

Mr James Wilson  
President - Harvard  
Univ  
Chr Taskforce

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

UPON RELEASING STATEMENT ON CRIME

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1968

Thirty-five years ago, Franklin Roosevelt said to America:

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Today we face the problem of crime, and fear is again the enemy.

Fear paralyzes. It hampers a reasoned search for the hard realistic answers we need.

① / This is a time for an honest, clear discussion of the issues -- of crime, of its causes and control, of order, of justice.

This is not a time for more fear-mongering, slogans or empty promises. These tactics can only lead to national disaster.

We know all too well that

There is too much crime, ~~There is~~ too much violence

*want and:* We cannot understate or ignore these conditions. <sup>1</sup> ~~condone~~ Americans

I have offered specific action programs to meet them.

In the meantime, we must not panic or be stampeded by

*what we seek is order and justice*  
the acts of extremists. <sup>1</sup> The Rap Browns ... the Stokely

Carmichaels -- the extremists of Left and Right -- ~~will not~~ *will not* have their way - we will not allow them to terrorize or ~~be allowed to stampede America or cause us to lose perspective~~ *stampede America - or cause us to lose*

~~First of all: Let us keep our heads.~~

*our perspective. We can have a Safe Society*

It is time for a serious, practical, detailed blueprint outlining what we can do, what we must do, and what we will do about crime.

It is time to commit our national resources to deal with this national problem.

I am releasing today a comprehensive report by my Task Force on Order and Justice which contains 84 specific recommendations for combatting, controlling and eliminating crime, and fostering equal justice in the United States.

The Report recognizes three basic principles:

First. We urgently need vigorous Federal support of State and local law enforcement, and the President must give strong, decisive leadership to this national mobilization.

Second. Our action against crime must ~~not~~ <sup>be firm, prompt and effective</sup> jeopardize hard-won liberties of our citizens or our tradition of State and local control of law enforcement activities.

Third. We must not only <sup>control</sup> prevent crime, but we must also aim at removing the economic and social conditions which contribute to it.

The Report offers a comprehensive and workable program of action to combat crime, <sup>+ Violence</sup> As President, I will carry it out with every resource at my command.

I will support our local police, not with slogans and bumper stickers, but with leadership and federal resources, including money -- money desperately needed for higher salaries and more personnel and for better training and equipment.

This support is the most effective way to fight <sup>street</sup> ~~street~~ crime in your cities and towns.

I will fight organized crime, not with rhetoric, but with a strengthened and expanded Federal effort centered in the Department of Justice.

I will stop riots by increased training of our local police and National Guard in riot control, including the creation of highly-trained,

~~by~~ <sup>effective disciplined</sup> mobile units which can act immediately to stop civil disorders in their early stages. ~~We need not follow the path of blind repression and~~

~~counter violence which only tends to increase loss to property, loss of life, and loss of control.~~ But let me make it perfectly clear: the riots will be stopped.

I welcome dissent, but not violence and destructive action which actually obstruct progress. *Dissent, yes - Disorder, no!*

↳ I will improve our court and prison systems, not with slogans and irresponsible attacks on our judges or on our courts, but with trained personnel and more efficient management of our system of administrative justice. Prompt and decisive court action is one of the surest ways to remove criminals from our streets.

↳ I will fight juvenile delinquency, not by callous disregard of intolerable living conditions that help promote it, but by programs that will turn potential offenders toward useful and productive lives.

↳ I will seek to root out the continuing injustices that the lawless seek to exploit.

↳ The basic thrust of the report is this:

To make our streets safer and our law enforcement more effective, we need a general mobilization of all parts of the community to battle crime on a broad front, from the institutions that must contend with it to the social problems that are its breeding ground.

As President, I would lead such a mobilization against crime *and Violence* and I am confident the American people would support such an all-out attack.

Let me be very clear on the meaning of this report. Its judgments are my judgments. Its recommendations are my recommendations, and as President, I will seek to implement them. !

I am the only candidate for the President who has supervised a local police force. I am the only candidate for President who has cleaned up a city -- ~~driven out the criminals and racketeers~~ -- and received the F.B.I. award for effective law enforcement. As Mayor of Minneapolis, I fought crime ... and won. I intend to do the same thing as President of the United States.

\* \* \*



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)