

Let no one have any illusions as to the wave of misery and injury left in their wake--almost 300 injured, many elderly victims sentenced for life to a wheel chair or a hospital bed.

Already 63 victims are known to have been killed by criminals in the course of robberies so far in 1971 (through August), and the total will undoubtedly go higher when more than 125 current homicides for which the motive is not presently known, are finally resolved.

In 1969, street and business place robberies resulted in the murder of 79 human beings, and in 1970, 85.

A precinct-by-precinct study of robbery records for the first eight months suggests a close correlation between STRESS activity, as indicated by arrests, and a drop in robberies or robbery attempts.

In one precinct where robbers were particularly active, 40 percent of all STRESS arrests were concentrated during the month of March. The precinct robbery total at the time had risen to 102 more than the previous year.

The trend reversed itself, and by the end of August the precinct listed 121 fewer robberies than for the first eight months of the previous year. As the robbery rate declined, STRESS activity, as indicated by arrests, was able to be shifted elsewhere.

Other precincts where the majority of STRESS arrests have occurred: First Precinct, after eight months, reported 321 fewer robberies than last year; Tenth Precinct, 280 less, Seventh Precinct, 136 less; and Second Precinct, 128 less.

USE OF FIREARMS BY POLICE

The policy of the Detroit Police Department on use of firearms by police officers is derived from State law. Section 71, Michigan Criminal Law and Procedure--Amount and Use of Force, says:

"An officer may use such force as seems to him to be necessary in forcibly arresting an offender, or in preventing his escape after an arrest. Both officers and private persons seeking to prevent a felon's escape must exercise reasonable care to prevent his escape without doing personal violence, and it is only when killing is necessary to prevent his escape that the killing is justified."

The Detroit Police Manual (Chapter 4, Section 28, Use of Firearms in Police Action) instructs Detroit police officers as follows:

"Revolvers are issued to ensure that each officer has the best means of protecting himself from death or serious bodily harm while performing the duties of a law enforcement officer.

"There can be no question concerning its use for these purposes. What the officer may do for his own protection or defense he is authorized and required to do for a fellow officer, a citizen or a prisoner.