

MAYOR ORDERS WAR ON DRUNKEN DRIVER

In New Station House He Tells
the Police to Crack Down
Despite Holiday Season

DEDICATES A PLAYGROUND

Ceremony in Brooklyn Is in
Memory of a Detective Who
Was Slain Making Arrest

Within two hours yesterday afternoon Mayor La Guardia made a whirlwind tour of Brooklyn, visiting two widely separated points to dedicate a Police Athletic League playground in the Bedford section to the memory of a slain detective and to speak in the new motor cycle police station near Floyd Bennett Field.

Traveling from City Hall, the Mayor arrived at the playground,

278 Classon Avenue, at 2:45 P. M. and dedicated it to the memory of Detective Arthur J. De Marrais, who was wounded fatally while arresting a prisoner on Nov. 7, 1937. After a brief address, Mr. La Guardia set out for the new station house, which is on Flatbush Avenue and Belt Parkway, about a mile from the airport. He arrived there at 3:30 P. M., accompanied by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, whom he picked up at the playground.

No Mercy to Drunken Driver

Speaking to sixty-five members of the motor cycle squad in the new \$182,000 station house, which is known as Precinct 2, the Mayor declared that there was "one thing you must not and cannot overlook,

regardless of the holiday season, and that is that alcohol and gasoline do not mix, especially when the gas is in the engine and the alcohol in the driver."

"Don't give any consideration," he said, "to a driver who is under the influence of liquor—and you won't need to be a chemist to see if he is drunk—that's the bunk.

"There must be no consideration for that kind of a violation. Pull him in and I'll stand by you in the court room. I won't stand for abuse from the bench. I want to impress upon you that I will take all the blame, that no consideration must be given to any one who drives while drunk and endangers the lives of innocent people."

Says Force Is Undermanned

Referring to the draft laws as they affect members of the police force, Mr. La Guardia asserted that "at the very best we are undermanned and if we are to lose men because of military training our department will be seriously threatened."

"A rookie," he continued, "who is trained by our department is better trained than if he spent a year in the Army."

With regard to the shortage of uniformed personnel, he said: "As soon as I get a decision on this [the draft], we will fill 500 new positions."

Commissioner Valentine paid

warm tribute to Park Commissioner Robert Moses, who was unable to be present. He said Mr. Moses was responsible for the new precinct as well as many other improvements in the physical plant of the Police Department.

Five hundred persons, including members of the family of Detective De Marrais, were at the playground and youth center. Mr. La Guardia said the police department should be the "friend of the children rather than the prosecutor." He said that he had just been apprised of a 33 per cent reduction in the number of cases in the Children's Court, but that he would not "be satisfied until they are reduced 75 per cent."

He praised the Bommer Estate for presenting the playground to the Police Athletic League.

All present stood with heads bowed as Gerard De Marrais, 15-year-old son of the dead detective, unveiled a large photograph of his father in the youth center building.

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