

time and talent, to the organization of Police-Community Relations Councils to establish vital channels for effective dialogue, mutual understanding and genuine cooperation. The vacuum created by public apathy and often mute hostility is at last being supplanted by awareness that the extraordinary prevalence of crime in a time of prosperity can only be defeated by the concerted efforts of public support, multifaceted governmental action and professional law enforcement.

It is the latter, an increasing demand for professionalism, that most significantly reveals the transition of public values. Law enforcement is winning recognition as a true profession, a discipline requiring special skills and creative talents.

This in itself will be a stimulant and a challenge for it necessitates a redefinition of standards and the provision of educational opportunities heretofore unknown. Gradually our institutions of higher learning are developing curricula in police science to equip future law enforcement personnel with the techniques and the academic background requisite to a professional career. Several of Maryland's community colleges have established degrees in police science and, now, plans are in formulation to provide a four year program based on a police science major at the University of Maryland. The growing complexities and sophistication of this era have had a direct and tremendous impact on the law enforcement profession. Comprehension of such diverse but related fields as psychology, constitutional law and computer programming are becoming essential to assure effective performance of law enforcement personnel. This practically dictates the provision of college level training and continuous education programs for our police officers.

However, this realization of a need and means to assure professionalism can only be successful if it is inextricably linked with commensurate recognition, reward and remuneration of the professional law enforcement officer. We have seen this reflected in the increasing trend to divorce law enforcement agencies from political influence. Selection, promotion and appointment of police personnel must be predicated solely on merit with total disregard to political contacts or considerations. We have learned a dismal lesson from past experience where the entanglement of politics and police has inevitably resulted in graft and corruption.

Not only is the State obligated to insure the prestige and integrity of the law enforcement profession but to work toward the establishment of realistic standards of financial compensation that can compete