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Co-operation

In this complex modern world we live in, it is easy to find fault. All of us are guilty of it at some time or other. We grumble about taxes, road conditions, the cost-of-living, the younger generation—in fact anything which doesn't quite meet our fancy. Peace officers are not immune to criticism and therefore it is all too common to find some sections of the public complaining about the over-zealousness of the police, while at the same time other citizens feel that law-enforcement agencies are inattentive to duty.

What it boils down to is that the public frequently forgets that there are two aspects of law enforcement to be considered—the police viewpoint and the responsibility of the private citizen. First of all, peace officers are private citizens as well as public servants. Thus their interest in the law is two-fold—they not only must obey the law, but must enforce it as well. The citizen need only observe the rules society has laid down, to enjoy their privileges.

Police forces are simply agencies for the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals. To operate efficiently they must have the co-operation of the public. Private citizens can assist the police in a variety of ways—by reporting infractions of the law and by providing investigators with all the information they have pertaining to the offence; by security precautions at home and at places of business; by