

## A New Weapon

# Sheriff Unveils New Organized Crime Unit

Wayne County Sheriff Roman S. Gribbs today announced the formation of an intelligence unit to fight organized crime on a full-time basis.

The unit, currently composed of four sheriff's officers, will develop criminal cases, record information on organized crime and criminals and act as liaison officers with local police departments.

"I believe this type of unit is essential to good law enforcement in Wayne County because organized crime does not recognize city boundaries," Gribbs said.

"The President's Crime Commission last year criticized present law enforcement methods of dealing with organized crime and former Wayne County Grand Juror George Novak said enforcement methods of a bygone day are not enough.

"This is a start in Wayne County to find new weapons. We need them when you consider the Crime Commission report said Michigan was one of 24 States that has a wealthy and influential organized crime corps."

Gribbs said his long range objective is to have officers in each of the county's municipalities working with the Intelligence Unit so that organized crime will be kept off balance.

"I will meet soon with the police chiefs of Wayne County to ask them to name men for this work," Gribbs said.

"Vincent W. Piersante, head of the Attorney General's Organized Crime Division and former chief of detectives in Detroit, has agreed to train the officers in techniques, records and organization."

The sheriff said the Intelligence Unit will work with maximum security and be answerable to himself or undersheriff William Lucas only.

Gribbs said the Intelligence Unit actually has been working together since early June.

"They were involved in an investigation which resulted in the arrests of 13 persons.

Gribbs said the information which led to the arrests was first detected and developed by sheriff's detectives Richard N. Novak and Arthur Torikhan, both of whom are named to the Intelligence Unit.

"When the officers realized they were investigating persons named as organized crime members before a U.S. Senate committee in 1963 they took their information to Piersante," Gribbs said.

"Eventually our men completed the investigation in cooperation with the state agency and federal authorities."

"Both Novak and Torikhan

have received letters of commendation from Attorney General Frank J. Kelley."

Novak was returned to investigative work when Gribbs became sheriff June 1.

Novak, a former deputy inspector had been fired by Gribbs' predecessor Peter L. Buback last fall, but was returned to duty as a deputy at the Wayne County Youth Home by the Civil Service Commission.

A motion which Novak hopes will return him to the post of deputy inspector is pending before the Michigan Court of Appeals.

## State Police Swear In 24 New Troopers

Twenty-four Michigan State Police recruits were sworn in as probationary troopers at a program held Wednesday afternoon in the National Guard armory in Lansing. It was the department's seventy-first graduation exercise.

Lieutenant Governor William C. Milliken gave the principal address to the new officers, their relatives and friends.

Lt. Col. Melvin G. Kaufman, State Police deputy director for field services, who also spoke to the group, administered the oath of office to the new troopers and gave them their badges.

Of the graduating troopers, 19 have had some college training, including one with a four-year degree and one with a two-year degree. Three of the group had previous police experience.

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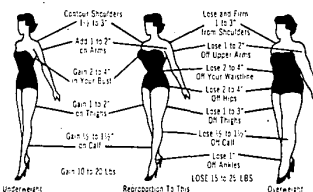
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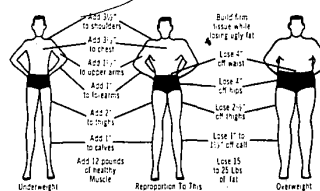
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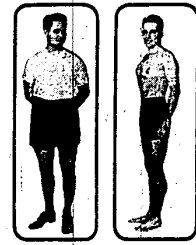


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