he donated much of his time to entertain servicemen in hospitaliized veterans. He has been seen in charity shows around town and claims that his act has always been the same.

The fact that Chief Sayers has never known of any complaints against Diaz personally is in no way reason why Diaz and his counsel feel that he should be cleared by the local authorities to continue his work in Lowell night clubs. But Sayers still holds firm to his conviction that "Manny" should not be cleared and states that his opposition to Diaz is caused by the "crowd he attracts," not by the manner or character of Diaz himself.

The case has been continued one week by Commissioners Barrett and Willis J. Pelletier because Chairman Robert J. Lewis was unable to attend the hearing last week.