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"TWO BUREAUS"

RADIO ADDRESS

by

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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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Permit me, in behalf of the Department of Justice, to express my deep appreciation of the public interest so generously manifested throughout the country in our effort to deal with the problem of crime. We are grateful for this support. Without it we would be powerless.

You have all heard and read of the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, familiarly known as the "G" men. You have all heard and read of what the Federal Bureau of Prisons has been doing at Alcatraz and at other penal institutions of varied character under its jurisdiction. Tonight I would like, if possible, to set these activities in perspective and to explain how much study and labor have been devoted toward the attainment of our ultimate objective - to make our Federal method and equipment, so far as lies in our power, the best in the world.

I need not refer to the time, still so recent in our memories, when organized crime was making alarming inroads upon our domestic peace, and reached a tragic climax in a notorious series of kidnappings that brought the issue into the focus of national attention. A serious responsibility rested upon the Federal Government to devise methods to meet this grave situation; and to do so within the limitations of the Constitution and without doing violence to the genius of our institutions or the customs of our people.

Between Federal and State jurisdictions there existed a kind of neutral corridor, unpoliced and unprotected, in which criminals of the most desperate character found an area of relative safety. Here the instructed criminal sought and found refuge. It was into that zone that the Federal

Government sought to enter. We have resisted, and we shall resist, all attempts to bring the Department of Justice into the sphere of State or local criminal activities. It was, therefore, from no desire to usurp or supplant the functions of State or local law enforcement agencies that the Department of Justice requested from the Congress, and secured, authority to deal with this difficult situation. There was introduced in the 73rd Congress, in the winter of 1933-34, what has been termed the Twelve Point Program of the Department of Justice, which ultimately resulted in the passage of twenty-one important enactments.

Time does not permit me to describe these laws in detail, other than to state that all of them were designed to deal with crime in its interstate aspects. It may startle you to know that among them was one permitting the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to carry arms and to make arrests. That right these officers did not possess prior to the summer of 1934. It was a revolutionary program, but it produced results.

One of the most important services that the Department of Justice is attempting to render is through the training school for State and local law enforcement officials. In the summer of 1935, for the first time, the doors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were thrown open to a small group of representative police officers whom their home departments had designated to take the same training that is given to our own "G"men. A second session of this school was opened during the past winter and a third session is now in progress. This activity is conducted with the cooperation and counsel of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Through these methods we both learn and teach.

An encouraging and interesting example of the results of such training is shown in the work of a member of the Connecticut State Police, who was commended for the manner in which he handled the investigation of a "hit-and-run" case in which a boy was killed by a reckless driver who fled from the scene and seemed completely to have avoided detection. Immediately upon reaching the scene of the accident, this officer made a minute examination of the surroundings. He discovered a tire track, apparently made by the death car, and also collected fragments of shattered glass. These were the only clues he had to go upon. Using the technique taught in the FBI School, he made a reproduction of the entire track by a casting method known as moulage, and, also, preserved the broken glass. Thereafter, as a result of intensive investigation and follow up methods a car was located which fell under suspicion. By comparing one of the tires with the cast previously made, and by a comparison of the glass, he was able positively to identify the car. The officer apprehended the driver and secured a confession, following methods which he had learned in the FBI concerning the obtaining of statements in conformity with the rules of evidence. This detailed and successful investigation resulted in a prompt conviction.

But it is not alone in the use of scientific methods that the value of this training lies. What is of even greater importance is that the members of these schools return to their home communities and there establish similar training facilities within their own jurisdictions. A bridge is thus being built between the Federal authorities and thousands of State and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

It is fair to assume that within a measurable time, as group after

group of police officers are trained with our own men, sit with them in classrooms, work with them in our technical laboratories, and camp with them for training in marksmanship at the United States Marine Corps base at Quantico, Virginia, police cooperation will represent not a high-sounding phrase, but a substantial fact.

I would not have it thought, however, that our training activities are confined to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Under the Federal Bureau of Prisons is placed the work which pertains to the development of advanced methods in the punishment, treatment and rehabilitation of convicted criminals. Under the highly competent and experienced direction of Mr. Sanford Bates, this Bureau now maintains a training course for Federal prison officials, the facilities of which, it is hoped, may later on be made available, under proper limitations, to selected State and other officers in this field of work.

The custodial service of the Federal prison system has been reorganized into four classes of officers, with provision for recruitment in the lower grades and advancement through promotion to the better paid positions. Our promotion scheme for prison guards places a premium upon individual effort. Each man is required to complete a routine of intensive training including satisfactory completion of a study course covering various phases of prison work, physical training, instruction in the use of firearms, gas equipment, and the like. All appointments to the custodial force are made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Civil Service Commission.

In short, our purpose is steadily to improve, to extend and to render more effective the various kinds of service that the Department of Justice is able to offer as part of its long-range program. And now one final word of re-assurance.

This movement, so far as the Department of Justice is concerned, has been completely divorced from political considerations. It is my purpose to maintain that severance. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, it is true, does not operate under Civil Service regulations, but it has inaugurated, established and maintained standards for appointment to the post of Special Agent far more stringent than Civil Service regulations could provide. These standards, based on education, intelligence, training, background, physical aptitude and moral character, are responsible, in a large degree, for the successful manner in which the Bureau, under the guidance of its remarkably able Director, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, has been able to meet the heavy responsibilities placed upon it.

Thus we have in the Department of Justice these two great Bureaus - the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Prisons - operated strictly on a career basis. Neither of them can be reached or influenced by imprecations, threats, bribes, political power or personal blandishments. What the political faith or partisan affiliations of the personnel of these two Bureaus may be, I do not know and I do not want to know.