

JUDGE DEPLORES

'LENIENT' COURTS

B. M. Jones Oct 27 1970
FBI Class Is Told Jurists
Worsen Crime Problem

Washington, Oct. 28—A federal judge who is a close friend of J. Edgar Hoover told an FBI National Academy graduating class today that "lenient" judges are contributing to the nation's growing crime problem.

Edward M. Curran, chief judge of the District Court for the District of Columbia, declared that "justice is too good for some people."

"Less attention should be paid to technicalities which appear to be aimed at the protection of the criminal against a just society," he told the 100 graduating officers.

"Magnificent" Address

Mr. Hoover, the FBI director who has known Judge Curran for almost 40 years, told the audience after the jurist's speech that it was "one of the most magnificent addresses ever made" at an academy graduation.

"I only wish there were more men like Eddie Curran on the federal bench in this country," Mr. Hoover added.

In his speech Judge Curran also attacked student demonstrators, prompting applause led by an official standing to one side of the audience.

"In the last two years we have had a new type of crime—the college riots," Judge Curran said. "I just can't accept or tolerate the opinion of those who uphold these demonstrators on the theory that they are exercising the right of free speech."

"Bent On Our Destruction"

"I say to you that these demonstrations, almost without exception, are planned and aimed at the demolition of the American way of life. The sooner we recognize that these demonstrations are calculated by those bent on our destruction by explosions of violence, the sooner they will end," he said.

Judge Curran said there "are many causes of crime," agreed that "poverty is one" but declared that "it is not the principal one."

"Unemployment and slums are contributory causes," he said. "Lax parents are to blame for a great deal of crime. But let me dwell on one cause I know intimately and encounter every working day. That is lenient courts, and the trend toward leniency keeps growing."