

Violent attacks on policemen and police violence against civilians are growing problems that need to be dealt with.

One major element in the deadly equation-- the question of police violence, was the subject of an extraordinary meeting last December in which police officials and community leaders met under the auspices of federal officials and minority organizations.

That meeting was often stormy, but since it was the first such national dialogue that is to be expected. More important was the evident concern of police representatives about the gravity of the problem.

Just days after the meeting an incident occurred in Miami that illustrates the seriousness of the problem. A black businessman on a motorcycle was chased by four policemen who beat him to death, at first reporting the death as the result of an accident.

The four were indicted for manslaughter, and

reports of the inquiry into the incident suggest that violence against civilians was far from rare. In fact, one officer admitted that Miami police had a scale to rate injuries inflicted on civilians.

It is estimated that about 600 people die each year at the hands of law enforcement officers. That's more than one person every day. About half are minorities.

Typically the incident occurs without justification. Often the victim is unarmed, or not in a position to endanger the officers. In too many cases the victim is shot in the back. Few victims were suspected of serious crimes or of being dangerous.

Many cases are the tragic result of mutual fears compounded by cultural misunderstandings between white policemen and minority youths.

Minority policemen have rarely been involved in such incidents, indicating their understanding of the ghetto's values, behavior pat-

terns, and non-verbal signals makes them better equipped to deal with situations that might otherwise be explosive.

Racism is sometimes a factor-- a prejudiced officer abusing his authority. But more significant may be the subtle racism that pervades our society and makes it difficult to avoid the negative stereotyping that can spark fear and panic leading to deadly use of force.

There is no easy answer to the problem. Model codes, strict police administrative supervision, community-relations efforts, recruitment of more minority law enforcement officers, are all part of the solution.

No single one of these, perhaps not even all in combination, will totally solve the problem. But those 600 fatalities can be cut to a small fraction of the number if those steps were taken.

Cities with strict gun codes-- and enforcement of those codes-- report sharply reduced incidents of civilian fatalities.

Curbing police violence makes for better policing too. Officers can do a better job when they've got strict rules and regulations that govern anticipated incidents.

Police departments should not view the outcry against deadly force as an anti-police feeling. Rather it is the painted protest of people who want the police to protect them, not endanger them.

Recent moves in some cities to arm police with shotguns could wind up escalating the cycle of violence. And it must be said that some of those moves are the result of escalating violence against police officers.

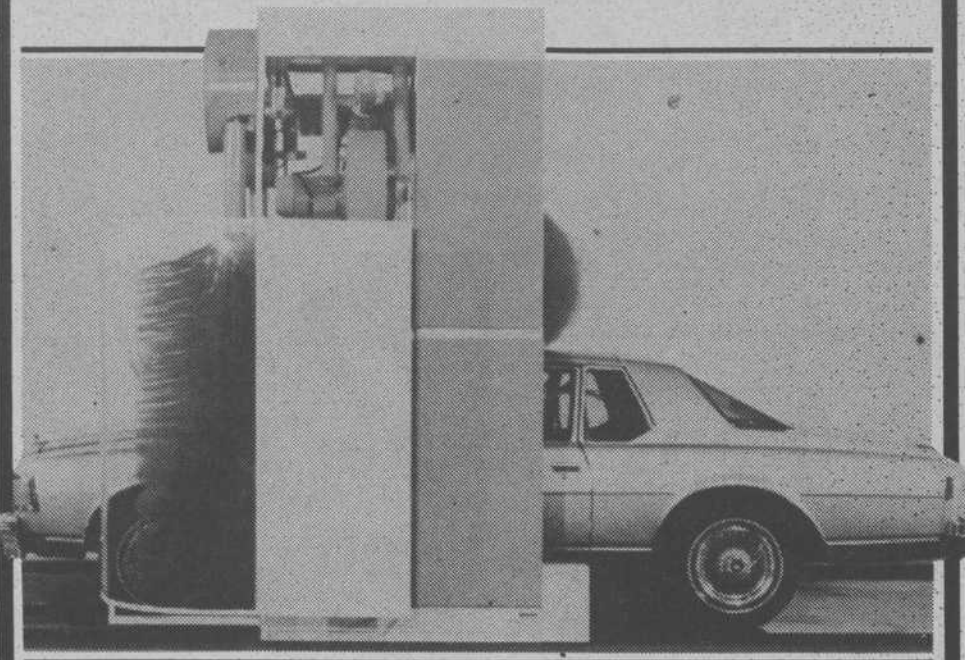
It's time for a truce on both sides. Police forces need to guard against the kind of violent incidents that create loss of life and community anger. And citizens should be more forthcoming with aid and information to help police protect their communities, especially depriving lawbreakers of the false sense that they will be tolerated by the people they victimize.

Violent Attacks On Cops, Police Violence Against Civilians Growing Problem We Must Deal With



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Jerushia McDonald Has A 'Big Dream'

Jerushia McDonald has a dream-- a dream that developed at the age of five. A native of Las Vegas, this 5'11" hazel-eyed beauty is not going to settle for anything less.

Jerushia aspires to be a singer. "It has always been there," she said. "I will fulfill that dream or else it will be in the back of my mind for the rest of my life and I wouldn't be satisfied with myself unless I did get out there and try."

Show business is in her blood and it comes natural. Most of her family, including her parents, are in the entertainment business.

There's a sister, Susie Lane, who is coming into her own as an established singer with a hit record album on the market and soon to cut her second. There's Maria, another sister, who is kept busy with modeling work throughout the area.

Paula, however, went into a direction that put her more in direct contact with community work. She is a drug abuse coun-

selor. Her brother, Jeff, as yet is not tied into the entertainment field.

The McDonald family has strong community ties with all of the children attending the local schools. Jerushia and her "baby" sister finished at Rancho High; two sisters matriculated at Valley High and her brother attended Eldorado High.

Currently, Jerushia McDonald is a cocktail waitress at Caesars Palace having been employed there for the past four years. Her work at Caesars has also paid additional dividends. She has been getting a num-



JERUSHIA
MCDONALD

ber of assignments from the publicity department serving as a model.

Jerushia has also been seen on national television a number of times while serving as "card-girl" during the boxing championship matches at Caesars Palace.

"Some of our family were born with that special gift of being in the entertainment business," she continued. "I'm into jazz. My favorite singers are Phylliss Hyman, Marlena Shaw and Diana Ross and I'm not going to quit until I realize my dream."