

Bluecoats Rap 'Patronage'

Eighty - five percent of the policemen answering the Police Officers Association questionnaire feel "there is or has been political patronage" in the department here.

However, a considerable number stated they felt political influence is less prevalent under Mayor Alioto and Chief Alfred J. Nelder than in previous administrations.

The analysis report on the questionnaire said:

"It is a historical fact, that in some former administrations each incoming mayor gave ear to the requests of friends and cronies by preparing and passing along to

his personally appointed chief of police a list of those to be appointed to the bureau of inspectors, or other choice positions in the department.

"A large number of officers still regard appointive positions or better duty assignments as being influenced by 'internal politics' and political pressure exerted by persons outside of the department.

"Appointment to the bureau of inspectors is almost universally looked upon by officers below that grade as being the result of 'juice' — having an influential friend in the higher echelons of

command, or by reason of 'City Hall connections.'

"They believe this can only be corrected by making appointment to that bureau (of inspectors) through 'Civil Service testing.

"Among those who voice their opinion on 'how to get ahead in the department,' an influential friend is regarded as having more weight than ability.

"They also see this as making it possible for those having 'connections' to use 'duty time' to study for promotional examinations;

while denying this privilege to others.

"In the matter of external influences, there is a repetition of comments indicating that unwarranted disciplinary action against any officer comes as a result of pressures exerted by organized groups, mainly minorities, charging 'brutality' and 'harassment.'"

The Police Officers Association currently is plugging for a ballot measure to make promotion to the inspectors bureau through Civil Service examination, instead of by appointment from the police chief.

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