## A policeman must 'take charge' under great pressure

By JESSE PITTS
Oratinad University

Skonick's article is one of the best of the series, it might have stressed a full stressed in the series, it might have stressed a full care to the difficulties of the pull care to the difficulties that push policemen frequently to overreact, the sources of police corruption and the adjustments that policemen make to a role that demands, for \$18,000 a year, the policemen make to a role that demands, for \$18,000 a year, the patience of Job, the wits of a quarterbook, the council of a pull care to the financial beneaty of the six of the fund that the pull care to the pull care to the sixth the dama, the destitute than rescuing damsels in distress; more inling out of forms than hot pull the sixth the damands of the sixth the test of the pull care to the distress that the sixth the pull care to the pull care to the distress that the sixth the damands of the sixth the test of the pull care to the pull car

OVERREACTING: In situations where uncertainty is created by psychotics, drunks, fighting spouses and street criminals, "tating charge" means bringing to the situation the capacity to make the person cease and desist from what he has been doing.

The best of the control of the capacity to make the person cease and the capacity to make the person cease and the capacity to make the person cease and the capacity to make the capacity of the capacity to disorder, and degrades his uniform. He makes the next policeman's job harder still.

If he succeeds in taking charge,

naroer still.

If he succeeds in taking charge, even if he uses excessive force, even if a little more talking might have done the job as well, the excesses will be

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forgotten much sconer than a defeat. Thus, there is what we call a built-in pressure to overreact in the police-man's role. The best policemen know how to check that pressure, while the riess skillful colleagues will use a sledgehammer where a wooden mailer might do as well. It is not a straight that the straight tha

CORRUPTION: Of the three major CORRUPTION: Of the three major sources of corruption encountered by police, the most widespread is the attempt by a somewhat guilly public to secure their good will through the offer of free meals, free liquor, free tickets, free cigarettes. sometimes even free sex.

It is not easy to refuse a gratuity without making the well intentioned without making the well intentioned control of the contr

there?

The second source of corruption is the inevitable amount of law-breaking that takes place in the process of serving the public in situations of power

Washington who "could not tell a lie").
For Instance, policemen, in order to be effective, have to develop, reward and protect their "saitches." Show me a good police force, and I will show you a good snitch network.
Perjury comes in when policemen have to state in court that they had probable canced to arrest a felon probable canced to arrest a felon probable canced to arrest a felon me to the probable canced to a rest a felon me to the probable canced to a rest a felon me to the probable canced to a rest a felon me the constant of the probable canced to the the world be holding (drugs.).

The third and most serious sources of corruption are the organizations that peddle illegal activities: gam-

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bling, prostitution, drugs, "after-hours" places. If your suburb is free of these organizations—because the citi-zers patronize them in the Big City— then your police department is prob-ably safe from this third source of temptation: the payoff to look the

temptation: une payon to book may.
Police in plain clothes are more vulnerable than police in uniform. Getting paid off by the numbers racket does not mean that the policeman will not risk his life to prevent a burglary.

PATTERNS OF ADJUSTMENT: Confronted with the ambivalent feel-ings of the public toward a profession

defined as a source of protection but also as a threat; confronted with the complex demands of the job, its many temptations and its even more frequent disappointments ("he was back on the street pefore I even finished typing my report"), policemen have several modes of adjustment.

The first, as in any profession, is the Time-Server: make no waves and don't stick you neck out.
The second is the Enforcer: eager-beaver, most useful when reform movements are breathing down city lall's red neck; otherwise to be kept on traffic duty in the boondocks.

The third; and probably the best, is the Condilator, whose motto is: abort trouble before it starts; run your beat but arrest only if you have to; keep the whores, the jamps, the pushers, the boodlems uncomfortable, but don't expect them to disappear.
Disappointed Enforcers sometimes become Rogue Cops—i.e., "if every-body is getting his, I might as well get mine."

mine."

Since true virtue is commensurable to temptation, it is good to remember that God, in His mercy, is likely to pull into Heaven the same percentage of policemen as of doctors, professors and judges. Perhaps more.



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