Crime in America
Observations on Its Nature, Causes, Prevention and Control

On "law and order":
"The demagogic phrase 'law and order' may mean many things, but to most people today it signifies force, order as an end in itself, repressiveness. It divides black from white, young from old, rich from poor, educated from ignorant. It speaks of the horror of the criminal act while overlooking the heart prepared to commit it."

On violence:
"Of all violence, police violence is the most dangerous. Who will protect the public when the police violate the law?"

On rehabilitation of criminals:
"No activity of a people so exposes their humanity, their character, their capacity for charity in its most generous dimension, as the treatment they accord persons convicted of crime."

On police:
"Anyone who thinks bullets are cheaper than adequate numbers of $15,000-a-year college-trained policemen values life cheaply and misunderstands human nature."

On organized crime:
"Organized crime is a very small part of America's crime. What does it have to do with the juvenile offender... by the thousands of others who are... the greatest harm we could do to America... is to permit the FBI to... the greatest threat to the FBI... the greatest threat to us..."

On the FBI:
"The FBI has so coveted personal credit that it will sacrifice even effective crime control before it will share the glory of its exploits. This has been... domination of a single person, J. Edgar Hoover, and his self-centered concern for his reputation and that of the FBI."

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The most revolutionary public voice in America today is that of Ramsey Clark. His rhetoric is by no means violent, and in political terms there are plenty who speak more wildly, of overthrowing government and standing people up against the wall. But no one in American life today calls as frequently or eloquently for a genuine revolution in human conduct—in the way men manage their affairs, deal with one another, and regard themselves—from the Introduction by Tom Wicker