

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

It seems to us the entire nation is begging to be taken over by the police. The headlines are screaming daily that narcotics and students are ruining the country. It also seems to us the biggest crime centers are where the police per capita is the largest.

This editor is for a good and efficient police department whose people draw decent salaries, but we feel four policemen for a town this size is too many—especially with the present budget.

On August 14, 1967 the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees presented the City Council with a petition for more police protection which included the following requests:

1. That application be made to the Texas Highway Patrol for a patrol sub-station to be located in Midlothian, and that it be permanently manned.

2. That the Midlothian Police Department be expanded by one full time policeman in addition to its present strength. (One at the time)

3. That the city of Midlothian obtain a police car with adequate markings which can be used for city patrol.

4. That continued on-duty police protection be provided for 16 hours each day, preferably from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.

5. That the city council take steps to insure support and firm backing from the city government to our police department.

6. That the city council consider the re-evaluation of all property within the city limits in order to obtain the money for this additional service.

All of the first five requests have been met by the city. The re-evaluation which would provide the money for expansion has not been done.

New demands are being made for another policeman, and the city is forced now to buy another police car—with the sales tax money the only new revenue for the city. First quarter sales tax money for Midlothian was \$6,000, and this included the month of December with Christmas sales. Midlothian now has two full time policemen plus the nightwatchman, and two police cars. Two Highway Patrolmen are stationed here now.

During 1968 Midlothian had income to the general fund of \$35,842.03 of which \$26,579.33 was from taxes. From this fund Midlothian spent \$39,179.72 thereby going into the red by \$3,337.69 from the water and sewer department for the last fiscal year, Midlothian had income of \$78,880.08 and spent \$73,295.59 giving a surplus of \$5,584.49. So the city had a surplus of only \$2,000 last year.

Beginning July 1, 1969 Midlothian must start burying all garbage. Burning in the city limits is to be stopped; therefore garbage collection will have to be doubled. Burying of garbage will require an outlay of at least \$15,000 for a bulldozer. Doubling the collections will require at

least two additional employees and another garbage truck.

With a tax income of only \$60,000, which includes the new sales tax money, we do not feel Midlothian can afford a police department costing \$25,000 a year—that is until the overlooked re-evaluation of property has been done. In other words, if you want that much police protection, put your money where your mouth is.

There are other crying needs in the city of Midlothian which cannot be overlooked any longer.