

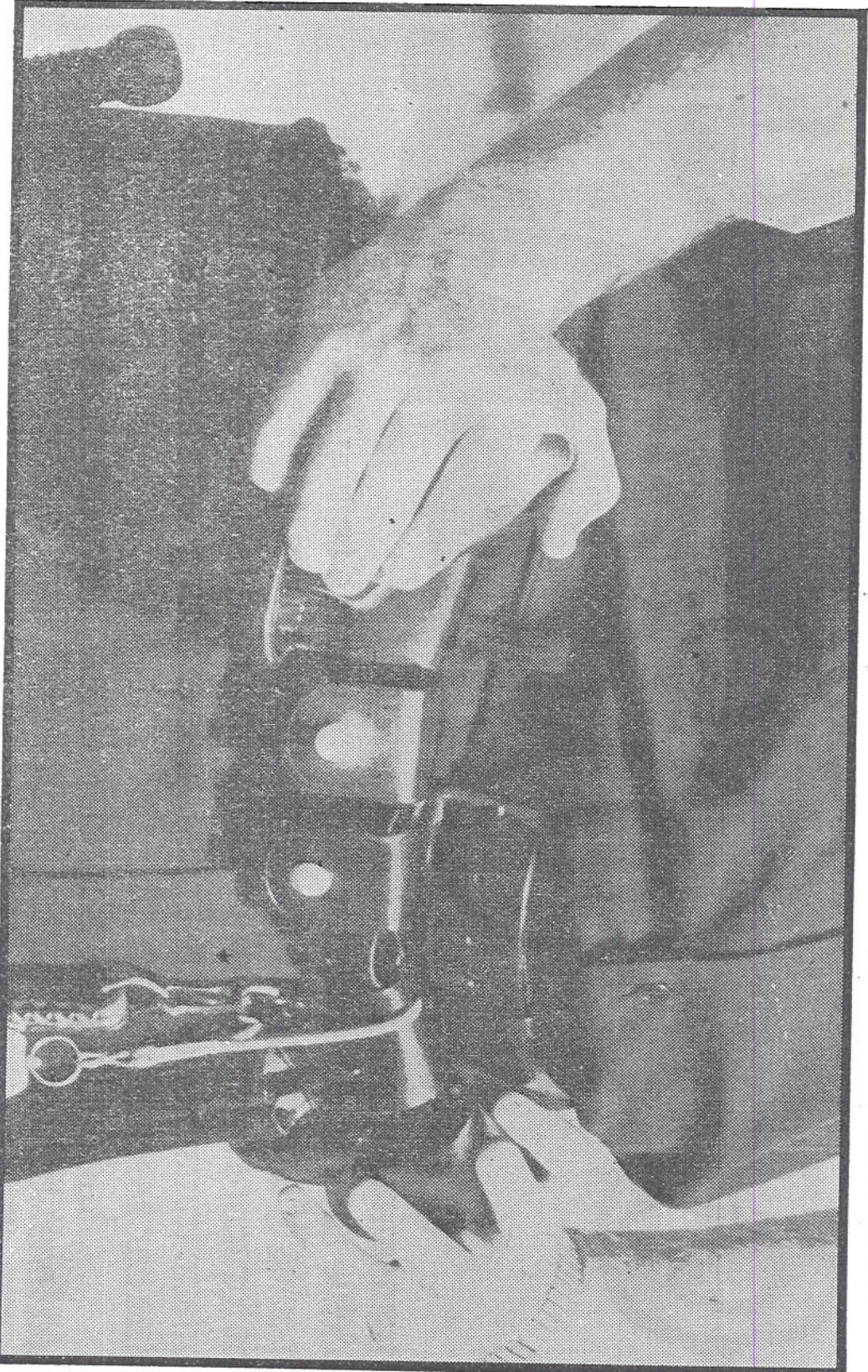
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# The Police and Society

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## By L. Patrick Gray 3d

WASHINGTON—Crime brings fear. Fear breeds terror. And with terror comes the destruction of the spirit and the freedom of a people. Although great strides have been made in combatting crime, fear and terror still exist among us. More hard work lies ahead.

This is why the former Attorney General, John Mitchell, took the initiative in February, 1971, in proposing that Federal, state and local governments join to establish national standards and goals for our criminal justice system.

Although the primary responsibility for criminal law enforcement rests with the states, this does not mean that the Federal forces have a free ride. Let's take a look from the Federal perspective. The plain and very obvious fact of life is that our forces are thin indeed, and we could not discharge our responsibilities at the Federal level without the cooperation of the forces at the state and local level.

The criminal laws are written by

others, but peace officers have to breathe life in them by enforcement. This is where the action begins and very often ends. As strange as it may seem to some, we believe that the needs of our society in crime control are the same as the needs of the members of the law enforcement profession.

Neither our society nor the law enforcement profession requires more enlightenment or more rhetoric. Support is what we need. Our people need support and our policemen need support. Our police need support from those whom we serve as we take the steps necessary to purge our ranks of those who would and do dishonor our profession. We need the support of our fellow citizens as we take the steps necessary to improve our performance in their behalf. New concepts, new techniques and new equipment are needed if we are to continue our forward momentum.

Recent events indicate all too clearly that our police forces have some new missions—one is the assault on entrenched and dug-in criminals. The sniper and the terrorist appear to be

a part of the criminal scene today and for the foreseeable future.

No other forces are volunteering to handle such situations and I don't expect to see any volunteers. This appears to be another tough job that will have to be handled by the police. And to do the job will require more than just more of the same.

Our society and our police forces need prosecutors that prosecute and prosecute well and rapidly, too, so that quick-draw artists are not back through the turnstiles and shooting at our friends and neighbors . . . and at our police forces, even before we have time to reload.

Our society and our police forces need judges that judge with fairness, impartiality and compassion. Compassion for the person on trial, yes, but also compassion for all the people. The accused on trial is not the only person whose unalienable rights are on the line in a criminal case. The people in whose name the prosecution is brought have a rather substantial set of rights on the line, too. They too are parties to the trial and are also entitled to receive due process.

Our society and our police forces need judges who know how to sentence, and whom to sentence, and to what type of correctional institution. Not every convicted felon is a hardened criminal or a sociopath, but those that are ought not to be permitted to return so easily to prey again and again upon society. Rehabilitation is fine for those convicted felons who show signs of being able to profit from such measures. It is a useless gesture for those who resist every such effort, or take advantage of such efforts to gain early release and do it all over again.

The real purpose of incarceration is to protect society. If rehabilitation is going to contribute to the protection of society in a given case, let's rehabilitate. If not, let's incarcerate and protect society. The objective of the criminal justice system is the protection of society, not just the protection of the rights of the accused.

*L. Patrick Gray 3d is acting director of the F.B.I. This is adapted from a talk on criminal justice.*