

A DEAD HORSE ALTERS POLICE DISTRICT LINES

Aim of New Boundaries Is to Speed Service

By EDWARD SCHREIBER

There is a story in the police department about the desk sergeant who ordered a patrolman to drag a dead horse over the center line of a street, into an adjoining police district, and then report the matter to the proper authorities.



McGuinness

The story has had many variations, involving automobile accidents, for example, but Police Commissioner O'Connor has taken steps to stop it.

Working on the commissioner's orders, Lt. Richard McGuinness, who heads the police department's internal operations division, has changed the boundary lines of Chicago's 38 police districts in such a way that all streets in the city now are definitely within one police district or another.

Curb Is Line

The dividing lines between districts now are the east curb lines of north and south boundary streets, and the south curb lines of east and west boundary streets.

Where districts are divided by railroad tracks, the center of the right of way is no longer used. The boundary line has been shifted to conform with the street line changes. The rule also applies where a stream forms a boundary of a district.

Commissioner O'Connor said the change was made to obtain quicker police service with a minimum of confusion. There have been instances, he said, where a crime was reported to the wrong district station, with resultant delay, because of confusion over district boundary lines.

Veteran policemen and attorneys suggested yesterday, however, that perhaps the new system also may cause confusion.

Problems in Jurisdiction

They suggested the situation, as an example, in which a husband might threaten his wife in the house, and then chase her into the street in front of the house, and thus into another police district, and then do her some bodily injury.

Would the crime belong to the district in which the couple lived, or into the adjoining district, which has jurisdiction over the street in front of the house?

Some attorneys argued the crime of battery in the street might be construed as a continuation of the crime of assault within the house, and thus belong to the police district in which the house is situated.

This, they said, would give rise to the further problem of whether the husband's acts within the house actually con-

stituted an assault, which has been defined as the threat to do bodily harm, with the apparent present physical ability and intent to commit it.