

ity mounting



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he accused (police
y pulled the chair
ii twice during an

highly prejudiced attitudes towards
Negroes... close to one-half of all the
officers in predominatly Negro high
crime rate areas show extreme prejudice
against Negroes."

Ironically, the union spent
thousands of dollars later on adver-
tisements entitled "We can't do it without
you."

Another reinforcement factor for
the problem of brutality and racism
within the police department is the

handling of the problems by the depart-
ment itself. The criminal law is largely
impotent as a means for controlling
police brutality, because the investigators
are themselves policemen largely in
charge of the criminal process and not
unexpectedly, they are less than zealous in
regulating themselves thereby. It has
been contended that the internal in-
vestigators merely act as a 'rubber stamp'
for their colleagues' abusive activities and
tend to act as apologists for the culprits.

On the opposing side, some argue
that it takes a policeman to understand
another policeman's work and to get to
the facts, and outsiders have difficulty
doing so.

But one important fact still remains;
that is, the inadequacy of procedures for
internal investigations of citizen com-
plaints about police wrong-doing.

Another critical component within
the police system is the Police Commis-
sion. Brian Grosman quoted a journalist
as having once commented that "there's a
tendency of the police commission to
sweep controversy surrounding police
brutality under the rug. They don't want a
scandal developing as a result of publiciz-
ing police misbehavior."

This remark certainly does not
appear new to most readers. Especially in
the United States, for many years there
has been suggestion that civilian review
boards be created due to the unsatisfac-
tory performance perceived by the public,
particularly by the minority groups. Since
the Johnson case the blacks in Toronto
have been putting more pressure on
provincial government to set up a review
board to be manned by civilians.

The Ontario government plans to
set up a compromise system; a civilian
review board to review unsatisfactory
investigation by the public bureau of the
police force.

Another more important factor
contributing to the ongoing problem of
police brutality is the relatively support-
ive attitudes and response from both the
judicial authorities and the citizenry at
large. Generally speaking, police brutality
cases usually take the form of assault and
battery. The courts often scrutinize such
complaints in the light of the presump-
tion that the officer acted properly and
exerted only the necessary and
'minimum' force under the cir-
cumstances. In more aggravated cases
plaintiffs will recover. However, judges
and juries are reluctant to 'second guess'
the police officer who usually
demonstrates that he behaved reasonably
in a trying situation.

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sub theatre

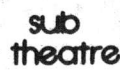
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