

1946

## Current Notes

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## CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard (Editor)

The Berlin Beat — Captain John I. Howe of the Chicago Police, a member of the Editorial Staff of this *Journal*, has returned after several months' absence in Berlin where he has been organizing schools to assist in training Berlin police personnel.

There is a high expectancy of crime wherever, as in Berlin, there are shortages of food, fuel, clothing and decent shelter. Yet Captain Howe believes there is less crime in that city than in areas of similar population density in the United States.

Berlin police are prohibited from carrying weapons; they have no automobiles; no radios; few telephones; their clothing is inadequate; fuel is scarce. They shift prisoners from place to place so the convicts may have advantage of what fuel is available for jails and prisons. The police are on duty 24 hours out of 36 and, besides, they take lessons in English. Nevertheless, says Captain Howe, their morale is as high as that of any force in the United States.

It is probable that the Berlin police will be organized after the manner of forces in the United States and that they will not, in future, be an executive force for the government.—Adapted from *Traffic Institute Review*.

Noted Educator Assumes Duties as President of Major Northwestern Institution—On December 10, 11 and 12, 1945, amid the pageantry of an event that attracted national and international attention, Dr. Wilson M. Compton was inaugurated as President of the State College of Washington, at Pullman, Washington, marking the third presidential inauguration in more than a half century at this major institution. President Compton succeeds President Ernest O. Holland, who during twenty-nine years of outstanding service as the chief executive of this institution, earned for himself a place among the immortals in the field of higher education.

The new President brings to the scene of his responsibilities a breadth of vision and perspective that has engendered the respect and admiration of people in every quarter. Present with him during these historic ceremonies were his two distinguished brothers, Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Nobel Prize winner and Chancellor of Washington University, St. Louis, and Dr. Karl T. Compton, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both famous scientists and both well known as pioneering leaders in the development of atomic power engineering. President Compton assumed active duty as President of the State College of Washington on January 1, 1945, and by his actions has already revealed the strategic role this institution is destined to play in developing the natural and social resources of the northwest and the nation. It is significant that in the inaugural address of President Compton, and in the addresses of his brothers, attention was directed to the lag between phenomenal achievement in the natural sciences and social action. The opinion was expressed that a society capable of harnessing atomic power and other technological developments on an unprecedented scale is also capable of applying scientific disciplines to costly and ineffective administration in the public services, and the pathologies of crime and dependency, in developing a pattern of "how to live." The potential role of colleges and universi-

ties in bringing their resources for training, research and consultation to bear upon these problems was indicated.—EDITOR.

**Expanding Role of Women in Police Service**—An important contribution to the literature in the field of crime prevention has just been released jointly by the Federal Security Agency, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association, in the form of a 92 page manual, entitled *Techniques of Law Enforcement in the Use of Policewomen with Special Reference to Social Protection*. The manual was designed for the use of policewomen in the performance of their preventive-protective functions, and for the assistance of law enforcement administrators in the selection, assignment and most effective use of women police officers. It was compiled by the National Advisory Police Committee on Social Protection of the Federal Security Agency, embracing representatives from the organizations named above.

In two previous manuals approved by the National Advisory Police Committee, *Techniques of Law Enforcement Against Prostitution*, and *Techniques of Law Enforcement in the Treatment of Juveniles and the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency*, emphasis was placed on the value of trained policewomen in both fields. During the war period many police departments added policewomen to their staffs, and there is a great demand for more. Few trained women are available to meet this demand. As a result it has been necessary to recruit untrained and inexperienced policewomen in many communities. Unfortunately schools for training new recruits are so few and so scattered that it is impossible for them to meet increasing current needs.

There is reason to believe that there will be an increase rather than a decrease in law enforcement problems during the difficult years of postwar readjustment, and hence the need for effective crime prevention programs on the part of the police will be greater than ever. In the last analysis, crime prevention is a community responsibility. No community plan to prevent crime and delinquency can be truly effective that overlooks the role of the law enforcement juvenile officer.

The primary purpose of this manual is to serve as an in-service training text in helping the newly appointed policewoman to learn her job; to give her practical suggestions for dealing with the child, the girl or the woman who is in difficulty either as an offender or as a victim of an offense; to show how she can most effectively participate in police and community programs to prevent delinquency and crime; and to stimulate her to undertake further self-education through reading and study suggested in the bibliography. It is also hoped that this manual may be useful to law enforcement executives in bringing to their attention the potential services of policewomen in helping to solve these urgent local problems. Copies of this publication may be obtained free of charge by addressing Mr. Thomas Devine, Director, Social Protection Division, Community War Services, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C.—EDITOR.

**Pre-Sentence Reports**—The first two drafts of the new proposed federal rules of criminal procedure submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1943 contained a provision (included in Rule 34) to open the pre-sentence investigation report in federal district courts to the attorney for the defendant. In submitting these

rules to Congress through the Attorney General this year, the Supreme Court eliminated the rule containing this provision, but since the matter is of some interest and has caused a good deal of controversy, it is worth comment.

The rule (Rule 34) in which this suggestion was embodied provides that the probation service of the district court shall make a pre-sentence investigation for the benefit of the court, containing such information about the defendant's characteristics, financial condition and the circumstances affecting his behavior as may be helpful in imposing sentence, or in granting probation, or in the correctional treatment of the offender, and such other information as may be required by the court. The provision in question reads as follows: *After determination of the question of guilt, the report shall be available upon such conditions as the court may impose, to the attorneys for the parties and to such other persons or agencies having a legitimate interest therein as the court may designate.*

A detailed statement of the objections to this provision was made by Judge Carroll C. Hincks of the U. S. District Court for Connecticut, and his objections were shared by a number of probation and other correctional workers. His remarks were later quoted in *Federal Probation* for October-December 1944. It is the opinion of Judge Hincks and of many correctional people that the proposal to open pre-sentence reports to the defendant's attorney would result in modification of the frank and confidential nature of the report itself, thereby reducing its value; that the confidence of the persons interviewed by the probation officer whose statements became a part of the report, would be violated; that these same persons would withhold important personal data if they knew their information and opinions were to be revealed to the defendant's attorney; that the time between conviction and sentence would be lengthened if the defendant's attorney studied the report and perhaps raised objections to it. Disclosure of the report to the attorney might make the defendant suspicious, or might result in disclosure to the defendant himself, with damaging results to any treatment plan and to his later relations with the members of his family or others contributing information for the report.

The pre-sentence report results from a social and personal investigation and it is a case work document, not a legal one. If it became generally known that the report would be shown to the defendant's attorney the investigations of the probation officer would be seriously handicapped. Moreover, since sentence is based on a verdict, no rights of the defendant are violated by failing to disclose a report designed to help in sentencing. One of the chief values of the report is its fullness and objectivity as a basis for prognosis and treatment. If the contents were to be questioned and debated by the defendant's attorney as if the report contained evidentiary material for trial purposes, these reports would gradually come to lose their original significance and would not serve the purpose for which they were designed. Henceforth, opening of the report again rests with the judge.—F. W. KILLIAN in *Probation*, October 1945, National Probation Association.

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**Police Administrator Joins University Faculty**—John D. Holstrom, Chief of Police, Berkeley, California, has been appointed lecturer in police administration on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. In making this announcement, President Robert G.

Sproul of the University requested that Holstrom assume his duties at the beginning of the fall term, October 29, 1945.

Holstrom, a graduate of the University of California, class of 1930, has been with the Berkeley Police Department since 1931. Following competitive examinations in 1944 for the post of Chief of Police in Berkeley, Holstrom led an imposing field of competitors and was appointed to this position.

August Vollmer, then Chief of Police at Berkeley, was the first to give instruction in police administration at the University. Chief Vollmer became professor of police administration in 1931, and served six years in this position. He was succeeded by O. W. Wilson, former Chief of Police at Wichita, Kansas, now on military leave with the rank of colonel in charge of police operations, Public Safety Division, American Army of Occupation in Germany.

Until Colonel Wilson returns, Chief Holstrom will head the work on the Berkeley campus, again permitting the election of a major in police administration at the University of California. Holstrom continues his responsibilities as Chief of Police in Berkeley.

It is also noteworthy that San Jose State College has resumed its training program in police science and administration in San Jose, California. Developed originally by William A. Wiltberger, former Chief of Police at Evanston, Illinois, the police training program at this institution enjoyed a phenomenal development until the war began to deplete the student body. Professor Wiltberger subsequently joined the military services where, with the rank of Major, his talents have been employed to advantage.

The present term at San Jose State College opened in September, 1945, with William C. Brown, Chief of Police, San Jose, California, in charge of the police training program at this institution.

Before the war, some twenty colleges and universities in the United States were giving courses in police administration. With the endorsement of university training recently given by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, it is believed this number will materially increase during the early years of the postwar period.—*Journal of the California State Police and Peace Officers Association*, October, 1945.

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**A Guide to Juvenile Court Law**—Published during wartime and reprinted twice between February and September of 1944, *A Guide to Juvenile Court Law* by Gilbert H. F. Mumford (Jordan & Sons, Ltd., London), is a small English publication which reflects Britain's concern about juvenile delinquency both in war and in peace. In a foreword T. A. Hamilton Baynes, chairman of the Birmingham juvenile court panel notes one result of greater wartime delinquency to be the increasing desire of justices to serve in the juvenile court. This raises a question of public interest—the selection of specially qualified magistrates. Mr. Baynes suggests a kind of probationary period for justices who might serve as “willing assistants” for many months before “taking the Chair.” There is a modesty in this approach of which we find no counterpart in the United States.

Mr. Mumford has prepared this booklet as a guide to good juvenile court procedure which he says is a “subject which requires to be thoroughly understood.” The text is of interest not only to justices of the peace, but also to clerks, solicitors, police officers, pro-

bation officers, and "many others who are concerned with this subject." While the guide deals with English law and procedure, it is informative reading on our side of the Atlantic.—*Probation*, 1945.

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**Plan Exchange of United States-British Police**—An exchange plan for police in England, the United States and the British Dominions has been proposed, following a suggestion by Southampton's Chief Constable, F. T. Tarry, according to the *Police Chronicle*, British publication. The proposal states that four men from the United States and one from Canada will be attached to the Southampton police force under the plan. Approved by the Southampton Watch Committee, the plan represents a sequel to the recent courses conducted at Southampton at the request of the British Council. Students attending these courses were drawn mainly from the United States and South African police now serving with the armed forces of their respective countries in England. When the Southampton police force returns to normal strength, the *Chronicle* relates, it is hoped that some members of the force may make reciprocal visits to the United States, Canada and South Africa.—*Police Chiefs News Letter*, October, 1945.

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**California to Emphasize Probation Standards During 1946**—Some one hundred and fifty probation and parole officers, judges, district attorneys and other friends of the profession attended the 1945 Annual Probation and Parole Officers' Conference held at Fresno, California. Among other results of this important Conference is a projected plan for four Regional Probation and Parole Conferences during the year in various sections of the state and a studied approach to the problems of probation standards. Widespread interest in the determination of probation standards expressed at the annual conference and again at the meetings of the executive committee promised to make the coming year one of progress and accomplishment in the development of uniform state-wide standards for probation and parole personnel and practice. At the Executive Meeting, the Standards Committee, enlarged by Conference action to include nine members, presented its plan of action for reaching this objective.—*California Probation News*, October, 1945.

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**Status of Discharged Soldiers**—A letter from the Office of the Provost Marshal General in Washington, D. C., addressed to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, has served to clarify the legal status of the discharged soldier. It is quoted in part: "Our Judge Advocate General has ruled that soldiers, immediately upon discharge from the service are civilians and are not subject to any control by the Army. Even though such discharges continue to wear the uniform, which is permitted for a period of 90 days or until they reach their homes, the military police have no more authority to control their conduct, to detain them, or to take them into custody, than they have in relation to any other civilians. Discharged soldiers in uniform should wear a discharge insignia over the right breast pocket. Some neglect to do this, which further complicates the situation.

"The Army is still concerned that discharged soldiers in uniform conduct themselves in a manner not to discredit the service. Since a man in uniform is a soldier to the casual observer, it is anticipated that military police will be expected to take action concern-

ing individuals or groups in uniform over which they have no authority. While the cooperation of civil police in the past in permitting military police to handle service personnel has been splendid, it is now apparent that civil police will have to take positive action immediately since the man in uniform may be a civilian. In view of the fact that civil police have authority over personnel in or out of the service, there should be no complications. When it is definitely determined that the person or persons involved are still in the service, military police will take over as in the past."—*Police Chiefs News Letter*, October, 1945.