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## Crime Up, Force Down S'field Asks State Aid

**SOUTHFIELD** — As the crime rate rises, the police force has diminished and city officials have asked Gov. Romney to help this fast-growing, wealthy young city in Oakland County.  
 A letter to the governor and the fact that some types of crime have risen more than 50 per cent in the past year in the city have brought the problem into the open.  
 City officials attribute the greatly increasing crime rate to the city's small police department which is about 25 per cent under strength authorized in recent city budgets.

**BEING BLAMED** is state law Act 78 limiting the hiring to policemen and firemen—only from among persons who have lived in the city for at least one year.  
 Councilman Thomas C. Rowley explained:  
 "Few persons who live in the city are willing to work for the going rate paid policemen here and elsewhere."  
 A letter is being drawn up to send to the governor asking him for possible solutions. Rowley reports that break-ins, apparently spurred by the movement of increasing numbers of wealthy residents into the city, have risen 51 per cent.

**THE PRESENT** police department should be 47 men strong according to city provisions.  
 "But the present strength is only 36 men" because recruitments have not matched authorization, says Rowley.  
 Rowley also says the city's growing chain of expressways also feels the shortage of patrolmen. There are only two men to patrol the nearly eight miles of freeways crossing the city, he said.  
 Southfield Police Chief Milton G. Sackett said the percentage rise in break-ins made public by the councilmen was included in a confidential report he sent them. Sackett says he agrees with councilmen concerning the causes of the crime rate.

**TO ENCOURAGE** men to join the force, the city raised the starting pay for patrolmen and reduced from five to three years the period necessary for a patrolman to reach the pay scale peak.

The letter to the governor asks him to confer with Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelly in the hope that some variation of the residency requirements in Act 78 be found in

view of the "emergency situation" existing in the city.  
 Seeking support for an amendment to the act easing residency requirements, city officials plan to contact officials of the Michigan League and the state-wide organizations that represent police and firemen.

The Michigan State Fair, Aug. 28 through Sept. 7, again this year will feature music all over the Fairgrounds, with strolling bands playing music of many lands.

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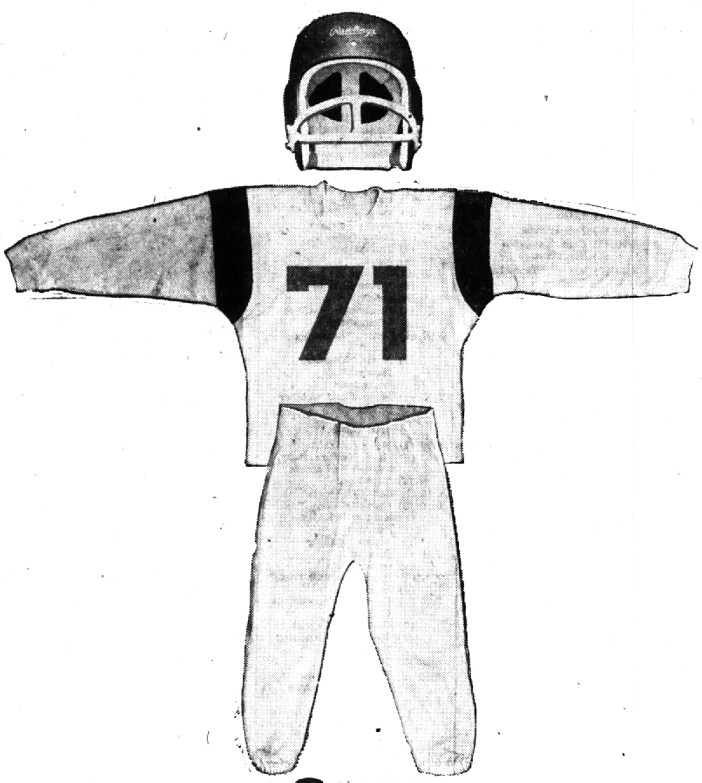
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