

G-Men Won't Turn OGPU, Jackson Tells Police Parley

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Attorney General Pledges Co-operation With Local Forces in Curbing Crime

Attorney General Robert H. Jackson and Chief G-man Edgar Hoover said yesterday that the present activities of the FBI do not constitute any basis for alarm that it is developing into an OGPU or Gestapo. They pledged

themselves to a policy of co-operation with local law enforcement agencies designed to eliminate any fears of a nationalistic police.

Jackson took cognizance of "the current generalities of praise and blame" of the FBI in an address before the graduating class of the thirteenth session of the National Police Academy.

No Ground for Fears

"I can well understand," Jackson said, "that the terrible perversion of policing powers in some countries of Europe has made many Americans, whose sincerity and intelligence I deeply respect, rightly sensitive about police activities here.

"Certainly, however, nothing in this general picture warrants fears that it (FBI) is permeating our country like an OGPU or a Gestapo."

In the United States, Jackson contended, the primary burden of crime control must be carried by local, municipal, county, and State police forces. A nationalistic force, he added, would not be consistent with our system of government.

Hoover condemned such police tactics as the "third degree" as a perversion of justice. He said that charges of such tactics often are raised by criminals as a last resort to avoid justice.

The civil liberties unit of the Justice Department now is inquiring into charges by Senator George W. Norris (L.), of Nebraska,

that Federal agents mistreated 16 persons arrested in Detroit on charges of recruiting for the Spanish Loyalist Army.

"Let us clearly state that there should be no place in law enforcement for unethical methods of interrogation, prosecution, or investigation, for perjury, pressure methods upon witnesses, subornations of felony, pandering to the politically powerful underworld, or, on the other hand, for prejudicial prosecution of those whose main crime has been that of poverty," Hoover said.

Praised by LaGuardia

"Let us broadcast the fact that we are and have been thoroughly opposed to centralized or dictatorial police power no matter under what name or what guise it may be camouflaged."

Jackson said that one person was convicted for every 12 investigated by the FBI. Making allowances for "crank" complaints, he concluded the result "does not indicate to me that the bureau has been throwing its net very far from the mark."

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, of New York, commended the National Police Academy, which graduated 36 local and State law enforcement officers, as an instrument of co-operation between various police agencies.