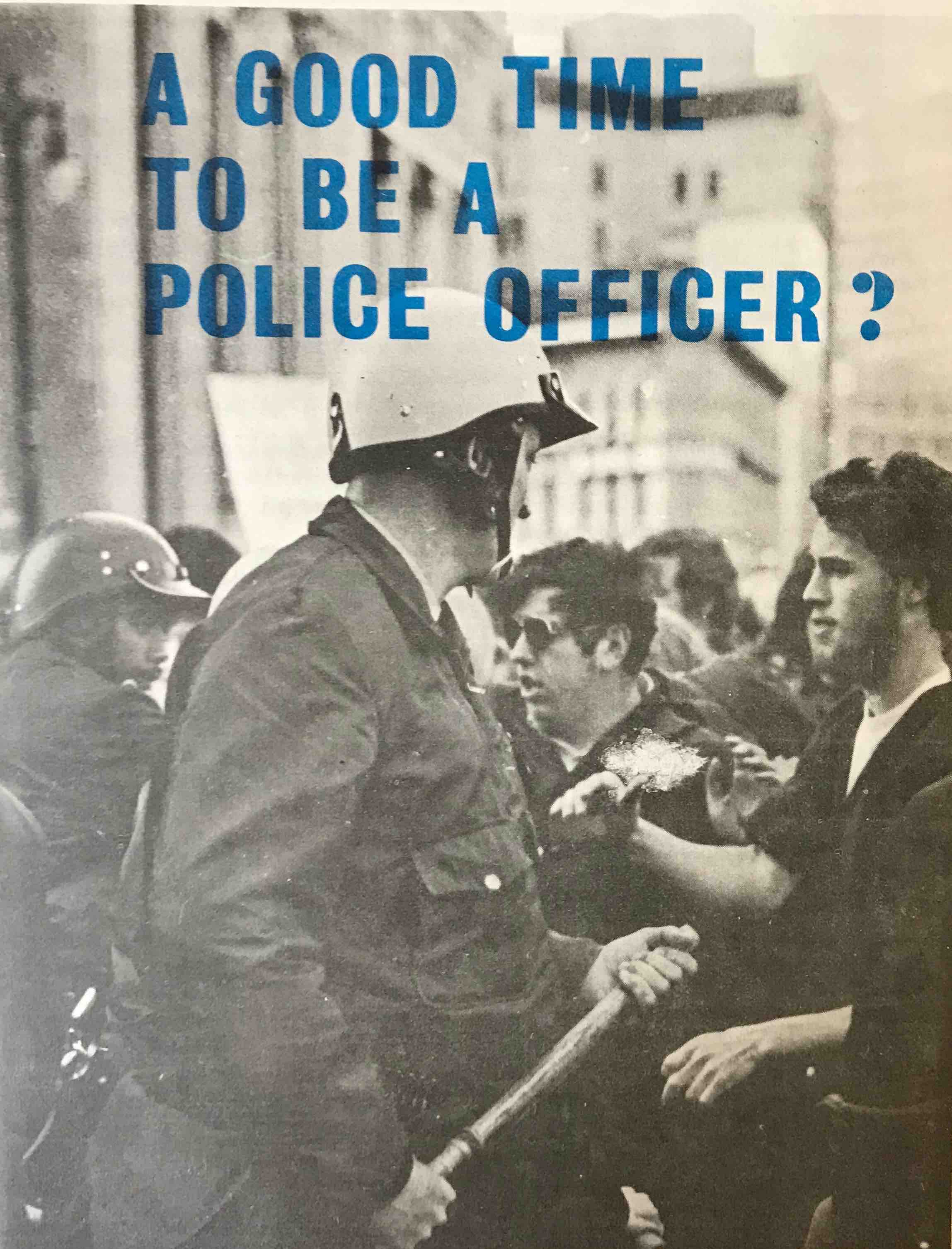


THE 1970'S

**A GOOD TIME
TO BE A
POLICE OFFICER ?**



**A special message to all Detroit Police Officers
from Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy**



In spite of the controversy in which police are so frequently involved currently, there has probably never been a better time in our history to be a police officer.

The demands are greater—but more challenging. While many show increasing disrespect to police, this has made others respect good officers and good police work even more. The fact that police are in the forefront of public attention testifies to the increased public awareness of the importance of the police function.

While the police role has its risks—it always has had them—the personal risks are no greater than they have been in times past, and the rewards are much improved.

People who are concerned about having a city—and a country—that's liveable, and peaceful, and enjoyable, are much more aware now than ever before that only with the help of respected and professionalized police services can such goals be reached.

Public sentiment is moving our way. But as always, neither high resolves nor glowing words can capture and keep public support. In the end that is determined by how well the officer in the street does his job.

In these times of instant television coverage and intensive news reporting of police activities, nothing wins public support more effectively or loses it more quickly than officer reaction in street situations where serious decisions have to be made in a fraction of a second—decisions that may involve your own life or the life of another.

It is both a burden and a supreme challenge in policing that those who must exercise the greatest discretion are those who have the least time to ponder the effect of their acts—not the highest command officers, but the very basic echelon, the officers in the street. It is a complete reversal of the usual organizational roles.

Police training tries to condition each officer to be able to make these kinds of decisions—when they have to be made—with equal safety for his own life and the lives of the innocent. That requires both a great deal of courage, and the sharpest kind of discrimination as to what the facts are in the situation, and to what extent the officer's life is threatened—and all in an instant's time. Sometimes a change in "atmosphere" in a neighborhood or a community can increase a police officer's sense of apprehension unnecessarily, increasing the danger, not to himself, but to those who may confront him unexpectedly.

How high is the personal risk to a Detroit police officer today? It is certainly nothing to be casually dismissed. However, let's take a look at the records.

It is shocking and regrettable that six fine Detroit police officers lost their lives as a result of criminal action during a 15-month period from January of 1969 through March of 1970. This represented an abrupt and alarming jump in a line-of-duty fatality rate that had averaged less than two lives lost a year for some 30 years. It is a jump that increases the need for caution and raises another argument for a change in our loose and permissive gun control laws, that all police in their own interest should support.

But consider the Detroit police who served during the 1920's. In the midst of the Prohibition years, when rum-running fostered gangsterism, ten Detroit police officers were killed in an eleven-month period from February, 1925, through January, 1926. Nine of the ten were shootings, and nine of the ten were by criminal action. This was the worst death-toll in the history of the department.

Elsewhere in these pages a graph (Fig. 1) is displayed which shows the history of fatalities in the Detroit Police Department incurred in line of duty. It is a kind of "profile of risk." The Prohibition years clearly stand out as the time of greatest risk.

From the time the Detroit Police were formally organized in 1865, until 1883—a calm and quiet 17 years—no officers lost their lives in the performance of duty. The first such death took place October 5, 1883, when Patrolman George C. Kimball was "shot by a crook," as the language of the old report states. Within less than two months, two more officers were killed, also by criminal action.

Over the next 30 years, 37 officers were killed in line of duty, 27 of them as a result of criminal action. The first accidental death was a bicycle patrolman who was struck by an electric car in 1899. The worst year during the period was 1917, when seven officers were killed, five by criminal action.

During the next eight years, 1923—1930, from Prohibition to Depression, officer deaths on duty skyrocketed to 50—35 of them by criminal action.

POLICEMAN AND THUG KILLED IN BATTLE

NEED ATTACKS HYPOCRISY
 Thunder, Sleet and Snow a Recipe for Being Home Soon
WILL TO DEPORT HUMMERS O.K.'D
 Placed by House, Now Goes Back to Senate for Approval

Figures in Payroll Holdup Battle
 CLARENCE STEADMAN, Bank Director
 OFFICE OF CLARENCE A. STEADMAN, 175 WEST CANTON BOULEVARD



Left to Right: **WILLIAM J. HARRIS**, Mayor; **FRANK W. HANCOCK**, Police Chief; **WAL. ALLEN BISHOP**, Assistant Police Chief; **EDWARD COLE**, Police Commissioner; **PULL FISHER**, Police Captain

FIGHT FOLLOWS RAID AT PLANT ON PAYDAY

Another Officer Wounded in Battle as Three Robbers Attempt to Get \$15,000 on the West Side.
 One Man Confesses He Drove Car, Wounded Thug, Dragged Into Auto, Escapes Police

Two policemen received an attempt to drive around and obtain a \$15,000 payroll Saturday, and in the process during which followed, both were wounded, one badly, and one of the robbers was killed. A second member of the gang was so seriously hurt that he could not walk and had to be dragged away as a result of the shot men, who waited at the street corner it was discovered that the man in the wheel was an employee of the company.

The shooting occurred inside a small frame structure at the corner of Cass and West Canto streets, where the office of Clarence A. Steadman, bank director, is located. The office was raided by three men who were seen to enter the building at about 10:30 a. m. The robbers were seen to enter the building at about 10:30 a. m. The robbers were seen to enter the building at about 10:30 a. m.

Two Other Men Shot and Killed By the Police

The police shot and killed two other men in the street during the robbery. One was shot in the back and the other in the chest. Both were killed instantly.

LINDY FORCED DOWN ON BEACH
 He Laid in Pile for Eight Hours in Fight to Wash

How to Build Wealth Faster
 Special advertising matter is sent to you free of charge. It contains information on how to build wealth faster.

LA POINTE FREE BY VOTE OF JURY
 Material Found Not Guilty at Second Trial Opening the

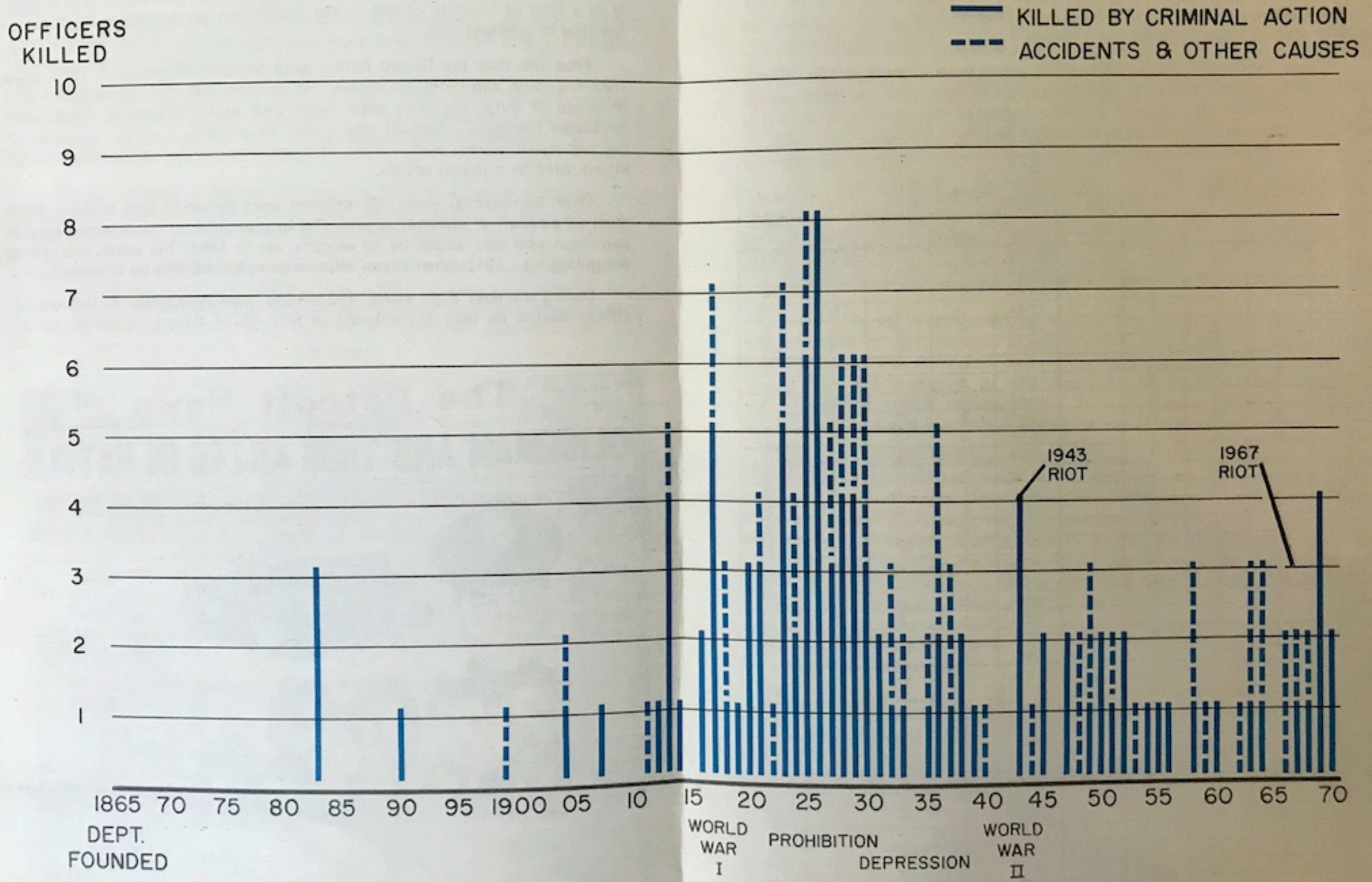
LA 7,000 Annual Income For Steadler's Family
 Special advertising matter is sent to you free of charge. It contains information on how to build wealth faster.

GAMBLING BILL TO HAVE A RIVAL
 Senators To Ask Legislature To Legislate Betting for

Special advertising matter is sent to you free of charge. It contains information on how to build wealth faster.

FIG. 1

PROFILE OF DETROIT POLICE FATALITIES IN LINE OF DUTY-1865-1970 (THROUGH JULY)



In recent years accidents rather than criminal action have become the chief cause of officer fatalities. The shift took place in the 1960's and pre-dominated until 1969.

The rate of fatalities based on the size of the department reflects even more sharply how dangerous it was to be a Detroit police officer in the 1920's. The rate in 1925 was one fatality for every 380 police officers on the job and in 1969, it was one to 1230.

There is another set of statistics which bears examination (Fig. 2). That is the number of citizens killed by police, in line of duty, in which the verdict after examination was "justifiable."

In one five-year period, 1926-1930, there were a total of 183 "justifiable" citizen homicides by police. Matching this total with the large number of police killed during the same period suggests that there was almost a state of warfare at that time between police and some citizens.

FIG. 2

Police Fatalities				Citizens Killed By Police (Justifiable)	Police Fatalities				Citizens Killed By Police (Justifiable)
YEARS	Criminal Action	Accidental & Other	Total		YEARS	Criminal Action	Accidental & Other	Total	
1883	3	0	3		1938	2	0	2	13
1890	1	0	1		1939	1	0	1	6
1899	0	1	1		1940	0	1	1	14
1904	1	1	2		1941	0	0	0	7
1907	1	0	1		1942	0	0	0	5
1911	0	1	1		1943	4	0	4	28
1912	1	0	1		1944	0	1	1	8
1913	4	1	5		1945	2	0	2	11
1914	1	0	1		1946	0	0	0	8
1916	2	0	2		1947	2	0	2	7
1917	5	2	7		1948	0	2	2	7
1918	1	2	3		1949	1	2	3	10
1919	1	0	1		1950	2	0	2	4
1920	3	0	3		1951	1	1	2	7
1921	3	1	4		1952	2	0	2	2
1922	0	1	1		1953	0	1	1	2
40 Years Sub. Total	27	10	37		1954	1	0	1	5
1923	5	2	7		1955	1	0	1	4
1924	2	2	4		1956	1	0	1	4
1925	6	2	8		1957	0	0	0	6
1926	8	0	8	45	1958	1	2	3	2
1927	3	2	5	42	1959	0	1	1	6
1928	4	2	6	27	1960	1	0	1	4
1929	4	2	6	38	30 Years Sub. Total	30	20	50	
1930	3	3	6	31	1961	0	0	0	2
8 Years Sub. Total	35	15	50		1962	0	1	1	3
1931	2	0	2	16	1963	1	2	3	5
1932	1	2	3	21	1964	1	2	3	6
1933	1	1	2	15	1965	0	0	0	9
1934	0	0	0	10	1966	0	2	2	7
1935	1	1	2	7	1967	1	1	2	25
1936	2	3	5	14	1968	1	1	2	12
1937	1	2	3	13	1969	4	0	4	13
					1970 (INC)	2	0	2	



There were 28 "justifiable" killings by police reported in 1943—a riot year—and 25 in 1967, during a period in which such fatalities averaged only five a year. In 1943 there were four police deaths caused by criminal action, and in 1967 there was one. In 1968 there were 12 citizens killed by police, and two officer deaths, one accidental. In 1969 there were 13 "justifiable" citizen fatalities and four police deaths, all by criminal action.

The civil unrest problems of recent years, and the number of armed assaults on police officers, in Detroit as well as elsewhere, raises a legitimate concern. But there is a dual danger in such situations, not only involving the lives of police officers, but also the possibility of police over-reaction and hazard to innocent citizens. This is exactly the kind of community disaster that many of those who attack police hope to provoke. This department is taking every precaution it can to alert and protect its men against both dangers, either one of which is an evil to be avoided.

FIG. 3

POLICE KILLED, 1960—1968
by type of weapon

FIREARMS:	
HANDGUNS	350
SHOTGUNS	58
RIFLES	47
SUB. TOTAL	455
KNIVES	4
PERSONAL (fists, feet, etc)	7
AUTOS, CLUBS ETC.	9
TOTAL	475

FIG. 4

POLICE KILLED, 1960—1968
by assignment

TWO MAN CARS	137
ONE MAN CARS	
ALONE	132
ASSISTED	44
TOTAL CARS	313
FOOT	31
DET. & SPEC. ASGMT.	95
OFF DUTY	36
TOTAL	475

Nationally, as the F.B.I. has reported in its most recent annual study, during the period 1960-1968 more than 300 police officers were killed in accidents in line of duty, while 475 were killed as a result of criminal action. By contrast, Detroit during the same period lost four men to criminal action and 10 to accidents.

Of the officer-fatalities reported nationally, 96 percent of those involving criminal action were committed with firearms, and 77 percent of the firearms killings were with handguns (Fig. 3).

As might have been expected, the majority of the victims—66 percent—were scout-car officers in "response" situations (Fig. 4). Twenty-eight percent of the officers were killed attempting to make an arrest, 20 percent responding to a disturbance or family-trouble call, and 19 percent intervening in a robbery in progress (Fig. 5).

This analysis suggests certain conclusions:

The greatest danger to police officers today comes from excessive availability of handguns to citizens.

Response and arrest procedures need to be reviewed from the point of view of officer-safety as well as prompt apprehension of the criminal.

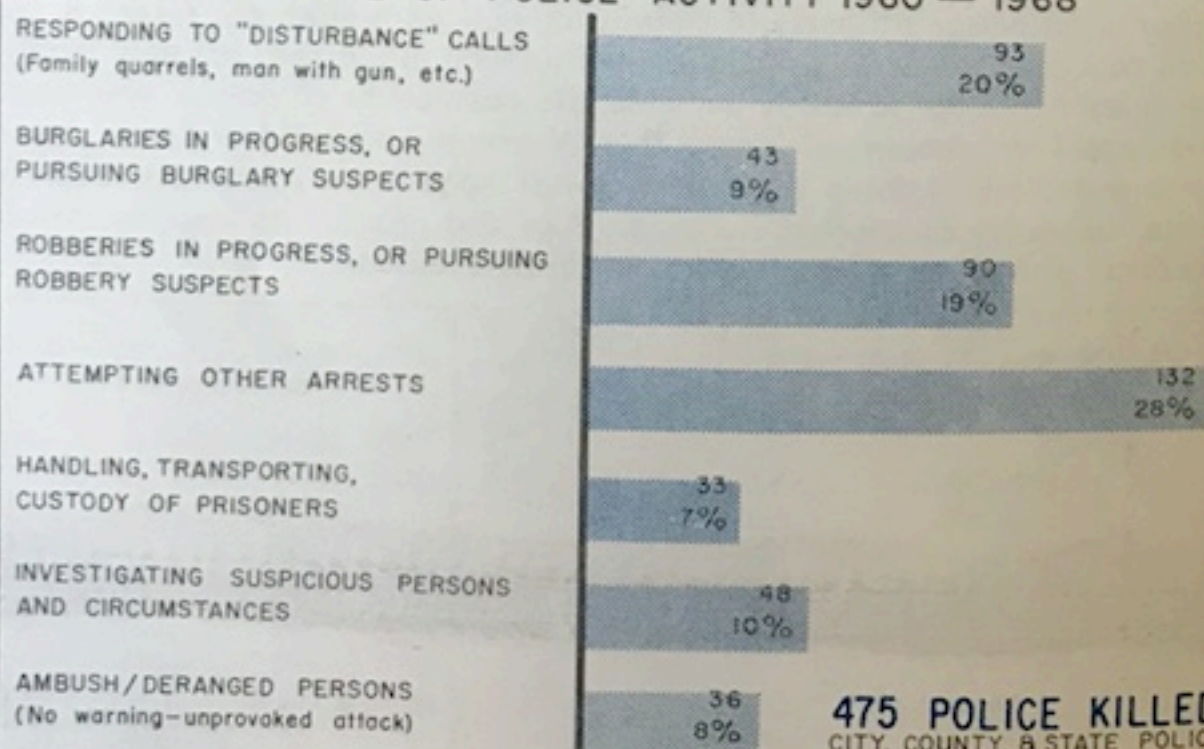
Officers can never relax their vigilance in the presence of known or suspected criminals.

Police need to take more precautions than ever, not only for their own safety, but to make sure that any use of their own firearms is truly "justifiable."

FIG. 5

POLICE KILLED BY FELONS

BY TYPE OF POLICE ACTIVITY 1960 — 1968



475 POLICE KILLED
CITY, COUNTY, & STATE POLICE

Source—F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports 1968