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2089 Violators Nailed by 'Big Brother'

The San Francisco Police Department has released the first monthly statistics on arrests made possible by its new "big brother" type computer which gives instant records on people to patrolmen.

In its first month of operation, February, the computer's feedback of information resulted in the arrest here of 2089 persons for traffic violations. This represented an increase of 600 arrests over January, prior to the computer's installation.

On the persons arrested, the computer provided information to officers on 5846 traffic warrants, and increase of 1418 over January.

The total bail collected from the arrests and warrants was $169,333, up $26,118 from January.

The computer, known as CABLE (for computer Assisted Bay Area Law Enforcement), feeds information to policeman from local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions.

Thus, a person who has a traffic warrant outstanding from Billings, Mont., will be subject to arrest if he is stopped in San Francisco and his name and other information is fed into the computer.

So far, the computer has been primarily used to clear up traffic warrants.

"We believe we've made a good start in wiping out the huge backlog of these warrants," said Louis Feder, director of the Police Department's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

The computer system was financed by a federal grant of $201,000, with a matching grant from the city budget, and was put into operation January 31.

The machine is so efficient it can even tell an officer of any arrest warrants issued in foreign countries.