

Police Spanish Classes Hailed

A program to teach Spanish to Chicago policemen was

praised by one of the city's Puerto Rican leaders as "a definite and great help toward understanding by the city of its Puerto Rican residents and their problems."



Flores

Claudio

Flores, publisher of a Spanish language newspaper here, pointed out that lack of communication between police and the Puerto Rican community was one of the problems that led to disorders June 12 and 13.

"An Aid to Tranquility"

"This new program will enable policemen to converse with non-English speaking Puerto Ricans," Flores said. "It will acquaint them with our culture and our customs. It will go a long way toward insuring peace and tranquility in our city."

The Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust, established by the will of Col. Robert R.

SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM

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McCormick, late editor and publisher of THE TRIBUNE, will play a major role in the Spanish language program for policemen which will get under way Monday.

Walter C. Kurz, chairman of the trust, has announced it would contribute a major portion of the money needed for the program in keeping with the ideals of the trust and its goals of the betterment and welfare of the people of Chicago.

James B. Conlisk, deputy police superintendent, said the program has been worked out in cooperation with the Chicago City Junior college, which in the last two years has provided special, intensive courses in Spanish designed for law enforcement officials.

Classes Begin Monday

Five classes, with 30 to 35 policemen in each class, will be started next Monday. Two will be held at the Amundsen branch of the college, 5100 N. Damen av., and two at the Southeast branch, 8600 Anthony av. These classes will be held at 5 p. m. and at 7:30 p. m. One class will be held at the Crane branch, 2250 W. Van Buren st., at a time yet to be determined.

Policemen who want to enroll must notify their station com-

manders at once, Conlisk said. The station commander will forward applications to Sgt. Robert McCann, director of the training division, who will then check on the man's record as a policeman and his background.

Conlisk said priority would be given to policemen of the Grand Crossing, South Chicago, Englewood, Fillmore, Monroe street, Wood street, Shakespeare, East Chicago avenue, and Town Hall districts because these districts have the greatest number of Spanish speaking residents.

Include 4 Semesters

Classes will be 1 hour and 40 minutes in duration, four nights a week, for an eight-week semester. Four semesters of work will be offered. Donald Zehne, chairman of the foreign language department of the Loop branch college and coordinator of the Spanish for police program, said this is equivalent to a two-year sequence in college.

The Loop branch of the City Junior college will provide the instructors. The textbook written by Zehne will be given policemen a chapter at a time at no cost to the men.

Ely Aaron, chairman of the Chicago Human Relations commission, to which Flores was sworn in yesterday by Mayor Daley as a new member, praised the plan and said it would "help tremendously" in improving communications between police and the city's Puerto Rican community.