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EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND THE POLICE

V. A. Leonard†

Despite the combined efforts of national, state, and local police agencies, crime has increased steadily at the rate of 3 per cent per year.¹ This implies a 3 per cent annual increase in the nation's tribute to a socially destructive force, already costing the taxpayer far more than the educational institutions of this country. It should be borne in mind also that none of the estimates of the cost of crime and vice account for the tremendous indirect losses that follow in their wake.

The country seems to be losing ground in this vital theater of social control. Recruited largely from the youngsters of the nation, a vast army of criminals gains momentum in its predatory advance upon ordered society. There should be added to the crime cost the deadly score in the field of traffic regulation and control, with economic and social losses that show little sign of abatement. Of no less concern to the police is the fact that the present emergency has intensified the problems of internal security, while the post-war period of readjustment may be expected to place additional strains upon the police systems of the country.

Popular disapproval has multiplied the tribulations of the police. Ever since its creation the modern police force has been subjected to criticism. This criticism has been general throughout the nation and has been continuous. With the possible exception of a few cities, there are but a small number of police departments that have the support of the people who pay for their maintenance. The corrupting influence of crooked political control, still rampant in most communities, continues as one of the chief contributors to this widespread disrespect for law enforcement officials.

Is it possible that American genius cannot solve this problem? Many efforts have been made to improve the police service in various parts of the country, but all of these measures have been faulty because they fail to attack the problem at the point where the best results may be achieved.

This statement implies that it is possible to solve this problem and raise the standard of police service to such heights that every citizen will have respect for the police department and for the individual members of the organization. Yes, it can be done in a reasonably short period of time, provided the public actually wants to have it done. What is even more startling is the fact that it can be done with no additional expense to the taxpayer.

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¹ Vollmer, A., "Crime Can Be Checked," Community Coordination, 7:2.

It is thoroughly recognized in police circles that the new policeman does not begin to be effective until he has served five or more years in the department. Every time that a man leaves the service voluntarily or otherwise during the first five years, the money paid to him, from the point of view of the community, is considered wasted. This turnover of men is a considerable number. The services of 294 men at a cost of \$183,260.00 were terminated in one city in one year, and this amount does not represent the entire loss to the city. The incompetency and dishonesty of the men dismissed contributed not a little to the disrespect for law enforcement officials in general. Where these conditions prevail, the cost of operations are immeasurably increased.

It has been authoritatively stated that it is possible to reduce police costs in many cities as much as ten, fifteen, or twenty per cent without reducing pay levels provided approved personnel procedures are adopted.² According to this source, the experience of the Bureau of Public Personnel Administration indicates that the cost of police protection may be reduced as much as seven to ten per cent in well managed cities, and from twenty to twenty-five per cent in those where management has been markedly inefficient or dominated by the spoils system. The New Jersey Tax Survey Commission estimated that in four large New Jersey cities a reduction of twenty-six per cent in police costs could be effected if modern police methods were employed.³

Many persons are prone to overlook the fact that the duties and responsibilities of the officer and the police executive have increased in complexity to the point where rule of thumb may no longer be expected to cope with the situation. The processes of criminal investigation, arrest, trial, and conviction alone, now tax the ability of the most capable officers in the service. The intelligent approach to traffic problems is a complex undertaking that argues for the passing of the amateur. As if this were not enough, the police must now extend themselves upstream to face a new responsibility of unusual proportions in the field of delinquency and crime prevention, calling for new perspectives and more profound grasp of the factors involved in the social equation. Most important from the tax payer's point of view is the lessening of crime through the crime preventive features of police work, which has more recently begun to take a position of major importance in police administration. Today, sound police administration means the allocation of each dollar in a work program where it will bring the greatest social return.

How then may this problem of police inefficiency, crooked polit-

² Telford, F., "How Can the Public Payroll Be Reduced?" *Public Management*, 14: 85-88.

³ Fidley, C. E., and Nolting, O. F., *Practical Suggestions for Constructive Economy in Local Government*.

ical control, and corruption be eradicated in the United States? In-service training alone is not equal to the challenge of these new perspectives and responsibilities. Other methods having failed the next step is to the tested procedures that have been followed successfully by the other professions. The need for qualified personnel in the police field is a measure of the readiness of the colleges and universities to meet the responsibility of training men for the public service. Criminology courses were introduced at the University of California in 1916, in conjunction with a program of scientific police training inaugurated in the Berkeley Police Department. Courses in police administration were held for the first time at the University of Chicago in 1929, and in the same year the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory at Northwestern University began its contributions to the police training program. In 1931 courses related to the police field were instituted at the University of Colorado. At the present time, the universities of Southern California, California, Toledo, and Wichita, as well as the City College of New York and of Los Angeles, Michigan State College, San Jose State College, Sacramento Junior College, and San Francisco Junior College are engaged in police training at college and university level. Northwestern University, in its Traffic Institute, has developed a one-year course in traffic control and regulation.

The teaching of police subjects has at last become respectable enough to be included in the offering of institutions of higher learning. Men from these professional police schools are now to be found in the ranks of many police departments, and their presence in these organizations is being made manifest in many directions.

However, there are some deficiencies in the police training program as presently offered. The offerings of the junior colleges so far exceed anything heretofore introduced that it may seem unfair to criticize their contributions. However, experience demonstrates that an interval of two years is too short a period in which to train men for police service. There are many reasons why it cannot be done satisfactorily within this time limit. On the other hand, universities are usually resistant to vocational training on the undergraduate level. With only one or two exceptions their function, at least for the present, seems to be concentrated upon research, with training for the police services reduced to a minor activity. There is no disposition to take issue with university officials because of their system, nor to criticize them for what they are doing or not doing. It can be said of those universities which are engaged in research in the field of police science that they are contributing so much more toward the improvement of modern police service that one would be unwise to disapprove of their activities.

In this writer's opinion it appears that the state colleges are for the present best suited for the training of young men and women for service in one of the many branches of law enforcement work, including police and law enforcement departments, courts, the field of parole, probation, and the administration of penal and correctional institutions.

When the Los Angeles police job analysis was completed by the California State Department of Education, the varieties of the police function were better understood. With an organized body of knowledge and knowing what information and skills are required for the performance of police duties, it is now possible to prepare a curriculum sufficiently wide in scope to meet the demands of every branch of police service—without sacrificing any of the values of a broad liberal education.

Implementing these concepts, the State College of Washington now offers to qualified students who seek a career in the law enforcement field four years of professional training leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Police Administration. Students demonstrating a high order of performance during undergraduate years and who possess exceptional ability and aptitude may be admitted to study and research at the graduate level.

The objectives of the work in the Department of Police Science and Administration are: (a) to give students a broad liberal education in conjunction with intensive professional training for the police services; (b) to prepare them for a career in the police profession; (c) to develop qualities of leadership and (d) to foster ideals of professional achievement in the public service. By four years in a collegiate school of police training the young man acquires a knowledge of modern police science and administration which could otherwise be obtained only through decades of experience. In addition, he enjoys the benefit of a broad cultural education necessary for ultimate advancement to positions of responsibility in the service.

Applicants for admission to the police curriculum are selected with considerable care. In addition to the general requirements for admission to the State College of Washington, the student must possess certain basic qualifications for police service including a commendable scholastic record in high school, robust health and mental balance, plus the intelligence and aptitude required for success as a police officer. A rigid character investigation is made of each applicant. Due to the entrance requirements of most police departments, the applicant should be over five feet nine inches in height and at least one hundred and fifty pounds in weight. Each applicant must present to the Head of the Department a letter of recommendation from the Chief of Police in his home town.

Law enforcement embraces a number of highly specialized activities and functions, each offering opportunities for a career of achievement and distinction. The department prepares for intelligent practical work in these fields. Courses are offered in seven groups: General Police Administration, Police Record Systems, Police Personnel Administration, Police Communication Systems, Scientific Crime Detection, Delinquency and Crime Prevention, and Traffic Regulation and Control. Opportunity is also provided for specialization in the fields of Deception Detection, Probation and Parole, and Penology. All groups include work in the general sciences which form the background of modern police service.

The General Administrative Course is intended for students who desire a comprehensive understanding of the police field as a whole and who are interested primarily in the administrative aspects of police service. It also serves as a foundation for the more specialized courses.

The Department is equipped for a comprehensive police training program. The offices and laboratories, constituting a modern police headquarters unit, are located in the new Men's Gymnasium Building. Included in the Department's inventory of equipment is the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory equipped with police chemistry units; comparison microscope for the identification of firearms; microscopes and other precision apparatus for the examination and identification of questioned documents, hair, fibre, textiles, stains, fragments, and other technical evidence; ultra-violet equipment for fluorescence analysis of questioned materials; the psychograph or lie detector; moulage equipment; and fingerprinting apparatus. Associated with the Crime Detection unit is the Police Records and Identification sections, and the Police Photographic Laboratory, which includes a modern dark-room for developing and printing, professional printer and enlarger, police cameras, and other photographic equipment. Theory is effectively combined with practical experience and instruction in a well balanced police training program. Through recent acquisition of additional standard works in the police field, the Department now possesses one of the most complete and extensive police libraries in the United States. Combined with the resources of the College Library, the student is provided with unsurpassed opportunities in his preparation for a police career.

The Department also serves the police profession through an in-service police training program. Police officers ambitious for advancement in their chosen profession are invited to communicate with the department, or the Division of General College Extension, regarding the facilities for study and training that can be placed at their disposal.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

The following brief summary of the various police courses indicates the wide scope of the police training program. The regular catalog of the institution should be consulted for detailed information concerning the required collateral courses in political science, sociology, psychology, chemistry, and other sciences.⁴

1. **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.** Each sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Open to all students. A general survey of the administration of justice in the United States and some foreign countries; origin and evolution of the police power; principal features of American police systems; judicial organization; penal institutions; public opinion.

2. **PRINCIPLES OF POLICE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.** Each sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 1. Application of the principles of organization and administration to the police enterprise; structure of police organization; staff and line services; supervision and inspection; analysis of the functional divisions of the modern police department.

3. **POLICE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.** 1st sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 2. Principles and methods of sound police personnel administration; entrance qualifications and standards; examination and selection techniques; recruiting; training; the probationary period; rating; promotion; discipline; morale; the merit system, conditions of service; personnel records.

4. **POLICE RECORD SYSTEMS.** 2nd sem. 4 hrs. 2 lec. and 6 hrs. lab. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 3. Structure and functions of the police record system; administrative aspects; the complaint record; cross-index techniques; the modus operandi system; collateral police records; police statistical methods; administrative reports and analyses; laboratory practice and instruction.

100. **POLICE PATROL AND COMMUNICATIONS.** 1st sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 4. Patrol administration; contemporary patrol methods; principles of effective patrol; distribution of the force; the police beat; beat organization; patrol strategy; tactics; the communication system.

105. **JURISPRUDENCE.** 1st sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 2. General principles of criminal law and procedure; classification of crimes; specific offenses; elements of a crime; law of arrest; law of evidence; court procedure.

110. **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION.** 2nd sem. 4 hrs. 2 lec. and 6 hrs. lab. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 100 and junior standing. Principles of successful criminal investigation; duties at the crime scene; scientific crime detection methods; police photography; criminal identification systems; laboratory practice in the techniques of investigation and identification.

115. **TRAFFIC REGULATION AND CONTROL.** 2nd sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: Police Admin. 100. Organization and functions of the Police Traffic Division; application of Educational, Engineering and Enforcement methods to traffic problems; technique and method of the traffic survey; analysis of the problems of traffic flow, parking and congestion; traffic accident investigation; elements of a sound traffic program.

120. **SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION—CRIME PREVENTION.** 2nd sem. 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: junior standing. Organization and functions of the police Crime Prevention division; police techniques employed in the repression of delinquency and crime through preventive methods; case-work approach; the police-woman; organization of community resources.

130. **POLICE PROBLEMS.** Each sem. (Not given 1942-43) 1 hr. Prereq: junior or senior standing. Review and discussion of current technical papers, journals, and books.

150. **DETECTION OF DECEPTION.** 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 4 hrs. 2 lec. and 6 hrs. lab. a week. Prereq: eighteen hours of Psychology, six hours of Human Physiology, Human Anatomy, and senior or graduate standing.

⁴A copy of catalog may be obtained from the Registrar, State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash.

Structure and functions of the Psychograph (Lie Detector); psychology and physiology of deception; analysis of deception detection techniques; laboratory performance investigations; application to police problems in criminal investigation.

170. ADVANCED POLICE ADMINISTRATION. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 3 hrs. One or more conferences a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Trends in police reorganization; independent investigation involving the execution of a police survey and formulation of a plan of reorganization.

175. ADVANCED POLICE RECORDS ADMINISTRATION. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 3 hrs. One or more conferences a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Original investigation involving the design of a modern police record system for a community of not less than 25,000 population.

180. ADVANCED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 4 hrs. 2 lec. and 6 hrs. lab. a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Critical examination and identification of questioned materials in the solution of assigned cases; advanced techniques in the identifications of firearms, handwriting, typewriting, papers, inks, hair, dust, textiles, stains, impressions, and other types of technical evidence, preparation for trial.

185. ADVANCED TRAFFIC REGULATION AND CONTROL. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 3 hrs. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Independent investigation involving the planning and execution of a traffic survey, and the formulation of a traffic plan for a community of not less than 25,000 population.

190. POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 3 hrs. 3 lec. a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Application of communication facilities to the problems of police administration; critical analysis of the police radio system and radio patrol operations; assigned project involving the design of a complete police communication system.

192. SEMINAR. Each sem. (Not given 1942-43). Variable credit. One or more conferences a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. The investigation of selected problems in police science and administration.

195. ADVANCED CRIME PREVENTION. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). 3 hrs. One or more conferences a week. Prereq: senior or graduate standing. Contemporary plans for delinquency control; independent investigation involving the execution of a delinquency survey and formulation of a prevention program in a community of not less than 15,000 population.

210. RESEARCH. 2nd sem. (Not given 1942-43). Variable credit. Prereq: graduate standing. Independent investigation of selected problems in police science and administration, resulting in an original contribution to police method and technique.