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Kleindienst NL By BREN-
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STATELINE, Nev. AP-Ef-
fects of increased federal anti-
crime grants in slashing the
country's crime rate are being
undercut in the nation's court-
rooms, Atty. Gen. Richard
Kleindienst said Tuesday.

Kleindienst, in his first public
speech since being approved as
attorney general three weeks
ago, said, "The slowness of the
trial process is one of the weak
links in the total criminal jus-
tice system."

He called for more judge-
ships and courtrooms along
with updated court laws and
administration to insure defend-
ants get speedy trials.

"It does little good for us to
improve the efficiency of our
police departments and to im-
prove the rehabilitation of pris-
oners if the whole system bogs
down in in the middle," said
Kleindienst.

The attorney general said
"interminable collateral at-
tacks" made possible by post-
trial use of federal writs of
habeas corpus forcing release
of prisoners is one of the key
factors "that has slowed and
frustrated the justice process."

Kleindienst urged the Nation-
al Association of Attorneys
General meeting here to sup-
port a bill now before Congress
to limit such collateral attacks
to alleged violations of a con-
stitutional right in courtroom
fact-finding.

"While I recognize the place
of collateral attack in the judi-
cial process, I do deplore the
use of it that has mushroomed
in the last 20 years," he said.

Results of the post-trial re-
views by federal courts are
that the trial system becomes
clogged and the prisoner never
reaches the point of accepting
his own guilt so that he can be-
gin the process of rehabilita-
tion," said Kleindienst.

"Thus a device originally in-
tended to insure justice is now
threatening a breakdown of jus-
tice," he said.

Kleindienst noted that the
Justice Department's Law En-
forcement Assistance Adminis-
tration now allocates about 11
per cent of its funds to pro-
grams for improving the
courts—a figure he said may go
as high as 20 per cent of total
grants in the future.

Kleindienst said LEAA's budget swelled from \$68 million in fiscal 1969 to \$850 million appropriated by Congress for fiscal 1973.

He pointed out that in 1968 the nation's over-all crime rate jumped 17 per cent while in 1971 it had tapered off to a 6 per cent increase.

Kleindienst also said total crime in six major U.S. cities—New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Detroit and Houston—has shown "an actual decrease of 3 per cent in the last quarter of 1971" compared to a 12 per cent increase in the first quarter of the year.

The LEAA program is "helping mightily" in producing that drop in national crime rates, he said, but its continued success requires increased state and federal cooperation.

Kleindienst arrived at the session late and had to cancel a news conference. Immediately after speaking, he boarded a helicopter and was whisked to an airport in Reno where he boarded a plane for Washington.