

'ENTRENCHED SINCE 1930'S'

City Chiefs Said Ignorant Of N.O. Organized Crime

By GEOFFREY BROWN

A U.S. deputy attorney general charged here today that organized crime has been entrenched in New Orleans since the late 1930s but local leaders have been "dismally ignorant" on the subject and have organized no significant attack on the problem on either a local or state level.

Henry Peterson, here to address the National Council on Crime and Delinquency Conference of Citizens Against Crime, said the U.S. Justice Department regards New Orleans as a "priority area" in its attacks against organized crime.

Peterson's remarks were made to a press conference shortly before noon.

ALSO ADDRESSING the press were Charles Rogovin,

Washington, D.C., new head of the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, and Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans.

Rogovin said that Louisiana has applied for about \$400,000 in federal law enforcement funds under the omnibus crime control bill passed last year.

But, Rogovin said, his agency is concerned that Louisiana's application contains no plan for dealing with organized crime. His staff currently is discussing the application with state officials and an "accommodation and resolution" is expected shortly, he said.

THE L.E.A.A. has author-

ity to withhold funds if state plans do not meet the specifications laid down by Congress, Rogovin explained.

Kohn said the Metropolitan Crime Commission also is concerned about the omission of organized crime in Louisiana's plan and is seeking an explanation.

Rogovin also spoke at a luncheon for the business executives and civic leaders from 12 Southern states who are attending the meeting at the Roosevelt Hotel.

IN THE TEXT of his remarks, he complained of the lack of planning for law enforcement. He said that although serious disorders have broken out in several cities in 1963, the first national meet-

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dope-peddling, Pierce explained.

The addict is likely to be a passive person, not inclined to mugging, assault and rape.

PIERCE SAID in one group of addicts he is familiar with, 87 per cent had been arrested previously. Of these, 36 per cent had been charged with crimes against property but normally 3.6 per cent were accused of crimes against persons.

The third panelist, Wesley Pomeroy of Washington, D. C., associate administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, said, in an interview that policemen, like students, are becoming disgruntled and rebellious because the systems they depend on are not working well.

"There is no swiftness of justice. Our correctional programs don't correct. Our rehabilitation programs don't rehabilitate," Pomeroy said.

As a result, the policeman becomes frustrated and "becomes the punisher because nobody else is doing it. I think we saw a little of this in Chicago," he explained.

WHAT IS WORSE, the public approves, Pomeroy said. "They talk about correction and rehabilitation, but what they really want to do is bust a few heads.

"In a democracy we can't have the police turn into punishers. The police don't want it either," he warned.

He suggested that completely new approaches to police work must be found. "no one has ever done a systems analysis of the police needs of cities," he complained.

THE METHODS still in use today were originated in the 1800s at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. "Maybe we don't need a quasi-military organization," he speculated.

Another panel this morning discussed the problem of "the dangerous offender." Participants were Judge Robert Hill of Florence, Ala., Eugene Barkin of Washington, D. C., legal counsel with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Dr. Gene Usdin, director of psychiatric services at Touro Infirmary.

Judge Hill explained in an interview that the "model sentencing act" devised by the council of judges of the

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ing for police chiefs on civil disorders was not held until mid-1967.

The first comprehensive program of week-long national conferences did not occur until 1968. "It was much too long to wait, and the country has paid for it dearly," he said.

The same lack of planning is evident in campus disorders, he said. Violence began at the University of California in Berkeley in 1964, but nearly five years elapsed before the first national conference for lawmen on how to deal with such disorders, Rogovin added.

HE COMPLAINED that many university officials do not plan how to cope with violence, but wait until the height of a crisis and then call for help.

Other speakers at the luncheon were Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas, Mayor Victor H. Schiro, Milton G. Rector, director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and Carl M. Loeb Jr., president of the NCCD.

In his address, Rockefeller said many societies do not buy solutions to their crime problems.

HE SAID THE solution lies in replacing crime rather than limiting emphasis on punishing it.

The Arkansas governor pointed to prison reform in his state as one way of beginning to attack the complex problem of controlling crime.

Earlier today, Samuel Dash of Washington, D.C., chairman-elect of the American Bar Association's criminal law division, in a panel on "Crime in the Streets," said uncaught criminals outnumber those who are brought to justice by perhaps 10 to one.

DASH SAID IN an interview that the entire American system of criminal justice deals only with failures in crime—the caught criminal.

Uncaught criminals, however, are much more numerous, especially in areas of white collar crime, such as embezzlement and fraud.

As an example, he mentioned a confidential study made in a respectable suburb in upstate New York. There it was found that 91 per cent of the residents admitted to hav-

ing committed some felony for which they could have been executed had they been caught.

SUCH SOPHISTICATED wrongdoers "don't hit us over the head," Dash said, so the public reserves its anger for street crime.

The latter is nothing new, he emphasized. It is complained of in Sumerian tablets 4,000 years old. It always has been associated mainly with cities and committed mostly by the poor on the poor, Dash said.

However, crimes of violence have increased recently. No one really knows the cause but it generally is agreed that overcrowding, the unsolved problems of poverty and the breakdown in morality partially are at fault, Dash speculated.

ANOTHER panelist, Larry Pierce of Albany, N. Y., chairman of the New York State Narcotics Addiction Control Commission, said the drug addict plays a relatively small role in street crime.

He is involved in crime to support his \$30-a-day average habit, but it probably will be burglary, prostitution or

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National Council on Crime and Delinquency calls for distinguishing between the dangerous offender who must be isolated from society and the casual offender who might well be treated in the community.

HE ESTIMATED that 10 to 12 per cent might be classified as dangerous. Domestic clinics to identify those who are dangerous are desperately needed, he said.

Dr. Usdin said psychiatrists are limited as to the degree in which they can "guesstimate the dangerousness of potential criminals." There is a critical shortage of mental health manpower in correction programs because of the reluctance of psychiatrists to get involved.

BARKIN SUGGESTED that if prisons were less isolated and if security-minded administrators put fewer strictures on psychiatrists, personnel might be easier to find.

Speaking at the council last night, U.S. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, stated that "if there is to be a new reverence for law, it will come through rededication by all individuals willing to roll up their sleeves to participate in crime control."

Muskie maintained that there is no cheap or easy way to solve the crime problem. It is going to take much money and work, he said.