

ACLU Official Attacks New Police Policy

R.W. 8/14/65
The new Metropolitan Police directive governing questioning of suspects before arraignment has drawn criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union and general praise from line police officers.

Monroe H. Freedman, chairman of the National Capital Area ACLU, called the new rule "disgraceful" and viola-

tion of the Federal rules of criminal procedure and the Supreme Court's Mallory Rule.

The new arrest procedure, issued by Chief John B. Layton Wednesday, permits a three-hour period of questioning of a suspect before he is taken before a magistrate. It supplants the procedures in effect since last October, when United States Attorney David C. Acheson advised police against any stationhouse questioning of suspects.

Freedman said "there is absolutely no question but that this will be tested, and, in my opinion, be found unconstitutional.

"What they are saying is that it's alright to violate constitutional rights as long as you don't do it for more than three hours at a time," he said.

Freedman said the rule will be tested in the courts when a defendant is prosecuted, with statements obtained during the three-hour questioning period used as evidence.

"The outrageous thing about it, however, is that innumerable citizens will suffer deprivation of their rights before the ultimate ruling is made by the Supreme Court," Freedman said.

Police investigators, on the other hand, feel the new ruling gives them "more leeway" in conducting investigations immediately after an arrest is made.