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ADDRESS OF

HONORABLE HOMER CUMMINGS
U. S.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

delivered at the Banquet of the Federal Bar Association, given in his honor at the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C., June 25, 1934.

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Attorney General Cummings spoke, in part, as follows:

I am profoundly grateful for your kindness. It is especially gratifying to receive a token of esteem, such as this, from those who are not only the members of one's own profession, but who are also one's colleagues in the service of the Government.

Furthermore, it is indicative of the fine spirit of comradeship which exists among the various Departments of the Federal Government that this Association has chosen as a central theme for this evening the legislative program which was sponsored by the Department of Justice and recently enacted.

Seventeen statutes of major importance, which were drafted by the Department of Justice, and introduced at our request, were passed by the Congress. These statutes are designed to make more effective the efforts of the Federal Government in the suppression of organized crime, and to render the administration of justice in the Federal courts less complicated, less expensive and far more speedy.

These problems are of immediate and vital consequence. The cost of crime, while impossible to calculate accurately, undoubtedly aggregates several billion dollars each year and constitutes an appalling drain upon the economic resources of our country. Moreover, there are involved the safety of society and the sanctity of human life.

It is obvious that the task is one which can be accomplished only as a result of the united and intelligent efforts of the national, state and municipal governments, supported and sustained by an enlightened public opinion.

In this matter, I have felt that a high duty of initiative rested upon the Department of Justice. As the only law enforcement agency with a nation-wide approach, the Department of Justice can view problems relating to the suppression of organized lawlessness from a broad standpoint and render invaluable service in helping to coordinate the efforts of the law enforcement agencies of our country.

More than a year ago, the Department of Justice embarked upon an intensive campaign against crime. This campaign was not undertaken impulsively or with any fatuous idea that a complete or even satisfactory result could be accomplished within a brief period of years. From the first, it was contemplated that our program would require steady pressure and an unrelenting and persistent effort, continued over a long period of time.

The laws recently enacted are a vital part of that plan. To the Members of the Senate and House, whose intelligent and patriotic action made this result possible, I extend my profound gratitude and sincere admiration. To them, all honor for their fine and constructive work.

Encouraged by the enactment of these measures, the Department is developing additional means for the furtherance of its campaign against crime and for the simplification of procedure, the results of which will be made known from time to time.

While we take a measurable and, I hope, a just pride in what has already been accomplished, and while we are profoundly grateful for the generous estimate you have placed upon our work, nevertheless, we know that we are engaged in a grim business which will tax our courage and our resourcefulness to the very limit. In that sense the fight has just begun, and with your support and confidence it cannot fail.