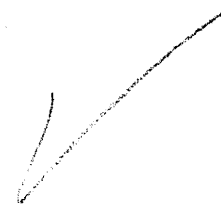


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"THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE"

ADDRESS

by

HONORABLE HOMER CUMMINGS
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Over the network of the
Columbia Broadcasting System

10:30 P. M., E. S. T.,

Thursday, July 25, 1935

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Radio Audience:

I appear before the microphone tonight to report on one of the most interesting, and I hope one of the most significant, developments in the national program of the Department of Justice for the prevention, detection and punishment of crime. I need not recite again this evening the situation that made necessary the expansion of the activities of the Department of Justice, other than to state that the growth of organized crime in its interstate aspects presented a challenge that could not be ignored, a challenge that made us aware that some practical means must be found, within the genius of our political institutions and our constitutional structure, to deal with this menace. Through a series of enactments in the 73d Congress, the Department of Justice was authorized to step into the gap between State and Federal jurisdictions that then existed, not with the object of usurping the functions of State and local authorities, not for a moment with the objectionable idea of creating a national police force, but rather with the broad motive of solving, through a judicious combination of boldness and caution, a social question with ramifications that touch almost all the activities and conditions of life.

It was in pursuit of this objective that I summoned last winter to meet in Washington a conference on crime; and tonight I am here to report that another important step is about to be taken to make the recommendations of that conference effective. One of these recommendations was for the establishment at Washington, D. C., of a scientific and educational center, permanent in form and structure, to provide national leadership in the broad field of criminal law administration and the treatment of crime and criminals.

Some weeks ago I announced that I had approved the creation of this proposed center within the structure of the Department of Justice. As part

of that structure I now have the pleasure of reporting that on Monday next, July 29, the first Police Training School of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the expert supervision of Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Bureau, will initiate courses offering a comprehensive and intensive training ~~available~~ to local law enforcement officers. It is a source of deep satisfaction to me that we are opening the doors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to representative police officers who have been invited to take the same course of training that is now given to Special Agents of that Bureau, with the addition of studies designed for the especial benefit of those engaged in State and local police work.

The personnel of this first school will be made up of those who possess broad qualifications and experience, representing twenty-one law enforcement agencies in various parts of the United States. These officers were selected from organizations which have filed applications with the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the past several months. Acceptances have been received from the following:

Bergen County, New Jersey Police Department; Boston, Massachusetts Police Department; Chicago, Illinois Police Department; Cincinnati, Ohio Police Department; Connecticut State Police; Dallas, Texas Police Department; Delaware State Highway Patrol; Detroit, Michigan Police Department; Florida Official to be selected by the Governor; Miami, Florida Police Department; New York City Police Department; Ohio Highway Patrol; Pennsylvania Highway Patrol; Pittsfield, Massachusetts Police Department; Prescott, Arizona Police Department; Rhode Island State Police; San Francisco, California Police Department; Tamaqua, Pennsylvania Police Department; West Virginia State Police; Baltimore, Maryland Police Department; and Petersburg, Virginia Police Department.

The course will last for three months and will stress the practical side of police and law enforcement problems. The sole expense to those who take these courses will be the cost of transportation to and from Washington and of personal maintenance during the period of instruction. The general subjects to be covered will be organized under the following headings: Scientific and Technical; Statistics, Records and Report Writing; Firearms Training and First Aid; Investigations, Enforcement and Regulatory Procedure; Tests and Practical Experience; Police Administration and Organization.

While based on the instructions given Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation the course is designed to be of assistance to local law enforcement officers and subjects will be offered dealing with their particular problems, such as:

Police Records and Reports; Arson Investigations; Cooperation with Public Health and Sanitation Agencies; Vagrancy Statutes; Highway Patrols; Licensing and Inspections; Patrol Work in Cities; Police Cooperation and Procedure; Psychology; Safety Education; Show-Ups; Traffic; Traffic Accident Investigation; Investigations of Local and State Law Violations; Foreign Police Organizations; Police Organization and Administration; and Functions of the Police Executives.

An entire week will be devoted to Firearms Training, given by Bureau experts both on the Bureau's range in the Department of Justice Building and on the United States Marine Corps outdoor range at Quantico, Virginia. It includes thorough training in the use of all types of weapons used by Bureau Special Agents. Firing from Moving Vehicles, Firing at Moving Targets, Silhouette and Bobbing Targets, Use of Defensive Equipment, Illumination Flares and Night shooting are some of the phases of this work which will be stressed.

With the exception of that portion of the Firearms Training to be given at Quantico, all other courses will be given in the Department of Justice Building in the air-conditioned classrooms, in our Technical Laboratories and in our Identification Division, all of which are utilized to advantage in training Special Agents. The entire staff of the Bureau's experienced lecturers and instructors will be used in conducting the Police Training School. Assistant Director Hugh H. Clegg, in charge of the Bureau's Training Schools, will likewise be in charge of the Police Training School under the direction of Mr. Hoover.

The program of instruction has been prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in collaboration with a special Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed to serve in an advisory capacity in the development of this project.

The members of this special committee are:

Mr. Andrew J. Kavanaugh, President, International Association of Chiefs of Police; Director of Public Safety, Miami, Florida; and an ex-officio member of this committee.

Mr. Peter J. Siccardi, Chairman of the committee; member of International Association of Chiefs of Police of which he was President in 1934-35; and Chief of the Bergen County, New Jersey Police.

Mr. Edward J. Kelly, Superintendent of Rhode Island State Police; member of International Association of Chiefs of Police; and Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association.

Mr. John L. Sullivan, Specialist in Safety and Traffic Work; member of International Association of Chiefs of Police; member of Executive Committee and the Traffic Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and Chief of Police at Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Instruction in this school will be given by three groups, first, the staff of instructors and lecturers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, each of whom has had valuable experience in the field of law enforcement; second, from a group of State and local police administrators of outstanding distinction in their particular fields; and, third, from a group of scientists and technicians drawn from colleges, universities, and other semi-public institutions. In short there will be available for this school, in addition to the instructors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a group of forty-one outstanding criminologists, police officials and scientists selected from higher institutions of learning, from police departments and from other law enforcement agencies. To their specific subjects these gentlemen have given a lifetime of attention. When this list is published in the press tomorrow I believe that all who read it will agree that the instruction thus given, carried out in this new Police Training School, should be of permanent and far-reaching effectiveness in our national effort to deal with crime.

I am neither so foolish nor so self-confident as to think for a moment that the Department of Justice alone possesses the wisdom and experience to deal with the problem of crime, nor do I for an instant conceive of this school, or of our broader structure in the Department, as being a thing complete in itself, or sufficient unto itself. If our efforts do no more than to create a sort of nerve center in this field from which will emanate helpful impulses, I shall feel that real progress is being made. Our whole desire is to discover sensible, deliberate, and well-considered methods of meeting the obvious needs of a national situation. What has been done thus far, and what is being done now, is, as I conceive it, the merest beginning. There is a sense of legitimate pride in what has been accomplished, but this

should not blind us to the difficulties that lie ahead, to the setbacks and failures that are bound to occur, or to the magnitude of the task that confronts us. I hope that no one is so ill-informed as to imagine that the problem of crime is nearing the point of solution. Crime is a problem almost as old as life itself. It will be with us, in one form or another, long after those who are now attempting to resist its encroachments have passed from the scene.

In offering the course of instruction I have just described the Department of Justice expects, as I have said on another occasion, "to learn as well as to teach." Out of the contacts and associations of such a school, out of an exchange of viewpoints, out of a common consideration of difficulties is bound to come, unless all our expectations fail, a sharper and more realistic appreciation of our mutual tasks.

What is needed now, as I understand the need, is a central organization to give leadership, coherence, training, and practical aid in crime prevention and in the improvement of criminal law administration. This cannot be done without ever-increasing cooperation among Federal, State and local agencies. The Police Training School that starts next week will be a factor in such cooperation. The school has been organized because the need for it was apparent and a real demand existed. In setting it up, with the collaboration of a committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to which I desire to express the Department's gratitude tonight, our hope and expectation is that in the near future we shall be able to offer other courses in the not less important fields of crime prevention, on the one hand, and of punishment and rehabilitation on the other.

When that three-fold training structure has been erected within the Department of Justice, our people will begin to realize, as never before, the tremendous implications of this problem. As civilization becomes more complex, methods of approach in this particular field become more difficult. Now that public opinion is beginning to see crime as a whole, instead of as a series of unrelated manifestations of misconduct, there is real hope for the future.