



Department of Justice

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ADDRESS OF

THE HON. RICHARD G. KLEINDIENST

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

AT THE

GRADUATION EXERCISES

FBI ACADEMY

QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 15, 1972

I am sorry that Acting Director Pat Gray can not be with us today to see this large graduating class made possible by the expansion of the Academy. However, I am happy to report that he is successfully recovering from an operation and should be able to return to duty soon.

This is the first time that I've made a principal address to a graduating class at the FBI Academy since the passing of J. Edgar Hoover. For more than three years I worked with him on a day-to-day basis, and when that experience was ended by his passing I have even more admiration and respect for him than when it began.

You see about you one monument to the vision and determination of this man, for this Academy was one of his most cherished projects.

He set the highest possible standards of professionalization in the Bureau of which he was the founder, and one of his greatest desires was to contribute to the professionalization of other peacekeeping agencies in our nation and elsewhere.

The tenfold expansion of the Academy's capacity that we celebrate this year has, for the first time, promised to fulfill that desire of his in a very substantial way. J. Edgar Hoover left behind a great legacy of achievements and not least among these was the impetus he gave to the

professional competence and the high sense of personal capability of America's peace officers.

This is also the first time I have had the opportunity to address a representative group of peace officers since the FBI's Uniform Crime Report statistics were published for the first half of 1972. As you know, these figures showed that serious crime had increased by only one percent over the same period in 1971. This was the lowest percentage increase since 1959. It is also comparable to the one percent population increase in this country.

Most of you are already aware of that overall result, but I would like to add some details which further define this important accomplishment.

This one percent increase reflects both violent crime and property crime. In fact, the particular violent crime which in the past has caused such fear and concern in our inner cities is robbery, and robbery is down four percent.

Nearly half of the cities with more than 100,000 population show an actual decrease in crime. And the number of such cities showing a crime decrease continues to grow with each reporting period.

Moreover, as you know, the crime problem was the most fearsome in the largest metropolitan cities, and they are beginning to bring the crime wave under control. Total crime for the six cities of over one million in population was down seven percent in the first half of 1972.

While suburban crime increased by five percent, this increase continues to narrow with each reporting period, just as total crime did as it headed toward the present one percent increase that is parallel to the population rise.

All of this means that in terms of the crime rate per population, we are bringing to a standstill the crime wave that mounted so alarmingly in the 1960's.

I wish to add that at this moment I am looking at many of those who caused this good news. It is you and thousands of other peace officers across this country who are winning this war against crime and lawlessness in the United States. The front-line effort has been yours, and I offer you my warmest congratulations and deepest appreciation.

At the same time I believe that the Federal contribution has been substantial. The financial support which has assisted so many of your departments in improving your effectiveness continues to grow very sharply. In this current 1973 Fiscal Year our Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is budgeted for \$850 million. That is more than 10 times the budget five years ago. Since then the Nixon Administration has offered this Federal help just as fast as and as heavily as the manpower and experience of the State agencies could absorb it. I would like to take this opportunity to state that we will continue to do so because we are committed to a policy of

maximum possible support to State and local agencies in their successful drive against crime.

There is another contribution that the Federal Government is making. We are all aware that organized crime and narcotics trafficking are two big factors in stimulating street crime across the country. Not only hard drug addicts, but also victims of gambling and loan sharking debts, are driven to street crime in their desperate quest for money. As your partners in the offensive against crime, we in the Federal jurisdiction have made substantial progress against organized crime and the drug traffic.

In Fiscal 1972 our Organized Crime and Racketeering Section secured indictments against more than 3000 defendants--nearly triple the figure for Fiscal 1968--and nearly 1000 convictions--almost double the 1968 number. For the first time, in major cities throughout the country, we have been able to put the arm of the law on many of the top gangland bosses. Officials who have been in our Criminal Division for many years say they cannot remember a time when such inroads have been made into the underworld.

And against drug trafficking, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs alone seized six times more heroin in Fiscal 1972 than in Fiscal 1969. All Federal agents made more than 16,000 narcotics arrests in Fiscal 1972, nearly double the number in Fiscal 1969.

Since it was launched in January, the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement--working with State and local authorities--has brought about the arrest of more than 3700 suspected traffickers.

Again, long-time narcotics officials say there has never been a time when Federal efforts have been so effective against the drug traffic. In several Eastern cities the price of heroin has gone up, the quality has gone down, and addicts are lining up at the drug treatment centers.

In fact, I would like to say just a word about the overall Federal enforcement effort. Last March some of our critics pointed out that in criminal cases for 17 selected Federal crimes, the rate of convictions decreased in 1971 from previous years. This was put forward as being contradictory to the Nixon Administration's claims of progress against crime.

At the time, little mention was made of the fact that total convictions had increased each year during this Administration--from less than 26,000 in fiscal 1968 to more than 37,000 in 1971. The reason was that prosecutions had increased substantially--from less than 32,000 in fiscal 1968 to more than 49,000 in 1971. Moreover, we were turning over to local prosecution many of the cases easy to prove, and were taking up more cases that were hard to prove. In 1971 Federal prosecutors spent more than 29 percent more time

in court than in the previous year. But even though convictions were also up, they represented a smaller proportion of prosecutions, and this is what the critics chose to emphasize.

Today I am able to report some more recent statistics--this time for all Federal cases in the 1972 fiscal year. Not only have prosecutions continued to climb--they are up 11 percent--but convictions have increased by a larger proportion--up 16 percent. This increased conviction rate is especially impressive since the continued increase in prosecutions means that we are pursuing more and more of the difficult cases. And we are doing a still better job.

The trend is especially marked in the most numerous type of Federal case--narcotics charges. Prosecutions rose nearly 28 percent, while convictions increased 66 percent. These figures, no less than the arrest and seizures trend, demonstrate that this Administration means what it says about cracking down on the drug traffic.

On this subject I want to make special mention of our concern about lenient sentences that have been given for drug trafficking in many cases. You and I know that it does little good for narcotics officers to risk their lives in arresting dope traffickers if a court lets a convicted violator back on the streets to pursue his evil trade.

Recently President Nixon called attention to the lenient sentences given to some drug peddlers, and he asked the Department of Justice to survey this situation looking toward possible legislation.

As a result, we have drawn up proposed Federal legislation that will modify the use of bail for alleged hard-drug traffickers, will prohibit probation for convicted traffickers, and will require mandatory minimum sentences for such traffickers.

This proposed legislation will be sent to Congress at its next session.

I believe it would help greatly in closing perhaps the most serious gap in our offensive armament against the scourge of narcotics. And we would hope that such a Federal law can become a model for the states to follow, so that the men and women in all levels of narcotics enforcement can have the same complete support from the halls of justice.

This kind of partnership between Federal, State, and local agencies has been a major factor in our present successes against crime. We know that the crime level is still far too high, and we may therefore resolve to intensify our voluntary partnership. The increased size of this FBI Academy graduating class is symbolic of that growing partnership. I congratulate you all, and I hope that you will carry back with you to your respective agencies a sense of combined purpose in strengthening the rule of law in America.