



REMARKS

BY

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Before

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Of

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I am glad to have this opportunity to address this Fifty-first graduating class of the FBI National Academy. I have been sensitively aware, over the years, of the tremendous impact of this institution upon professional training in law enforcement.

You gentlemen, who come from the hamlets and the cities of our nation, have had opened to you new vistas through which may be seen the high peaks of service and accomplishment in the law enforcement field.

There is a special stamp upon you, as you go forth across the nation from these exercises - a stamp which enrolls you with the more than 2,600 other officers from this Academy who have reached the zenith of their professional training under FBI Director Hoover and his many able assistants.

In the 29 years since Mr. Hoover became Director of the Bureau, the FBI has become the most respected arm of our government. The same day I was selected by President Eisenhower as Attorney General, I asked Mr. Hoover to remain as Director. Since taking office, I have come to know this great American well and my appreciation of his ability and integrity is even greater.

For years, much of the investigative work of the FBI gathered dust after the files were sent to the legal divisions of the Department of Justice for evaluation. We are now making certain that this fine work is not wasted. We are giving the FBI backing by a follow-through which is going to give the Nation the high performance of enforcement of Federal laws to which it is entitled and deserves,

Today we stand on the threshold of the second half of the twentieth century - a time of despondency, discord, destruction and

despair. The world in which we live is hostile and we have many enemies, both at home and abroad. I need not remind any American of the enemy abroad - the adherents of a godless creed, the believers in man as a mere machine of flesh and bone and blood, an animal to be worked and abused, the destroyers of the things in which we Americans believe and for which many have lain down their lives in our country's battles from Bunker Hill and Concord to the Marne, the beaches of Normandy and the blood-soaked Korean hills. The treacherous, vicious and unprincipled nations which deny God, hate "all us capitalists" and think their brand of Heaven is situated somewhere in the empire of the Russian Bear, are the enemy.

There is a Red enemy at home - but he is not the only threat to the security of our homes, the sanctity of our lives and the safety of our women and children. There is another threat - the criminal army, banded together as a strong phalanx marching across our land, striking whom they will. Our purses, our homes, our families, our very lives are at their mercy. Between the citizen and this hideous array of robbers, murderers, rapists, thieves and their ilk there stands but a thin line of dedicated men - you, National Academy men, and your brothers in law enforcement who carry on the fight against the criminal horde, sacrificing the comforts and leisure of ordinary men, often sacrificing your very lives in the stand against lawlessness.

The criminal army is everywhere, and the toll which it exacts from the people of America is enormous. To our shame, it must be said that it is a young army. FBI statistics on crime, collected from more than 5,700 law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, indicate

that 48 per cent of those arrested in 1952 for crimes against property were under 21 years of age. Nearly 8 per cent of those arrested for all types of crime were 17 years old or younger.

Almost as shocking are the details of the victories won by the criminal horde, the tribute exacted from America in terms of death and of dollars. There were an estimated 7,210 murders and non-negligent killings in the United States last year. Over 1,200,000 larcenies were committed and more than 215,000 automobiles were stolen in 1952. Reports from 383 of our cities reflect loot of more than \$225,000,000 exacted in those cities alone in robberies, burglaries, larcenies and automobile thefts.

This is the enemy and these are his victories. As he stalks across America we must meet him and we must win the battle.

In the great Academy from which you graduate today you have been taught to abhor this enemy and you have been infused with the glowing ideal of service to your fellowman. There have been constantly before you the principles upon which your lives as law enforcement officers must be based if you are not to sink to the venomous level of those criminals whom you seek to defeat - the principles of rugged honesty, no matter what the cost, and of meticulous regard for the rights of all your fellow citizens, even those who have joined the criminal enemy.

These are the principles which guide you as you prepare to return to your duties. You have the tools with which to carry on those duties - intelligence, training, laboratory science and plain hard work. One thing more is necessary, gentlemen, and only you can obtain it. That one thing is the cooperation of your fellow law enforcement officers,

whether they be Federal, state or local officers. Cooperation is the key-note to complete success - it is the catalyst which generates the reaction of successful police work. Without it, the law enforcement officer is merely a single and uncoordinated element; with it, he is part of a successful combination, he is on the winning team. And never for one moment forget that this fight is one which must be won.

You have lived and studied hard together for many weeks. You have chatted in the halls and worked together during your firearms training and practical case work on the Quantico ranges. You have achieved the good fellowship and the knowledge of each others' capabilities upon which cooperation is based. Foster this, cherish it. And when you go back to your own departments, endeavor to build this spirit in your own communities and districts.

The law enforcement officer's task has always been a difficult one, beset with dangers and often besmirched by the filthy hand of venal politics. Criticism has been rife, often unjustified. And there has been, because of claimed failures of law enforcement, a recurring temptation in many places to try to move law enforcement responsibilities from the local level to higher and more remote planes of government.

At first glance the law enforcement officer may find this an alluring prospect. Yet brief reflection will convince him, I am sure, that our democratic concept of local responsibility for local matters should not be readily abandoned. This concept is a cornerstone of our American traditions - when our forefathers first drew upon the great canvas of American life the figures of those who stood for independence of our colonies, and when they drew the scenes at Bunker Hill and Concord,

they were illustrating for all time this basic ideal. Let us not be swayed by the siren song of those who see in nationalization of enforcement or in high level consolidation of power and authority the answer to every problem. Rather let us forestall them by our cooperative efforts.

The FBI National Academy stands as a pledge of cooperation from the FBI to every American law enforcement officer. When this great institution was founded almost eighteen 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 law enforcement training schools in which the FBI is privileged to participate every year throughout the United States there have been made available the techniques and "know how" which are basic to good law enforcement. More than that, cooperation has been made a fact by the work of this fine organization. Cherish this fact, nurture it, cultivate it into the flowering ideal of a democratic law enforcement system covering our nation with a protective shield against the common enemy.

There are millions of Americans today who do not concern themselves with crime. They are perhaps confident that this enemy is adequately suppressed by their law enforcement agencies and they do not seem to feel a responsibility for assisting in the enforcement of the law - the crime which does not directly injure them is "someone else's problem."

The law enforcement officer has an opportunity to change this attitude and enlist the resources of the American community in his battle. I have no doubt that with diligence, each one of you who graduates today will be successful in generating the proper spirit and feeling of

responsibility amongst the citizens of your own communities. It can be done.

The FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" program shows us one method of accomplishing this. It mobilizes the interest of our private citizens, the facilities of the media of public information, including the press, radio and television, and the forces of law enforcement throughout the country.

This program was popularized in March, 1950, when there were published on a nationwide basis a series of syndicated stories, photographs and descriptions of the ten criminals whose apprehensions were most wanted by the FBI. Since the inception of this program, 42 of the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" listed by the FBI have been apprehended. Significantly, in eighteen of these cases the apprehensions can be directly attributed to observant citizens who recognized the wanted men from photographs and descriptive data publicized through the program. I have heard Director Hoover discuss this program several times as an illustration of cooperation in public service on the part of the press and alert citizens and I proudly join Mr. Hoover in extending my high commendation to the press for this fine service.

I would point to another problem, that of idealism and service in a public career. I never knew an honest public official who devoted his life to public service whose wealth was measured in terms of material things. In fact, more often than not, dedicated public servants find it difficult to provide the bare essentials for their families. But they do have a satisfaction which money and physical goods cannot buy. It is this type of public servant who gives credence and support to our American way and invites, more

than does any other single factor, improvement of public services,

The scandal of low wages paid American law enforcement must some day be corrected. It will be corrected when honest men through achievement demonstrate their value. I can think of no more potent ally in an assault on these conditions than the American press, whose sense of public service I have already commended. A militant press in any community could do much to help by focusing the spotlight on an attitude which is "Penny Wise and Pound Foolish" and could correct very shortly the sub-standard wages too often paid American officers of peace. This is one sure way to fight corruption since honest men whose efforts are properly compensated are not readily tempted.

As you return to your homes, my parting word to you is this: the civil rights of all our citizens rest in your hands. You have a sacred trust and your responsibility is heavy. Accept that responsibility, assume its burden, for upon you and your efforts rest the safety, the dignity and the integrity of our citizens, their families and their homes. May God be with you.