

SBI Director Addresses Local Law Enforcement Agencies Here

Leaders of Transylvania county's law enforcement agencies recently heard Charles Dunn, Director of the N. C. State Bureau of Investigation, say that action and concern by people are needed to prevent crime.

Speaking at a meeting of the French Broad Criminal Justice Planning Agency at Berry's Restaurant the evening of June 13th, Mr. Dunn stressed the need to upgrade law enforcement agencies also.

Attending in behalf of Transylvania and Brevard law enforcement officers were Sheriff Milford C. Hubbard, Investigator Hubert C. Brown, and Brevard Chief of Police, J. C. Rowe.

Some excerpts from Mrs. Dunn's speech follow:

"For several years now we have heard a lot of talk about law and order or law and justice. A lot of it has been just that: talk. People talk about support for the police, but seldom do they write their city councilmen or county commissioners. A recent survey on public attitudes in the state found a high level of support for the police. Of course that is fine but it is sort of hard to equate that with the low salaries paid officers in North Carolina, the long hours they are required to put in, and the lack of training available to many.

"The duties and responsibilities of law enforcement are increasing because of the times in which we live. The officers job is constantly becoming more difficult. Crime is on the increase. And, to generalize, people are concerned. But, many unfortunately seem to react with a "Chicken Little" complex. They form an opinion and then run around telling everyone they meet that "the sky is falling." They react in fear and too often fail to do anything constructive to find solutions to the problem of crime or, more basically, to the problems that cause and foster crime.

"This is not to say that some progress is not being made in law enforcement and in the entire criminal justice system. We are witnessing improvements. Many police departments and sheriffs' departments have grown and developed in recent years. More officers — too often on their own time and expense — have obtained more training. Basic equipment has been supplied to many agencies through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration program.

"The 1971 General Assembly took a major step when it authorized the creation of the North Carolina Training and Standards Council. This Council, headed by Sheriff Malcolm McLeod of Robeson County, has the authority to set minimum standards for admission and training for law enforcement officers. Even though no money was provided for its operation, this Council is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation ever enacted in North Carolina insofar as the criminal justice system is concerned.

"Another major step forward for law enforcement has been the development of the Police Information Network in the Department of Justice. This computerized information system, which eventually will link all law enforcement in the State, has already paid for itself in assisting in the apprehension of wanted criminals and the recovery of stolen property. If the Attorney General has done nothing else during his term than develop PIN, his time would have been well spent.

"The Attorney General, of

course, has done much more to strengthen and develop law enforcement. Under his leadership, the State Bureau of Investigation has been able to extend and strengthen its field and laboratory services for local law enforcement. It has tripled in size, developed what we feel is one of the finest equipped and staffed laboratories in the country, and put into service one of the best qualified and training investigative teams anywhere.

It sometimes seems that too many people expect miracles from officers. They never want to see an officer until they need one and then they expect him to show up in 30 seconds or less and immediately solve the problem whatever it may be. We are not miracle workers and are no better than our resources and support will allow us to be.

"Too often the support has not equaled the lip service. Salaries are low and the rate of increase these last few years has not kept pace with other professions. Training and education resources are still limited. The last General Assembly, for instance, failed to provide funds to start a Criminal Justice Academy even though it had the active support of the Governor and law enforcement across the State. Even when a crime occurs, many people avoid helping the officer. They are too busy and they don't want to get involved.

"The dangers of the job of law enforcement are ever present. There were three officers killed in line of duty in North Carolina last year and more than 30 were seriously injured. The dead included a police captain who was shot by an occupant of a stolen automobile, a deputy sheriff who was shot while responding to a bank robbery alarm, and a Wildlife Protector who allegedly was killed by a man to whom he had given a ticket. Other officers were seriously injured while apprehending suspects, picking up mental patients, and during racial disturbances.

"We need to be less concerned about armament and more concerned about the individual officer. We need to be concerned about how well qualified he is, how well educated and trained he is, and how well he is supported by those he serves.

"Law enforcement just can't do the job alone, even if we had the resources, which we don't. So many of the crime problems of today are social problems and really need a society-wide approach for solution. The drug problem is a case in point. Too many people have said "let law enforcement take care of it." We don't have the resources and even if we did, society still would have to be more active in preventing the problems that lead some people to drugs.

"The courts, of course, have a tremendously important role to play in crime prevention. If some law enforcement has been too hard-nosed, then some courts have leaned in the other direction. I am not only speaking of the federal courts. In fact, many of the federal courts' decisions affecting law enforcement came about because officers had not had the proper training, i. e. resources. There is public concern over the delay in trials and the seemingly double standard, particularly in certain types of cases in some courts.

"Certainly no one's rights should be cut short, but society as well as individuals should have the right to a

speedy trial. The Attorney General has pointed to the problem of long dockets. Any man or woman accused of violating a law should be tried within 60 to 90 days of the time he is arrested. Speedy trials are a necessity. If more court officials are needed, then they should be provided along with responsibility for keeping dockets current. It would be cheaper than the present "drag it out" system.

"Plea bargaining in court is one thing; reducing charges for accommodation or because of one who is involved is another. An attempt to help an individual at times may have just the opposite effect. Some standards in sentencing, regardless of which side of town the individual is from, also would help in some cases. One of the major dangers to have just the opposite effect, the so called system today is from those who think they have fooled it and who have seen by experience that who you are can make a difference.

"Finally, when you talk about crime prevention, one of the most tragic areas is juvenile programs. First of all, many of the young people who are considered delinquent are no worse and maybe not as bad as your children and mine. They just don't have anyone to stand up for them, to give them guidance and encouragement when the chips are down. In fact, we may need a law that would make parents responsible for their children's actions until they reach a certain age. For instance, if a juvenile is given a mini-bike and he violates the law, then the parent should be charged.

"When young people get into trouble, however, too often there is no one to help. Juvenile detention homes in this State are generally inadequate and, unfortunately, do not even exist in many areas. They have such low priorities in some places that they have difficulty in staying in operation. The State-supported juvenile corrections program has fared little better. It has had inadequate resources for staffing, for research, et cetera. And, half the boys and girls in the system shouldn't be. They are not criminals and in many cases have done little more than stay out of school.

"The ineffectiveness of these institutions with many of the young people they deal, plus the hodge-podge of after-care programs, or lack of them, is a disgrace on this State. The problems have been studied for years and, yet, the resources have not been forthcoming. The alumni associations of such facilities unfortunately do not do a very effective job of lobbying on any level. And, those people who could help are sometimes too busy talking about law and order or crime prevention whatever they are. Resources, money and time, public awareness and public action are needed now.

"The young people is where a major part of your attention is needed. The percentage of people over 35 years of age getting into crime is small compared with the percentage of ten-agers. Crime prevention is meaningful opportunities for youth involvement within the home, the church, the school, the community. It is a well financed and coordinated juvenile corrections program. It is equal justice under the law. It is effective and understanding law enforcement. Crime prevention is more than talk. It is concern for the young people. It is action."

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE make immediate payment.
In The General Court of Justice This the 8th day of June, 1972.
Superior Court Division
State of North Carolina
Transylvania County
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Thomas E. Grogan, deceased, of Transylvania County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Thomas E. Grogan to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please
/s/ Thomas H. Waters
105 S. Johnson Street
Brevard, N. C. 28712
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6/8/4tc

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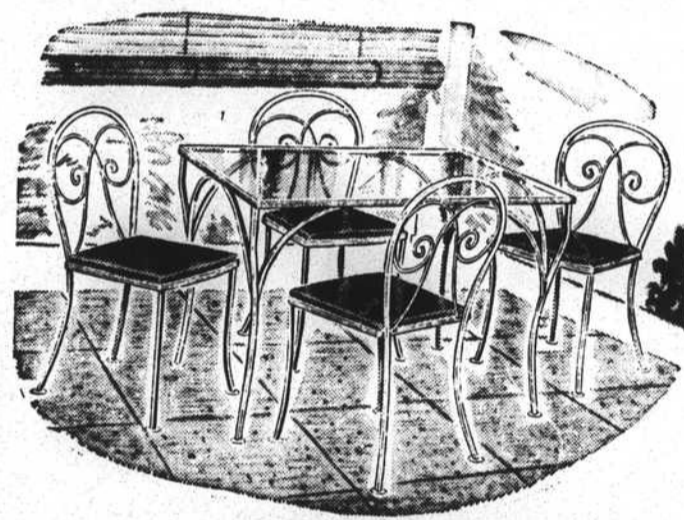
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