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Police Science Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE NOTES

Thirty-eight Prosecuting Attorneys from Twelve States Take Course at Northwestern University—A group of thirty-eight prosecutors from twelve states assembled at Northwestern University School of Law and its Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory during the five-day period from August 3rd to August 7th to participate in "A Course, or Seminar, for Prosecuting Attorneys." Three of the attendants came from Michigan, seven from Wisconsin, two from North Dakota, five from Ohio, four from Iowa, nine from Illinois, three from Indiana, and one each from New York, Louisiana, Florida, South Dakota, and Pennsylvania.

The object of this course, or seminar, was to gather together a number of prosecuting attorneys for the purpose of permitting them to avail themselves of all the Law School's facilities pertaining to criminal investigation and prosecution, and at the same time to permit an exchange of ideas and opinions among the attendants themselves.

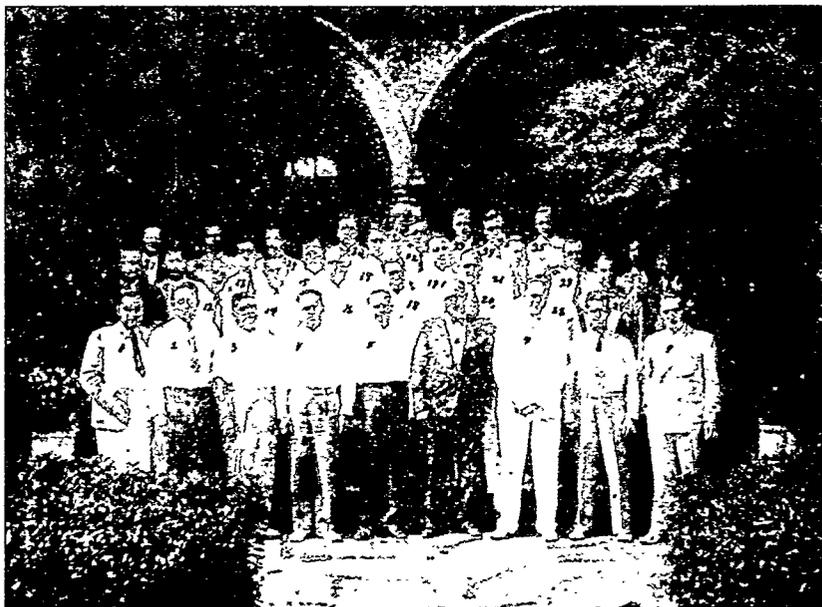
Apart from the significance of the number of attending prosecuting attorneys and the wide range of territory represented, the interest displayed by the group throughout the entire program clearly demonstrated the desirability as well as the need for a course, or seminar, of this nature.

The majority of the attendants, and particularly those from relatively small communities, indicated that it frequently becomes necessary for them personally to conduct

criminal investigations, principally because of the inefficiency of local law enforcement agencies. This fact largely accounted for their interest in scientific methods of crime detection. They desired not only to know what could be done, but also, as regards the more elementary procedures, to familiarize themselves with the actual detailed methods to be used, in order that they themselves could utilize them rather than depend upon the unpredictable efforts of their local law enforcement offices.

Although the subject of scientific crime detection attracted the chief interest of the attendants, the various topics of a strictly legal or administrative nature were given much attention. Also, the discussions of the prosecutors themselves and their exchange of ideas and opinions seemed to be of considerable value.

Contrary to the general notion that prosecuting attorneys consider their office merely as a training school for subsequent private practice or as a political stepping stone, there appeared every indication that at least the majority of this particular group considered it in a different light. They seemed to adopt a genuine professional attitude concerning the office, and many expressed the opinion that with the removal of certain objectionable features, such as inadequate compensation (in some instances as low as \$600 a year) and the consequent necessity for concurrent private practice, and the adoption of certain reforms, the



PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ATTENDING COURSE AT NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

(1) Alvin F. Weichel, Sandusky, Ohio. (2) Russell W. Keeney, Wheaton, Ill. (3) T. W. Foley, Superior, Wis. (4) Jacob A. Fessler, Sheboygan, Wis. (5) David L. Brunstrom, Jamestown, N. Y. (6) Arthur B. Wilkins, Alpena, Mich. (7) Lyall T. Beggs, Madison, Wis. (8) Oscar M. Edwards, Racine, Wis. (9) Lynn W. Ferris, Mount Pleasant, Mich. (10) Robert F. Jones, Lima, Ohio. (11) Clarence G. Higi, Muncie, Ind. (12) Ralph E. Croal, Fargo, N. D. (13) W. O. Coleman, Ass't U. S. District Attorney, New Orleans, La. (14) George W. Howard, Jr., Mount Vernon, Ill. (15) Elliot Walstead, Madison, Wis. (16) John W. Coale, Taylorville, Ill. (17) S. J. Holderman, Morris, Ill. (18) A. R. Bergesen, Fargo, N. D. (19) Charles W. Austin, St. John's, Mich. (20) John D. Germann, Jr., Monroe, Wis. (21) Burr H. Glenn, Huntington, Ind. (22) Allan A. Myers, Wheaton, Ill. (23) John B. Meister, Wauseon, Ohio. (24) H. W. Markey, Huron, S. D. (25) Don J. Finney (special), Wichita, Kans. (26) W. A. Hallowes, III, Jacksonville, Fla. (27) A. C. Carmichael, Pocahontas, Iowa. (28) W. O. Weaver, Wapello, Iowa. (29) Arno J. Miller, Portage, Wis. (30) W. R. Harris, Macomb, Ill. (31) C. G. L. Yearick, Ass't Attorney General, Columbus, Ohio. (32) Jesse R. Willis, Bloomington, Ill. (33) Mal A. Coghlan, Chicago, Ill. (34) Leon A. Grapes, Davenport, Iowa. (35) Melton Boyd, Cambridge, Ohio. Not shown in picture: Nathan T. Elliff, Pekin, Ill., Leon Schwartz, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Edgar A. Traeger, West Union, Iowa, Cecil F. Whitehead, Anderson, Ind.

office of prosecuting attorney could be transformed into a very attractive position for competent members of the legal profession who would be willing and anxious to prepare themselves as specialists in the field of criminal prosecution, as well as in criminal investigation insofar as practicable. This seems to be an idea deserving of serious consideration.

The curriculum consisted of two types of instruction and subjects for discussion: (1) A series of lectures and demonstrations by the staff members of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory concerning the various methods of scientific crime detection; (2) lectures (a) by other faculty members of the Law School who had specialized in certain phases of criminal law administration, and (b) by several other persons not associated with either the Law School or the Laboratory, but who were selected for the occasion because of their special qualifications in some particular phase of criminal prosecution and investigation.

The following subjects were presented by the staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory: "Firearms Identification," "Comparative Micrography," "The Practical Use of Wire-Tapping and Dictaphone Equipment" (by Charles M. Wilson), "Document Examination" (by Katherine Keeler), "Forensic Chemistry," "Medicolegal Problems," "Bombs and Explosions" (by C. W. Muehlberger), "Microanalysis," "Personal Identification," "Comparative Micrography" (by M. Edwin O'Neill), "Criminal Investigation," "Detection of Deception" (by Leonarde Keeler), "Legal Decisions on 'Firearms Identification,' 'Document Ex-

'amination,' 'Forensic Chemistry,' 'Medicolegal Problems,' 'Microanalysis,' 'Personal Identification,' 'Comparative Micrography,' 'Detection of Deception,' and 'Photography,'" (by Fred E. Inbau).

Supplementary to this, each attendant received a copy of the Laboratory's "Outline of Scientific Criminal Investigation" (79 pages, lithoprinted), for use as an instructional guide and also as a source of future reference concerning the scientific principles and explanations of the various types of scientific evidence as well as their legal status and application. (The cost of this "Outline" was included in the nominal registration and tuition fee of ten dollars.)

The subjects of "Fingerprints in Criminal Investigation" and "Photography of Crime Scenes," were discussed by Mr. T. P. Sullivan of the Illinois State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, and Lieutenant Edward F. Burke, formerly Chief of the Bureau of Identification of the Police Department of Rochester, New York.

Dean Emeritus John Henry Wigmore, Dean Leon Green, and Professor Newman Baker of the Law School, and Professor Earl H. DeLong of the Department of Political Science discussed the following subjects: "The Preparation of Evidence," "The Presentation of Evidence," "Some Modern Problems of Evidence" (by Mr. Wigmore), "The Office of Prosecutor" (by Mr. Green), "Nolle Prosequi and Immunity Agreements," "Reversible Error in Criminal Cases," "Some Modern Reforms in Criminal Prosecution" (by Mr. Baker), "Administrative Aspects of the Office of Prosecuting Attorney,"

and "State Department of Justice" (by Mr. DeLong).

Outline of Scientific Criminal Investigation—The Staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory of Northwestern University School of Law has recently published an "Outline of Scientific Criminal Investigation." It consists of 79 pages of lithoprinted material treating of the following subjects: "Criminal Investigation," "Firearms Identification," "Forensic Chemistry," "Personal Identification," "Questioned Documents," "Comparative Micrography," "Medicolegal Problems," "Forensic Microanalysis," "Detection of Deception," "Investigation of Bombs and Explosions," "Legal Decisions on 'Personal Identification,' 'Document Examination,' 'Firearms Identification,' 'Forensic Microanalysis,' 'Comparative Micrography,' 'Detection of Deception,' 'Forensic Chemistry and Medicolegal Problems,' and 'Photography.'"

The preface to the publication states: "This 'Outline of Scientific Criminal Investigation,' prepared by the staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory of Northwestern University School of Law, does not purport to be a treatise on scientific criminal investigation. It is intended primarily as an instructional guide and incidentally as a source of future reference for law

students and prosecuting attorneys attending certain courses and seminars offered by the Law School and the Laboratory."

The "Outline" is available to criminal investigators at a price of \$3.00, and it may be obtained by writing to the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Fellowships for Traffic Police Training—The Traffic Safety Institute of Northwestern University has announced the creation of the Kemper Foundation through which will be available to police officers in the United States fellowships providing for nine months of resident study and practice of police traffic control. Five to ten fellowships, valued at \$500 to \$1000 are offered for the academic year beginning October 10, 1936.

The purpose of these fellowships, according to Lieutenant Frank M. Kreml, Director, is "to train police in proven methods of traffic control on street and highway, and to enable them by the application of these methods in their home communities to effect better traffic control and accident reduction." All police officers now serving on police departments are eligible for the fellowships. There are no educational prerequisites, and the fellowships will be awarded on the basis of local and regional examinations.