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TITLE: An Evaluation of "Plate to Owner" Vs "Plate to Vehicle" Registration Methods

DATE: July 1963

AUTHOR(S): Marvin B. Crabb

REPORT NUMBER: 14.1

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FUNDING SOURCE: Departmental Budget

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To determine the advantages and disadvantages of issuing license plates to owners of motor vehicles versus issuing license plates to vehicles. To investigate effects of issuing plates to owners on the public, government, industry, and other groups.

SUMMARY:

This study is the first of two reports. They are: (1) An Evaluation of "Plate to Owner" versus "Plate to Vehicle" Registration Methods, dealing with advantages and disadvantages of the two systems of issuing plates: and California's present system of "Plate to Vehicle" issuance. (2) A Cost Study of "Substitute License Plates" versus Duplicate License Plates". This 2<sup>nd</sup> report compares costs of the department's present system of issuing substitute plates with costs of a proposed system of issuing duplicate plates for lost, stolen, or mutilated plates.

These reports are designed to gather, analyze, and synthesize data and information on these two phases of the vehicle licensing problem in a clear, concise fashion. One objective of the authors is to gather in permanent form the existing research, opinions and recommendations of experts in these phases of vehicle licensing from the several sources in which they are published.

Some difficulty was encountered in relating the existing system of issuing plates to vehicles with the proposed system of issuing plates to owners. The cause of the difficulty was the lack of precedent in estimating the effect of the proposed system on the California Department of Motor Vehicles' operation. For that reason, the long standing policy, philosophy, and goals of the department were invoked as guides to direct this study of the estimated effect of issuing plates to owners.

During the study, statements of experts were invited and submitted, both for and against the proposal. It is acknowledged that almost every statement received is matched by one offering a contradiction or exception. It is felt that most of the purported benefits of the plate-to-owner system may be logically refuted. Arguments and discussions of the pros and cons in this report are based on existing conditions which affect the operation of the department.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The department should continue to issue license plates to identify vehicles.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

For the second of these two reports, see the California DMV study, Crabb, Report #14.2.