

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER IN HONOR OF CHIEF WILLIAM BOYLE AT RHODES ON SUNDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 18, 1960

I am grateful for the opportunity which has been ~~offered~~ me to participate with so many of you in evincing our respect and admiration for Chief Boyle whose high standards of personal and professional conduct have merited not only our trust and confidence but that of the New England Police Chiefs as well.

If I know Bill Boyle, he will wear his honors lightly. And though he is deeply appreciative of this evidence of personal esteem, he must as an outstanding representative of our police organization, glory more in the distinction that this public display brings to the profession of police protection and public service.

For Bill Boyle is preeminently and whole heartedly a dedicated member of the police profession. And if this testimonial tonight is conducive in any way in enhancing the prestige and public respect of police officers and departments throughout our community then, I am sure, his satisfaction will be compounded.

The police function in our state and all states needs this kind of testimonial and distinction, and more of them, if it is to capture the public support so necessary for the effective achievement of its goal.

The public image of the police function must be recreated and revitalized to reflect our changing times and patterns of living.

Unfortunately, we have permitted the police function of our communities, like so many other civic functions which we take for granted, to lag behind the great changes taking place in the very society of which the function is a part and which it is committed to protect and serve.

It seems illogical and inconsistent to use such descriptive terms as: "Atomic Age," "Space Age," "Age of Automation" to indicate the new frontiers of scientific advancement and reevaluation and still hold to the "horse and buggy" concept of police functions, personnel and organization.

Around us is ample evidence of the radical changes in our mode of living since the days of our childhood and youth.

In this brief time, scientific advances have moved with such alarming speed that often we are left confused and bewildered.

Technological innovations have followed in the wake of our scientific progress with automation bringing its promises of blessings and its attendant problems.

The technology of transportation seems to have annihilated both space and time. The technology of communication has brought the wide world within the instant and immediate scope of the press, the radio and the television.

The technology of defense has brought the full horror of war - bombs and missiles - within the limits of our door steps.

The influence of these changes on many facets of our way of life is obvious to us. Our diet, housing, apparel, recreation, entertainment - all have felt the impact of change.

It is little wonder then, that the nature and scope of our police problems were affected. Old problems were aggravated and a plague of new ones developed to test the limited personnel and resources of our police departments.

Perhaps the most pressing and persistent of these problems is that of juvenile delinquency.

At least judging from the attention it is getting from all segments of the public it is our number one problem. The unfortunate situation incident to the Jazz Festival at Newport this summer attests to this.

All of us must be familiar with the magnitude of this problem - involving as it does, hundreds of thousands of juveniles;

With its scope of violations - embracing infractions or misdemeanors to the most serious of crimes;

And with its organizational structure - the gang.

It is no respecter of creed, race, nationality or family group.

As frightening as the problem may seem, the hopeful and bright aspect

is that it is not worse.

To what can we ascribe this social ^{Problem} phenomenon - juvenile delinquency?

The Times? I don't think so.

The fault, it seems to me, lies not in the times but in ourselves.

Despite the changes which gradually moved into our way of living, most of us pursued the even tenor of our day, apparently oblivious or unconcerned about the situations to which our young were being exposed without the maturity and responsibility necessary to cope with these experiences.

Unfortunately, we did not seem disposed to adjust, plan and develop programs to meet the changes which confronted us or our children. We seemed too prone to shift our responsibilities to other community agencies - such as the police department, without providing these departments with the funds, resources and personnel so needed to perform the extra duties thrust on them. It was in a sense compounding the felony.

All crime including juvenile delinquency is not the sole concern of our police departments. It is the concern and responsibility of each person, each group and each institution within the community. The family,

the church, the government, the business enterprise, the social organizations and the citizen must accept the duty and responsibility of providing adequate programs, facilities and supervision which will tend to eliminate and minimize the circumstances and conditions conducive to delinquency.

Annually all units of government spend hundreds of millions of dollars in the support and maintenance of corrective penal institutions, while we leave untouched the social conditions which spawned the delinquent in the first place.

The "economic waste of sin" as it is epitomized in crime seems to be appalling. When one estimates the cost in terms of wasted human resources, the destruction of property, the added cases to enterprise and homeowners for alarms, safety gimmicks and insurance, and the heavy burden of taxation that falls on the citizen for building and maintenance of penal institutions, the sheer economic gain, apart from the moral and social values involved would, it seems to me, be incentive enough to impel all of us who complain about the high cost of living and government to move with vigor and determination toward the assumption of responsibilities which are strictly ours.

The program of crime prevention through individual and institutional responsibility is not new. In terms of crime prevention most of us know what we ought to do - the big question is do we want to do it?

In combating crime, it is not only necessary that each of us accept our moral responsibilities, it is equally important that our ideas and attitudes toward police functions, duties, organizations and personnel be made to conform to the conditions prevailing in 1960 - rather than 1900 or 1930.

What support should we give to our state and local police departments? That, my friends, must be measured by the value we place on our property, our lives and the lives and general welfare of our children.

Personal and selfish interests alone, should urge us to promote actively and support generously any program which enables our police to cope with the changing modern world.

We should be interested in seeing that our police departments:

1. have the funds and the means to take advantage of research

and advancement not only in the field of criminology and

penology but in the allied fields of science as well,

2. that they be provided with the funds and facilities for in-service training so that members would have the opportunity to keep up-to-date with new developments in the police profession.
3. they have available facilities - laboratories and otherwise for the accurate and prompt detection of crime.
4. that standards for admission to the police department be upgraded to include more years of formal education with greater breadth and depth in the areas of study affiliated with police protection.
5. that adequate and more than adequate salaries be established to attract and retain the quality and quantity of manpower the profession of police protection demands today.

This to my way of thinking is a program geared only to meet minimum needs and standards for efficient police protection today.

This program can be readily realized if people understand the vital necessity for providing themselves with community security through

strong modern and efficient police organizations.

Assisting in the achievement of strong police support programs are the well organized police associations. With their knowledge and experience they can be very effective instruments for informing the public on needs and stimulating popular interest in programs of improvement.

Into such programs our honored guest would fit admirably. As a man, as an officer and chief administrator, he has the qualities, training and experience which unquestionably qualify him for such work.

The character of Bill Boyle reflected so eloquently throughout his life can best be expressed in the words of Rabbi Norbert Rosenthal -

" To thyself be true,
To thy family affectionate,
To thy neighbor, generous
To thy community serviceable,
To mankind be just,
To every living creature be compassionate,
To the world be courageous,
To the past be understanding,
To the future be hopeful,
And to God, be humble."