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ADDRESS

BY

HONORABLE JAMES P. McGRANERY
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Prepared for Delivery

at

The Graduation Exercises of the Fiftieth Session
of the FBI National Academy

Departmental Auditorium

Washington, D.C.

Friday, November 14, 1952

As I speak to you today at the graduating exercises of the Fiftieth Session of the FBI National Academy, I am doubly grateful for the privilege and high honor of being present upon this historic occasion.

It is a happy opportunity for me -- as the Attorney General of the United States - to convey publicly to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - the founder of the FBI National Academy - Mr. J. Edgar Hoover - an expression of my heartfelt esteem and the gratitude of the Department of Justice for the creation and administration of an institution which is not only a symbol of American ideals but also a bulwark for their preservation.

By beginning the Academy almost two decades ago - in 1935 - the Director of the FBI initiated a unique course of training in law enforcement whose graduates have been the members and the heads of local law enforcement agencies throughout all forty-eight states, the territorial possessions and our sister nations.

This institution has been the militant answer to those criminals who war upon the peace loving citizens of their communities and to those subversives who attempt to undermine the essential authority of government.

Graduates of the Academy have gained "know-how" of the most advanced techniques of crime investigation, detection and crime prevention; in addition they have been indoctrinated with professional standards of law enforcement joined with the clear-cut criteria for effective protection of our basic Civil Rights as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Coupled with instruction in the art and science of crime investigation is a survey of the laboratories and organization of the FBI. This enables the graduate later to seek the expert assistance of the Bureau in those problems for whose solution the facilities locally available might prove inadequate.

Even more valuable to a graduate, however, is the inspiration which comes to him in the close association with his instructors of the FBI and the Director - expressing in action daily a dedication to the ideals of justice as envisioned by the founders of this nation.

Inculcated in each student is respect for local autonomy and for the necessity of each community's assuming the responsibility of adequate law enforcement.

The devotion of the FBI to duty is a spiritual incentive enabling academy graduates to carry on the battle against the law-breaker in the face of possible public apathy, community indifference or even local corruption.

There is a satisfying sense of the relationship here established to a group of men united for good against the forces of evil. Throughout the course of instruction, however, there has been constant emphasis on the need for vigilance against any attempt to decrease local responsibility for law enforcement.

Every graduate leaves with the reasoned conviction that the power and authority of local communities must never be trespassed upon by those who clamor for a federal agency to police so-called interstate racketeers. Such a national policing agency would not only attack the foundations of the Republic - but would fail to achieve even its apparent goal of adequate law enforcement.

There is nothing such an agency could do which is not already within the power of local units of government cooperating with one another and with the FBI in accordance with the Constitution and in the light of principles enunciated clearly, frequently and courageously by the Director of the FBI.

It was Director Hoover's ideal of individual community responsibility which was the basis for inaugurating your FBI National Academy - just as it has been the motivating force of the entire operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation throughout the many decades that he has been its Director.

The Department of Justice and the American people have never ceased to look with pride and a sense of the highest fulfillment of citizenship to the Bureau - and to J. Edgar Hoover whose life has been one of consecration to the cause of justice.

Neither prejudice nor favor has deterred him in his tasks. Public service has been his vocation. He has guided the Bureau without regard to political currents or pressures - local or national. He represents an ideal to America. No political party may claim him - yet each must rejoice in the opportunity to cooperate with him and with the organization that he directs.

His ideals must be the principles of effective administration of justice in the Department and in every local community agency.

I congratulate you - the graduates of the FBI National Academy upon the successful completion of your course. And - as you return to your official tasks - I pray that God may ever give you strength and wisdom to carry on in the tradition of your Academy's founder.