

McCormick Trust to Aid Police

Money Will Help Train Group to Speak Spanish

Hope for Better Understanding Thru Classes



Supt. Wilson (left) and Mayor Daley.

The Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust will contribute a major portion of the money, needed to educate select Chicago policemen in the Spanish language and culture, Walter C. Kurz, chairman of the trust said yesterday.



Kurz

"The program will help create a better understanding between the Spanish-speaking community and the city," Kurz said. "The contribution by the trust is in keeping with the ideals of the trust established by the will of Col. Robert R. McCormick, late editor and publisher of THE TRIBUNE."

"These ideals are for the betterment and welfare of the people of Chicago."

150 Will Take Course

Kurz made the announcement after James B. Conlisk, deputy police superintendent, said that about 150 policemen will take the courses two hours a day, four days a week, for two months.

The contribution by the McCormick Charitable Trust was praised by Mayor Daley and Police Supt. O. W. Wilson.

"This is a great demonstration by civic-minded people interested in solving the city's problems," Daley said. "This will be a tremendous aid in community relationship.

"I want to thank the trustees of the McCormick trust for

making this program possible. I know that with a corps of Spanish-speaking policemen, the lack of communication, which I understand was one of the major difficulties encountered in the recent disturbances, will be overcome."

Daley emphasized he was eager to see the program get under way as soon as possible.

Wilson said he was delighted with the help of the trust.

"This will make it possible to expand the program and make it more effective," he said. "It will contribute greatly to increasing the effectiveness of the police department."

Plans for Conferences

Kurz said the trustees will confer with police authorities to determine the extent of assistance needed.

Spanish has been taught in the past by the police department, Conlisk said, but it now will be put on an accelerated schedule "to meet the demands for Spanish-speaking policemen."

This is the first time emphasis is being placed on the cultural backgrounds of an ethnic group, Conlisk added.

After the wave of disturbances by Puerto Ricans a week ago, Wilson agreed with Spanish-speaking community leaders that communication was a major problem.