

*FORD AD*  
**PRESIDENT URGES  
STIFF NEW LAWS  
ON VIOLENT CRIME**

**JUN 20 1975**

**Asks Congress to Provide  
for Mandatory Minimum  
Terms in Some Cases**

**A CONCERN FOR VICTIMS**

**Ford Lists Many Reforms,  
but Remains Opposed to  
Registration of Guns**  
*NYTimes*

**By JOHN M. CREWDSON**

*Special to The New York Times*

**WASHINGTON, June 19 —** President Ford, calling for a shift of emphasis from protecting the rights of criminals to insuring those of their victims, asked Congress today to enact new laws that would impose mandatory minimum sentences for certain violent or dangerous Federal crimes and for certain multiple offenders.

Mr. Ford submitted to Congress a long list of criminal justice reforms that he said were urgently needed. He said that the nation had been "far from successful" in curbing the sort of violence, such as murder, rape and mugging, that "obsesses America day and night."

The President also declared that, while he remained "unalterably opposed" to Federal registration of firearms, Congress should move to ban the domestic manufacture, assembly or sale—but not the possession—of the cheap handguns known as "Saturday night specials."

**Stand Called Tough**

Previous legislative efforts to control production of cheap handguns, by barring imported models have caused so sharp an upsurge in domestic manufactures that even before today's proposal by the President 40 bills were introduced in Congress to curb their production. [Page 32.]

The long-awaited message on crime, which aides said the President had taken a personal role in drafting, had been described in advance as a "tough" pre-election stand on the need to restore "domestic tranquility" to the country.

Mr. Ford used that term repeatedly today in the 10-page message and again in a brief statement to reporters. This was possibly an indication that it would become a watchword, though a less strident one than the call for "law and order" favored by his predecessor, President Nixon, in Mr. Ford's impending campaign for a full-term as President.

Speaking of the need to protect law-abiding citizens, the President said in the statement to reporters:

"For too long, the law has centered its attention more on the rights of the criminal than on the victim of the crime. It

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**A Model For States**

Nevertheless, the President said, it is his hope that a broad reform of the Federal system, ranging from programs that would single out "career criminals" for harsher treatment to others that would compensate victims of certain Federal crimes, would serve as a model for the states.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi told newsmen after Mr. Ford's remarks, however, that the proposal to pay up to \$50,000 to individuals who suffered personal injuries inflicted by criminals was based on similar programs already in effect in 11 states, including New York.

Mr. Levi, who worked closely with high White House aides and with Mr. Ford in drafting the proposals, which reflected some of his recommendations, called the message "a rather strong and complete" one that was designed to "look at the entire system of criminal justice."

"The crime rate is going up," Mr. Levi said. "The enactment of this program, so far as we believe, will have a decisive effect in minimizing it, and it ought to result in a decrease."

**Agency Criticized**

In addition to strengthening the Federal Government's ability to deal with criminal offenders in ways more nearly suited to their individual cases, Mr. Levi said, the President's proposals would promote "better enforcement" at all levels by extending the work of the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

The agency, which Mr. Levi said Congress would be asked to renew until 1981, was established by the Organized Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and has provided millions of dollars in grants to state and local law enforcement agencies.

The assistance program has been criticized on the ground that much of the agency's money has had no strings attached to it and has been spent for "hardware," such as weaponry and disturbance-control equipment, rather than in less tangible ways that might h more

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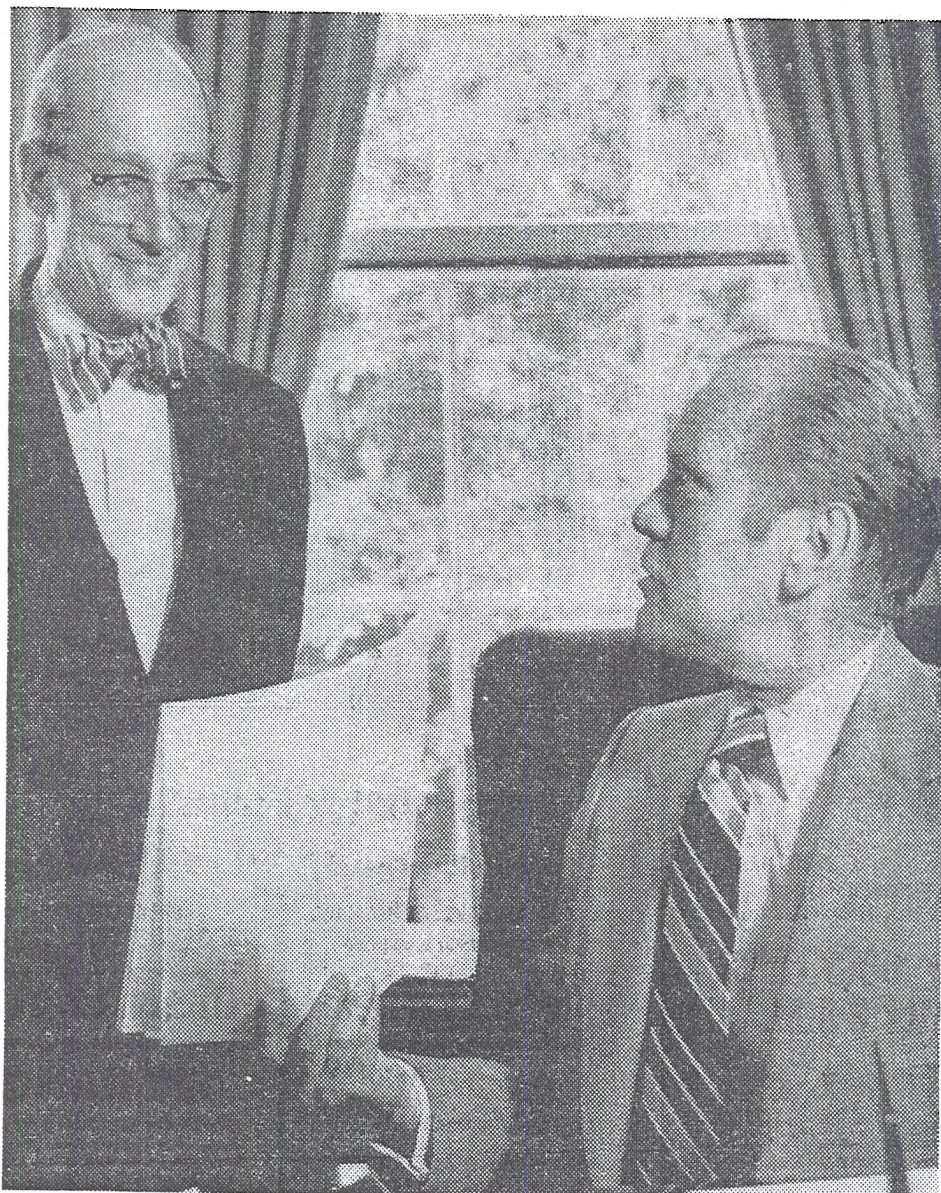
**PRESIDENT URGES  
NEW CRIME LAWS**

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is high time we reversed this trend and put the highest priority on the victims and potential victims."

In proposing to Congress the reforms that he said would help to stem "a basic and very serious problem of disregard for the law" throughout the country, Mr. Ford acknowledged that the Federal Government's role in combating crime was necessarily a limited one.

Although he did not say so directly, the number of individuals prosecuted for Federal offenses of all sorts in the United States is a minuscule proportion of those brought to justice in state courts. In 1973, for example, there were only 39,000 Federal prosecutions out of a nationwide total of 1.5 million, or a little more than 2 per cent.



Associated Press

President Ford showing Attorney General Edward H. Levi the message on crime he is sending to Congress. It was said to stress the need to restore domestic tranquility.

directly affect local crime rates.

The Attorney General said today, however, that although the agency's proposed five-year budget of \$1.75-billion would include \$250-million earmarked "for the great urban centers where the crime problems is most serious," he believed that the nation's police forces were now "beyond what could be called the hardware stage."

While dealing out mandatory minimum sentences to hijackers, kidnapers, drug traffickers, those who commit Federal offenses with dangerous weapons and violent "career criminals," the Ford proposals would also treat some inexperienced criminals less harshly than they are treated at present.

Some first offenders, Mr. Levi said, would be candidates for a "pretrial diversion" program that would channel them immediately into rehabilitation, reducing congestion in the Federal courts and keeping them apart from more experienced criminals in the Federal prisons.

Federal criminal statutes now contain maximum sentences, ranging from one year's imprisonment for most misdemeanors to 10 years or more for felonies, and with maximum fines in most cases of \$10,000.

Mr. Ford suggested today that Congress, in addition to imposing minimum terms of imprisonment in some areas, increase the maximum that could be levied in fines to \$100,000 for individuals and to \$500,000 for organizations.

#### FORD STATEMENT

Two months ago, at Yale University's Law School, I

spoke about a subject that touches the lives of all Americans—crime. Today I am sending the Congress a special message spelling out in concrete terms the program for curbing crime and insuring domestic tranquility which I advocated in that speech.

First and foremost, our efforts should be directed toward the protection of the law-abiding citizen. For too long, the law has centered its attention more on the rights of the criminal than on the victim of the crime. It is high time we reversed this trend and put the highest priority on the victims and potential victims.

Even though the chief responsibility in combatting crime lies with the state and local officials, the Federal Government can provide leadership. It can improve the quality of existing Federal laws and the Federal justice system. It can enact and vigorously enforce new laws governing criminal conduct at the Federal level. And it can provide technical assistance to state and local governments in their efforts to stem lawlessness.

For example, I propose that the Congress enact mandatory prison sentences for Federal offenses committed with firearms or other dangerous weapons—and for hijackers, kidnapers, traffickers in hard drugs and who commit crimes of vio-

lence. I urge state and local authorities to take similar steps.

I am unalterably opposed to Federal registration of guns or gun owners. I do propose that the Congress enact legislation to deal with those who use handguns for criminal purposes. I also propose further Federal restrictions on so-called "Saturday night specials."

We can and must make our legal system what it was always intended—a means of insuring "domestic tranquility" and making America safe for decent, law-abiding citizens.

This is a matter of deep personal concern to all Americans. So I urge the Congress to reflect this concern for the victims of crime by acting on this message in a prompt, positive and nonpartisan spirit.