

# Cities Eliminating Mace As Riot Control Weapon

Cities across the nation are telling their police departments to eliminate its use of the chemical spray Mace which the U.S. surgeon general reports

may be as dangerous as live ammunition. Mace, manufactured by General Ordnance Corp. of Pittsburgh, is described as not a

nerve or tear gas. Employee Alan Litman, who developed it, explains what happens when a policeman approaches a crook or rioter or an innocent person

--and gives him a one-second burst of spray in the face or a three-second burst on the chest. "Anyone who is excited is

pumping a lot of adrenalin which increases his need for oxygen. The vapor irritates his eyes and lungs. He closes his eyes and holds his breath, which makes

him dizzy." Thus discombobulated, the subject is arrested with a relatively small amount of trouble, Litman says.

And there are no bitter after-effects, Litman said. There may be bitter after-effects, Surgeon General William H. Stewart warned in a

recent report. Stewart said the fact that the chemical delivered an irritating substance to a localized tissue area, and maintained the irritant's activity for a period of time "clearly increases the possibility of more than transient effects to the exposed individual unless treatment is promoted."

Stewart said Mace may be most dangerous to the eyes. He said further tests should be made to see if Mace would be dangerous, particularly to persons with heart or lung ailments.

Civil rights groups have shown a certain ambivalence about Mace. A spokesman for the Boston branch of the National Association of Colored People said his group "has no definite stand on Mace."

"In general, it would be a preference over the use of clubs. Actually we have never really considered it an issue to discuss fully."

A SURVEY of how police departments are taking Stewart's warnings of "possible chronic effects" does not show a wholesale turning away from the spray can to more traditional methods of arresting people.

But it did happen at Kansas City, Mo., where police discontinued its use "until a final decision is made on it" by the surgeon general.

Denver Police Chief George Seaton suspended the use of Mace the same day, but last Tuesday reinstated its use with orders that it should be used only when force is necessary to subdue a prisoner.

In New York City Assistant Chief Inspector George McNeil said the police department has a quantity of Mace on hand but will not use it until its safety is beyond question. "We have not used it nor do we intend," he said.

IN MADISON, Wis., city officials ordered a halt to its use until the surgeon general came up with more information. The city fathers also showed some concern about liability for injuries.

Houston, Tex., Police Lt. T.D. Mitchell said, "We have it, but have not issued it. We won't use it until it is clear all the way. We have heard the stories."

Pittsburgh City Safety Director David Craig said police would still use Mace. "The main point is that this chemical weapon is infinitely safer and more humane than the firearm or the club," he said. However, he said, Mace is "a weapon. No weapon can be expected to be pleasurable in its effects."

In Chicago, Police Supt. James Conish said he would be taken on the chemical, but it would not be bought unless it was proven safe.

## Education Boundaries Liberalize

LANSING—Michigan community colleges will be able to provide educational services outside their district boundaries under a resolution approved by the State Board of Education.

While one community college previously could contract with another community college to provide services within the other's district, there had been no provision for a school to offer programs in a non-community college district outside its limits.

Such services now may be provided after State Board approval.

The New Detroit Committee had asked the State Board if Highland Park Community College could operate an extension center in Detroit. The center would be outside the Highland Park district but because there is no community college in Detroit, no mutual agreement for such services could be made.

The extension center, geared to education programs for inner city youth, would become part of the Wayne County Community College. That college was established by the Legislature last year and its trustees will be chosen in a June 10 election.

In its resolution, the State Board asked that each public community and junior college in the state submit all educational services provided outside their boundaries.

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