

# Patrolmen Denounce Plan to Put Cadets on Street

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# Patrolmen Denounce Plan to Put Cadets on Street

BY FRANK ZAHOUR

The Chicago Patrolman's Association has denounced a plan to replace some traffic policemen with police cadets, youths between the ages of 17 and 19.

"I don't go along with it at all," said Joseph Pecoraro, president of the association. "The cadets are good boys, but if one of them gets killed, who's going to answer to the mother?"

The plan calls for the 250 full-time cadets and the department's 50 part-time cadets to be trained in traffic control. The cadets will carry no weapons and have no power of arrest.

## Issue Parking Tickets

However, city officials are hoping to change city ordinances to permit the cadets to issue parking tickets. The cadets are being trained to handle three-wheeled motorcycles for this purpose.

Goal of the plan is to free regular policemen from the chore of traffic direction and release them for duty in high crime areas. Until now, cadets have been used only in administrative positions such as typing or filing.

The cadets are being trained at the Police Academy and already are receiving on-the-job instructions at key Loop intersections.

## Lives in Jeopardy

"The cadets are anxious, energetic good boys, full of energy, but they will have no real authority and I feel their lives might be in jeopardy," said Pecoraro.

He said the cadets "can't effect an



(TRIBUNE Staff Photo by Harold Revair)

City officials hope to change city ordinances to permit police cadets to issue parking tickets. Like Otto Fowich, 4500 N. Sawyer Av., cadets are learning to drive three-wheeled motorcycles.

arrest, and they could get hurt. If they need more police, they should hire them."

If a motorist goes thru a red light,

the cadet would have to summon a policeman. Then the cadet would have to act as complainant, because the policeman possibly did not see the violation.

"Then both would be tied up in court," said Pecoraro.

Daniel Green, president of the Confederation of Police, praised the cadet program, but questioned the value of assigning cadets to traffic duties.

## Cannot Help Themselves

"The high-quality youths in the program have been able to handle any task given them," he said, "but the safety of the cadets is the one reservation I have about this plan.

"Frequently, traffic patrolmen find it necessary to use their weapons to prevent crime and injury to citizens. They are able to respond to crime. But the cadets won't be able to help themselves."

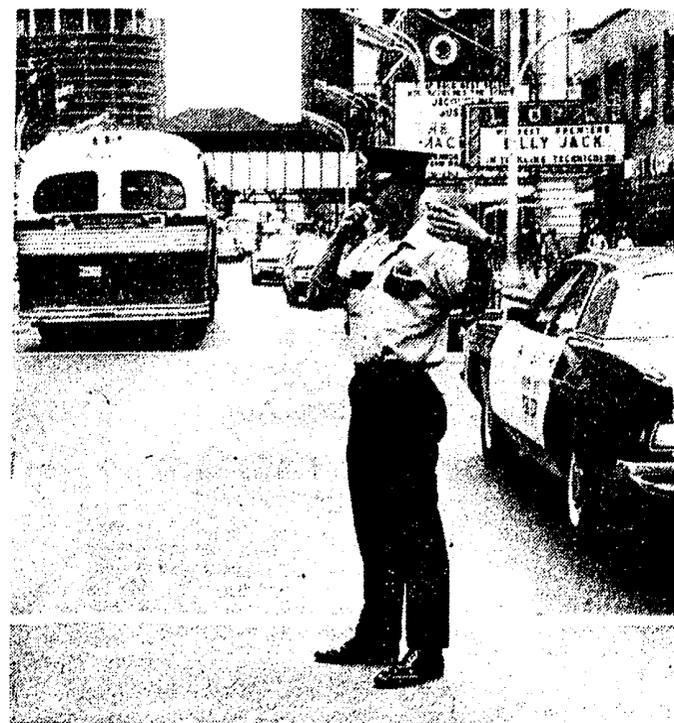
Green said a number of problems could result from the plan. The cadets will be in uniform and performing official functions. But what happens when someone runs up and asks them for help? he asked. "We can anticipate that there will be some injuries."

## Deterrent to Crime

Downtown commercial and business interests also indicated some reservations about the plan. "If the cadets are competent, they could be helpful, but we'd rather see them supplement police rather than replace them," said Nelson Forrest, executive director of the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association.

He pointed out that a regular policeman on traffic duty acts as a deterrent to crime, since he commands authority and is armed.

A researcher at the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice, University of



(TRIBUNE Staff Photo by Roy B. Hall)

The Cadet Frank Goff, 19, of 3226 S. Emerald Av., has no real authority, he performs traffic duties at State and Randolph Streets.

Chicago, praised the plan. "It seems to me important to eliminate from the department's responsibility tasks that don't bear on major law enforcement

duties. In this case, using the cadets seems a worthwhile possibility to pursue," said Wayne A. Kerstetter, of the center.