

# Joe D's super-shakeup

"Shakeup" doesn't seem quite the word for what Acting Supt. Joseph DiLeonardi is doing to the Chicago police department. It is more like putting the department through a complete wash-and-dry cycle. Mr. DiLeonardi so far has made 41 changes among the 90 highest police positions—19 promotions, 13 demotions, 9 lateral transfers; has sent back to street patrols 242 policemen out of 700 who had been assigned to desk jobs, and has issued a blanket order to district commanders to "ground"—that is, transfer to desk jobs—any patrolmen suspected of being "kinky"—taking bribes or having connections with criminals.

Mr. DiLeonardi evidently is out to create a police department in his own image—tough, super-clean, nonpolitical [or as much so as possible], unsympathetic toward in-house cliques, and merciless toward members who even give the impression of being crooked. We applaud that ideal, but Mr. DiLeonardi's methods carry a high price; we hope the results justify it.

This is the third major police department shakeup in less than a year, and the biggest. There is no certainty that it is over with, or that this one will be the last. Mr. DiLeonardi is likely to be appointed permanent superintendent, but has no absolute guarantee of that, and if someone else is chosen the shakeups undoubtedly will start again before the

latest reorganization has had time to jell.

The result of all this uncertainty is bad morale: commanders unfamiliar with their new districts and patrolmen unfamiliar with their new commanders, worries that a misinterpreted word or action might lead to being "grounded" on a vague charge of "kinkiness," a general feeling of uneasiness and instability. No organization can perform its best under these conditions.

At some point—starting soon, we hope—Chicago's police department must have a period of stability long enough to establish its new organization and standards as normal. That won't happen, however, until a permanent superintendent has been named and has the department staffed as he wants it.

That will take some time even if Mr. DiLeonardi gets the job. His promotion, for instance, would leave vacant his own permanent post as deputy superintendent in charge of investigative services, and filling it would involve more top-level shifts. [If these shifts occur, we hope some exceptional officers who have just been demoted—including former Deputy Supts. William Hanhardt and Patrick V. Needham—are restored to high rank.]

In general, we have no quarrel with Mr. DiLeonardi's appointments or his approach. But the police department needs time to get the bandages off before it undergoes more major surgery.