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Serpico Analysis

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The film Serpico centers around a NY ¹ police officer by the name Frank Serpico, who is the protagonist in the movie. Frank gets shot on the head because he did report his colleagues for indulging in corruption activities to the NYPD. After he was shot, his colleagues leave him to die, which is against the law and code of police. In the movie, there are several ethical dilemmas that Serpico faces. For example, Serpico witnesses his fellow officers taking bribes and selling drugs (Kilgannon, 2010). These are unethical practices from the police who are tasked with the responsibility of fighting the sell of drugs and corruption. As such, the protagonist finds himself in an ethical dilemma on whether to report his fellow police officers or not. It is a decision that he reaches after much thinking and reports them to the mayor of New York, albeit he does nothing about the case since he is also involved indirectly. Additionally, the protagonist still faces another ethical dilemma after his first report to the NY mayor. His peers start to threaten him, and even some fighting in the police force results because of him. His life is also threatened (Kilgannon, 2010). All these make it difficult for the protagonist to decide whether to testify before the Knapp Commission. However, he eventually testifies.

After the actions displayed in the film, there were some changes in law enforcement. For example, the Knapp Commission was commissioned to investigate the incidences of corruption in the police force. Since then, police officers were to display accountability and transparency in their work, and any involvement in corruption or any other act against the law was to lead to imprisonment for a police officer.

Reference

² Kilgannon, C. (2010). Serpico on Serpico. *New York Times*.

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