



Mobilizing the Police

LET'S IMAGINE the clock turned back to the time when all policemen walked beats, rode horses or sat in station houses. An emergency, such as a riot or a great fire, requiring the presence of large numbers of policemen at a given spot, occurs.

First, the reserves, two men at each of the seven police stations, are notified by telephone and they make their way on foot, on street cars or in commandeered slow-moving vehicles to the scene of action. Then slowly, one by one, as the patrolling policemen make their hourly calls, the men on the nearest beats are summoned. It takes anywhere from two to four hours to assemble one-half of the patrol force.

Contrast this tortoise-like speed with the quick mobilization of more than one-half of the motorized patrol force which was made Thursday in celebration of the first anniversary of Station X in Cincinnati.

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AT 2 P. M., ON the second, a radio call was sent out ordering men patrolling their beats in scout cruisers in near and far sections of the city to report at once at Ninth and Plum streets.

We stood behind the broadcaster and heard the radio call go out from the tiny basement room which houses Station X in the Ninth-st and Central-av corner of City Hall. We hurried immediately to the assembly point at the other end of the square, but before we arrived several of the summoned cars had reported. Within 10 minutes every car called, with the exception of a few patrolling outlying suburbs, was on the spot. Then a cruiser from Riverside slid into line with brakes screeching. A moment later another from Tennessee-av, Bond Hill, dashed in. There was a short wait before another car ended an eight-mile run from Pleasant Ridge thru heavy traffic.

Within 15 minutes one-half of the mobile police force of Cincinnati had been assembled. There was no reckless speeding. The men had been ordered to observe traffic regulations.

The combination of motor car and radio and high morale of the police personnel has made Cincinnati a much safer place in which to live. Since Station X was established only one year ago there has been a marked decrease in nearly every type of crime. Here is an illustration of the operation of the new system:

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THE OTHER DAY a police car while making a turn into Reading-rd was notified by radio that a cutting affray was in progress less than two blocks distant. The police car which had been proceeding in a direction away from the scene of the fight, was whirled about and within half a minute the patrolmen had stopped the brawl and arrested the combatants. In the old days, headquarters, notified of the fight, would either have been compelled to wait, perhaps an hour, until the patrolman on the beat reported by telephone, or to have sent a patrol wagon all the way from City Hall to Avondale. The fight might have ended fatally with the slayer far away long before the police arrived.

The world moves forward with Cincinnati's Police Department in the van.

