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A UNIVERSITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK TOGETHER IN THE CONTROL OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Dan G. Pursuit

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A new venture in the control of juvenile delinquency was conceived when educators from the University of Southern California joined California law enforcement officials in planning the Delinquency Control Institute.

Inaugurated on October 14, 1946, the Institute provides specialized training for law enforcement officers and practitioners in allied fields. Full scholarships are available for each student from funds raised through community conscious sources. More than two years arduous detailed planning went into the building of a challenging curriculum. The practical approach of peace officers and other allied groups was merged with the academic approach of the university staff to formulate a down to earth type of program.

Included in the list of sponsoring organizations and agencies are the following: Attorney General, State of California; California Sheriffs' Association; District Attorneys' Association of California; California Peace Officers' Association; California Youth Committee; and California Youth Authority.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Institute are:

1. To provide an adequate training program in delinquency control for law enforcement agencies.
2. To provide in particular for California law enforcement agencies:
 - a. Sixty better-trained juvenile officers each year;
 - b. Heads of juvenile bureaus in local enforcement agencies; and
 - c. Leaders and instructors familiar with the best delinquency control practices.

3. To offer an integrated curriculum of the best police principles, practices, and procedures, appropriately supplemented by pertinent knowledge in related fields.
4. To quicken and stimulate law enforcement agencies through intimate contact with practitioners and academic leaders.
5. To provide, through field work, observation, and practice of techniques in delinquency control.
6. To carry on research and inquiry into the problems of delinquency control so that the Institute's curriculum shall keep pace with knowledge in the field.
7. To make the information developed by the Institute available to law enforcement agencies anywhere.

ADMINISTRATION

For university administrative purposes, the Institute has been placed in the School of Public Administration. The original concept, policy, and plan, however, are the result of interdepartmental and inter-agency consultation with the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, the School of Law, the School of Education, the Graduate School of Social Work, and the School of Public Administration. Thus, specialists in sociology, recreation, education, law, social work, and administration have aided those engaged in professional practice in the creation and operation of the program.

PROGRAM

The program is arranged on a full time basis over a 12 week term. Regular classes are held throughout the day from Mondays through Thursdays. On Fridays the entire day is devoted to field trips to various police juvenile bureaus in Los Angeles County.

On these trips students have an opportunity to study the departmental structure, policies, and procedures of the following cooperating juvenile bureaus: Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriffs' Department, Santa Monica Police Department, Pasadena Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Alhambra Police Department, and the Long Beach Juvenile Bureau. These bureaus present a wide variety of approaches because of the inevitable differences in the communities. These very differences thus provide rich material for analysis as they enable the students to visualize how each bureau is organized to meet the needs of its own particular community.

Other agencies besides the police cooperate in the field work

program. The California Youth Authority arranges visits to several of their training schools; the Los Angeles County Probation Department provides orientation in probation services; and the Juvenile Court Judge invites the class to spend a day in court.

On Saturday mornings a seminar is held to provide an opportunity for the class to evaluate their field work experiences. These seminars also serve as a practice ground for public speaking and leading of discussion groups, the principles and techniques of which are taught in two other courses.

CREDIT TO BE GIVEN

Each person completing the course receives a certificate as evidence of satisfactory completion.

Upon successful completion of the course, and if it is desired, college credit to the extent of 12 units is available to those properly qualified and accepted by the University.

SELECTION AND ADMISSION

Attendance is limited to 20 students for each 12 week term. Sixteen of these students are selected from among peace officers employed in either police or sheriffs' departments; the remaining four students may come from the following groups: parole, probation, or district attorney's staffs, attendance officers, and social workers. Opportunity is given for all sections of the state to be equally represented. Students from states other than California are also welcomed.

Applicants fill out the application form with the consent of the Chief of Police, Sheriff, or other chief administrator, who is requested to add his own letter of recommendation. These applications are sent to Director, Delinquency Control Institute, the University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7, California. They are then considered by a special committee of law enforcement officials and the members of the staff, and recommendations are made to the University Admissions office. Candidates in attendance at the Institute are having their regular salaries paid by their own jurisdictions.

COURSES

The curriculum covers the following nine courses of study:

Social Treatment Aspects of Delinquency Control. Current social service programs utilized in dealing constructively with

the delinquency personality, with special emphasis upon philosophies of treatment and their practical application to individual situations.

Special Police Techniques. Statistics, analysis, records, and report writing. Interpretation of medical reports, narcotics, and hypnotics. Scientific crime investigation. Case preparation and law of evidence. Applied criminal psychology.

Conditioning Factors in Juvenile Delinquency. Personality factors; family, companionship, population, culture conflict, economic, physical environment, and community conditions; the effects of law enforcement and observance; and the treatment of offenders.

Delinquency Prevention Techniques. Community organization as an approach to crime prevention; methods and techniques of preventive action.

Administrative Aspects of Delinquency Control. Administrative techniques applied to police problems in delinquency control; coordinating, organizing, staffing official and non-official agencies dealing with delinquents.

Techniques of Learning and Teaching. Review of procedures in the use of the library, note-taking, outlining, and summarizing, as related to the field of delinquency control. Systematic consideration of the techniques of instructing adults in small or large groups.

Legal Aspects of Delinquency Prevention. Law and codes; law enforcement; judicial structures; the community and the law.

Clinics in Delinquency Control. Evaluation of field work. Case analysis. Analyses of field visits to institutions and of literature in the field.

Field Work. Field work under supervision in Los Angeles County law enforcement departments to develop philosophy and skills in delinquency control.

These courses are taught by both practitioners and regular members of the faculty.

Now that the detailed facts of the Institute have been presented, it might be of interest to retrace our steps to see how this University-Law Enforcement Project came into being.

HISTORY

The University of Southern California has offered adult evening classes in police subjects at the Civic Center Division

ever since its opening in 1929. Throughout the years attendance has been continuous, but not spectacular. The major satisfaction from a university standpoint is the fact that many persons registered in these courses have emerged as administrative leaders.

In the summer of 1943 University officials invited representatives of local law enforcement agencies to confer and evaluate the police training program. It was decided that the chief deficiency existed in the area of juvenile delinquency, crime prevention, and delinquency control.

There ensued a series of conferences lasting several months which resulted in setting up a series of four evening courses which sought to coordinate social work viewpoints with traditional law enforcement approaches.

Friends of the project raised scholarships, and the California Youth Authority furnished a research assistant to aid the practitioner-instructors in preparing course materials. This project was designed to furnish in-service evening instruction to practitioners in the Los Angeles area. As such it has had more than ordinary success, and it has become a permanent feature of the Civic Center Division.

Even while the planning of this original set of courses was going on, there were pressures to provide some means of instruction in this subject for the smaller and more remote law enforcement agencies. Desires in this direction were frequently expressed by the Attorney General, the California Youth Authority, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff.

In the spring of 1944 there came upon the desks of various persons an announcement of the next session of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. This project takes officers from their jobs for a semester and gives them intensive instruction on the university campus. The question was immediately raised as to why this approach could not be utilized at the University of Southern California in the field of delinquency control.

On June 20, 1944, President Rufus B. von KleinSmid invited the following persons to lunch at the California Club, Los Angeles: Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz; Mrs. Imra W. Buwalda; Chief of Police C. B. Horrall; Karl Holton, Director of the California Youth Authority; Arlien Johnson, Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work; Ex-Attorney General Robert W. Kenny; Ex-Deputy Chief of Police E. W. Lester; Robert A. McKibben, Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Youth in Wartime; John M. Zuck, Chief Probation Officer, Los Angeles

County; Professor John M. Pffner, then Acting Dean of the School of Public Administration; and Dean Albert S. Raubheimer, Director of the Educational Program of the University.

The concept of a delinquency control institute was discussed, and the officials present agreed to designate representatives on a committee to develop the idea under the guidance of Professor Pffner. The Committee held its first meeting on July 6, 1944, and proceeded to develop a tentative outline of course content, which was presented to a law enforcement officers' conference as related below.

As time went on it seemed desirable to consult the law enforcement practitioners of the state on a wider basis. The California Youth Authority had intended to call a conference of law enforcement officers on the general subject of juvenile delinquency, an objective which was combined with the aims of the University Committee. On November 9 and 10, 1944, the University was host to a "Law Enforcement Officers' Conference on Juvenile Delinquency Control," sponsored by the Attorney General, California Peace Officers' Association, California State Sheriffs' Association, California War Council, the California Youth Authority, and the District Attorneys' Association of California.

Friday morning was set aside for the special purpose of consulting juvenile officers on the subject of the projected Institute. In order to secure conference discussion the officers were divided into small groups holding simultaneous sessions conducted under coordinated leadership and with identical agenda. General approval of the concept of the Delinquency Control Institute was expressed, and valuable suggestions on the outline were received.

At the end of the general session on November 9th, Chief of Police Charles W. Dullea of San Francisco presented the resolutions prepared by a committee representative of the associations and agencies represented. Among these resolutions was one commending the work of the University committee and recommending "that every effort be made to develop this material into an organized crime prevention institute set up on a permanent basis."

The committee then organized itself into sub-committees for the purpose of planning the organization of a Delinquency Control Institute. These sub-committees dealt with the following subjects: Admissions, Administration, Field Work, Research, Scholarship, and Teacher Training and Teaching Problems,

Early in 1945 the California Youth Authority provided funds for the hiring of graduate students in the various cooperating departments of the University to work under the direction of a faculty advisor in preparing teaching syllabi for the courses.

This work was coordinated by a faculty research committee comprised of staff members from the School of Education, Graduate School of Social Work, Department of Sociology, School of Law, the University Library, and the School of Public Administration. With the employment of the Institute staff in August 1946 the project was ready to start operating in October.

The Institute represents a real achievement in integrating the thinking of law enforcement officials with the thinking of the leaders in the social sciences. It likewise provides a medium through which law enforcement can carry on its drive to professionalize its services with juveniles.

Thus through working together over a period of years, a university and a state's law enforcement agencies have created another resource to spread knowledge of the best present day practices in delinquency control.