

Mitchell Creates a New 'Strike Force' on Crime

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WASHINGTON, July 27 (UPI) — A new anticrime "strike force" of five Federal lawyers went into action today. Justice Department sources said its target was a key figure in crime syndicate infiltration of legitimate financial circles.

The force is the department's 18th and the first to be based here. It will have access to the full investigative resources of the Justice Department, the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The indictment earlier this year of Meyer Lansky, an underworld figure who has since gone to Israel, led to the disclosure that the syndicate had far-ranging investments, including Las Vegas gambling casinos, Florida Hotels, real estate and a holding company.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell, in a brief statement announcing the creation of the new strike force, said it would have nationwide jurisdiction as

Five U.S. Lawyers in Capital Will Focus on Syndicate Infiltration of Finance

recommended by the National Council on Organized Crime. The council, headed by Mr. Mitchell, was formed in June, 1970, to coordinate Federal anticrime planning.

Named to head the new team of five Justice Department lawyers was Robert J. Campbell, 32 years old, who has served four years with the department's tax division and one year in the organized crime section of the criminal division.

Meanwhile, in Miami, Mr. Mitchell said Americans ran the risk of creating a national police force that "could be used as a political weapon" if they looked to the Federal Government for control of local crimes.

Mr. Mitchell cautioned against concentrating too much power in a central authority with general criminal jurisdiction.

He said such a trend would create a jurisdictional clash between the Federal and state authorities.

In a speech to the Florida Sheriffs Association, Mr. Mitchell said statistics showed that the local police were coping more effectively than they were earlier with the national crime problem.

He noted that in the first three months of 1971, two Florida cities, Jacksonville and Tampa, showed crime decreases of 7 and 9 per cent compared to the same period in 1970.

Mr. Mitchell praised J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for resisting proposals that his agency be used for purposes other than "those strictly concerned with Federal offenses."