



# Department of Justice

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FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

ADDRESS

OF

THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN B. BELL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE

THE INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1978  
NOON  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Anyone who reads newspapers or watches the evening news will agree that this year has not been a placid one for me. In fact, I sometimes wonder if it would not have been better for someone else to have been selected to serve as Attorney General. Recently I met in Washington with some 40 business people who were taking advance courses at Stanford University. I answered questions for awhile and finally one man in the rear of the room asked the following question:

"What condition do you think the Department of Justice would be in today if President Carter had followed the example of President Kennedy and appointed his brother Attorney General?"

I replied that the meeting was at an end.

Controversy would be inherent and intrinsic in the work of any government officer charged simultaneously with enforcing the law and protecting people's civil liberties; the tension is institutional. This tension is emphasized in the Attorney General's role as the President's agent in intelligence and counterintelligence matters. Henry James observed that "it was a complex fate being an American." He must have known the Attorneys General of his time.

I have decided to speak today on the place of intelligence activities in our government and the steps we in the Carter Administration are taking to make secure the rights of individual American citizens from any potential abuse in the name of national

































