

Washington Digest

Nation Can Head Off Postwar Crime Wave

Quick Reconversion Can Prevent Era of Lawlessness, FBI Chief Says; Expects Vets to Demand Order.



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Will there be a postwar crime wave in the United States? That question was put to the man who will have to deal with it if there is one—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. He threw the answer back on me—and on a lot of other people in these United States. Here it is:

Whether we have a postwar crime wave in the United States depends on how well we as a nation can recon-vert. If we do have a period of lawlessness, it will in all probability be led by teen-agers. The returning veteran has it in his power to make or break such a crime wave.

That's not beating around the bush. Let's look at the facts, disturbing though they may be, as the FBI director laid them before me.

After the last war, he said, there grew up a lawlessness from which the United States has never been entirely free since. When the gangster era of the 20s and 30s was finally broken up there was some decline in criminal tendencies. Nevertheless, just before World War II began in Europe crime was still very much with us—in fact, the United States had 11 times more cases of murder and manslaughter than England and Wales.

With our entry into the war, crimes increased, the emphasis on type changing from crimes against property to crimes against the person—murder, assault, rape and the like. On V-J Day a major crime was being committed every 23 seconds in the United States. One person in every 22 in this country had been arrested at some time or other.

New Crop of Criminals Teen-Agers

Perhaps the most ominous single factor about the picture with which we start the postwar years is that the most frequent criminals in the United States today are boys and girls 17 years of age.

Director Hoover explained why this has come about. These teen-agers have been maturing in a period of great political, economic and social upheaval. As they were entering the critically formative years for them in the beginning teens, fathers and big brothers, to whom they might have looked for guidance, left home to enter the armed services. Mothers frequently had to take jobs which kept them away from home, leaving boys and girls to their own social and recreational devices.

Frequently, families pulled up roots and moved to teeming industrial centers in other parts of the country where jobs could be had in war plants. Normal living was impossible under such overcrowded conditions. There was a general spirit of wartime abandon which impressionable youth was not long in catching—lack of discipline, lack of personal responsibility, became the accepted thing. A "war hero" attitude developed in many of those too young to "join up."

Then teen-age boys and girls found that because of the manpower shortage they could stop school and take jobs where they would make more money than some of their elders did before the war. Coming suddenly onto what seemed sudden wealth, and of their own making, found them unprepared to use it wisely.

"We have been developing a generation of money-rich and character-poor Americans."

While we had our attention on the far-flung battlefronts the foundation was being laid for one of our major postwar problems on the home front.

There is another condition that has been a breeding ground for lawlessness during the war, according to Hoover, and which may spread if crime detection and law enforcement do not keep ahead of it.

"Gangsterism has been showing signs of revival during the war," he said. "There have been gang wars in places where they used to thrive. Hijacking, shakedown rackets, black markets and bootleg have been on the increase."

Therefore, the groundwork has been laid for a new era of Dillingers.

Then there are the returning veterans. Because of their peculiar training, will they present a new band of criminals efficiently trained

in taking life and appropriating property that does not belong to them?

Vets Desire Orderly Community

On this subject, Director Hoover issued an emphatic "No!" Here is his reasoning:

"Of course, soldiers are trained to kill—but so are we of the FBI and so are police officers. But no man of the FBI has ever been arrested for a crime of violence. There will be criminals among the returning veterans, it is true—criminals who will operate more efficiently than they would have if they hadn't had army training. But these are the men who probably would have been criminals anyway if they had remained civilians. After all, the army is only a cross-section of the American people. Of course, the real criminals never got into the army—their records were too bad.

"I expect the returning veteran to be a big help to us in combating crime," Hoover went on. "The boys who are returning from the battlefields have seen so much of destruction, horror, disease, the dangers of dictatorship that they are anxious to see their communities get back to normal, peaceful ways. They are more interested in their homes and civil affairs. They want law and order over here."

The FBI expects the veterans to be a major influence on the criminal tendencies of the teen-agers.

"If the big brothers and fathers coming back settle down into jobs or go back to school, they can show the younger boys and girls how to be good citizens. The youngsters look up to these men as heroes—they can be a strong influence on them."

But the responsibility for leading the teen-agers aright does not rest solely on the veterans—nor alone on the agencies of law enforcement.

"The question of crime among our youth cannot be pawned off on a few juvenile courts, overburdened juvenile bureaus, and the local police," Director Hoover declared. "These agencies can help materially, but the big job is getting every parent, business man, school teacher, salesman, farmer, mechanic, housewife, and every other forward-looking citizen to knuckle down to the two-fold realization that this is their job and it is up to them to do something about it."

But no matter what is done to try to meet a crime situation that now has a potentiality for great evil in this country, there is one thing which Hoover believes will determine in the long run whether it will be law or lawlessness from here on.

"Whether or not we have a postwar crime wave will depend in the last analysis on how we as a nation convert to a peacetime basis," Director Hoover announced emphatically. "You can't divorce economics from crime. Although it is true that having money does not necessarily prevent a person from committing a crime, not having money is a definite cause of it. When people are out of work, there is a greater chance for them to get into trouble than when they are employed."

"If the Republicans don't look out, this guy Truman is going to pick up some votes right out from under their noses, he's so darned human," a political wisacre whispered to me at the Press Club party by Byron Price.

We were watching the President mingle with the guests, obviously enjoying himself.

Just then a colleague of mine on the weekly press came up. His face was wreathed in smiles.

"Guess what," he exclaimed. "I just said to the President 'I'm from Kansas City' and what do you think he said? 'That's a suburb of a certain city, isn't it?'"

And my friend, who has been a Republican since he can remember and especially so in the last 12 years, is beginning to think that "this guy Truman" is all right.

When the party was breaking up the President was heard to observe with a broad Missouri grin that he was having as good a time as he did when he was at the Press Club last. That time he was still vice president and his picture was taken playing the piano with movie star Lauren Bacal perched atop it.

BARBS... by Baukhage

Christmas is coming—yes it is. It will be here before your package to your soldier is there unless you mail now. Wrap securely—address properly.

In 1940 this country had less than 13 1/2 million men in what is considered the productive age group of 25 to 64. It is estimated that in 1970 there will be over 18 1/2 million.

When the German armies left Holland each soldier was permitted to carry 75 pounds only. Any more was confiscated by the Hollanders. But they wouldn't have had much chance to loot anyhow because the German civilians left the Netherlands ahead of them and left very little behind that wasn't nailed down.

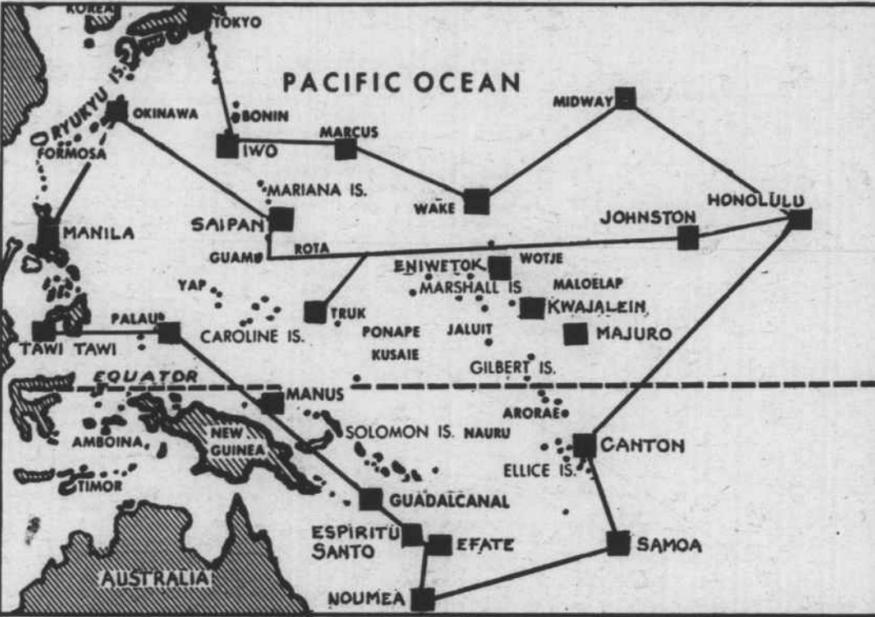
The latest in canned sandwiches.

Tokyo Lying in Ruins Struggles Back to New Life



This bombed-out area in the heart of Tokyo, near the imperial palace, shows the devastating results of American fire bombing attacks. Each section of the city is responsible for clearing away its own debris and the Japanese have been ordered to do a good job.

Defense Lines, Bases Desired by Army in Pacific



Proposals by Air Gen. Henry H. Arnold for maintenance of a series of defense lines in the Pacific for future national security is receiving growing support in congress. The latest proposal would provide major fleet bases at Pearl Harbor, Guam, Saipan, Manus and Noumea, with a main naval air base at Mactan island in the Philippines. The whole would provide chains of security far from the United States shores. The house committee said the bases are needed to maintain peace.

Hurricane and Fires Strike Florida Keys



More than 200 persons were reported injured in a fire at the Richmond navy blimp base as a tropical hurricane reaching a peak velocity of 143 miles per hour swept across the Florida Keys. More than 50,000 persons were driven to seek emergency shelter in South Florida alone. Hundreds of homes were reported damaged and destroyed in the Keys.

Promise Delivery of Thousands of Tires



Tires, thousands of them, are shown moving out of the huge plants of the Firestone Tire and Rubber company, Akron, Ohio, to civilian users everywhere. The reconversion from military to civilian tire production was almost immediate, and first line tires will flow, in ever-increasing quantities, to the civilian market.

Back to the Islands



Paul V. McNutt, shown as he was sworn in as commissioner of the Philippines, a position that he held before the fall to the Japanese after Pearl Harbor attack. His appointment met with the approval of the Philippine government and people.

Recruiting Head



To Brig. Gen. Harold N. Gilbert, USA, has been entrusted the direction of the greatest recruiting campaign in the history of the army.



FARM WAGE DELIRIUM

WASHINGTON. — Live-wire Republican Sen. Ralph Brewster of Maine recently telephoned hard-working Assistant Secretary of Labor Carl Moran, also from Maine, but a Democrat.

"Portland is among the nine distress cities of the country," Senator Brewster reminded Moran. "As you know, Portland shipyard workers have been dismissed from their jobs wholesale. Meanwhile, farmers up in Aroostook county can't get anyone to bring in their potatoes. What can you do about it?"

"What are they paying for farm labor in Aroostook county," asked the assistant secretary of labor; "still four cents?"

"No," replied the senator from Maine. "There's a guaranteed wage of \$12 a day."

Assistant Secretary Moran said he would do his best to switch some workers up to the potato farms. However, he might well have replied that the labor department was that in name only and that it actually had almost nothing to do with labor.

For the fact is that, under Miss Perkins, the labor department was stripped of most of its labor duties. The War Labor board is separate and independent, and, most important of all, the U. S. employment service is under the War Manpower Commission. Thus, Assistant Secretary of Labor Moran had to turn to an outside agency, the U. S. employment service, to try to get discharged shipyard workers to help harvest the Aroostook potato crop.

This, in turn, has brought out another difficulty affecting not merely Maine but the entire nation. Most war workers, drawing \$1 to \$2 an hour plus overtime and bonuses, don't want to go back to the farm and farm wages. The labor shortage on the farms, even after V-J Day, is as acute as ever. Farm wages are higher than ever, though still a long way from shipyard and aviation factory pay. So, somehow or other, either farm wages must go up, or war workers must go back to less money on the farm. In the former case, the farmers will have to get more for their crops, which, of course, means a higher cost of living in the city.

Ambassadors' Wives

Last week this column reported that Mrs. Ed Pauley, wife of the U. S. reparations ambassador to Moscow and former treasurer of the Democratic national committee, was listed to receive \$25 a day expenses while accompanying her husband to Russia. Since then, I have received further information that Mrs. Pauley, although listed by the state department as an official member of the party, declined to accept the \$25 per diem.

However, I still believe it a highly debatable point, when a million or so G.I.s are not permitted to have their wives come abroad, that American higher-ups should take their wives with them to overseas war areas. After all, the average American soldier now occupying Germany or Japan has not seen his wife for more than a year.

When the Pauley reparations mission arrived in western Europe, the party was split up, because of limited accommodations in Moscow.

One group, including some of the best experts on reparations, were told to remain in Frankfurt, Germany, because there was no room to house them in Moscow. But Mrs. Pauley, despite limited accommodations, went on to Moscow.

Later, she also visited Potsdam for the Big Three session. She was the only American wife present. Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Byrnes, wife of the secretary of state, remained at home. And during the last session of the Big Three, Mrs. Pauley sat in the gallery, a privileged witness to the historic ceremony. Many U. S. and British experts who had spent weeks preparing for this big climax and who had burned midnight oil whipping the agreement into shape, were barred from seeing the windup.

NOTE—On August 4, this column reported that the office of war information had given Mrs. R. A. McClure, wife of General McClure, a privileged job as receptionist in OWI's Paris office, thus permitting her to be near her husband in Germany. Immediately after publication of this disclosure, the OWI received an order from the White House for Mrs. McClure to come back to the United States.

Capital Chaff. The shortening of the congressional recess, which was to last until October 8, has forced several congressmen to look for temporary lodgings in Washington. They had leased their homes for the anticipated recess period. Some, like Los Angeles' Chet Holifield, were foresighted enough to make arrangements to have at least a bedroom available if they returned. Congressman Karl Mundt of South Dakota, one of the most vigorous Red-hunters of the old Dies committee, is traveling in Russia. . . .

Ardent Bogota Sport Fans Douse Fallen Toreador

When the umpire calls a bad one at the baseball game, you could wish you were in Bogota, capital of Colombia, South America.

In Bogota the principal sport is bullfighting. If the toreador doesn't please the bootblacks—who are the most ardent bull-rush fans in the city—the boys rush into the arena and take the fallen hero to a nearby fountain where he is properly cooled off.

SNAPPY FACTS

about RUBBER



A U. S. Senator traveling in the West stopped to help a young lady change a flat tire. The flat developed a friendship that blossomed into marriage.

Soap is one of the important manufacturing agents of synthetic rubber. B. F. Goodrich has developed a synthetic rubber using a resin soap derived from Southern pine trees that is a great improvement over ordinary synthetic.

Demand for passenger car tires will total about 70,000,000 casings in the first year after the war—for both new cars and replacements.

More miles with B.F. Goodrich



Relief At Last For Your Cough

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you see to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

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Relieves pain and soreness

PAZO IN TUBESI Millions of people suffering from simple Piles, have found prompt relief with PAZO ointment. Here's why: First, PAZO ointment soothes inflamed areas—relieves pain and itching. Second, PAZO ointment lubricates hardened, dried parts—helps prevent cracking and soreness—reduces swelling and check minor bleeding. Fourth, it's easy to use. PAZO ointment is performed by the Pipe makes application simple, thorough. Your doctor can tell you about PAZO ointment.

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FEMALE MISERY

Famous to relieve MONTHLY PAIN. Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound is famous to relieve not only monthly pain but also accompanying nervous, tired, headache, indigestion, when due to functional periodic disturbances. Taken regularly, it builds up resistance against such disturbances. Pinkham's Compound helps nature follow her own directions. Try it.

Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly process surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer aching backache, headache, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended in the country over. Doan's Pills stimulate the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS