

Date 9/1/77

SOME THOUGHTS ON POLICE DEPARTMENT SAVINGS WITHOUT LAYOFFS

Overtime: There are two major components of the overtime budget:
Court related overtime and details and demonstrations.

Details and Demonstrations: This kind of police activity is essentially responsive - the occasion for it is determined outside the department, although the kind of response is an internal policy decision. One possibility here (and I believe there is a bill pending in Congress) is to bill the Federal government for the international services (UN guarding, consular posts, etc.) the NYPD provides.

Related Overtime: *Court* An internal department study of a year ago said that a conservative monthly cost in this category was \$600,000. While the department continues to issue directives seeking to curb officers from making arrests to get overtime, unless the incentive of the possibility of making overtime when you make an arrest is removed, no real change will occur. Several cities use what is called "Pre-arraignment Processing", where the arresting officer swears out the complaint at the precinct, but where the arrestee is accompanied to court for processing, by an officer, whose duty that is. The city has already experimented with this on a limited basis in the Bronx and Queens on evening and weekend tours. Information, allegedly including projected savings can be obtained from the Criminal Justice Division of the P.D. Sgt. Earl Johansen (374-5330).

P.D. Thoughts cont'd.

- Accelerated Retirement: a) All titles above the rank of Captain serve at the discretion of the Commissioner. (After 5 years, a Captain makes the same amount as a Deputy Inspector, but there is prestige attached to the title). Similarly all detective titles serve at the discretion of the Commissioner. There is a pro forma annual review. According to mutually agreed criteria, the ranks could be combed for people who would be given the option of retiring before being demoted.
- b) Overhead commands should be stripped of non-essential personnel, particularly sergeants, lieutenants and captains. These folks should be sent to operational commands. Hundreds of people are hiding behind desks doing clerical work who should either be out on the street or out of the job. Oldtimer cops have been transferred to the street within the last several months but none of the high priced spread.
- c) In addition to the usual retirement at half pay provision, the P.D. also has a 15 year vesting option; that is you can retire after 15 years, be entitled to 15/20th of your pension and start receiving it at what would have been the 20th year. If the rules were changed so that 15 year pensioners could begin to receive their pensions right away, rather than wait until the 20th year, I believe a lot of people would retire right now. This saves you, over that 5-year period, \$70,000 per man. If you don't like that as a permanent change, you could have it be a policy to be in effect for one year only.

P.D. Thoughts cont'd.

Plant & Vehicle Maintenance: a) Closing stationhouses is a really good idea. There is no correlation between amount of crime and location of precinct. Further, all facilities constructed within the last 15 years have double capacity. The screaming objections get raised by the people who live on the same block, not the people who live on the other end of the precinct. The case is also never presented well by the department. They announce precinct "closings" rather than "consolidation" and scare everyone into thinking there will be no coverage. Cost savings would be in maintenance, and civilian administrative personnel. The buildings could also be sold.

b) Have the department inventory its facilities, both what it owns and what it leases, and review utilization, with the goal of getting rid of as many as possible. The P.D. code item Service Facilities is 6.9 million a year in salaries alone.

c) Close harbor and aviation; savings would be in maintenance, not only of the plant but also the boats and helicopters. Functions can be given to Coast Guard.

d) Either contract out or (can't remember where I heard this) centralize, city-wide, vehicle maintenance. Motor transport section costs 5.7 million in salaries alone.

Miscellaneous Aberrations: a) Seven department chaplains cost the department a paltry, but symbolic \$41,790 per year.

P.D. Thoughts cont'd.

b) Twenty-nine department surgeons plus two chief surgeons cost the department \$812,000.

c) Deputy Commissioners -- I need to do an inventory.

d) Franchise the tow operations. I think Bott's shop has just completed a study on this.

Obviously this list needs a lot of research. These ideas come from a day of thinking and making phone calls. There's got to be a lot more.