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# POLICE SCIENCE



Editor: FRED E. INBAU

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## POLICE CADET TRAINING

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E. J. HANSON†

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Of all the recent progressive developments in the law enforcement field, the one which promises the greatest ultimate results for improving the quality of police service is the initiation of a comprehensive pre-employment training program for police officers. Leaders in the profession have recognized the fact that in order for police departments to become efficient, it is essential that their officers be thoroughly trained.

The type of training provided for police officers in this country at present runs from none at all to four-year college courses. It has become increasingly apparent to men engaged in training activities that the recruit schools and regional schools, though necessary and desirable, fail to accomplish the major aim of police training—that of developing fully either recruits or men already in service. The amount and the quality of the subject-matter with which the officer should be thoroughly familiar is such that it cannot possibly be mastered in any short period of training. The desirable procedure is to organize the subjects in the police training field on a strictly formal basis to extend over a longer period of time. The logical solution for this is a university course in Police Science.

There are certain formidable difficulties to be overcome in an effort to place police training on a college level. A degree of con-

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servatism on the part of many universities in not recognizing the possibilities of this almost wholly undeveloped field is a distinct obstacle to progress. The fact that much of the material for police study has never been properly formulated or organized into formal courses, and the amount of work involved in accomplishing this, also makes the task rather difficult. The general lack of precedents of courses on the college level in this field necessitates the laying of much "groundwork," which requires careful planning and a certain amount of experimentation. Another obstacle is the general lack of competent instructors. Finally, there is the well-founded objection that the study of police science in college courses would give training in theory only, and therefore fail to definitely produce competent police officers; for this reason the graduates of such a school might not be in demand.

Most of these difficulties have been surmounted at the University of Wichita, where a Police Science Training Course was inaugurated in the fall of 1935. This school was made possible by a collaboration between the Wichita Police Department and the University. Dr. Wm. M. Jardine, President of the University, recognized the educational needs in this field and because of his progressive attitude this training program was initiated. Chief of Police O. W. Wilson had been laying the foundation for the school for several years, by developing instructors who offered within the department six-week courses in the various phases of police work.

In the fall of 1934 a member of the Wichita Police Department was assigned the task of organizing the curriculum and assisting in the outlining of courses. Fifteen hours of Police Science courses were organized and were approved by the University. In August, 1935, fourteen carefully selected young men were appointed as cadet officers for a two-year period, to work at regular police duty on half-time shifts while attending the University. Thus, not only is practical training provided, but a college education is made financially possible for a number of well-qualified men who at the same time are mastering the more advanced phases of Police Science.

The cadets are required to qualify on the same basis as other appointees to the department; that is, by rigid intelligence, physical, and character examinations. They are given the same type of recruit training. They wear the same type uniform and perform the same duties as regular officers of the department. The only difference is the title, the hours of work, and the rate of pay—which

is \$50 per month. They are required to carry not less than twelve hours of work per semester, including the Police Science courses, and certain other designated courses. Continued employment is conditioned on satisfactory work at the University and on police duty. Failure in any Police Science course, or failure to make satisfactory grades in at least twelve hours means dismissal from the service. The incentives offered to cadets are a college degree, a Police Science certificate, the possibility of permanent appointment to the department or the necessary recommendations for appointment to some other department. A still greater incentive is the increasing demand for well-educated and experienced police officers to assume positions of leadership in the administrative, the scientific, and the educational branches of the police profession. The top is the limit to educated officers with the necessary personal qualifications and experience!

One of the most difficult problems the director of a police school is called upon to solve is the question of the courses to be offered. Certainly courses in Criminal Law, Traffic Control, Criminal Investigation, and Police Administration should be given. But how many courses or semester hours of each? And what about more specialized subjects, such as Identification? Or the less academic phases of police training such as pistol practice or demonstrations of police tactics?

In solving this problem, three rather general rules have been followed. First: each subject offered must be of general value to a reasonable number of police students. Second: the content of the course must be of such quality and quantity as to measure up to academic requirements. Third: the subjects offered and the time devoted to each must be determined in terms of the ends to be attained rather than by any irrelevant factors.

At the outset only fifteen semester hours of Police Science subjects were included in the program. One course has since been added and two courses expanded from two to three hours. The subjects in the present curriculum are as follows:

*Police Practices (301)*. Three hours. This course is organized for the purpose of presenting to the student the best of police practices that have been evolved and formulated from years of experience by veteran officers. The problems of routine work of patrolmen are discussed thoroughly with the purpose of outlining certain lines of policy and correct police procedure in the various phases of patrol work.

It is essential that a police department have the friendly cooperation of the law abiding citizens of the community. This can be secured and maintained only by the right sort of conduct on the part of the officers in their daily contacts with the public. This whole problem of the police officer's approach and general demeanor in dealing with individuals in various categories is carefully analyzed and some general rules of procedure are suggested.

*Traffic Regulation (306)*. Two hours. The principles of traffic control and traffic safety are studied in this course. A survey is made of the causes of accidents and methods of prevention. Topics covered are enforcement methods, accident records, and statistics, condition and collision diagrams, accident investigation, and safety education.

*Identification Procedure (311)*. Three hours. This subject includes a study of fingerprint and personal identification. It is designed to give the student a fairly broad knowledge of the art of taking, classifying, searching and filing fingerprints, and to develop the ability of the student in identifying persons from sight, descriptions, and photographs.

*Criminal Law (321)*. Three hours. This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the principles of criminal law, and a thorough knowledge of those federal and state laws and city ordinances that come within the jurisdiction of the police. The material is presented largely from the law enforcement point of view.

*Criminal Evidence (322)*. Two hours. A study is made of the various types of evidence and the admissibility of evidence. The purpose is to develop the students' ability to recognize and present evidence, and to enable them to ascertain the kind and amount of evidence upon which criminal proceedings may be based in any given case.

*Criminal Investigation (403)*. Three hours. This course is designed to teach the student the correct methods of investigation of all crimes within police jurisdiction. Emphasis is placed on investigation at the scene of a crime, with the purpose of developing the students ability to recognize, collect and preserve physical evidence. This course serves as an adequate base for those students who are interested in studying the more advanced phases of scientific investigation.

*Police Organization and Administration (406)*. Three hours. The purpose of this course is to acquaint the students with the

problems involved in the administration of a police department. The leading topics included are: American and foreign police organizations; American police problems; police records; police equipment; personnel problems and public relations.

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Of equal importance in the organization of the Police Science courses is the question of what other courses should be required. Here, too, must be considered the general utility of a course to the police officer in his work. Only those courses that can be deemed essential to a well-trained officer should be required.

The following subjects are required for Police Science students at the University of Wichita: Business Law, two hours; Ethics, two hours; Psychology, five hours; American National Government, three hours; State Government, three hours; Municipal Government, two hours; Municipal Administration, two hours; Social Pathology, three hours; Criminology and Penology, three hours; Speech, four hours.

Elasticity is provided by permitting the substitution of other desirable courses for some of those required, upon the approval of the director of the school and the dean of the college.

In order to obtain a Police Science certificate, the students must have completed all the subjects indicated, plus the requirements for an A.B. degree. In addition to this, he must have been employed either as a cadet or regular officer with the Wichita Police Department, or must have been examined and approved by the department upon the same basis used in the appointment of cadets, and must have put in an equivalent of five hours of police duty per week over a two year period.

The Police Science courses are open to all students regardless of grade, who are approved by the director of the school and the dean of the College of Liberal Arts. However, these are senior college courses, and students of freshman or sophomore standing receive auditors privileges only. The courses are under the general direction of the Political Science Department, and under the immediate supervision of the Chief of Police and the Personnel Officer of the Wichita Police Department. Experienced police officers act as instructors in all Police Science courses except Criminal Law and Criminal Evidence, which are taught by an attorney.

The costs of the school are negligible. The Personnel Officer of the department is the only man who is assigned as a part of his regular duty, to act as an instructor, and to direct and coordinate

the police training activities. Each instructor performs his full time duties, and teaching is just so much extra work. For this reason, the pay is allotted on the same basis as that received by instructors in university night classes, or about \$25 per semester hour taught.

The enrollment for last semester averaged twenty-six. Of this number, thirteen were cadets, eleven regular officers and two civilian students. A number of students who made application for enrollment in the courses were rejected on the grounds that they were not fitted for police service and the courses offered.

The public has responded in characteristic fashion to the idea of the cadet officer. By some few, well-informed observers the plan is recognized for its true worth. By some of the usual critics of police policy it is declared to be foolish and impracticable. Results are proving, however, that the cadets render more effective service than officers employed a similar length of time have previously given, and that the methods used in handling people in all categories have shown a distinct improvement.

Forecasts as to future developments are too often futile and inaccurate. However, if the present trends of police training are interpreted correctly, it might be safe to predict that employment as a police officer in any first class city will eventually be conditioned by at least two years of College training in Police Science, and that the police executives of the future will be qualified by nothing less than a degree in Police Administration.