

President Nixon arrived in Denver, Colorado, today, to meet with state officials who oversee the use of federal law enforcement grants and to ask their support for legislation he has proposed to reduce crime. The President repeated his criticism of Congress for failing to pass twelve bills that he submitted over a year ago.

He also said that the news media make heroes out of those who engage in criminal activities. The President referred specifically to the trial of Charles Manson, now in progress in Los Angeles. He said, "Here is a man who was guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders without reason. Here is a man, yet, who as far as the coverage was concerned appeared to be a glamorous figure."

Soon after President Nixon made his remarks, the White House press secretary, Ronald Ziegler, spoke to reporters. In response to a question concerning the President's assessment of the Manson trial, Mr. Ziegler said, "The phrase he used could lead to some misinterpretation." When asked if he was retracting President Nixon's statement, Mr. Ziegler replied, "I think I've done that." The U.S. Attorney General, John Mitchell, who was with the President when he made his comments, said, "I don't believe the President made a charge or implied one."

In Los Angeles one of the four defense attorneys at the Manson trial, Ronald Hughes, said, "I'm going to make a motion that the case against Manson and the co-defendants be dismissed." He added, "The fact that the President of the United States feels it necessary to comment on the guilt or innocence of a defendant in this murder trial shows that the case has been prejudiced through pre-trial publicity to a point of not allowing a fair trial." The motion was later filed in court and denied by the trial judge.