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Kleindienst NL By BREN-
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STATELINE, Nev. AP-Effects of increased federal anti-crime grants in slashing the country's crime rate are being undercut in the nation's courtrooms, 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 justice system."

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

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

The attorney general said "interminable collateral attacks" 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 National Association of Attorneys General meeting here to support a bill now before Congress to limit such collateral attacks to alleged violations of a constitutional right in courtroom fact-finding.

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

Results of the post-trial reviews by federal courts are that the trial system becomes clogged as the prisoner never reaches the point of accepting his own guilt so that he can begin the process of rehabilitation," said Kleindienst.

"Thus a device originally intended to insure justice is now threatening a breakdown of justice," he said.

Kleindienst noted that the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration now allocates about 11 per cent of its funds to programs 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.