

Conlisk, a Cop's Cop, Becomes the Boss

James B. Conlisk Jr. gets his fourth star today — and one of the toughest jobs in the city.

In ceremonies in City hall, Mayor Daley will pin an additional star on Conlisk's blue uniform, designating the 21-year police veteran as Chicago's top cop, superintendent of the 11,000-man department.

Whether Conlisk will keep the title "superintendent," which was selected by his predecessor, O. W. Wilson, or will call himself "commissioner" as did those before Wilson, is a matter of speculation.

Uses Different Style

In the month he has held the job in an acting capacity since Wilson's retirement July 1, Conlisk has shown that he plans to operate somewhat differently from the taciturn tactician he is replacing.

On his first day, Conlisk paid a surprise visit to the Wood street station to show the district policeman "I don't have horns."

Moreover, he has announced he'll make frequent visits to districts.

Uniformed and Armed

He will continue to wear the uniform he wore as the department's No. 2 man — deputy superintendent — and he'll still carry his service revolver. He has used it only once, during a battle with a berserk gunman in 1949 at the Chicago and North Western railway station.

Wilson never wore a uniform and he seldom ventured out into the districts to visit with his men.

The men in the squads already are referring to their new boss as "a policeman's policeman."

One of Conlisk's first acts will be to name his top aids, particularly his successor as deputy superintendent in charge of field services.

Eye on Racial Scene

His biggest job right now will be to clamp the lid on any racial disturbances before they can turn into riots.

He has been keeping on top of the situation by remaining at

police headquarters until midnight daily for weeks.

Conlisk emphasizes that his administration is dedicated to "continuing Wilson's programs."

Already he has approved a system for facsimile transmission of finger prints by phone lines from district stations to headquarters to speed identification of suspects.

And he expects to trade in the department's overworked "1410" computers for even more sophisticated electronic machinery.

He also has warned that his regime will deal just as harshly as did the last with breaches in conduct. Basically, however, he views discipline as a positive force. As he told a reporter for CHICAGO'S AMERICAN.

"It's a feeling, an esprit, doing the right thing because it is right. It's the feeling a man gets when he's accomplished his mission."