

face certain obligations which the police officer has and which he will always have. His isn't a public relations job in the sense of making everybody happy. The police officer has as one of his basic responsibilities that of arresting persons who commit crimes. And so, while crime continues the arresting of people will continue to be a basic and important and an essential part of the police officer's job. We ask that he arrest with reason, but we emphasize that where reason there is to believe that a party has committed a felony, the police officer has the task of apprehension, the task of securing that person and bringing him to the attention of the courts for the judgment of the community to be visited in keeping with our law.

We must recognize that police officers must be prepared to employ force when force is used against them; no police officer should ever start a fight, no police officer should ever lose one either. We must emphasize vigilance on the part of the police officer so that he sees that which is there to be seen, and in this regard we emphasize continual inspection so that our force may work at its peak of efficiency.

Now may I turn to the second of these problems and the second of these programs. We've been talking about equal protection of the law for all citizens, and equal enforcement of the law against all violators. This is the area in which a great deal of our trouble lies. The easiest of these to talk about is the equal enforcement against all violators. What this simply means is that we will not have any sacred cows in this police administration. If a traffic ticket needs to be issued, the officer who writes it doesn't need to fear that the person to whom he gives it will know somebody in City Hall or know somebody in Police Headquarters. Maybe he will, maybe he does, but it still won't keep him from having the opportunity of explaining the matter to a judge just as our law suggests he should have.

Let me talk about equal protection of the law because this is where we're in the greatest amount of difficulty. There is a portion of our community which doubts that it has experienced equal protection of the law. I was born in the South, you know. I grew up in Dallas, Texas. I know that some of these doubts are rooted deeply in history, and deeply in truth. On Monday morn-

ings in the Dallas papers as I grew up as a boy there would be a paragraph about so long which said simply, "Ten Negroes Were Killed on the Central Track Last Night." No names, no indication of who did it, no indication of any particular public intention to follow up. This was to no small degree the lack of law which lies in the background of a great deal of our current problem.

In our community the standard is quite different, and in our day and times the standard is quite different. Every offense is the subject of investigation and where the offender can be found, every offense is the subject of presecution.

We need to make sure that everyone in this community recognizes that the law enforcement agency of the city is dedicated to his personal protection; that as long as he stays within that law, the police officer is his friend and protector, regardless of what the color of his skin may be, regardless of his religion or national origin.

From this can grow a self-confidence on the part of this city; an opportunity for great strides for the future.

Let me turn now to answer the question that Frank Eaman posed in his introduction. When I was debating whether or not to take this post as Police Commissioner of the City of Detroit, and when I had finally after some agonizing weeks determined to do it, I attended a meeting of the Supreme Court of Michigan where I sought to explain to my doubting colleagues why anyone would leave that august body and take the post of Police Commissioner of the City of Detroit.

I said to them, "Gentlemen, I feel that there is a river of hate running through a city which I love. I feel that I have been asked to come down to that city to seek to build some bridges over that river, and I'm going, and I'm going to try to build those bridges.

"This is an interesting symbol, this symbol of a bridge. You know, a bridge is not an easy thing to build. A bridge requires approaches from both sides of the river. It requires first the building of approach roads, and then the building of abutments, and then the passage of the cable across the river, and then the building of piers in the middle of the river, and then the weaving of



these great metal strands which will support the bridge and which run from the abutment to the tower to the tower to the abutment on the other side.

We've watched such a bridge in construction in our lifetime in this state. There were many who doubted that the Mackinac Bridge could ever be built. Some said the first winter's ice would take the piers away. Some said the winds blowing down the Straits would blow it down. It wasn't built quickly, it wasn't built easily, men lost their lives in the building of the Mackinac Bridge, but it was built and it unites our two great peninsulas in Michigan and it stands as a triumph to human faith at the present time. Perhaps we can build these bridges that I am talking about now over the river which I have described. It's not going to be easy to do.

I think we may even say that perhaps we've made some beginnings. Maybe we can say that some part of the approach road is constructed. Maybe we can say that some part of the abutment has been built on each side of the river.

In the course of these budget negotiations, the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People endorsed the Department's request for more police manpower and for higher police pay. I hazard the guess that this is the first time in the history of the United States of America that this has ever happened in any city, any time.

On our side of the river in the Department we are seeking to do some things. We are seeking to build an integrated community relations bureau capable of determining with accuracy and honesty and with the confidence of the entire community what actually happens in many of these difficult problems which occur on the street between people and the police. Last week, I appointed Reverend Carlyle Stewart as a Police Chaplain—one of the most distinguished of the Negro leaders in the City of Detroit.

We find little ways in which people are coming together. Our Inspectors are at block club meetings, talking about the police protection needed in the core area of the city, and the block club leaders are in our police precinct stations and are invited there, particularly this week during Po-

lice Week. We are seeking ways and means of building these bridges.

This leads to the third and last thing that I wanted to talk about. It is that we are seeking citizen co-operation with the program of law enforcement of the City of Detroit. If you want to know how dramatically citizen co-operation can work in police affairs, take a look at that chart. This is the record that Detroit has built during the past years in terms of traffic safety. In the Thirties we were killing in this city over 300 people. In the Forties it dropped to 206 as an average; in the Fifties to 201. Last year it was 166. This is what intelligent law enforcement, intelligent traffic engineering, and intelligent public safety education has done in terms of traffic safety. Detroit needs take no back seat to any large city in the world in terms of the work its Police Department has participated in; in terms of traffic safety.

Part of our challenge is, can we do this in relation to crime—this same job? Can we approach it with the same sort of engineering approach? Can we get public support? I suggest to you that we can. The most important single overlooked factor in this whole picture is this: there is not one single neighborhood in the City of Detroit where the over-whelming majority of residents are not themselves law-abiding citizens. Don't mistake me—I'm well aware there are neighborhoods where the law-abiding citizens are not in the ascendancy at the present time. But if we can forge a link between the law-abiding citizens in every neighborhood in the city, and the majesty of the law representing the people through the Police Department, we can gain that ascendancy for law enforcement in every section of the community.

There are probably some in my audience who doubt that this can ever be done. Let me just quote a paragraph on this topic, the truth of which you will recognize immediately and which I think helps to some degree to make the point.

Inspector Alfred J. Beckosky, Commanding Officer of the 11th Precinct, takes pride in the fact that his precinct has the lowest incidence of major crime in the city during 1961. He states, "One of the quietest areas in this precinct is bounded by Conant on the West, Seven Mile Road on the North, Ryan on the East, Nevada



on the South. This area contains a population estimated at between 12,000 and 15,000. Negro families have built homes and lived in this area for over 40 years. This is one of the safest, most law-abiding sections of the entire city of Detroit."

We need to have more Conant Gardens in Detroit, and we can have more Conant Gardens in Detroit if we have faith, if we have belief, if we are willing to build these bridges.

This is Police Week, proclaimed such by the President of the United States, the Governor of Michigan and the Mayor of Detroit. The central theme of this week is, "Let's join hands." Let's join hands to preserve and strengthen both order and liberty, for all of us whoever we may be, wherever we may live, whatever may be the color of our skin.

May I close by sharing with you a couple of thoughts on the subject of liberty.

What then is liberty? It's the right to go to sleep quietly at night. It is the right to know that there will be no midnight knock when armed men invade your home without authority based on judicial warrant and due process of law.

What is liberty? It's the right to walk the streets or drive our highways knowing that no man's whim can interfere with your freedom of movement and that only a breach of published law can cause arrest and incarceration.

What is freedom? It's the right to participate in voting for those who will make our laws. It's the privilege of obeying them, once made, and knowing that they will be equally enforced as to and obeyed by all others.

What then is liberty? It's the right to dream of better things for our children and to know that there is no legal or class barrier to their abilities or to their ambitions.

What is freedom? It's the right to look on the police officer, not as an instrument of the state but as a protector of ourselves, our homes and our families.

What is liberty? It's the privilege our citizens have of being able to teach their children that the police officer is their friend.

(Applause)