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ADDRESS

by

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at

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The American people face many great challenges -- challenges to our safety, to our ideals, to our very way of life. But this is nothing new. Our great nation was founded on a challenge -- the challenge of tyranny to men who wanted to shape their own destiny. Through the succeeding generations we have come across new challenges, met them squarely, and conquered them.

President Eisenhower Monday night discussed calmly and rationally some of the challenges and some of the fears which beset us today. He talked from his head, and from his heart. He discussed our rights and privileges; our duties and responsibilities. To me, it was a wonderful speech, spoken sincerely from the soul of a great American who always remembers the spiritual foundation of America. President Eisenhower talked of that spiritual strength and said that "without all this, everything else goes by the boards."

"We must be strong," he said, "in our dedication and our devotion to America."

Certainly, as men dedicated to the safety and protection of their fellow Americans, you members of the various Police Associations must exemplify in your every-day activities the spirit to which the President alludes.

Yours is no simple task. It is one which summons the highest devotion to duty every day and every night of every year. As individuals, you are prey to each of the worries which the President

noted touch each of our citizens. There is the unfounded fear of economic depression. There is the peculiar fear of losing allies abroad. There is the wonder as to whether the H-Bomb is a symbol of man's progress or a symbol of death and destruction. There is the concern about the men in the Kremlin and their plans.

A closer danger to you, of course, is the presence in our midst of the willing dupes of those Soviet dictators -- the presence of Communist spies and traitors and saboteurs. That is a very real problem for you. You are in the first line of defense against sabotage, against destruction of our civil liberties, against violent overthrow of our Government.

Tonight, I would like to talk for awhile of still another challenge. It, too, threatens our way of life through its utter disregard for the laws and the customs which have made our nation great. It, too, must be fought with unceasing vigilance and with every modern method at our command.

I refer to the criminal army -- an irregular army of bandits and murderers, confidence men and dope peddlers -- which strikes almost at will across this great land of ours.

In the few minutes we shall be talking about it here tonight, five persons somewhere across the nation will become victims of murder, of rape or of assault to kill. During these few minutes, statistics

tell us also that 80 major crimes will be committed. And, in the same few minutes, another \$700,000 will be rung up on the crime bill which has been reasonably estimated at 20 billion dollars every year.

There are other ways to count the cost. The policeman on the beat sees it in the broken homes and bodies, in the smashed window of the little shop, in the bewildered look of the mother as she learns for the first time that her son -- or daughter -- is one of the criminal army.

The growth of crime -- according to statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation -- is outstripping the growth of our population. So is the number of young people involved. Today, virtually half of those arrested for crimes against property are under 21 years of age.

We have witnessed the disgusting spectacle of criminal leaders defying the very institutions which form the bulwark of our nation. Their trade in human misery degrades our concept of civilization. They are striking at the roots of this nation just as surely as the Communists. Their disregard for integrity, for the laws which make up the rules of the game of today's complex life, is just as deadly as that of any Communist.

Our homes, our purses, our lives, our way of life might well be at the utter mercy of this hideous array of criminals if it were not for the untiring work of the nation's law enforcement officers -- men who sacrifice their comforts, even their lives, in a stand against lawlessness.

To me, one of the most gratifying trends in recent years has been the rise in law enforcement standards.

For too many years, in too many places, work as a policeman was too often a political sinecure. A man who knew the right men was handed a gun, a billy and a badge. Without further ado, he was put on a beat to enforce the law according to his own whims. Bribery was a frequent practice. Promotion, many times, was based on favoritism. Detection often consisted of a rubber hose.

Thank goodness, that never was true everywhere. And, thank goodness, those things today are shocking rarities. Police work is becoming a profession everywhere -- and a highly esteemed profession.

Training, of course, is most essential in preparing for any profession. What use is a recruit on a motorcycle if he doesn't know how to handle it? What good is his gun for defense if he is unable to use it properly? What good is a fingerprint at the scene of a crime if it is not identified?

Today, there are few law enforcement agencies in the United States which do not have a training program of their own -- or at least access to some general type of training. Training is the key to efficiency in the individual officer.

That is why we in the Department of Justice are so proud of the FBI National Academy. That Academy stands as a pledge of cooperation from the FBI to every American law enforcement officer. When this great institution was founded almost 19 years ago, training programs were non-existent in many areas. Rivalry and competition often existed between officers of various departments at the expense of good law enforcement. Through the Academy and the thousands of training schools

in which the FBI participates every year throughout the nation, the latest techniques and "know how" essential to good enforcement have been made available to officers everywhere.

Without adequate training, the officer cannot discharge his responsibilities satisfactorily. But, while training is the key to individual efficiency, the key to really effective enforcement is cooperation. The tools of the good policeman -- intelligence, training, laboratory science and plain hard work -- are useless without cooperation among fellow officers. That applies on the city, the county, the state and the federal levels -- on all of them, and between all of them.

That spirit of cooperation is typified by the work the FBI does day in and day out for police departments and sheriffs' offices everywhere.

Happily, I can report that because of the modern training and because of cooperation, there has never been a time when the confirmed, hardened criminal stood a poorer chance of continued success in his despicable specialty than he does today. He has the choice of either abandoning crime completely or running a gauntlet of identification procedures which make eventual detection and apprehension certain. I believe this is one of the principal reasons why the nation has gone for almost two decades unmolested by prolonged and violent crime careers of the type of Dillinger, Nelson and Brady which flourished in the mid-thirties.

If a confirmed criminal becomes a fugitive from justice and the police and sheriff are unable to locate him promptly, the next step

is to place a wanted notice with the Identification Division of the FBI. The notice is placed in the offender's identification record. From that moment forward, the search for him becomes both national and international. No matter how many aliases or disguises the criminal assumes, he will be identified by fingerprints immediately upon receipt of his fingerprint card from one of the thousands of contributing agencies in this nation or the some 80 foreign countries with which we exchange criminal fingerprints. Through this procedure, more than 1,000 fugitives are located each month.

If a criminal is charged with one of the more serious crimes and the evidence indicates he has fled the state, the search is intensified by charging him with the Federal offense of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. The full resources of the FBI are brought to bear to round him up.

That is just one phase of FBI cooperation. Upon request, the FBI technical laboratories handle all types of scientific examinations for police departments and sheriffs' offices throughout the nation. The examinations are done both in Washington and in the field. Every month 10,000 such examinations are made, ranging from handwriting and tire track studies to detailed analysis of hair and paint.

As you know, because of some claimed failures of law enforcement, there have been honest suggestions to place enforcement responsibilities above the local level to more remote planes of government. I am sure that brief reflection will convince you that our American concept of local responsibility for local matters should not be readily abandoned. This concept is the cornerstone of our American tradition. Every county

cannot afford and does not need the elaborate facilities of the FBI.

That is the reason cooperation goes so far and does so well.

Now, training of individual officers and cooperation between departments is vital. But these are not the only keys to effective enforcement. Some of the responsibility must be accepted by the individual citizen; by the person who has been willing to "let George do it." The concept of local responsibility must be a living thing.

The resources of the entire community must be mobilized to fight crime. It must be fought especially in the home and the school and the church -- to halt it before it begins. Our youngsters must be taught to respect our laws, our codes of decency. Where the parents can't or won't assume this responsibility, it must be taken up by others.

There are many splendid programs such as the Boys Clubs, the American Legion sports schedules, the Boy Scouts, the Junior Chambers of Commerce projects, and many others. It is gratifying to see policemen taking an active, often a leading role in these activities. And, I think you'll find from your own experience in sponsorship of such activities as the Police Athletic Leagues and Police Bands, the problems of law enforcement are fewer, the rate of juvenile delinquency is lower.

Generating that spirit of responsibility among the citizens of every community and every neighborhood is another major job of the law enforcement officer. Often, because of his daily duties and contacts, he is in the best position to make sure that such responsibilities are accepted by the other leaders in the community. And, once this spirit is generated, it usually brings to the officer a wealthy return of friendship and satisfaction.

Unfortunately, this often is the only real return the officer derives from his job. I never knew an honest public official who devoted his life to public service whose wealth was measured in material things. More often than not, dedicated public servants find it difficult to provide the bare essentials for their families.

The scandal of low wages paid most American law enforcement officers must some day be corrected. But it will be corrected only as honest men demonstrate their value through achievement. A militant press has helped correct the inequality between pay and responsibility by focusing a spotlight on an attitude which is "Penny Wise and Pound Foolish."

A man whose efforts are properly compensated is not tempted readily by corruption. Neither is the officer whose training, standards and position in the community are high. They must all go together.

Fortunately, they are going together. The work of law enforcement is becoming more and more a profession -- instead of just another job. It is attracting more and more men who put duty above self and honor above greed. In turn, it is being treated as a profession and not a tool of venal politics.

We must keep constantly before us the principles upon which enforcement must be based if it is not to sink to the venomous level of the very criminals we seek to defeat. Those are the principles of rugged honesty, no matter what the cost, and of meticulous regard for the rights of all our fellow citizens, even those who have joined the criminal enemy.

This is the way it must be. The law enforcement officer -- from the policeman in the patrol car to the Attorney General -- must stand as a symbol of freedom and honesty and fair play. Ours is a sacred trust.