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4 August 1962

Sometime ago it was customary for each member of the department to contribute a dollar to a fund for the widow of an officer killed in the performance of duty. Because of abuses which crept into the manner in which this generous custom was practiced, one of my predecessors abolished it, and for good reasons. I have been asked repeatedly to permit this practice to be reinstated because so many members of the department feel that it is basically a good idea and that a policeman ought to be permitted to give expression to his compassion for the widow and family of a fellow officer who has given his life in the police service.

Rule 366 forbids members of the department from collecting money or seeking or soliciting contributions for any cause, no matter how worthy the purpose, without the approval of the Police Board. The purpose of the rule is to prohibit policemen from asking citizens or other policemen for money or from collecting or handling money belonging to other persons. The reasons back of this rule are obvious to everyone. We don't want police officers to "put the arm" on anyone, not even fellow police officers.

There is no objection, however, to a plan whereby

- a. A notice is placed in every policeman's box announcing that a member of the department has been killed in the performance of an act of duty;
- b. An envelope accompanies the notice which envelope is addressed to a bank or other responsible institution having no connection with the police department or any of its members;
- c. Each member is free to make a donation or not as he pleases and in any amount he wishes without urging or pressure from anyone;
- d. All donations are anonymous and no one knows who contributes and who does not;
- e. No solicitations or collections are made by any member of the department;
- f. Donations are mailed directly to the bank by individuals desiring to donate and the bank sets aside such donations in a special account and ultimately pays the total amount of such donations by check made payable directly to the widow concerned.

If the above conditions are carefully observed, there is little likelihood of any abuses.

Whether death resulted from an injury incurred in the performance of duty is sometimes a troublesome question. In most cases, such as when a police officer is shot and killed by a criminal, there is no question about it, but there are other examples that could be cited where it is not easy to determine. However, in doubtful cases, we can leave the determination of this question to the Retirement Board of the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund and the Trustees of the Policemen's and Firemen's Death Benefit Fund. Both of these agencies must decide this question in the course of their legal functions and we can abide by their determinations in individual cases.

Groups of men are now undergoing voluntary training in response to an announcement of a number of courses which have been offered by the Training Division. This is the first step we are taking to provide additional training oppor-

tunities to members of the department. Since this training is being accomplished during off-duty hours, the interest which has been shown reflects the type of enthusiasm which is so much a part of a top-notch police operation. During the months ahead, we will be doing much more along these lines. The Training Division will define additional areas of interest to the men and will take steps to provide the faculty and training materials to fill these needs. So long as there is an expressed desire on the part of men for additional training or educational experience, the department will do whatever must be done to accommodate these needs and to satisfy them.

To date, 2700 men have applied for the department's blood bank program. The response has far exceeded our expectations. I fully anticipate that as time goes by, many others will join the program because of the evidence they see of individuals who benefit from it. A check indicates that 10 men have already made requests for blood for their use or for use by members of their families. A total of 47 pints of blood have already been used by individuals enrolled through our program. It is especially satisfying to receive letters from members of the department who have been on the receiving end and who have recognized in time of need the value of being participants in this program. Those of you who have applied, but have not yet donated, should do so. Your participation is not effective until your donation has been made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long vertical stroke at the end, positioned on the right side of the page.