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Published by the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES
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TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

Two 14-year-old boys, one on probation for a prior offense, steal a truck in an Atlantic seaboard State and run down a 6-year-old girl, critically injuring her...a 17-year-old youth in a southwestern State rams his speeding, stolen car into another vehicle, killing an expectant mother; he admits stealing 11 automobiles...two wine-drinking teenagers, 15 and 17, severely beat an officer who tries to arrest them in their stolen car in an eastern State...a 19-year-old youth with a record as a juvenile offender steals a car in a large eastern city, crashes head on into another automobile, kills four men, and critically injures another...in a western State, a 16-year-old teenager steals a car to show off on the first day of school, wrecks it and kills his 15-year-old companion.

These are the grisly reports of juvenile criminality—teenagers on the rampage in stolen automobiles from the four corners of our Nation. The miracle of modern-day transportation has become a vehicle of tragedy for countless teenagers who have killed and mangled themselves and innocent motorists across the land, and, regrettably, this carnage of teenage recklessness in stolen cars shows no signs of abating.

The year 1959 witnessed an alltime high record of automobile thefts as 288,300 cars with a value of $239 million were stolen. The appalling and shameful part of this awesome picture is the fact that juveniles under the age of 18 were responsible for 64 percent of these crimes!

If this sordid situation continues to increase at the same rate as it has in the past, a staggering total of 707,000 automobiles will be stolen in 1970 in this country with a corresponding loss to the American public of $586 million. Again, at the present rate of increase, some 96,000 youths will be arrested for auto theft in 1970.

Law enforcement officers have long known that theft of automobiles by young people is too often only the prelude to a violent crime spree by youthful hoodlums which results in death, severe injury, or extensive property loss.
At its recent conference in Washington, D. C., the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), well aware of the tragic consequences of automobile thefts by juveniles, passed a resolution rejecting the false label of "joyriding" which some overly lenient and misguided citizens, prosecuting authorities, and judges use to describe car thefts by juveniles. This resolution, prepared by veteran law enforcement officers who have too often seen the grim aftermath of juvenile car thievery, calls upon prosecuting authorities and courts to deal realistically and vigorously with juveniles who persist in this crime rather than treating the offense as if it were a boyish prank.

At the same time, these officers acknowledged in another resolution that experience has clearly shown that sure detection, swift apprehension, and proper punishment are the time-proven deterrents to crime, each being a necessary ingredient. The IACP then went on record as favoring the continued, vigorous prosecution of violators of local auto theft statutes and of the Federal Interstate Transportation of Motor Vehicle Statute.

There are many prosecutors and judges who have long since recognized the dangers of soft treatment of car thieves, both adult and juvenile. Communities which have such administrators of justice are fortunate indeed.

Those communities which, on the other hand, have seen palliating treatment of automobile thieves result in the release time after time of potential killers are, by their own apathy, creating situations which will one day spawn tragedy on their streets.

No citizen, fortunately, must learn this lesson by seeing the day-after-day human misery caused by stolen cars that the law enforcement officer must witness, but there is no excuse for failing to heed the advice of the men who are charged with protecting the lives of every citizen.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Commander McKneally, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen of The American Legion and its auxiliary and friends. I have been deeply touched with the remarks of the national commander and to be the recipient of the 1960 award of the American Legion Press Association. On behalf of my dedicated associates in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who have made these accomplishments possible, I am grateful for this recognition, this tribute, and this support.

Since I have been here, I have felt something in the atmosphere—the thrill of patriotic endeavor, of good fellowship, of constructive effort, and the dedication of good citizens earnestly working for their Nation.

The American Legion is a great force for good. It exemplifies the traditions of our country and is living testimony to the spirit of America.

Warning to Enemies

This national meeting of patriotic men and women should serve as an unmistakable warning to those cancerous elements at home and abroad which are conspiring to destroy America. Our national vitality has never been stronger. Our people are united, as never before, in our determination to preserve this Government of justice and freedom under God. While our national survival has never faced greater challenges, there have never been more courageous patriots so eager to accept those challenges.

This Nation would not now have the noblest government of individual human dignity yet known were it not for the gallantry of veterans like you of The American Legion who put country above convenience, patriotism above profit, and service above self-interest.

It is beyond my comprehension that some allegedly loyal citizens of our country should be reluctant to proclaim their devotion to our democratic ideals. It is repugnant to me that the pseudoliberals pride themselves upon being internationalists and view the emotion of patriotism as evidence of decadence and weakness. In some circles, I regret to say, the word patriotism has become a dirty word, and belief in God old-fashioned, if not "ridiculous."

Grateful for Citizenship

It is a great pleasure to me to make known my gratitude for being a citizen of our glorious Republic. I ardently hope that the day will never come when it will be considered "superpatriotism" to have our schoolchildren, or anyone else, heartily pledge allegiance to the flag of our country, and to declare our devotion to God and country.

You and your organization have proved yourselves to be loyal Americans. You can be proud that you have always been on the side of love of God, country, and of law and order.

We need more than ever to rekindle the spirit of patriotism. We have long since reached the time when loyal Americans must be willing to stand up and be counted. We are living in an era when staunch beliefs are needed to conquer the patent lies of communism and the creeping immorality of crime.

Fear, defeatism, and cowardice have no place in the hearts and minds of true Americans. America has always been a land of great champions, produced by the fires of adversity. We must be real champions of America if we are to defeat our enemies within and without.

When, a little more than 3 years ago, I mentioned to your National Convention in Atlantic City a Soviet leader named Nikita Khrushchev, many throughout the world were still trying to learn how to spell his name. But The American Legion and the FBI both knew what to expect from this fork-tongued "front man" of communism, who piously professes friendship one moment and then so pompously pronounces that your
grandchildren will live under the heel of communist socialism.

His Hitleresque tirades and harangues have exposed him and his cohorts to the entire world as leaders, without conscience, of an unmoral tyranny—the most godless atheism ever devised by the mind of man.

The abuse of this Red-Fascist leader of the Kremlin represents brazen vulgarity and a lack of moral principles.

The deceit and trickery practiced by the international gang of communist charlatans, who proudly and loudly spout lies of "peaceful coexistence" while they blandly carry out their ceaseless campaign of open and concealed subversion, are a repugnant display of red diplomacy.

**Appeasement Dangerous**

In dealing with the treacherous Red Kremlin and its satellites, the road of appeasement is not the road to peace. It is surrender on the installment plan!

For realists, the 30-year history of Soviet espionage in the United States should be no surprise. The international scope of Soviet espionage makes a sham of the specious complaints of the Russians as they point their rockets at nations which shelter American bases established solely to insure protection for millions of innocent human beings.

**Soviets Abuse Privileges**

The Soviets and their satellites have abused and will continue to abuse every privilege available to them. Soviet espionage agents attached to the United Nations in New York and to the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., have avidly acquired books and pamphlets, maps and technical journals for their military value to be used against these United States. Russian intelligence files are filled with aerial photographs of this Nation’s cities and its port facilities, missile bases, and other strategic areas. Data concerning our transportation systems, major industries, technological advances, and other achievements are carefully collected by Soviet and satellite agents in this country.

Despite Khrushchev’s blatant mouthings regarding peace and fellowship among nations, it is pure folly to ascribe these tactics to any other course but one of planned aggression with the foulest of intentions.

The host of Soviet and satellite officials in the United States, 70 to 80 percent of whom are today feverishly attempting to obtain this country’s secrets, and the long list of Soviet officials declared persona non grata by this Government, following their exposure by the FBI as espionage agents, bear testimony to their flagrant abuse of diplomatic status.

In June of 1960, our State Department estimated that Russian and Chinese communist bloc countries have some 300,000 trained spies serving throughout the world, and that Department commented that "there has never been a government in history which has placed heavier emphasis on espionage" than present-day Russia.

Standing side by side with these specialists in internal intrigue are those home-grown traitors who call themselves members of the Communist Party of America. These fanatical disciples of Marxism are eagerly worming their way into such fertile fields of endeavor as youth, labor, education, and racial minorities.

The diabolical influence of communism on youth was manifested this year in communist-inspired riots in San Francisco, where students were duped into disgraceful demonstrations against a congressional committee.

These students were stooges of a sinister technique stimulated by clever communist propagandists who remained quietly concealed in the background. These master technicians of conspiracy had planned for some time to use California college students as a "front" for their nefarious operations.

No field is overlooked for communist infiltration; educational, cultural, civic, political, and religious.

Some well-known, self-styled pacifists and some men of wealth and prominence have been sometimes unwitting, but sometimes knowing, dupes of clever communist manipulators. Their wining and dining and fawning over Khrushchev and his gang are revolting.

Some of these political shills for an enemy of the United States, who day by day are embarrassing our Government, may be wealthy in the world’s goods but they are paupers in integrity.

Alert Americans look with frank suspicion on those articulate apologists for Soviet imperialism who are so quick to criticize our security measures
and attack our elected representatives who resolutely withstand the international diplomatic blackmail practiced by the communists. Beware of those who preach that America should never be first in anything but disarmament and demobilization!

The greatest guarantee that America will remain free is to be well prepared, as were the Minutemen of our infant Nation.

We are at war with the communists, and the sooner each red-blooded American realizes that the better and safer we will be! Communism runs counter to all decent aspirations of the human heart. Communism destroys and denies every spiritual value.

We should make it crystal clear to the Red Master of the Kremlin that we intend to win the "cold" war and at the same time impress upon him that we have the military power to prevent a "hot" war. Russia cannot stand against the United States economically, militarily, or ideologically if we remain dedicated to the ideals of our founding fathers.

**Cuban Danger**

The proximity of danger is especially apparent to us here today in this city, as less than 100 miles from our shores a gang of bearded bandits exhibit daily the chaos and corruption which always follow the dictatorial usurpation of power. The communist-inspired developments in Cuba graphically demonstrate the cold-blooded ruthlessness of tyrannical rule headed by Fidel Castro.

There, the Trojan snake of communism has discarded its disguise for brute force and slaughter. Communism, shed of all its false smiles, is on its bloody march again in every country of the world. The resultant misery and mistreatment of the citizens of countries into which the tentacles of communism have reached should serve as a clear warning to all freedom-loving peoples of the world.

On still another front, the never-ending struggle of the communists to capture the minds and loyalties of American youth goes on incessantly. Party leaders overlook no opportunity to pervert academic interest. They have openly lectured to student groups at colleges and universities throughout our country, subtly spreading the virus of communism.

Alarming, too, is the ease with which some major educational institutions have been duped, under the much-abused term of "academic freedom," into permitting underhanded attacks to be made on democratic institutions and on officials of the Government.

We have failed in our educational processes to inculcate the basic element of American history and our moral and spiritual foundations. It is time to make our history and traditions glow and throb. We have heard about America with our ears, but not with our hearts.

The communists never rest in carrying out their design for the destruction of America. A communist will enter an alliance or "coexist" only to advance communism.

The words of Lenin are well to remember—he said, "We do not believe in eternal morality and we expose all the fables about morality." He further said in another writing of his that every lie, deceit, or knavery is to be encouraged as good, provided it furthers world revolution.

What better examples are there today of this despicable guidance in human conduct than we find in Khrushchev and Castro?

Now is the time to proclaim that we are confident of our strength; we are dedicated to freedom and justice and we are not duped by the trickery, the deception, and the false poses of Russia's plea for peaceful coexistence.

*We do not want peace at any price. We want peace with integrity and with honor.*

There is another marching column attempting to attack our country by taking advantage of an era of materialistic selfishness. Our country is recording an alarming new crime rate and society's lack of progress in reducing this scourge has indeed been disheartening. During the first 6 months of 1960, serious crimes increased 9 percent over the same period for the previous year. In 1959, 79 percent of those arrested for auto theft were under 21 years of age and 64 percent were under 18 years of age.

The crime problem, particularly involving our youth, clearly remains an acute danger to our national survival. Our Nation's moral strength has slipped seriously when we find our youngsters substituting idolatry of hoodlums and thugs for admiration of heroes and patriots.

The teachings of God, if followed, will prevent criminality. A child who has been taught to respect the laws of God will have little difficulty respecting the laws of man.

Typical of the social viruses which attack our society and thrive on public apathy and ignorance
is the infamous pornographic literature racket which each year continues to make profits of a half billion dollars. Law enforcement officers throughout this country constantly report on the direct relation of pornographic materials to sex offenses.

**TV Poses Danger**

Another factor in the alarming crime picture can be observed by tuning in to almost any television channel. The private citizen can see for himself what dangers he faces today at the hands of the criminally inclined. The continuous diet of mayhem, murder, and violence served daily to our television audiences constitutes a monumental insult to the genius that developed this medium of mass communication.

The students of a California college reported findings of a study made early this year of television programs in that particular area. In one week, 3,696 acts of violence were recorded, including 1,261 agonizing deaths through shootings, beatings, stabbings, and other violence.

The explosive danger to society from excessive television violence is quite obvious. Many seriously concerned authorities feel that brutality and violence are becoming accepted as normal behavior by young impressionable minds.

The motion picture industry, as well as the television industry, owes a tremendous responsibility to the American public. When adultery, abnormality, and adulation of criminals compose such a substantial segment of today's film offerings, the society mirrored on the screen is dangerously close to national disaster.

**Freedom Dearly Won**

The freedom we enjoy came dearly to this Nation; bought in blood, and tears, and sacrifice. It has given us a truly magnificent system of justice, and of government, and of commerce, and of social institutions, and a standard of living which is the highest ever recorded by any civilization.

Millions in slavery cry out for us to remain steadfast, and to hold high the beacon of light in a darkened world. Our Nation is the last hope of a free civilization. Our dedication to truth, to justice, and to individual dignity must not be compromised.

We face today the challenge of survival. Great challenges have always produced great champions. In the spirit which has made America great, her citizens must now answer that call. In the end we shall win. Keep up your courage. Keep up your magnificent fight for God and country.

**INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION**

The interstate transportation of gambling devices such as slot machines is a violation of Federal law investigated by the FBI. This statute also requires dealers or manufacturers of gambling devices to register and file monthly reports with the Attorney General.

The transportation in interstate or foreign commerce of any stolen cattle, motor vehicle, or aircraft, knowing same to have been stolen, is a violation investigated by the FBI. Receiving, concealing, storing, bartering, selling, or disposing of any such items, knowing they have been stolen, also are investigated by the FBI.

**DISCOURAGES PURSUIT**

A sheriff pursuing two bootleggers suddenly found himself enveloped in a smokescreen released from the rear of the getaway car. The violators were pursued through city streets, and the sheriff later commented that he probably would have lost his subjects had they not trapped themselves in a dead-end street.

Inspection of the bootleggers' car disclosed not only the smokescreen system but also a device for spraying carpet tacks in the path of a pursuing vehicle, both of which could be activated by switches on the dashboard of this automobile designed for crime.
Every year, the United States Civil Service Commission makes more than a million contacts with law enforcement authorities throughout the Nation. Many of these are in the form of personal visits by Commission investigators. Others are by mail in the form of written inquiries. All have a common purpose: to request a check of the law enforcement files and to obtain a report of the information they contain.

This volume of requests adds up to a sizable amount of reference to law enforcement records. Yet the Commission performs no law enforcement function in the usual sense. It makes no arrests and brings no criminals to trial. It is not engaged in locating missing persons or in apprehending fugitives from justice. One might pause to wonder, then, why these checks are made and how they are used.

The answer lies in the fact that these checks are made as an essential part of the Government’s personnel investigative and security programs, established by law and Presidential order.

With few exceptions, all persons entering the Federal Service must be investigated. This is because investigations are necessary in determining that persons privileged to be employed by the Government are of good conduct and character and are reliable, trustworthy, and loyal. Without an effective means of investigation, there would be no protection against the employment of the disloyal, the criminal, or the unfit. The doors of Government agencies would be open to those who do not measure up to adequate standards of suitability. The national interest requires assurance that the public’s business be conducted properly and by people of unquestioned loyalty and integrity in a manner that reflects credit on the Federal Service.

The Civil Service Commission is responsible for conducting most of the personnel investigations in the Federal Service. These investigations are of two principal types depending upon the kind of position involved. Sensitive positions—those of critical importance from the standpoint of the national security—require full field investigations. These are made personally by investigators, usually before the person enters on duty or is assigned to sensitive work. Nonsensitive positions—those not affecting the national defense or security—are investigated by means of national agency checks and inquiries. These are investigations by correspondence and record searches; usually they are conducted after the employee begins work.

Full field investigations are intensive personal investigations, inquiring closely into all significant aspects of the person’s adult life. They include personal interviews by investigators with former employers, supervisors, references, neighbors,
school authorities, and other associates; and checks of police, credit, and FBI field office records. The purpose of these contacts and checks is to obtain a well-rounded picture of the person’s background—his character, habits, morals, reputation, his record at work and in the community. Any information reflecting on his suitability for Federal employment is investigated fully. Typical matters casting such a reflection may be arrest records, lack of integrity, dismissal from previous employment for serious cause, bad credit, habitual use of intoxicants to excess, and gross immorality.

In each case the investigator also inquires as to the loyalty of the person under investigation. If a question of loyalty is developed, the case is immediately referred to the FBI for a full field loyalty investigation. Forming a basis for these referrals are such matters as sabotage, espionage, treason, sedition, membership in or affiliation with subversive organizations, unauthorized disclosure of security information, or refusal on grounds of self-incrimination to testify on loyalty matters before a congressional committee.

The Commission’s full field investigations are conducted as a service to some 50 employing agencies engaged in a variety of missions both at home and abroad. The agencies served include some of the most sensitive in the Government. Among them are the Atomic Energy Commission (covering private contractor personnel), the International Cooperation Administration, the U.S. Information Agency, the Federal Aviation Agency, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Also, the Commission makes investigations in connection with the employment of U.S. citizens by the United Nations and other international organizations.

Commission Investigators

In view of the importance of these investigations to the Nation’s security and the fact that they so closely touch the lives of the individuals affected, Commission investigators are selected with care and thoroughly investigated under strict standards. Upon appointment they are given intensive initial training, are further developed on the job by close supervision, and are kept at high efficiency by periodic refresher training. Advice and assistance provided by the FBI have been most helpful in this training program.

Both in its training and in its daily operations, the Commission stresses quality of investigating and reporting as essential to safeguarding the Government’s security while protecting the rights of individuals. To provide prompt service is a constant aim, for the Commission recognizes how important time is to agency heads who cannot fill key positions and accomplish sensitive missions until needed investigations are completed.

The number of full field investigations conducted by the Commission has ranged in recent years between 20,000 and 50,000 cases a year, with the average case requiring investigation at six or more different localities.

Nonsensitive Investigations

The remaining persons who enter Federal Service are investigated by national agency checks and inquiries because their positions are nonsensitive and do not require full field investigations. Each year, the Commission conducts approximately 250,000 investigations of this type. As mentioned before, national agency checks and inquiries are made after appointment rather than before. For reasons of economy, they make use of written inquiries as a substitute for personal contacts. These are sent to employers, supervisors, and references; places of education of college or university level; and law enforcement agencies at places of employment, education, and residence. These cases also include national agency checks, the same as are conducted in full field cases. As another point of similarity, any loyalty question developed is immediately referred for FBI attention.

Information Analyzed

When a national agency check and inquiry develops unfavorable suitability information which may be sufficiently serious to require the employee’s removal, further investigation is conducted to develop the full data needed for a decision. The investigator inquires into all pertinent facts about the adverse information and, if needed, secures information about the person’s recent activities. His purpose is to obtain whatever information is required to permit a decision as to the person’s present suitability for Federal employment.

When all the required facts have been obtained, the case is referred for decision. All of the available pertinent information, both favorable and unfavorable, is studied carefully by specially se-
lected and trained personnel. Before making an adverse decision, the Commission gives the individual an opportunity to explain any derogatory information. This safeguard is a Commission tradition of long standing. Beyond this, the individual is given the right of appeal, first at a higher level in the office which made the initial decision, and then to the Commission's Board of Appeals and Review in Washington, D.C. All along the line there is a keen consciousness of the need for assuring fair, impartial, and equitable treatment, for these decisions deal with whether or not the individuals will be permitted to work for the Government and thus bear materially on their ability to earn a livelihood. In affording these safeguards, the Commission does not, however, lose sight of the fact that its paramount concern is to protect the Nation's interests by preventing the employment of unsuitable or disloyal persons.

While the two types of investigation described above make up the largest part of the Commission's investigative work, a variety of other investigations are conducted as an essential part of the administration of the merit system. These cover matters arising under civil service rules and laws affecting personnel practices.

**Other Agency Investigations**

Other Government agencies also are authorized to conduct full field investigations. By agreement with the Commission, agencies with their own investigative staffs—such as Army, Navy, Air Force, Treasury, Post Office, and State—make their own full field investigations. The FBI conducts investigations for the Department of Justice as well as the loyalty investigations mentioned earlier.

With the large number of investigations being conducted each year, an effective means of avoiding duplication of investigation is essential. Otherwise, the Government's costs for making investigations would increase substantially, and unnecessary repeat contacts with such information sources as employers and police agencies would multiply. In order to meet this problem, the Commission has developed a Security Investigations Index. This is an alphabetical file containing a record of every personnel investigation made by the Commission and by other Federal agencies since 1939. The index is searched when any Federal agency, including the Commission, begins an investigation. If the search reveals a record of another investigation, information concerning it is released to the agency conducting the current investigation.

**Value of Arrest Records**

Arrest records play a key part in suitability decisions made by the Commission, both those made following investigation and those made in the review of some two million applications filed each year by persons seeking Government jobs. About one-fourth of the adverse suitability decisions made by the Commission are the direct result of information obtained from arrest records. In many other cases, arrest record information enters into the decision along with other adverse matters. That the FBI fingerprint files account for much of this arrest record information attests to the excellent job done by law enforcement offices throughout the Nation in submitting fingerprints to the FBI Identification Division. Aside from this, arrest records obtained directly from local police agencies are especially important because they fill a gap that would not otherwise be covered. They reflect arrests for which fingerprints were not submitted for various reasons. Yet, these arrests often have a material bearing on the Commission's suitability decisions.

Everyday arrests such as these form the basis for decisions to deny appointment to persons seeking Government jobs. The effect is felt in two directions: unsuitable employees are separated and unfit job seekers are denied employment or are discouraged from applying because they know their records will not bear investigation. As a result, the caliber of the Government's staff is that much higher. That this is so is attributable to a marked degree to the fine cooperation of local law enforcement authorities with the FBI, the Civil Service Commission, and other Federal investigative agencies.

**IMPERSONATION**

Individuals who falsely represent themselves as employees of the U.S. Government and act in the role of the person impersonated violate a Federal law under the FBI's jurisdiction. The impersonation of a foreign official duly accredited to the United States, with intent to defraud and coupled with actions perpetrating the fraud, also is covered.
Pocatello High School is located right on the fringe of the downtown business district, one block from the heart of the city. The two-block area is surrounded on two sides by business area, two sides by residential.

In 1956, the streets around the school bore heavy black tire marks from students “digging out”; drivers cruised around the high school endlessly and without purpose, and with very little driving care. The residents in the area complained constantly to the police department about the drag races, the noisy exhaust pipes, and the disregard of pedestrian rights. Accidents in the area were frequent. The police department assigned special officers to patrol the area in the early morning when school was starting, at the noon hour when the students cruised around during lunch period, and again in the early afternoon when classes were dismissed. The school board said it could take no action with regard to students driving to school.

On the other hand, the students cried “discrimination” because of the special assignment of traffic officers to the area and because the city court the previous year had notified the students, by directive to the principal, that all students convicted of a moving violation would lose their licenses for the balance of the school year (a deterrent that had not proved effective).

Plan of Action Devised

Something was needed besides heavier patrol, stricter enforcement, and stronger penalty. The Key Club of the high school asked their sponsors, the Kiwanis Club, to help them work out a plan. As the city judge and a former Kiwanian, I asked to meet with the traffic committee of Kiwanis to formulate a program. Several meetings were held in the fall of 1956. Kiwanis and Key Clubs came up with a safe-driving pledge to be signed by all students holding driver’s licenses, together with an emblem for the car, and the municipal judge suggested the “teenage court” for violators.

Panel of Teenagers Sits in on Cases in Traffic Court

by R. Don Bistline, U.S. Commissioner, Pocatello, Idaho

As a result of these meetings, in December of 1956, the first “juvenile jury” or teenage traffic court, consisting of a panel of teenagers from the different high school classes, commenced sitting with the city judge once a week to pass upon all teenage traffic violators. They acted as a jury in cases where a plea of “not guilty” had been entered and recommended sentences in the event of a verdict of guilty and in all cases where a plea of guilty had been entered.

Panelists Selected

As planned, the panel, when put into operation, consisted of one member from each of the high school classes, senior, junior, and sophomore, and one member from each of the three junior high schools. The panelists had been selected by the government instructor, or class advisor, at the high school and by the principal from the junior high school. The panels were made up of both girls and boys and from leaders and civic-minded students. In order to give experience to as many as possible, panelists were to sit for a month and then a replacement was to be named. In order to give the panel some continuity and avoid the obvious problems of inexperience and unfamiliarity with court procedure, penalization practices, and function as a juror, the high school members of the panel would be rotated on the first of each month and the junior high panelists in the middle of the month.

As a further aid to the understanding of their duties and the problems confronting them, the court arranged for the prospective panelists, before undertaking to sit, to be given a 1- or 2-hour tour of the city in a police prowl car with a traffic officer and have him point out violations, areas of violations, and enforcement problems of the police officer. This proved to be very effective in improving the understanding of the teenager of the problems of the police department and also tended to do much to erase the existing feeling that the
traffic officers were "laying for" and "picking on" the teenagers to the exclusion of the adult and college violators.

The first panel was selected and met with the city judge one Saturday morning the first week in December of 1956. While all traffic violators under the Idaho law are required to report to court within 5 days of the citation, an exception was arranged for teenagers and all were directed to appear on the first Saturday following arrest so they would not have to miss school in order to be in court.

Some 15 cases had developed during the first week. The panel was seated in a semicircle at a desk to the right and below the judge's bench. An offender was called forward, the charge read, and a plea made. The plea being guilty, the offender was then asked if he had any explanation or anything to say in mitigation of the offense; then the matter was turned over to the panel for inquiry. The inquiries generally ran along the line of "do you need your license for any work," "do you have any previous violations or warnings," and perhaps clarification of the facts surrounding the violation. The panelists would thereupon confer among themselves and determine a penalty to be assessed or perhaps inquire of the court concerning the law and also the nature of the penalty usually assessed against adults.

Penalties available to the panel for imposition consisted of each of the following or any combination:

1. Monetary fine.
2. Temporary suspension of license.
3. Attendance at one to three or more sessions of traffic school, held once weekly for 2 hours.
4. Writing of a theme.
5. Impounding of the automobile.

Advantages of System

One of the advantages of the system was the fact that usually someone on the panel would know, or know of, the violator and the panelists would have the benefit of information that the court itself could have never possessed. One of the outstanding examples of this fact developed one Saturday when two students were charged with the violation of "failure to yield the right of way," under circumstances almost identical. Neither had any previous violations; both were 15 years of age; and both had had an accident, were cited and had pleaded guilty. The panel in making its deter-

No Partiality Shown

It was interesting to note that the panelists in their first appearances were inclined to be lenient, perhaps even a little frivolous, but as they neared the end of their month's service, they had become keenly aware of the number of violations, the silly and useless accidents, and the necessity for stronger enforcement and deterrent penalization.

Commissioner R. Don Bistline.
Now and then a representative of a certain class or school would fail to appear. On such occasions, the panel would try a case involving a member of the missing representative's class, and then the offender would be invited to join the panel to sit in judgment of the remaining violators to be tried. The temporary panelist always appeared fair and impartial and a strong advocate of firm penalties, rather than leaning to sympathy with his fellow violators.

It was a natural course of events that once in a while a panelist or a former panelist would be arrested for a traffic violation. In the event the person was currently sitting on the panel, the remainder of the group would determine his fate, and he would then join them for the balance of the session. Again, in these instances, no partiality was shown either to the member currently on the panel or to a member who had been a panelist previously, nor did the penalties recommended ever appear to be unfair or unjust.

Keen Interest Shown

Illustrative of the interest in the operation of the teenage court was the continued operation of the panel throughout the summer months, with appointees designated in advance for each of the three summer months. All were generally faithful in appearing each Saturday during summer vacation. Also, throughout the year, a great number of those serving on the panel expressed reluctance to be leaving the panel at the end of their month's term.

They also became intensely interested in the need for driver training and education. They recognized the familiar excuses for violations that were unnecessary, became aware of how quickly and easily accidents, because of a temporary lapse, happened to even the best intentioned.

Duties Taken Seriously

One factor that had concerned us when we were planning the panel was the possibility of favoritism shown toward friends and the counterpart—retaliation on the part of the offenders—to panelists who had imposed sentences.

Many times after a session of court was concluded panelists would tell me they "sure hated to impose sentences on their friends—in fact, didn't like to sit when their friends were appearing." But never was any favoritism shown to my knowledge, and a good lesson was absorbed by many—that they had to do their duty without regard to friendship, personal likes and dislikes. During the entire time the panel has been in existence, only one instance of an offender seeking to influence a panelist to be "easy" on him has ever come to my attention. There have been no instances of any threat of retaliation, of "getting even" with a panelist for a sentence imposed upon a fellow student. Service upon the panel has been a fine instructor to the participating students, teaching them that justice must be administered impartially, without fear, prejudices, or bias.

With a panel of this size, the members were not always in accord as to the punishment to be meted out and the policy was to permit the majority determination to be the penalty imposed by the court. At no time during its existence was there ever a total disagreement. On a few occasions, the panelists would advise the court as to their different views and ask the court for guidance, or perhaps turn back to the offender and make a few additional inquiries to help them clarify the matter and reach a decision.

Perhaps one of the most illustrative incidents of the general fairness of the panel and its effectiveness would be the fact that not too long after its formation, students began to appear in court on days other than Saturday and ask the court to handle the case, rather than have it referred to the
Panel. This was particularly surprising in view of the fact that prior to the existence of the panel, the court had been challenged as “picking on teenagers,” “being too tough on teenagers,” “being rougher on the teenagers than on adults,” or “being unfair to teenagers.” Needless to say, all cases were heard by the panel.

**Panel Assumes Jury Duty**

As noted before, the panel was used as a jury in cases in which a teenage defendant entered a plea of not guilty. The trial would be held in the usual manner with the officer presenting his witnesses and evidence in support of the citation, and the defendant then presenting his defense to the charge. The court would instruct the panel as to principles of law, including reading the statute governing the violation, explaining the law “governing reasonable doubt,” and submit the matter to the panel for a verdict. While the number of contested cases was small, these proceedings were an invaluable addition to the training and education of the panelists in courtroom procedure and law.

While panelists were usually the beneficiaries of learning and training, in a few instances their questioning and thoroughness tended to “educate and improve the officer in the case.” In one particular instance, a teenager had been cited for driving at night with a daylight license only. The panel noted the time of the arrest and then designated one of their members to call the weather bureau and find out what time the sun had set on that date. The report from the weather bureau established that the accused still had 3 minutes of daylight driving rights at the time the citation was issued, and the defendant was released.

In other instances where a teenager was cited for driving at night with a daylight license only, the panel always inquired whose vehicle was being driven. If it were the parent’s vehicle, the next inquiry would be, did the parent know about, consent to it, or in some instances, direct it. If it appeared that the parent was aware of the violation, or worse, had brought it about, the panel took the position that the offender was the parent and not the teenager, and would recommend the parent be brought to court, or if in court, be asked to explain.

On occasions when a violator had been cited for driving with defective equipment (bad brakes, missing taillight, or headlight), the panel again took the same position, and if it developed a parent knowingly permitted a vehicle to be driven when the brakes were defective, they recommended the parent also be cited.

**Program Initiated by Panel**

Occasionally, cases came to court wherein the teenage violator was driving before he was old enough to obtain a license, or though old enough, had failed to get a license. The panel initiated a penalization program that has since been continued: a sentence withholding that individual’s right to obtain a license for a prescribed period, perhaps until 15 or 16 years of age, and such order would be made and filed with the Driver’s License Bureau of the Department of Law Enforcement of the State of Idaho.

Broad benefits of this program can be summarized as follows:

1. Opportunity of the teenager to attend court regularly, participate in the proceedings, and learn firsthand how courts operate and justice is dispensed; understanding of judicial process.
2. Education as to some of the rules of evidence, such as the “hearsay” rule, opinion evidence, physical evidence.
3. Familiarization with the causes of accidents and the general needlessness for them and the carelessness that causes them.
4. Why insurance rates for teenage drivers are so high.
5. Problems of the law enforcement officer.
6. Learning the law enforcement officer is a friend to be respected and aided, rather than an enemy to be feared and derided.
7. Traffic problems of a city and needs for improvement.
8. Education as to laws of arrest, including right of citizen’s arrest.
9. An understanding of court terms, such as warrants, bail, bond, bailiff, radar, “clocking” of a speeder, and a term with which they became very familiar, “suspended” fine or sentence.
10. Familiarization with driving rules and their application, particularly rules governing right of way; an education as to skid marks, stopping distances, and following distances. These things they learned from the practical side, with the injuries and damages before them to emphasize someone else’s lack of understanding—experience vicariously gained that would benefit them as long as they may operate an automobile.
11. Lessons in human psychology—that the defendant unconsciously at times, consciously on other occasions, always “shades the facts of the accident, the violation, the arrest, in his favor”; that most alibis or explanations for violations, particularly speeding, sound painfully weak when exposed to the light of judicial examination.
12. That officers and courts do not receive any of the fines, or any additional income because of the number of arrests or convictions; and that officers and courts, basically, are trying to help the violator and protect the public.
There are many other “fringe benefits” too numerous to be mentioned in these categories.

**Results Show Success**

Statistically, the record has been even more impressive.

A review of the accident records of the city of Pocatello for the year preceding the installation of the “teenage court” (1956) showed that 31 percent of the drivers involved in accidents were teenagers. At the end of the first full year (1957) of the panel’s operation, the number of teenagers involved in accidents had been reduced to 24 percent of the total accident rate, a drop of 7 percent, but almost a 25 percent reduction in the number of accidents involving teenagers. The second full year of operation of the teenage panel produced statistics showing the teenagers to be involved—as the driver—in 21 percent of the total accidents in Pocatello, or a 10 percent drop in 2 years in the overall picture, but a one-third drop (from 31 to 21 percent) in the number of accidents involving teenagers. Had the court accomplished nothing else, the drop in accident rate would have justified the time and effort. Add also the aforementioned educational benefits to the students, the change in attitude of the teenage driver toward the law enforcement agency, and the virtual elimination of complaints from the citizens living in the area of the high school—and around town generally—as to the “terrible driving habits of the teenager.” The teenage court has been a good thing for the teenagers and for the city of Pocatello, too.

*SEDITION*

Sedition is intentional interference with the loyalty, morale, or discipline of members of the armed services of the United States by anyone who advises, counsels, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, or refusal of duty by any member of the armed services, or distributes any written or printed material for this purpose. During wartime, it also is sedition to make or convey false reports with intent to interfere with the normal operations of the armed services of the United States or to promote the success of our enemies, or to interfere with the enlistment or recruitment services of the United States. Violations are investigated by the FBI.

**FBI National Academy Lecturer Honored**

Dr. Herbert J. Stack of New York University, New York, N.Y., was presented an FBI National Academy Visiting Faculty Certificate by Director J. Edgar Hoover on October 4, 1960, in recognition of his 25 years of service at the Academy as a member of the Visiting Faculty.

Dr. Stack appeared before the First Session of the FBI National Academy in 1935, and has appeared regularly since that time to lecture and conduct classes in traffic safety education.

For 19 years, Dr. Stack served as director for the Center for Safety Education at New York University, and is recognized as a national leader in that field. He retired from this position in 1957, but continues his affiliation there as program associate. He also served as supervisor of doctoral research studies in that institution; as instructor in workshop courses in over 200 schools and colleges; as a member of national committees; and wrote many books and articles promoting safety education.

**DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES**

Willful destruction of or attempt to destroy an aircraft or passenger-carrying motor vehicle engaged in interstate commerce is a violation of Federal statutes. It is also a violation to make a false report that an attempt will be made to destroy an aircraft, motor vehicle, train or marine vessel in interstate or foreign commerce.
In the spring of 1956, the citizens of Grand Junction, Colo., approved a bond issue of $240,000 for the purpose of constructing a new police building and jail. At that time only sketchy plans had been made as to what the building would include when completed. It soon became apparent that information pertaining to design and functional qualities for police buildings is quite limited. Therefore, a lot of research and planning had to be done before construction could begin.

Many months were spent with the architects in gathering information from all possible sources. Several Government agencies, including the FBI and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, were consulted. These agencies furnished much data and advised where additional information could be secured. Finally, an extensive tour through the Southwest was made where new jail buildings and police facilities were visited and inspected. As a result of this trip, it was possible to incorporate some of the good features of the buildings visited and at the same time to avoid some of the mistakes which had been made by others. Construction began in the summer of 1958, and the department moved into the new building in April 1959. This marked the first time in the history of the department that it had occupied a building specifically designed and built to its needs.

**Floorspace Well Planned**

The building is of three levels: basement, ground floor, and second-floor jail. It is constructed of native brick and concrete blocks, and has a total of 15,797 square feet of floorspace. All functions are so arranged as to permit easy transition from one to another with a minimum of conflict or interference.

The entrance opens into a public lobby from which there is easy access to the complaint or information desk, the traffic violations bureau, and the municipal court. Offices for the chief of police and other supervisory officers and detectives are located along a corridor leading from the lobby, with admittance being controlled at the information desk.

Within the area under the control of the desk officer are the records and communications sections. This arrangement makes all records readily available for those who have need for the information contained therein.

Across the lobby from the information desk is the traffic violations bureau. This is also accessible by means of a teller-type window opening to the outside which permits the public to present their traffic tickets without having to enter the building.

Opposite the entrance is the municipal court, which is designed to provide all the atmosphere of dignity that a courtroom should have. There are a raised platform for judge and jury and

*Chief Karl M. Johnson.*
tables for counsel and prosecutor. The courtroom is separated from the traffic violations bureau by a small private office used by the judge and as a jury room.

Prisoners are brought into the court from the jail by means of a corridor along the north side of the building. This permits their being taken to court without having to pass through any public area.

Adjacent to the administrative offices is an officer’s briefing or squad room which is equipped with blackboards for diagramming accident and crime scenes, bulletin boards, library, and individual mailboxes for each employee. Here the officers receive their assignments, write reports, study and confer with each other on matters of mutual interest.

**Basement Arrangement**

Located in the basement is a 50-foot, three-position pistol range, which is used almost daily by officers of the department and which is available to other groups from the community as long as these activities do not interfere with departmental use.

There is a small photographic laboratory, complete with darkroom facilities, for handling all the department’s photographic needs. A storage area is provided where all property coming into the custody of the department can be kept and catalogued.

There are a parking meter maintenance area and a storage vault where permanent inactive records may be kept. Individual lockers for each employee and shower facilities provide a place to keep a change of clothing and to clean up should it become necessary while on duty.

**Jail of Maximum Security**

The entire jail section with its related functions is under security. There are a completely equipped kitchen, where all meals for jail inmates are prepared, and a laundry for bedding and jail clothing.

An important security feature permits a car to be driven into the building before unloading a prisoner. Admission to this area is controlled by radio communication with either the jailer or the officer at the communication desk. This eliminates the possibility of having to struggle with a resisting or unwilling prisoner out in the open and across some public area.

Prisoners are first admitted into a holding cell and are then individually booked, searched, fin-

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*Basement floor plan: 1, Off-duty room; 2, Pistol range; 3, Record storage vault; 4, Air-conditioning equipment; 5, Photo darkroom; 6, Laboratory; 7, Policewomen's lockers; 8, Policewomen's washroom; 9, Officers' showers; 10, Officers' washroom; 11, Officers' locker room; 12, Boilerroom; 13, Property storage; 14, Unassigned; 15, Unexcavated; 16, Parking meter maintenance.*
The main jail is located on the second floor and consists of a dayroom and dormitory, three maximum security cells, and a separate section for female and juvenile prisoners. There is a serving kitchen which connects with the main kitchen by means of a dumbwaiter.

The entire jail section is surrounded by an inspection corridor which permits the jailer to view all cells without having to enter any of them. It also prevents the inmates from having contact with any outside wall. Each cell is equipped with bunks, shower, and toilet, and has an opening for passing food trays and other items without opening the door. There is a visitor’s station where inmates may see and talk with their visitors, but are prevented from having any bodily contact by bulletproof glass and a speaking grill. Every possible provision was made to insure maximum security and safety in the handling of inmates.

Additional room has been provided in the jail section for some expansion in the future by simply installing additional cell units. There are private
interrogation rooms on both the first and second floors, where inmates may be interviewed by their attorneys or investigating officers. Two of these rooms are separated by an observation mirror which makes it possible to use them for showup purposes.

Although there was considerable delay between the approval of the building bonds and the actual construction, it is felt that this time was not wasted. The research and planning which were done during this time have made possible a building that is attractive, extremely functional, and sufficiently large to meet the anticipated needs of the city for many years to come. It is air-conditioned and there is sufficient land area to meet all needs for offstreet parking and future expansion. It is located conveniently close to the downtown business district and is served by two arterial streets which make it easily accessible to everyone.

Not only has the building provided more pleasant working conditions, but it has also brought about a noticeable improvement in the morale of the employees. This in turn has resulted in a better quality of work being done by everyone. There is also a decided interest toward self-improvement. The library is getting good usage and the pistol range and other training facilities are used daily. The photographic laboratory with its darkroom has enabled the department to do its own photographic work at a great saving and an improvement in quality. This makes possible a greater use of photography in accident investigation and all other phases of police work.

During the time the building has been in use, it has been well established that all police functions are now being carried out with greater efficiency and at less cost than was previously possible.
Over 2,200 officials and their guests from 34 countries of the free world attended the 67th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police at the Hotel Statler Hilton in Washington, D.C., October 1-6. A total of 1,040 were active members—a ratio surpassing that of previous years.

Highlights of the conference sessions were addresses by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Inspector General Lyman B. Kirkpatrick of the International Cooperation Administration, Chief Daniel S. C. Liu of Honolulu, and U.S. Attorney Oliver Gasch, District of Columbia. A series of training sem-

In the above photo are the newly elected officers of the Association for 1960–61: (seated, left to right) Chief Robert V. Murray, Metropolitan Police, Washington, D.C., president; Chief Frank A. Sweeney, Jenkintown, Pa., first vice president; Chief Stanley R. Schrotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, second vice president; Chief Daniel S. C. Liu, Honolulu, Hawaii, third vice president; (standing, left to right) Supt. William H. Morris, Illinois State Police, sixth vice president; Chief Philip Purcell, Newton, Mass., fifth vice president; Chief Herbert T. Jenkins, Atlanta, Ga., fourth vice president; Retired Supt. of Police William J. Roach, Waterbury, Conn., treasurer; Executive Director Leroy E. Wike, IACP Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (appointive office); and Chief Stanley G. Haukedahl, Kenosha, Wis., sergeant at arms.
WHEREAS, in their fields and dealing with problems predesignated by members as of primary interest, were well attended and provoked valuable discussions from the floor.

Among the resolutions passed at the conference was the following commending FBI Director Hoover:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has dedicated his entire life to the American law enforcement profession;

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has helped to create a new public image of the law enforcement officer and has provided courageous and inspirational leadership to agencies at all levels of our profession;

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has spearheaded the continued development of fingerprint identification and scientific crime detection as effective weapons in the Nation's fight against lawlessness;

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has made the advanced training techniques of the Federal Bureau of Investigation available to other law enforcement agencies through the FBI National Academy as well as rendering assistance in local and regional police training schools;

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has zealously protected the American law enforcement profession from unwarranted attacks by criminal and subversive elements;

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover has fearlessly guarded our profession against outside pressure groups who would destroy the system of law enforcement which now exists in the United States and create a national police force, a national crime commission, or other menacingly powerful organization on the Federal scene;

WHEREAS, the contributions which J. Edgar Hoover has made to America's law enforcement profession and to the cause of democratic justice are unparalleled in this Nation's history;

*Therefore, be it resolved, That the International Association of Chiefs of Police does hereby pledge to J. Edgar Hoover its deep and undying gratitude and its continued, unwavering support. Be it also resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Attorney General and to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Nation's press.*

Taking note of the tremendous automobile theft problem facing the Nation today, the IACP also passed the following resolution relative to the youthful automobile thief:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, a tragic consequence of automobile theft is the fact that car theft by juveniles constitutes the great bulk of such violations; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that a definite factor in the misguided leniency often shown to juveniles is caused by the unfortunate and false labeling of the crime as "joyriding," which term falsely conjures in the mind something less than theft; and

WHEREAS, as law enforcement officers, we know that every time a car is stolen it constitutes a threat of death, damage, and injury to the general public in addition to the countless millions in economic loss to the victims; and

WHEREAS, it is to the best interests of law enforcement, prosecuting authorities and the courts to deal realistically and vigorously with juveniles who persist in this crime and not treat the offense as if it were a boyish prank;

*Now therefore, be it resolved, That the International Association of Chiefs of Police at their 67th Annual Conference in Washington, D. C., on October 6, 1960, does hereby go on record against the term "joyriding" as an excuse for car theft.*

A corollary resolution concerning automobile thefts was also passed:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, automobile theft, perhaps the fastest-growing crime in the United States, continues to be one of the most complex, costly and widespread problems ever to confront law enforcement and the American public; and

WHEREAS, experience has clearly demonstrated that sure detection, swift apprehension and proper punishment are time-proven deterrents to crime, each being a necessary ingredient;

*Now therefore, be it resolved, The International Association of Chiefs of Police at its 67th Annual Conference in Washington, D. C., on October 6, 1960, does hereby go on record favoring the continued, vigorous prosecution of violators of local auto theft statutes and of the Federal Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle Statute.*

**IDENTIFICATION MADE BY EAR**

A local jewelry store in Rugby, N. Dak., was burglarized of approximately $5,000 worth of watches, rings and miscellaneous items. The discovery was made shortly after midnight.

A local patrolman on duty had made a mental note of a 1948 Buick with a "loud muffler" in the area at the time of the burglary, but an intensive search for the car produced only negative results.

Several hours later the patrolman was discussing the matter with his chief at police headquarters. Suddenly, hearing a familiar sound, the patrolman jumped up saying, "There goes the car!" The culprits were soon apprehended. Identification of the car was made solely upon the policeman's hearing the "loud muffler," since the car could not be observed from the room in which he was sitting at police headquarters.
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CAR THEFT RING BROKEN

Recently, the activities of a skillful group of car thieves operating between Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., were terminated.

The target for the thieves seemed to have been a particular type late-model car, as the theft of 11 of these cars had been reported since January 1960 in that area.

As a result of cooperation between the police departments of the two cities and the National Automobile Theft Bureau, the ring was broken and one of the individuals, a well-known stock car race driver, believed to be the kingpin of the operation, was charged with six counts of grand larceny in connection with the car thefts.

It was determined that the operation was carried on in the following manner: The suspected leader of the gang, also a salesman for a car agency in Birmingham, would sell a new car without receiving a trade-in. He would then bring in a stolen car and tell his employer that this car was the trade-in and would pay him the trade-in price in cash while pocketing the difference derived from the total selling price of the new car. His employer, believing the transaction to be legitimate, would then sell the stolen car. In several instances, the scheming salesman would sell the stolen car himself for his employer.

As part of his scheme, the salesman, prior to taking a stolen car for sale, would replace or alter the serial plates and obtain license tags after making out a fictitious bill of sale for the car.

It is believed that a skeleton key was used to make entry, as most of the cars reported stolen by their owners had been left locked and parked near their residences.

BANK ROBBERY AND EMBEZZLEMENT

The robbery or burglary of, or larceny from, any member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a bank organized or operated under laws of the United States, a Federal savings and loan association, an institution insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, or a Federal credit union is an offense within the FBI's jurisdiction. The embezzlement or misapplication of funds by an officer or employee and the false entry in the books or records of one of the above are also violations.
WANTED BY THE FBI

JAMES GEORGE ECONOMOU, also known as Jimmie Bruno, James E. Conomom, James J. Econom, Jimmie Econom, James G. Economos, James G. Economou, James Economow, "Jimmie the Greek," and others

Unlawful Flight To Avoid Confinement (Robbery)

James George Economou, an FBI "Top Ten" fugitive, is currently being sought by the FBI for fleeing from the State of California to avoid confinement for the crime of armed robbery.

After being convicted in San Francisco County on a narcotics charge and receiving a term of 0–6 years, he was taken to San Quentin Prison, Calif., on February 24, 1951, to serve his sentence. On September 10, 1952, Economou was paroled from San Quentin, but on December 11, 1952, he was returned to the prison as a parole violator. This subject was again paroled on August 24, 1953.

Following this parole, it is reported Economou, on the evening of February 24, 1954, while armed and in company with his wife, robbed a dry cleaning establishment in San Francisco, Calif. After turning himself in to the San Francisco Police Department, he pleaded guilty to the charge of robbing the dry cleaning establishment. Subsequently, Economou was returned to San Quentin on March 3, 1954, as a parole violator with the additional commitment of robbery first degree.

Economou, while assigned to an honor camp in Mendacino County, Calif., was engaged in firefighting on August 23, 1958, when he became involved in an altercation with an inmate. After being separated from the inmate by officers, he escaped by running into a nearby creek and disappearing into thick brush.

On October 3, 1958, a Federal warrant was issued at Sacramento, Calif., charging Economou with unlawful flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Economou has been convicted of evading railroad fare, threatening, possession of narcotics, and armed robbery. This fugitive is wanted by the San Francisco Police Department on the basis of a warrant issued on February 17, 1959, charging him with the holdup of a grocery store which occurred early in 1959. He is reportedly a user of heroin and reportedly favors brandy as an alcoholic beverage. He speaks Spanish fluently and associates with Spanish-speaking people. He also associates with hoodlums engaged in narcotics, prostitution, and robbery. Economou should be considered armed and dangerous in view of a prior conviction for armed robbery and his being a confirmed narcotics user.

This fugitive is described as follows:

Age: 40, born September 15, 1920, at Washington, D.C.
Height: 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 9½ inches.
Weight: 150 to 157 pounds.
Build: Medium.
Hair: Brown.
Eyes: Grey-green.
Complexion: Ruddy.
Race: White.
Nationality: American.
Occupations: Clerk, fireman, merchant seaman, tile setter and welder.
Scars and marks: Scar under left eyebrow, scar over right eyebrow, small scar right side of chin, blotch scar inner left forearm, vaccination scar upper left arm, may have needle marks on arms from use of narcotics.

FBI Number: 1,210,544.
Fingerprint classification: O 31 W HIM 20
I 28 W OMM

Any person having information which may assist in locating this fugitive is requested to notify the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D.C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the nearest FBI field office, the telephone number of which is listed on the first page of local telephone directories.

FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1960 O—569042
THIEF LEFT HIGH AND DRY

Chief of Police Hubert T. Barker of Conway, S.C., recently put to use some of the training he received while attending the FBI National Academy.

After a series of break-ins in his jurisdiction, Chief Barker planted some one-dollar bills well dusted with dye at a strategic spot where a possible break-in attempt could be made. Later, upon examination of the place where the money was planted, he was dismayed to find the money gone with no apparent evidence left. On his routine visits to local business places where the young men usually gathered, he observed with interest a young boy who was wearing trousers which appeared quite soiled about the pockets with a stain similar to that from the dye he had utilized in dusting the bait money. Chief Barker learned that the suspect was a window washer and, in plying his trade, water had run down the handle of the brushes he used, resulting in the necessity of drying his hands promptly, thereby leaving the marks on the trousers as telltale evidence.

Upon being questioned, the suspect readily admitted his guilt and ruefully furnished the information regarding his carelessness in having used his trousers for a towel.

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MICROPHONE TRAPS THIEF

Sheriff Richard P. Walsh, an FBI National Academy graduate, of Flathead County, Kalispell, Mont., recently faced a perplexing problem of catching a sneak thief. The thief was entering a local hardware store on a fairly regular basis and would steal between $5 and $10 from the money sack left in the store overnight. Since the thief always knew where to find the sack, a present or former employee was suspected.

Surveillance produced no results. The thief was apparently aware of each such stake-out. Sheriff Walsh then arranged to install a microphone in the store near where the money sack was regularly hidden. The installation had to be made at a time when none of the store employees could observe it. When the microphone was installed, the surveillances and stake-outs were removed and the store—to all outward appearances—was left unguarded. The microphone, however, was connected to an amplifier in the sheriff's office. The first night of operation resulted in the apprehension of a 15-year-old boy. The boy had been working for the store on a part-time basis; he had had the back door key duplicated and was letting himself in at night to supplement his income from the money sack.

July, 1960 Newsletter

HANDWRITING SAMPLES

ALWAYS CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SUSPECT HAVING WRITTEN DOCUMENT WITH EITHER HAND.
Interesting Pattern

The unusual pattern shown above is not questionable, but is interesting due to the fact that it is made up of a combination of a loop pattern and a whorl pattern in the same impression, resulting in an accidental whorl. There are three deltas found at D', D² and D³. An inner tracing is obtained by tracing from the extreme left delta to the extreme right delta, according to the rules for tracing whorls.