



Department of Justice

PS
668
.K53

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1972, 9 A.M., EDT

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah -- Attorney General Richard G.

Kleindienst said today the crime wave that mounted so alarmingly in the 1960's has been brought to a standstill by the Nixon administration.

His remarks were made in an address here before the 79th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. More than 4,000 police executives from the United States and throughout the free world are attending the conference.

The Attorney General also outlined the legislation the Department of Justice will propose to the next Congress to meet the problem of lenient sentences for drug pushers.

Mr. Kleindienst disputed a recent statement by Senator McGovern that the nation's police chiefs were "pressured to underreport the actual amount of crime in order to please the Administration and thereby get more federal money."

The Attorney General told the nation's police chiefs: "I don't like to see a United States Senator and a major party's Presidential candidate refusing to recognize your accomplishments in controlling the crime wave. I don't like to see a United States Senator accusing you of cheap trickery to fool the public."

OVER

Mr. Kleindienst underscored President Nixon's concern over some of the lenient sentences which various courts have given to hardened drug traffickers. A Justice Department survey requested by President Nixon disclosed that of 955 heroin and cocaine defendants convicted in U.S. District Courts during fiscal 1972, 27 percent were not even sent to prison.

As a result of the data stemming from the survey, Mr. Kleindienst said the Justice Department is preparing legislation that would:

- place upon the defendant in Federal narcotics cases the burden of convincing the court that their release on bail would not pose a danger to another person;

- prohibit the release of a convicted heroin or cocaine trafficker while he was awaiting sentence or the results of his appeal;

- prohibit probation in Federal courts for convicted heroin or cocaine traffickers;

- impose strict minimum mandatory sentences for first-time traffickers, and still tougher minimum mandatory sentences for second offenses; and,

- make the possession of heroin or cocaine a felony offense.

Other Justice Department officials addressing the week-long IACP convention include Myles Ambrose, Special Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement, Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray, III, and John Ingersoll, Director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.