

Criminality has become a government characteristic. Over the years it had been justified from policy considerations. What in reality was and is serious crime has been presented and accepted as devotion to high principle. Watergating and the assault on the form of society was but a giant step along the same path.

International policy has been viciously criminal. If Vietnam and all the killings, torturings and what years ago would have been incredible bestialities is but the most dramatic of recent illustrations, it is by no means the only one. Any United States intervention in Southeast Asia was an international and a human crime. But we were told by a succession of Presidents that it was the expression of true American nobility and honor. It is not the United States alone that has been an international criminal. Our predecessors as Number One bully have the same histories.

When a Howard Hunt was part of these crimes against international law and knew it was regarded as proper, as his sacred duty to home and country, he faced no inner conflict, not question of morals, ethics and right, in transferring his activities, the same activities, to the domestic scene.

When the Attorney general himself, to the knowledge of the smaller fry, was part of the crime, could not these lesser hoods have believed they were doing what is right? Could not they at least suspect the President himself was in on this, wanted it if he did not create it?

When the Department of Justice and the FBI regularly engaged in all kinds of crime, from framing and persecuting the innocent to protecting the guilty, who working for the government can easily distinguish between what is legally right and legally wrong?

Protecting crime is a legal wrong. Consider how many sheltered this criminal activity. Even the CIA, which produced the gang and trained it, violated its own statutes and was accessory to the crime. Accessory is a crime in itself. It knew enough of what the gang was up to and it had specific knowledge of the financial crimes, having been asked to hide them. Refusal to do this is not exculpatory. Silence while possessing the knowledge is in itself a crime. Individuals are often so charged, and they go to jail for it.

Unwelcome as Americans should find this, it is the exact pattern of Nazi Germany, Mussolini's Italy, and Stalin's USSR, where official paranoia was official policy and the most serious crimes became a virtual state monopoly. Neither individuals nor the most powerful gangs of criminals could begin to have the capability to commit the horrible crimes that were in those lands state policy and state crimes.