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# JOHNSON PLEDGES A DRIVE ON CRIME

## Addresses New Commission After It Is Sworn In

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 — President Johnson called on the National Crime Commission today to work out creative and revolutionary recommendations for a campaign against crime.

He pledged the full resources of the Government to see that corrective action was taken to put the commission's recommendations into effect.

The President met with the 19-member group in a brief and formal White House ceremony this morning shortly after they had been sworn in by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Mr. Johnson challenged the group of prominent citizens to try to find the answers to these five specific questions:

- ¶ Why one-third of all paroles revert to crime.
- ¶ Why one man breaks the law and another living in the same circumstances does not.
- ¶ Why drug addiction is increasing among young people.
- ¶ Why organized crime continues to expand.
- ¶ Why juvenile delinquency knows no economic or educational boundaries.

### Vows to "Banish" Crime

"Let the nation know that today we have taken a pledge not only to reduce crime but to banish it," the President said. He described crime as "a sore on the face of America."

"It is a menace on our streets," he said. "It is a drain on our cities. It is a corrupter

of our youth. It is a cause of untold suffering and loss."

The President cited anticrime bills already passed—juvenile delinquency, drug control and prisoner rehabilitation laws—and said he hoped soon to sign a new law enforcement assistance act.

Later today, the Senate passed that bill and sent it to the White House for signature. It authorizes the Attorney General to grant \$10 million during the next year to state and local police for experimental law enforcement projects.

The National Crime Commission and its nine-member counterpart for the District of Columbia are expected to draw upon these funds for some of their studies. Both commissions have been slow getting their staff work started because Congress has not yet appropriated the \$1.1 million asked for the 18-month studies.

Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach is scheduled to appear tomorrow morning before the House Appropriations Committee to explain how the funds will be spent.

### Statement by Warren

In a brief statement before he administered the oath to the 17 men and two women on the commission, Chief Justice Warren expressed his "sympathy for the police and prosecutors charged with the responsibility for the administration of justice."

He called upon the members to find out the reasons for outbreaks such as last month's racial violence in Los Angeles. But he said the commission should also look into the corrections system, because "there are prisons that are even worse than slums as far as encouraging crime is concerned."

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation, told the group in a close session that recent court decisions had "too often severely and unfairly shackled the police officer in the daily performance of his duties."

Mr. Hoover pointed out the difficulties of dealing with the growing crime rate, but expressed confidence that "ways can be found to reduce crime to an absolute minimum."

After the formal ceremonies the commission met in a closed five-hour working session on how the group should proceed with its work.

After the session a spokesman said there was general awareness of a great need for more information about crime. The commission will compile data on such basic subjects as the amount of street crime that is attributable to narcotics addiction.

The members also discussed the functions of the seven subcommittees suggested by the Attorney General, who is chairman of the commission.

The subject matter to be studied by the subcommittees are public safety, the administration of criminal justice, youth crime, corruption of courts and other law enforcement agencies, administration and organization of police forces, convict rehabilitation and the relationship of race, poverty and other factors to crime.