

Says J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Chief:

# Crime Increases Four Times Faster Than Our Population

"At no other time in history has it been more imperative to establish order and peace in the world than it is today. Man always has possessed the capacity to destroy himself. Today, he possesses the capacity to destroy the world. He has the responsibility to formulate, interpret, and enforce laws not only to shape the future of mankind, but also to insure his preservation."

This was said by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in an address before an American Bar Association meeting in Los Angeles. And the future of the human race, he went on, was never more in jeopardy than it is now—because of the powerful, lawless conspiracy which is world communism.

Mr. Hoover cites a recent study showing that over a period of 38 years the Soviet Union has agreed to nearly 1,000 treaties, and has broken its word to nearly every country to which it has given an assigned promise. At the same time, world communism has the potential to destroy the free world—and in Mr. Hoover's view, this "... can be traced in large measure to the lawless subversive and espionage activities by communists in our own and other countries." Communist agents are at work in the United States. They seek knowledge of our technological and scientific development and they take advantage of every legal technicality to nullify our security precautions. They attempt to foster the myth that the Communist Party is a legitimate and independent political party—whereas, actually "... American communists are an integral part of the international communist conspiracy which was born in tyranny and which has been nurtured by tyranny."

Mr. Hoover poses a question: Are we prepared to meet the communist threat? As he sees it, to be prepared, "our nation must be as representative of law and order as world communism is of lawlessness and disorder." Here we seem to be registering a dismal failure. Since 1950, for instance, crime has increased four times as fast as the population. The estimated annual cost of crime is \$22 billion—or \$128 for every man, woman and child in the country. To put it another way, crime costs \$1.11 each

year for every \$1.00 spent on education—and for every dollar we contribute to churches, crime costs us \$12.

Mr. Hoover touches on the grave problems facing the law enforcement agencies. Under our system, society must be protected from the criminal, but, at the same time, it must not encroach on the rights of the individual. Protection of the innocent is a fundamental legal principle. But, he feels, frequently "emphasis is placed on the rights of the accused to the obvious exclusion of the rights of law-abiding citizens." Here he adds: "Carried to extremes, this tendency can actually infringe upon the freedom of all individuals—of society itself." He cites examples where criminal convictions have been reversed for absurd reasons. In one instance, the indictment of a man for drowning his wife and child was dismissed because it did not specify the kind of liquid in which they were drowned. In another case, the indictment of a hitchhiker for stomping a motorist to death was dismissed because it failed to state that the murderer used his feet "with his shoes on."

As Mr. Hoover sees it: "The final responsibility for protecting the

innocent rests upon our courts. However, some courts, in discharging this responsibility, seem to be guided by a tendency to be overly solicitous of criminals. Misapplied leniency adds to the already serious problems in the administration of parole and probation. It also aggravates the rising problem created by the criminal repeater."

## What You Don't Know CAN Hurt

What you don't know won't hurt you, according to an old saying, but property owners along New Bern's riverfront know differently.

Some of them suffered considerable damage Monday and Tuesday when an unheralded storm brought flood waters from the Neuse and Trent.

Unlike past hurricanes that were given extensive publicity, this fair-



ly brisk blow caught natives more or less napping. Resulting from a low pressure area, it acted like a hurricane, even if it didn't happen to be one.

Don't complain about such unexpectedness, however. After all, it

could have been a tornado, and they give even less notice, and do more damage than was done here the first of the week.

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