

In response, Justice Eugene F. Black, of the State Supreme Court, wrote the author, "Your statement of the Law of Entrapment is precise and accurate in every way."

It would appear, then, that the element of entrapment does not exist in the STRESS operation.

CITIZEN RESPONSE

The most visible citizen response to STRESS operations has been the organized protest of some groups that followed the shooting death of two teen-agers who assaulted and robbed a STRESS officer on September 17, 1971. Unorganized response has been overwhelmingly favorable.

Prior to that date, such mail that reached the Police Department dealing with the STRESS operation, without exception, praised the operation and, in many cases, asked for its expansion.

In the 10 days following the shooting incident of September 17, when public attention was at a peak, the Commissioner's office received 138 letters or cards from citizens, 11 wires, and dozens of phone calls. All but two of the letter-writers supported STRESS (98.5 percent), including 19 citizens who specifically identified themselves as black.

Of the wires, nine were in support and two were opposed. Of all the phone calls, only one was in opposition.

Comments from black citizens included the following:

"We are a group of black people who support right over wrong, not color. We support this program 100 percent."

"Keep the STRESS units intact, and rest assured that you do have a lot of silent support, like me. We ordinary black citizens fear reprisals and do not oftentimes express our true sentiments."

"I am black and have come very close to being another one of your police statistics--at the hands of black youths. I do not favor the killing, but at the same time I do not favor the abolition of STRESS. And any black who does, evidently has not been a victim of their brothers. It is true the young men killed recently were leaving the scene of the crime and no longer a threat to the officers; but they were still a threat to me or any other individual they would decide to rob or attack."

"I am black and am no law and order man of the ilk of Vice President Agnew, but I am no thief and robber either. Many other blacks are glad to have policemen around regardless of their race, but for them to say so publicly leaves them open for much criticism and harassment."

"It's time we started thinking about the victims of these assaults rather than the criminal."