

California May 'Purge' Police Technical Manuals

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Manuals that tell how to extract confessions from ignorant suspects may go off the reading lists of California police, according to State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch.

Lynch, in Washington for a three-day meeting of the National Crime Commission, said Tuesday that he is considering a purge of all text books of the type criticized by the Supreme Court in its recent confessions decision.

The texts, some written by law teachers who have been highly critical of Supreme Court criminal law rulings, were cited by Chief Justice Earl Warren to show that secret police interrogation is inherently coercive.

Offering hints on persuad-

ing prisoners to waive their constitutional rights, the manuals urged isolating suspects from lawyers, relatives and friends. One book suggested a "Mutt and Jeff" battery of interrogators, taking turns using alternately tough and friendly lines of questioning.

The Supreme Court did not outlaw the books, but it agreed with the American Civil Liberties Union that the books offered the best available evidence of what goes on in police questioning rooms. Lynch said a preliminary survey indicated wide use of the books in California.

Lynch later told the Crime Commission that he has certain powers, unusual for a top State law officer, to control the use of such teaching aids in many localities. He noted that his office exercises con-

siderable purse-string supervision of State-subsidized police training programs.

Lynch did not specify what form the book purge would take. He said there would be no "book-burnings" or page rippings.

At the very least, Lynch said, police instructors will be unequivocally told "they can't use that type of instruction." He said most law enforcement officers in California were taking active steps to "live with" the interrogation restrictions, most of which have already been imposed by the State's highest court.

As to the future textbook orders, Lynch said he was sure that the authors, such as Fred Inbau of Northwestern, would revise their manuals to keep pace with the latest guidelines.

Inbau, one of the most prominent of the text writers, was incommunicado at a Canadian vacation spot. An associate, Prof. James R. Thompson, said the Court's ruling had made some of the texts obsolete but no decision had been made as to what to do about it.