

CRIME

Meeting the Challenge

The cost of crime to American citizens had been an estimated \$21 billion annually. So, in July of 1965, President Johnson appointed a 19-man Crime Commission headed by Nicholas Katzenbach, former U.S. Attorney General and now Undersecretary of State, to study what could be done about the horrendous problem.

Last weekend the President's Crime Commission made public its findings in a 340-page report. There were no "easy answers," it said. But the commission did have some 200 suggestions for reform — ranging from reorganization of local police departments and courts to higher education for police officers.

'Horse and Buggy'

Only a massive infusion of money, men, science and citizen interest could meet the challenge of criminal predators now threatening America, said the report. But public concern over rising crime rates might spark action. At least we could stop fighting "jet age criminals with horse and buggy methods."

"Warring on poverty, inadequate housing and unemployment is warring on crime," the commission said. It emphasized that this approach to criminality must be taken, along with reforms in enforcement, if crime is to be reduced. Causes of much violence and defiance of law were said to be "slum-born."

The commission urged, among other things, that the lower courts "particularly in need of reform" should have better personnel, with judges selected by means free of partisan politics and subjected to more training before and during their tenure. As things now stood, Katzenbach said, crime was



AP Wirephoto
GARRISON
One more log
See LOUISIANA

crime-fighting, such as wire-tapping and bugging.

It did recommend a national campaign against the crime syndicate called Cosa Nostra, operating in major cities across the nation, reporting it now wielded enough money and power to manipulate stocks, raise the price of bread, affect the lives of millions of Americans and pour the proceeds from its racketeering (loan sharking, narcotics, vice, gambling, etc.) into legitimate businesses ranging from accounting firms to the manufacture of yeast.

LOUISIANA

'We Will Prove It'

One more log was tossed last week onto the blaze that had been burning bright ever since last summer, fueled by a succession of post-assassination books and stories.

But this one could be the biggest. The episode began ten days ago, when a story leaked by the New Orleans States-Item disclosed that the District Attorney's office had been "pouring out-of-the-ordinary sums of money into a probe of a possible assassination plot."

The States-Item story claimed that the District Attorney's office had spent more than \$8000 on unexplained travel and investigative expenses since last November, most of it in connection with trips to Dallas, Houston, Miami, Washington, San Francisco and Angola, the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Behind a Billboard

The newspaper reported that District Attorney Jim Garrison's office was seeking a "physically powerful and dangerous Cuban man, who is believed to be one of a group of Cubans who reportedly hid behind a billboard along the parade route in Dallas."

"The investigators," the paper continued, "searched Miami inside and out for the

Cuban, flashing his picture taken on a New Orleans street while he was distributing Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets with (Lee Harvey) Oswald."

(Oswald had lived in New Orleans the summer before the assassination. While there, he claimed to represent the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee, made no attempt to conceal his activities, was photographed passing out leaflets, and got involved in a street al-

tercation with anti-Castro elements.)

"The possibility of a well-organized assassination plot," concluded the Item, "in which New Orleans residents were somehow directly involved, is said to be at the center of the investigation."

Garrison's office promptly denied it. "There is no basis for the story," said a terse official statement. "Mr. Garrison assumes the story is based on rumor."

Next day, however, Gar-

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OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE 1960 --- 1965
(RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION)

OFFENSE	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Willful Homicide	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.1
Forcible Rape	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.0	10.7	11.6
Robbery	51.6	50.0	51.1	53.0	58.4	61.4
Aggravated Assault	82.5	82.2	84.9	88.6	101.8	106.6
Burglary	465.5	474.9	489.7	527.4	580.4	605.3
Larceny \$50 and over	271.4	277.9	296.6	330.9	368.2	393.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	179.2	179.9	193.4	212.1	242.0	251.0
▶ Total crimes against person ..	148.3	145.9	149.6	155.1	175.7	184.7
▶ Total property crimes ..	916.1	932.7	979.7	1,070.4	1,190.6	1,249.6

FBI STATISTICAL CHART OF U.S. CRIME
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arrison told a different story.

He declared that an investigation by his office showed the Warren Commission report was inaccurate in stating Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy. "We already have the names of the people in the initial planning," Garrison told the Associated Press. "We are not wasting our time and we will prove it. Arrests will be made. Charges will be filed and convictions will be obtained."

Turn It Over

How had Garrison gotten involved in the first place? "Last November," he explained, "I began looking into the question because Oswald had spent six months in New Orleans shortly before the assassination. I went through the 26 volumes of the Warren Report and there were some questions raised. As a result, I began the investigation. The investigation led to new leads, which we followed out, and other leads were uncovered."

Others were also more than mildly interested in Garrison's private in-

vestigation. In Washington, a former member of the Warren Commission insisted that any new evidence uncovered by the New Orleans District Attorney's office into the death of President Kennedy should be "immediately" transmitted to officials in Washington.

House Republican Leader Gerald Ford demanded that "whatever evidence is found be transmitted to the U. S. Attorney General and to the President for consideration."

Garrison, however, had no such intention. In a television interview filmed at his home, the 44-year-old prosecutor said he was not about to turn the investigation over to anyone. He insisted that his office had jurisdiction in the case because of a Louisiana law "which forbids conspiracy of any kind."

Wait and See

Most Warren Commission members, meantime, were reserving judgment until Garrison released something specific. "Let's see what his evidence is," said former Commissioner John J. McCloy.

But one of the Warren

Commission's investigators, who was familiar with Oswald's movements in New Orleans, told The Chronicle that he believed Garrison had stumbled across information which the Commission was well aware of — although Garrison didn't know it.

The reason: the evidence against one of Garrison's suspects — a Civil Air Patrol pilot who had gone from Louisiana to Houston on the day of the assassination — is contained in an extensive FBI dossier, but not in the Commission volumes.

453 A and B

As for the pictures which Garrison's men had been showing around Miami and New Orleans, the mysterious missing Cuban was actually shown in exhibits 453 A and 453 B and Bringer Exhibit I in the 26 volumes.

The Warren Commission was never able to establish the identity of the man in the picture who helped Oswald pass out handbills. But since Oswald was found to have gone to the State of Louisiana Employment office, offering \$2 to anyone who would help him hand out leaflets, the Commission finally concluded that the man probably was a drifter whom Oswald picked up and not a "conspirator."

However, one thing the investigator was convinced of: The next phase of the New Orleans story would involve a vicious battle between pro and anti-Castro elements, each trying to exploit the assassination for political purposes, each trying to pin the blame on the other.

Battle of Cubans

And last week it began. Carlos Bringuier, a Cuban exile leader, declared that he was "more convinced than ever that Castro's hand" would be found in the assassination.

Bringuier, the man who brawled with Oswald in the street, said he had tried to get a Congressional investigation of Oswald as "a confessed Marxist and a Castro agent in the United States," but nothing came of it.

"Since Nov. 22, 1963," said Bringuier, "I have told them when everything is cleared up, Castro's hand will be found."

Then, at midweek, the Garrison investigation leak claimed its first victim. The pilot whose identity had been revealed to the Chronicle by a Warren Commission investigator as David Ferrie — an alleged New Orleans homosexual who had known Oswald as a teenager in the Civil Air Patrol, and who was considered "at most, a tangential figure in the case" — was found dead in his apartment.

The coroner ascribed the death of Ferrie, who had hypertensive cardiovascular



A HEAVILY GUARDED prayer service in Palm Beach, Fla., preceded a civil ceremony in which Florida Governor Claude Kirk was married to German-born divorcee Erika Mattfeld. The life of the twice-divorced, 41-year-old Florida Governor had been threatened.

disease, to a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, but said further tests were being made — particularly in the light of an apparent suicide note found in his apartment.

"The District Attorney is interested in me," Ferrie had said a few days before he died, "because, supposedly, I have been pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy. It's a big joke."

PRESIDENT

Consuming Concern

To the average, close-to-the-grindstone American citizen with faith in progress, industry and his fellow man, a reading of President Johnson's message to Congress on the "American consumer"

was shocking in its implications.

By implication the President's message depicted an unexpectedly murderous struggle for life, limb and solvency:

- Lenders took \$13 billion in consumer credit interest last year — and a consumer had to be a graduate accountant to figure out how much he paid for a loan. Sometimes a 6 percent loan actually cost 18 percent, for example.

- Many people wasted much of their life savings on a useless piece of desert or a swampland, lulled by visions of 40 acres and freedom — or a quick profit from land investment.

Welfare and Nails

- The welfare plans in which 40 million Americans put their faith and \$90 billion were frequently run without audit by outside impartial auditors. Some were run by managers who bought securities in companies they owned; or by managers who borrowed freely from the funds or made loans to members of their families.

- Investors in mutual funds sometimes lost half their initial investment to sales costs and other charges.

- Lifesaving devices sometimes had not been properly tested, hence defective nails and screws for bone repair were used, requiring repeated operations to correct the damage; some artificial eyes caused serious infection; X-ray machines emitted excessive doses of radiation.

- One-fourth of tests made

S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

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PHYSICS MAJOR from Pittsburgh, Pa., 20-year-old Joseph Rhodes was elected student body president of the California Institute of Technology—first Negro ever to be chosen for the post.