

'Peacekeeper' Is Here

California, at the initiative of Los Angeles County, has contracted with some of the world's leading scientists to develop the state expert assistance in the use of advanced technology in socio-technological problems such as air pollution. But the most serious problem of crime in California is not air pollution. It is the fact that Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office has received notice that the estimated \$100,000,000 Act of God money for this topic is being allocated. The Bureau of Chemical Research and Development, in cooperation of local police, is conducting police work from the space age. The companies have received and Chief Davis suggests that police all over the country should do likewise. The area of cooperation they already exist in the police

and corporations in their common solicitude for law and order.

The particular concept that has emerged from the initiative in Del Monte is the "Peacekeeper" police car designed to give the police an edge over their lawless adversaries—the kind of car that dominated the tranquility of Watts in 1965 and, later, Newark, Detroit and other cities. Peacekeeper looks more like a tank than a passenger car, but it only makes it more persuasive to people who are hard to persuade. A production model will cost about ten times as much as the usual patrol car, but its sponsors believe it would also longer. Its feature is legs which can be extended hydraulically from the sides to make the vehicle top proof. The car is fully armored; additional armor protects floor and body. All glass is bulletproof.

But the most striking element of Peacekeeper is a revolving turret on the roof, controlled by an operator who sits safely inside at a master console. Atop the turret is mounted a parabolic reflector which combines radar and acoustic pickup, so that the operator, ensconced in his armor, can hear the howls of the frustrated criminals in the street and follow their movements by personal radar, perfected (or nearly so) by field trials in Vietnam. He also sees them by an advanced kind of TV which needs hardly any light. He can command them with a bullhorn mounted on the turret, turn searchlights on them, gas them and, if nothing else avails, shoot at them

with an automatic rifle. At least a rifle is shown in the present design, though there is no reason why a machine gun or even a light cannon cannot be added to the arsenal of the mobile fort.

The TV screen on the Peacekeeper's console shows the operator what he is shooting at as he revolves the turret, or the effect of the paralyzing gases he discharges. The quantity and pressure of these gases are under his precise control, as is everything else down to the volume at which he desires to issue his commands through the bullhorn. Besides all this, the inside air pressure is kept slightly above normal, so that noxious gases and fumes, whether inhaled from Peacekeeper or generated outside, cannot pollute the air breathed by the guardians of law and order.

With enough Peacekeepers at the disposal of a police department, there will be no need for the amateur soldiers of the National Guard, much less for the Regular Army, which is so heavily laden in Vietnam. Expense may actually be less, but what if it is greater? As the President said in reference to curbing crime in the District of Columbia, if necessary let us have twice as many police, let us pay them twice as much, let us do whatever is needed. Had he known about this latest invention to curb crime in the streets, no doubt Mr. Johnson would have called for Peacekeepers by the thousands or tens of thousands, and who can doubt that he would get them? Only one gnawing question remains: what kind of peace will it be that Peacekeeper keeps?