

NIXON PROPOSES \$50,000 FOR SLAIN POLICEMEN'S KIN

by Robert B. Semple Jr.
Special to The New York Times

Washington, June 3 - President Nixon called today for Federal legislation to provide \$50,000 to the family of any policeman slain in the line of duty.

At the same time, his Attorney General reiterated the Nixon Administration's opposition to new controls on the sale of handguns.

The new proposal was announced by Attorney General John N. Mitchell at a White House briefing following a morning meeting between the President, nearly two dozen chiefs of police and sheriffs from around the country, Mr. Mitchell, J. Edgar Hoover and several Senators and Congressmen.

The meeting had been called to discuss recent police slayings, to demonstrate the Administration's concern and to unveil the new proposal. By the end of the day, however, the Administration had found itself caught up in new controversies

over the motives behind its concern, its stand on gun control legislation and even the composition of the meeting.

Among the prominent absentees were two critics of some aspects of the Administration's policy—Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy of New York and Quinn Tamm, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Without going into detail, Mr. Mitchell said that legislation providing a lump sum of \$50,000 to the survivors of slain policemen would be forwarded to Congress soon "in further indication of the Administration's support of law enforcement officers across the country. He said that benefit levels for slain policemen varied widely from state to state and were in some cases insufficient.

The proposal was denounced by Representative Andrew

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Jacobs Jr., Democrat of Indiana. He submitted legislation in 1968 that would amend the Federal Employee Compensation Act to provide the widow of a policeman slain in the line of duty 40 per cent of her husband's salary plus 15 per cent per child up to a total of 75 per cent of the total salary.

Asserting that his version would provide larger annuities, Mr. Jacobs said that the Administration submitted an opinion in October, 1969, opposing

his measure as "an unreasonable intrusion into state and local government activities." The fact that the Administration had reversed itself on the question of "intrusion," Mr. Jacobs said, suggested that it wished to gain political profit from the concern generated by the recent shootings.

The gun control issue arose during the Mitchell briefing. Although some legislators have cited recent police killings in Washington and New York to suggest stronger controls on the sale of handguns, Mr. Mitchell

insisted that legislation enacted in 1968 should be given more time "to be implemented and tested [to] determine whether or not it is serving the best purposes of this country."

The 1968 legislation prohibits the mail-order purchase of firearms, but many gun control proponents—including Commissioner Murphy and Mr. Tamm—have advocated a ban on all sales of handguns for private use.

Statistics published by the Justice Department, some of these proponents say, offer

strong evidence that such a ban on handgun purchases would do much to deter the killings of policemen. The Uniform Crime Report for 1968 noted that firearms accounted for 61 of the 64 policemen killed that year and that handguns were used in 46 of these deaths.

In 1969, 83 of 86 officers slain were killed with firearms, 67 of which were handguns.

As for the composition of the group that met with the President, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that the list had been put together by Mr. Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at Mr. Nixon's request and that it was a "representative" body of law enforcement officials.

White House officials also

pointed out that, despite the omission of the head of the largest police force in the country, Mr. Murphy, and the executive director of the police chief's association, Mr. Tamm, the list included several big-city chiefs of police—including Jerry V. Wilson of Washington and Edward M. Davis of Los Angeles—and the president of the association, John L. Shryock.

Mr. Ziegler insisted that the White House bore no personal animosity toward either of the absentees. Mr. Tamm, who left the F.B.I. in 1961, told a reporter by telephone that he had clashed with Mr. Hoover on several issues. While he thought the President's concern for police safety was "wonderful," he said of Mr. Hoover:

"I hate to see people play

politics with people's lives."

Mr. Murphy, former head of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, is a protégé of former Attorney General Ramsay Clark, whose opposition to Mr. Hoover has been widely publicized.

Mr. Mitchell, who described the two-hour meeting, said that Mr. Nixon had reassured his guests of the prompt availability of the resources of the F.B.I. in cases involving police killings. He also said that Mr. Hoover had arranged for a two-day seminar in Washington next week for more than 100 police officials.

In response, spokesmen for the group of officials said they were encouraged by the meeting and grateful for the President's expressions of concern.

Murphy 'Shocked' at White House Snub

By DAVID BURNHAM

Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy yesterday called the exclusion of a New York City representative from a White House conference on the killing of policemen "simply incredible" and said he could not imagine the decision was an oversight.

But beside expressing the hope that "political considerations" not be permitted "to hinder cooperative efforts to improve the safety of our police officers and the public,"

Mr. Murphy was unable to offer a specific explanation as to why New York was not represented at yesterday's conference.

Seven policemen have been killed in the line of duty here this year.

Mr. Murphy's opinions about the conference first were expressed in a brief three-paragraph statement released to

the news media around noon and then in a news conference that got underway about two hours later.

In his statement, the Commissioner said he was "shocked and dismayed" by the exclusion of New York, that the White House explanation that he had not been invited because he was not a "police chief" was "simply incredible."

"Without the help of the Federal Government," Mr. Murphy said in his statement, "violence in the cities cannot be effectively diminished. We need this help to obtain stricter gun control, greater access to the nationwide criminal intelligence network and funds to facilitate intercity exchange of intelligence and personnel."

Pressed to explain at his news conference why he felt he had been excluded, Mr. Murphy said "I can't imagine it was an oversight. I must assume it was deliberate."

The Commissioner was asked whether his differences with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, might be the explanation. "My relations have always been good with Mr. Hoover," he replied at first.

He then added, however, that it "is true that Mr. Hoover opposed the program I was the administrator of." Mr. Murphy was the first chief of a Justice Department program aimed at providing Federal assistance to law enforcement.

The Commissioner also was asked whether he might have been excluded because he was "in the running" for the job of director of the F.B.I.

"I don't think I am in the running for Mr. Hoover's job," he replied. "I think that this job here in New York is more important than Mr. Hoover's job."