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TAR HEEL WHEELS

LEGAL

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Nineteen seventy one saw major advancements for law enforcement on the State level. Appropriations from the Legislature enabled us to increase the number of SBI field agents to 96, more than double the number in the Bureau when we took office. They opened 4,700 cases --- 1,000 more than the year before.

How about the technical area? We started with 6 people in 1969; two chemists, two fingerprint analysts, a photographer and a ballistics expert. Today we have 17 highly trained people - 9 chemists, 4 fingerprint analysts and 4 ballistics experts.

During this year, for the first time, our crime lab has been able to process as many cases in a week as the number of new ones received. In other words, we are now able to at least keep up and avoid delaying trials while chemical examinations are made.

There is much more that could be said. However, we can sum it up with the words "sound progress" for law enforcement in North Carolina.