

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
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MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE
SECTION OF CRIMINAL LAW OF THE
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

(at Indianapolis, Indiana)

I take pleasure in greeting the members of the Section on Criminal Law. The problems with which you are concerned are of abiding importance to the nation. The behavior which is held to constitute crime, the ways in which criminals are treated, the procedures which are employed to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty -- these are elements in the legal order which cut to the heart of our national ideals. For the task of the criminal law, like that of democracy as a whole, is to reconcile order and liberty, discipline and humanity, unity and dissent. That task becomes increasingly difficult as the nation summons its strength to meet the special problems of the day; by the same token it becomes increasingly important. The problem of the moment is to use the criminal law as a major weapon of home defense without sacrificing the larger values we seek to defend. I hope that you will give these pressing issues the benefit of your constructive attention.