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FBI Chief Says System Now Favors Criminal

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Washington — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director Clarence M. Kelley says crime in America has soared to record heights because the rewards in lawbreaking have grown much larger than the risks.

Kelley, writing in the FBI's monthly Law Enforcement Bulletin, cited estimates that the chances of a burglar going to jail are substantially below the chances of a citizen falling victim to a serious crime.

Kelley said he realized his analysis of the reasons for the crime wave is not popular outside the law enforcement profession, and has been given scant attention.

"There has been a preoccupation with viewing too many offenders sympathetically as themselves innocent victims of sociological injustices which have led or forced them irresistibly into criminal pursuits," Kelley said.

Such an "admirably humanistic per-

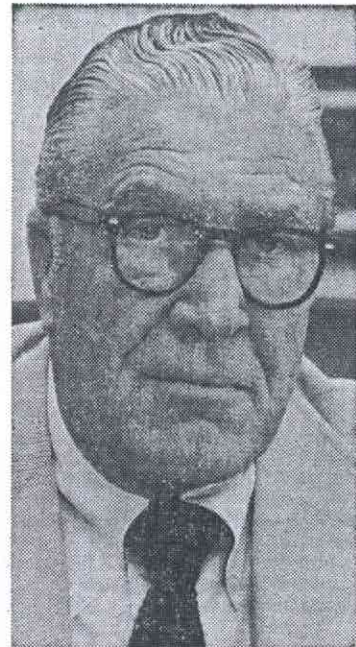
spective," he said, has "seriously discounted the possibility that criminal offenders are mainly rational — albeit unprincipled — individuals who see crime as an easier means than lawful industry of gaining what they want."

Kelley, whose remarks were in harmony with recent comments by Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi, said his statement should not be read as "an appeal for Draconian measures to combat crime."

He said there is "an urgent need for meaningful penalties as the certain consequence for those found guilty of crime, whatever their motivation."

"Enlightened criminal justice programs will never mature if unleashed criminal activity is permitted to run where it threatens many persons with becoming either its silent partner or its victim," Kelley said.

The FBI director said, "it is no doubt true that a significant number of (criminal) offenders have grown up gravely deprived through a host of social inequities."



CLARENCE M. KELLEY