

EA183WX

(100)

8 SEPT 1965

1224 PED

215 PCS

(300) FIRST LEAD CRIME

BY C. YATES MCDANIEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 8 (AP)—PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKED THE NATIONAL CRIME COMMISSION TODAY TO DRAFT FOR HIM "A BLUEPRINT FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BANISH CRIME."

JOHNSON ADDRESSED MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, HEADED BY ATTY. GEN. NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, IN THE WHITE HOUSE CABINET ROOM.

JOHNSON SAID "THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME DO NOT YIELD TO EASY ANSWERS," BUT "TODAY I AM CHALLENGING YOU TO FIND THEM."

JOHNSON SAID HE WANTS ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

WHY ONE-THIRD

JOHNSON SAID HE WANTS ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

WHY ONE-THIRD OF ALL PAROLEES REVERT TO CRIME.

WHY ONE MAN BREAKS THE LAW AND ANOTHER, LIVING IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES, DOES NOT.

WHY DRUG ADDICTION IS INCREASING AMONG YOUTH.

WHY ORGANIZED CRIME CONTINUES TO EXPAND, DESPITE BEST EFFORTS TO PREVENT IT.

WHY JUVENILE DELINQUENCY KNOWS NO ECONOMIC OR EDUCATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

"AND WHEN YOU FIND THE 'WHYS' THEN I WILL SEE THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION IS TAKEN," JOHNSON SAID.

"I ASK YOU TO BE DARING--BE CREATIVE--BE REVOLUTIONARY IN YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS. . . .

A184WX

"I PLEDGE YOU AND I PLEDGE TO THE NATION: THE FULL RESOURCES OF THIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE BEHIND YOU."

JOHNSON CALLED CRIME "A SORE SPOT ON THE FACE OF AMERICA," "A MENACE ON OUR STREETS," "A DRAIN ON OUR CITIES," A "CORRUPTER OF OUR YOUTH," AND "A CAUSE OF UNTOLD SUFFERING AND LOSS."

HE SAID THE FIRST STEPS IN THE WAR ON CRIME ALREADY HAVE BEEN

CONGRESS APPROPRIATED \$1.1 MILLION TO FINANCE THE 19-MEMBER  
COMMISSION'S WORK.

ALTHOUGH THIS ETC. 4TH GRAPH A115WX

JC1224PED NM

EB149

(300)

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD FIRST LEAD CRIME (A183WX) XXX  
COMMISSION'S WORK.

FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER DEFENDED POLICE AND THEIR METHODS  
AND CRITICIZED SOME RECENT COURT DECISIONS IN REVIEWING THE  
CRIME TREND FOR THE COMMISSION.

AFTER THE GROUP LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE, HOOVER TOLD THEM THAT THE  
ANNUAL COST OF CRIME HAS NOW MOUNTED TO \$27 BILLION. HE ADDED  
HIS CONVICTION, HOWEVER, THAT "WE CAN FIND WAYS TO REDUCE CRIME  
TO A MINIMUM."

HOOVER, IN DEFENDING POLICEMEN, SAID THAT "SOME RECENT COURT  
DECISIONS HAVE SEVERELY AND UNFAIRLY SHACKED" ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS.

HE SAID POLICEMEN MUST OCCASIONALLY RISK THEIR LIVES TO CORRECT  
THE ERRORS OF TURNSTILE JUSTICE DISPENSED FROM BEHIND A MAHOGANY  
DESK.

THE FBI CHIEF ADDED THAT THE DAYS OF THE THIRD DEGREE AND  
"STRONG ARM METHODS, WITH RARE EXCEPTIONS, ARE LONG GONE,"  
ADDING THAT THE POLICE NOW DEPEND ON SCIENCE TO SOLVE CRIMES.

THE COMMISSION MEETING THIS MORNING WAS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS,  
BUT A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AIDE MADE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
AVAILABLE TO REPORTERS.

THE AIDE FURTHER REPORTED THAT HOOVER EMPHASIZED THAT POLICE  
MUST MAKE QUICK DECISIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO ARREST OR  
QUESTION A SUSPECT, WHILE HAVING IN MIND WHAT DANGER HE MIGHT  
BE TO CITIZENS IF HE WERE TURNED LOOSE.

THE POLICEMAN, SAID HOOVER "UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HASN'T  
TIME TO CONSULT THE LAW BOOKS OR PREPARE A SCHOLARLY TREATISE."



KATZENBACH INTRODUCED HOOVER AND LATER OUTLINED HIS PLANS FOR THE COMMISSION OPERATION.

HE TOLD THEM THAT DURING THE FACT-FINDING PHASE FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE ENTIRE GROUP WILL BE HELD TO A MINIMUM. DETAILED DIGGING INTO ALL PHASES OF CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER SENTENCING WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES AIDED BY PANELS OF SPECIALISTS.

THE COMMISSION RESUMES ITS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL WIND UP THE SESSION WITH ANOTHER GATHERING TOMORROW.

GM215PCS